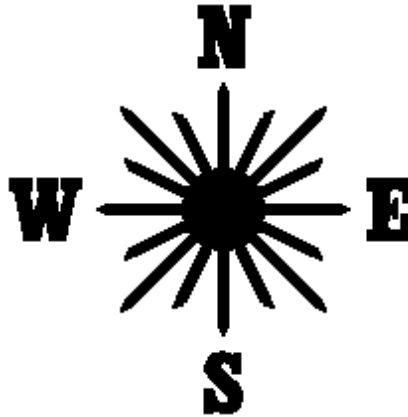


Mission Statement

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

9:30am Tuesday 17th July 2012

at

Sunset Strip

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.

9.1.1 GRADING PROGRAM – ATTACHMENT 8 38

9.1.2 2012 FLOOD DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS..... 38

9.1.3 SH21 COBB HIGHWAY CAPITAL WORKS 38

9.2 ROADS REPORT 38

9.3 SERVICES REPORT..... 41

9.4 PROJECTS REPORT..... 42

9.5 ROADS TO RECOVERY 2012/13 44

9.6 INTEGRATED WATER CYCLE MANAGEMENT AND LIVING WITH CLIMATE CHANGE – A PLAN FOR THE CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE COUNCIL, STRENGTHENING BASIN COMMUNITIES PROGRAM 46

SECTION 10. MANAGER ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORT 49

10.1 INFORMATION ITEMS..... 49

10.1.1 MENINDEE COMMON 49

10.1.2 VICTORY PARK CARAVAN PARK..... 49

10.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPT STATISTICS FOR JUNE 2012 49

10.3 MALLEE PLAYGROUND..... 50

10.4 JOINT REGIONAL PLANNING PANELS ATTACHMENT 9..... 51

10.5 RISK BASED DRINKING WATER MANAGEMENT ATTACHMENT 10..... 52

10.6 CENTRAL DARLING DRAFT LEP, DCP & SHIRE STRATEGY ATTACHMENT 11 53

SECTION 11. FINANCE MANAGER’S REPORT 56

11.1 INVESTMENTS 56

11.2 RATES COLLECTIONS STATEMENT..... 57

SECTION 12. CORRESPONDENCE 59

12.1 MEDIA RELEASES 59

12.2 CIRCULARS/NEWSLETTERS 59

SECTION 13. THE RECEIPT OF REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES..... 61

SECTION 14. DELEGATES’ REPORTS 64

SECTION 15. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE 65

15.1 Cr LOONEY 65

SECTION 16. URGENT BUSINESS..... 66

SECTION 17. CONFIDENTIAL MEETING 67

17.1 COMMUNITY ACCESS BUS CONTRACTS ATTACHMENT 69

17.2 ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE/STAFFING ARRANGEMENTS 69

SECTION 18. DATE AND VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING 70

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 15th May 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 – JUNE 2012**

Status of Council Resolutions - May 2012					
Minute #	Required action from Resolution	Responsible Officer	Secondary Support	Due Date	Action Taken
13-9-11	Inform Councillors and Staff of the changes and Council's new policy "Public Interest Disclosures Act : Internal Reporting Policy".	GM	EM	18/11/2011	
15-9-11	Oversee the flood restoration works behind the Wilcannia Post Office	MES			Correspondence sent 27/9/2011, No action from CDEP. Letter re-sent 02/05/12
	Oversee the repainting of the tables and chairs in Wilcannia	MES			Correspondence sent 27/9/2011, No action from CDEP. Letter re-sent 02/05/12
	Present designs for the Wilcannia Community Hall mural to Council	MES		18/10/2011	Correspondence sent 27/9/2011, No action from CDEP. Letter re-sent 02/05/12
	Present designs and locations of graffiti boards to Council	MES			Correspondence sent 27/9/2011, No action from CDEP. Letter re-sent 02/05/12

Central Darling Shire Council – Ordinary Meeting – 17th July 2012

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.
	IPRL Project Plan form part of the GM's performance agreement	Council	GM		
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. In progress
4-12-11	Playground proposal in Mallee	GM	MES		In progress. Playground construction completed. Land transfer to be actioned.
30-12-11	Contact the NSW Office of Water for further information on the shepherding water for the Environment	MES			COMPLETED
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	GM/MES		Jan-12	Draft Housing policy on public exhibition. Further report back to Coujcil after

	housing costs.				exhibition period.
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 complete, playground constructed, transfer to progress
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.
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			
15-3-12	That Council allocate up to \$150K of 2011/12 Regional Road Blockfunding for surveying and design of Yampoola crossing on the Menindee - Pooncarie Rd	MTES			In progress.
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.
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
10-4-12	That the June 2012 Council meeting be deferred from Tuesday 19th June until the Friday 29 June 2012	GM			
	Seek grant funding for the upgrade of its self help television re transmission towers and make representation to State and Federal Governments on this issue.	GM			
26-4-12	That Council as the trust Manager of the Menindee Common advertise the draft Menindee Common Management Plan for a period of 28.	MES			COMPLETED
	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.	MES			Submission forwarded to DPI for comments
43-4-12	Approval given for the acquisition of three new garbage compactor trucks	MTES			In progress

5-5-12	<p>1. adopt the community strategic plan for the purposes of public consultation for a 28 day period</p> <p>2. adopt the delivery program 2012/13-2015/16, incorporating the 2012/13 operational plan and budget for the purposes of public consultation for a 28 day period.</p> <p>3. adopt the 3.6% ministerial rate pegging limit increase for the 2012/13 year.</p> <p>4. adopt the resourcing strategy ,including the transport asset management plan, the stormwater asset management plan the buildings and land improvements asset managemnet plan and the workforce management plan for the purposes of public consultation for a 28 day period</p>	GM			In progress
6-5-12	<p>That council approve the following projects of 2011/12 \$5,000 allocation for tourism-related projects:</p> <p>1. Menindee Regional Tourist Association</p> <p>2. Wilcannia Community Tourism Association</p>				
9-5-12	<p>That council approve the following applications for funding under its Financial Assistance Grants program for 2012/13; Wilcannia Community Working Party, Wilcannia Local Aboriginal Land Council, Wilcannia Community Tourist Assoc, Kilfera field day, Ivanhoe Golf Club, Ivanhoe Youth Centre, Menindee Meals on Wheels, Menindee Children's Centre, Menindee Branch CWA,</p>	GM			

	Menindee Uniting Church, Menindee Landcare Group, Menindee Regional Tourist Association, Men-in-dee Shed, Friends of Old Tintinallogy, Sunset Strip Golf Club, White Cliffs Sporting Club, Ivanhoe Revival Group.				
23-5-12	Councils commits \$540,000 per annum from its regional roads block grants, roads to recovery funding and the supplementary component of the regional road block grant over the next 3 years for the reconstruction and sealing of the Ivanhoe-Balranald road (MR67) and seek additional funding of \$200,000 from the State Government, \$200,000 from roads and maritime services and \$ 200,000 from Bemax, per annum for 3 years.	MTES/ GM			Letters sent to Bemax and John Williams MP, advising of Council decision.
28-5-12	Council participate in National Tree Day 2012 Sunday 29th July 2012 and provides trees to all communities and schools in the Shire as per budgetary allocations	MES			In Progress
29-5-12	Council adopt the document titled Draft Sale of Council land policy and the draft policy be places on public exhibition for 28 days, and further a report be presented to Council after the 28 day exhibition period regarding any submissions received during the exhibition period.	GM			

30-5-12	That the Knox and Downs development and implementation of a proposal for clean up of the site in conjunctions with local employment services and agencies with funding being sought through by these groups and through government agencies.	GM			Quotes for asbestos removal being sought.
33-05-12	That an amended Draft Employee Housing Policy be presented to Council. The amendment became the motion and was put and carried.	MES			Amendment completed, draft adopted by Council, is on public exhibition for 28 days.

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

ATTACHMENT 1,2,3 & 4

8.1.1 2012 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS UPDATE

ATTACHMENT 1

As at 17 July 2012, there will be only 53 days until the Council election. Preparations are well underway for the election, with the Electoral Commission having appointed the Returning Officer, Darren Flowers and established the office for the elections in Broken Hill.

The General Manager met Mr. Flowers on Thursday 5 July, at which a number of matters were confirmed for the running of the election. This includes the location of the pre-polling venue in Wilcannia, distribution of candidate information packs and the nomination process.

Candidate information packs are to be distributed by the Electoral Commission in the near future and will be made available in all towns across the Shire. Nominations will be received by Council at the office in Wilcannia, the Menindee RTC and the Ivanhoe MSO.

The electoral rolls close at 6pm on Monday 30 July. Non-resident ratepayers who enrolled on this roll at the last election in 2008 will need to re-enrol, as enrolments do not carry over from election to election.

A flyer has been included with the 2012/13 rate notices, which are due to be mailed to ratepayers on approximately Monday 16 July. This flyer provides ratepayers with basic information about enrolment eligibility and the nomination process for those interested in standing for Council.

Polling places for the 2012 election will be as follows:

- Wilcannia Community Hall
- Menindee Civic Hall
- Ivanhoe Central School
- White Cliffs Public School

The caretaker period for Council commences on Friday 10 August 2012 and will continue until Saturday 8 September. During that time, Council, the General Manager or any delegate of Council will not be able to exercise the following functions:

- Entering into any contract or undertaking involving an expenditure or receipt by the council of an amount equal to or greater than \$150,000 or 1% of the council’s revenue from rates in the preceding financial year (whichever is the larger).
- Determining a controversial development application, except where a failure to make such a determination would give rise to a deemed refusal, or such a deemed refusal arose before the commencement of the caretaker period. The term “controversial development application” is defined as one for which at least 25 persons have made submissions by way of objection.

- Appointing or renewing the appointment of the General Manager or terminating their employment. (This does not include the appointment of an acting or temporary General Manager).

In particular cases these functions may be exercised with the approval of the Minister. The principles underlying the caretaker provisions are similar to those adopted at Commonwealth and State Government levels.

As advised in the June Council meeting, there have been significant changes to the political donation laws relating to the elections. These changes are being managed by the Electoral Funding Authority and it is the responsibility of councillors and candidates to know and understand their obligations under the Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Act 1981.

Councillors should have received advice from the EFA in relation to these changes in the last 3 months, however, it has become apparent that some of the requirements may not be clearly explained or easy to follow. The EFA has produced a Funding and Disclosure Guide, which is included as an attachment to this agenda.

This Guide provides information for current Councillors and prospective candidates in relation to the requirements regarding the registration of candidates, the need to appoint and register official agents, as well as what to do when political donations are received and the associated record-keeping needed.

Information sessions conducted by the EFA have been held in Broken Hill, Hay and Cobar, however due to the timing and the locations of these sessions, it may not have been possible for Councillors or other people to attend. A request has been made to the EFA for a session to be held in the Central Darling Shire Council area some time in the next 3 weeks.

It is hoped that Council will be able to conduct its own candidate information sessions in late July and early August across the Shire, but no later than the closing date for nominations. Consultants are currently being sourced for this activity.

Nominations for those interested in standing for Council open on Monday 30 July and close on Wednesday 8 August at noon.

8.1.2 2011 CENSUS DATA

ATTACHMENT 2

Data from the 2011 census was officially released on 21 June. A preliminary review of the data has highlighted the following key statistics for the Council area, which are derived from the basic community profile data set, catalogue 2001.0.

Population	Shire	Wilcannia	Menindee	Ivanhoe	White Cliffs
Total	1,991	826	449	200	103
Males	1046	399	243	117	58
Females	945	427	206	83	45
0-4 years	128	71	27	8	7

5-14	283	139	53	32	9
15-19	123	61	26	6	3
20-24	118	54	28	14	6
25-34	247	121	47	32	6
35-44	259	117	54	20	11
45-54	281	110	74	27	8
55-64	287	88	71	38	21
65-74	189	43	45	18	27
75-84	64	19	19	5	6
85 years +	13	3	6	0	0
Indigenous	758	474	180	80	0

The data set that has previously been used for comparative purposes is the time series profile from catalogue 2003.0. This profile, which is more readily useable than the basic community profile, shows that Council's total population (including overseas visitors) was 2,387, an increase of 11% over the 2006 census figure of 2,159. A table with this dataset is included in the attachments.

Data from the census will be further analysed in coming months and can be used when planning the delivery of Council's services and the need for infrastructure across the Shire. It should be noted that there is no data available for Sunset Strip.

8.1.3 DESTINATION 2036 ACTION PLAN

ATTACHMENT 3

The Destination 2036 Action Plan was released by the Implementation Steering Committee (ISC) on 6 June 2012, following approval by the Minister for Local Government. The action plan is included as an attachment to this agenda.

Included in the Action Plan are the actions to be delivered over the coming years in order to achieve the vision of creating strong communities through partnerships. Minor changes were made to the draft Action Plan following the public consultation period, during which over 100 submissions were received.

The ISC is responsible for overseeing the delivery of actions under the Plan and will monitor and report quarterly progress, at the same time as ensuring lead agencies deliver on their identified activities.

The Chief Executive of the Division of Local Government, Ross Woodward, is encouraging Councils to discuss the Action Plan, with a view to Councils considering how they can contribute to the 5 strategic objectives identified in the Plan.

8.1.4 EMERGENCY SERVICES FUNDING DISCUSSION PAPER

ATTACHMENT 4

The NSW Government released a discussion paper in relation to the funding of emergency services in the State on 5 July. The Government is seeking feedback as to how to develop a better, fairer and more efficient way of funding emergency services in NSW.

In their media release announcing the review of the funding arrangements, the NSW Treasurer, Mike Baird and the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Michael Gallacher stated that the current funding mechanisms are complicated, inefficient and unfair. They also state that the Henry Tax Review recommended that the Government move towards a property based levy.

The discussion paper has been released as part of a 3 month consultation process during which the Government hopes to identify a better way to fund emergency services in NSW.

Funding is currently sourced from a tax on insurance companies (73.7%), local governments (11.7%) and the State Government (14.6%). As the current funding arrangements impose a direct burden on local governments, it is important that this Council consider the issues outlined in the discussion paper, with a view to making a submission during the 3 month consultation period.

The Central Darling Shire is contributing \$119,600 to the funding of the RFS in the Council area in 2012/13.

8.1.5 CONFERENCES/SEMINARS REPORT

The General Manager attended a series of conferences and seminars throughout late May and June; this report provides a summary of the key presentations, issues and highlights of each of those events.

LGMA National Congress

The Local Government Managers Australia annual conference was held in Perth from 20 to 23 May. Over 320 delegates from Councils across Australia, Asia and the Pacific attended the Congress, including both councillors and Council staff.

This included delegates from the City of Ryde, the Mayor and the Group Manager – Community Life. The General Manager took the opportunity to have discussions with these delegates about the 2 Councils' partnership agreement, including the arrangements for the mentoring and induction of Council's new Ranger, as well the possibility of future, similar arrangements taking place.

Key sessions attended by the General Manager included the keynote address on the first day of the conference by Kevin Crompton, Chief Executive Officer of the London Borough of Haringey, who spoke about the efforts undertaken to re-build communities in the Haringey Council following the riots in Tottenham in August 2011.

This was one of the most interesting and relevant presentations of the whole conference for the General Manager, with the key message of the need to quickly clean up the local environment and re-build infrastructure and buildings in a devastated community as a way of restoring community pride and as a visible demonstration of the commitment to the local community.

The challenges involved in doing so in the case of Tottenham were immense due to the extent of the devastation; however through the leadership of the local Council and its officials, and the dedication of the local community, an extremely effective partnership and relationship between institutions and the community was formed, which was pivotal to the re-building success.

In doing this, the local leaders harnessed the power of the silent majority, who wanted to undertake a clean-up of the streets, as a sign of the commitment they felt to their local community. In addition to that, quickly re-establishing businesses was also a key factor that drove local authorities' efforts to re-build not only the infrastructure, but the community as a whole.

This message could be translated in part to areas in the Central Darling Shire Council where there are issues with local amenity, streetscapes and derelict properties and building sites. With a sense of vision, purpose and leadership, there are opportunities for Council to lead the community through a process of urban renewal, which would lead to improved outcomes in many areas such as economic development, tourism, employment and youth engagement.

Prior to the riots, Tottenham was characterised by a high level of social disadvantage, including high unemployment, social deprivation, lack of jobs, a poor environment (built and natural), overcrowding and lack of integration amongst various ethnic groups borne out of high numbers of migrant residents. Aspects of the social problems besetting Tottenham are also seen in communities in the Central Darling Shire Council area.

A presentation by Jude Munro, former CEO of the Brisbane City Council followed the Tottenham story. Ms. Munro is one of the members of the Local Government Review Panel established by the State Government. This presentation focused on the role that local government plays not only in relation to stewardship, but also leadership.

In making observations in this regard, Ms. Munro stated that local government is the bedrock of democracy and local government managers are its stewards. Ms. Munro outlined 9 challenges for local government:

- Listening and responding to community concerns.
- Creating ways of engaging with communities.
- Long term integrated and collaborative planning.
- Training in good governance.
- Treasuring our democratic nationhood.
- Community neural pathways.
- Accountability and responsiveness as leaders.
- Workforce support.
- Micro-economic reform of local government.

Civica, the suppliers of Council's corporate system, Practical, hosted a lunchtime session on Monday 21 May, at which the Director of Resources from the Gloucester City Council in the UK spoke about that Council's experience in outsourcing some routine transaction processing functions.

Another interesting presentation was from the Executive Officer of the Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Council, Julie Briggs. This presentation focused on the successful collaborations that had been undertaken in the REROC area, which covers 43,000km², 15 Councils and a population of 140,000.

REROC has been able to generate savings of \$22m over a 10 year period through initiatives such as shared procurement and other resource sharing arrangements.

Brad Smith from CAM Management Solutions participated in a panel discussion on regional co-operation and later in the conference presented on work undertaken by CAMMS in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. CAM Management Solutions, through Mr. Smith, was instrumental in the development of this Council's 2012/13 Operational Plan and Budget.

In both the panel discussion and his presentation, Mr. Smith was able to provide background to the service expectations in remote Aboriginal communities and matters that affected the ability of Councils to deliver on those expectations. Some of those factors include weather and its impact on road assets, reliability of contractors to deliver and remoteness and the resultant higher costs of doing business and building infrastructure.

At the congress, the General Manager was also able to meet with Melissa Gibbs, from the Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government and have a discussion regarding issues facing rural, remote and indigenous councils and the work being undertaken by ACELG in this regard.

Contact was also made with Denis McGuinn from Local Government Appointments, who has assisted Council in sourcing contractors for short-term assignments over the last 9 months.

In addition to these contacts, the General Manager met representatives from infoXpert, a supplier of document management systems and discussed Council's future requirements regarding a new system. Information gained as a result of this contact will assist Council in understanding its requirements for a new system, as well as the expected costs involved with the acquisition and implementation of such a system.

LGMA NSW Forum

The LGMA held a one day forum for General Managers and senior Council staff on Monday 4th June, the day prior to the commencement of the Shires Conference.

The forum was opened by the Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Don Page MP, who spoke about Destination 2036, the need to build better relationships and his strong interest in the local government sector. The Minister also spoke about being the Minister for Local Government, not against it and announced that the Destination 2036 Action Plan was to be released the following day.

The Minister also spoke in relation to the Local Government Review Panel, the Local Government Act review and the Local Government Infrastructure Renewal Scheme. He also spoke in relation the State Plan and the 19 Regional Action Plans that will be developed from that.

Other matters mentioned by the Minister included the Companion Animals Act, changes to regulations regarding swimming pools, a new inter-governmental agreement and the model code of conduct, which is to include a 2 page summary.

A representative from Land and Property Information spoke about a range of matters including data exchange, which this Council has taken up through an agreement with LPI. The availability of high resolution digital imagery to the local government sector was also referred to, as were a range of innovations currently under development. A second representative from LPI also spoke in relation to property addressing and a new automated road naming process.

Dr. Warren Mundy, a Commissioner from the Productivity Commission spoke in relation to a benchmarking study carried out in relation to the role of local government as a regulator. Prior to the study, there was little data available in relation to councils' role as a regulator. The local government sector as a whole had expressed concerns regarding its lack of resources to act as a regulator, with 38% of councils indicating that they lacked resources to administer all regulations assigned to them.

Business concerns were also addressed in the study, which related to the complex regulatory frameworks, inconsistency, uncertainty regarding timeframes, lost opportunities and unreasonable fees. However, of the 325 NSW businesses surveyed, 76% were satisfied with their treatment by local councils.

Some of the core observations made during the study included the expansion of the role of local government without a corresponding increase in support; the conflicting roles that LG can play in some cases; the lack of alignment between the cost and benefits of regulation; the high degree of variability in fees and charges and the lack of guidance given to local government as to how it should regulate or the priorities of the State Government.

Dr. Mundy highlighted examples of leading practice in local government, which includes the publishing of local laws on websites; early consultation during regulatory processes; the use of risk frameworks; efficient cost recovery processes and staged appeals processes.

Dr. Mundy also gave examples of where there were cases of effective co-ordination and cooperation between councils, including resource-sharing, mutual recognition of a single registration for food vans across 3 States and joint local government entities such as regional health authorities.

As part of leading practice, it was suggested that State Governments needed to provide greater support for local government in discharging its regulatory obligations, which could include flying squads of experts assisting local government authorities manage their regulatory workloads; they should also maintain registers of local laws, Acts and Regulations that impact on local government and also develop best practice principles for regulatory inspections and enforcement.

Annalisa Haskell, the CEO of LGMA NSW, updated delegates on the LGMA's achievements during the year, as well as the range of initiatives and resources that can be used to by Council staff to assist them in their roles.

Ross Woodward, Chief Executive of the Division of Local Government presented on the activities of the DLG and spoke about the implementation of actions arising from the Destination 2036 workshops in Dubbo in August 2012.

The DLG has 3 key activities it is focusing on as a result of Destination 2036, which are, the activities of the Local Government Review Panel, the 2036 Implementation Steering Committee and the Local Government Act Review Panel, which will commence its activities in September 2012.

Mr. Woodward spoke about a range of issues facing the local government sector at the moment, including

- Integrated Planning & Reporting
- Code of Conduct review
- Infrastructure audit
- Sustainability review
- The new inter-governmental agreement
- The Local Government Act review
- 2012 Council elections
- Councillor support

Professor Graham Sansom, Chair of the Local Government Review Panel, followed with a presentation in relation to the establishment of the Panel and the work that the Panel was about to embark on.

The Panel has 2 staff, a project manager and a project officer and has established its own website: www.localgovernmentreview.nsw.gov.au.

In his presentation, Professor Sansom spoke of the fear in local government regarding debt; the need to review the roles and responsibilities of Councils, Mayors and General Managers; the Panel's consensus-based approach to its activities; the complete independence of the Panel; how it will consult and engage with the sector and how it would establish its findings.

Professor Sansom also provided delegates with his early reflections, stating that everything was on the table for discussion and that status quo was not an option. He also spoke of the need to look at the sector as a whole, including the inter-governmental agreement; and the need for innovative, long-term thinking.

Professor Sansom concluded his presentation by saying that soft options were not a likely outcome of the Panel's work, that the review would be far-reaching and that tough questions would be asked.

Shires Association Annual Conference

The Shires Association Annual Conference was held in Sydney from Monday 4 June to Wednesday 6 June. A highlight of the Conference was the presentation of the Service Awards to Cr. Linnett and Cr. Wellings. A large number of awards were presented to recipients from Shires across NSW.

The conference commenced on the morning of Tuesday 5th June, with a welcome address by the Lord Mayor of Sydney, Clover Moore, which was followed by the address from the President of the Shires Association, Cr. Ray Donald, Mayor of Bogan Shire.

The President acknowledged the actions of the NSW State Government since it came to power in March 2011 and went on to speak in relation to One Association, the Local Government Review Panel, the need to encourage candidature during the 2012 elections, the Code of Conduct review, the proposed referendum on constitutional recognition and roads to recovery funding.

The NSW Premier, the Hon. Barry O’Farrell MP, then gave his welcome address during which he acknowledged the efforts of local governments in dealing with the floods earlier in the year and spoke about Destination 2036 being a key initiative to build a stronger local government sector in NSW. Other topics covered by the Premier included the Local Government Review Panel, planning reforms, infrastructure funding and a range of topics raised by delegates in a question and answer session.

The Minister for Local Government gave an address on a wide range of topics, most of which were covered the day prior at the LGMA forum. The Minister acknowledged that rate pegging was one cause of financial distress for Councils.

Other presentations on the first day of the conference related to the management of the Murray Darling Basin System and the Murray Darling Basin Plan.

Presentations on the second day of the Conference were made by Ross Woodward and Professor Graham Sansom, in relation to Destination 2036 and the Local Government Review Panel, which covered similar topics to those at the LGMA Forum on Monday 4th June.

The General Manager was able to have a discussion with Glenn Inglis at the Conference, which was a useful prelude to the work of the Local Government Review Panel commencing and the consultation sessions to be held throughout NSW in coming months.

In relation to the motions sent to the Conference by the Central Darling Shire Council, the following motions were carried.

- The provision of public housing and its management in NSW.
- Payments for RMS contracts being made progressively as projects are undertaken.

During the Conference, the Mayor and the General Manager also took the opportunity to meet with Gary Mottau, independent member of Council’s Audit Committee, for a discussion over lunch.

LGMA Roadshow

The LGMA (NSW) held a one-day regional roadshow in Broken Hill on Thursday 7 June. At this workshop, a presentation was made by a representative from the Division of Local Government in relation to the restructure of the DLG and other topical matters arising from the DLG, including work undertaken by Councils in relation to Integrated Planning and Reporting, the Code of Conduct Review, complaints reporting, the local government infrastructure renewal scheme, Destination 2036 and the Local Government Review Panel.

A representative from ICAC was also in attendance and in the afternoon conducted a workshop in relation to corruption-related issues in local government, which included a number of case studies. Materials from the ICAC workshop were provided to the General Manager and will be made available to interested Councillors at this Council meeting.

ALGA National General Assembly

The Australian Local Government Association held its 2012 National General Assembly in Canberra from 17-20 June.

The timing of the Assembly coincided with the High Court handing down its decision in the Williams case, in which the Commonwealth Government's direct funding of school chaplains was challenged in the High Court. The High Court decision was handed down on Wednesday 20 June, the final day of the Assembly.

Much discussion took place at the Assembly in relation to the Williams' case, as it was felt that a decision in favour of Williams would have implications for the direct funding by the Commonwealth to local government in areas such as Roads to Recovery and social support programs could be at risk.

The City of Ryde's motion in relation to the Federal Government reviewing the Higher Education Loans Program to encourage university graduates to work in rural and remote areas, which was developed in conjunction with this Council, was successful.

Much discussion at the Assembly also took place in relation to the proposed referendum on the recognition of local government in the constitution, with a number of politicians stating that local government needed to make the case for change and convince their communities and the public at large of that case.

There were also a number of speakers who spoke on the matter of climate change, the carbon pricing mechanism and the clean energy futures program. The matter of the carbon price was of much interest to local government, particularly in relation to emissions from landfill sites and the cost of fuels and the associated rebates for various types of fuel usage.

ACELG Rural-Remote and Indigenous Local Government CEO Conference

The Australian Centre for Excellence in Local Government held a Rural-Remote and Indigenous Local Government CEO Conference in Cairns on Wednesday 27 June. The conference was targeted at CEOs/General Managers of Rural-Remote and Indigenous Councils throughout Australia. Approximately 25 CEOs/GMs, university staff, state government and local government association representatives, as well as ACELG staff attended the conference.

Central Darling Shire Council's status as a Council that could benefit from involvement in the Rural-Remote and Indigenous Program was first identified by the DLG in the Promoting Better Practice Review Report, where it stated that Council could seek funding through the program to address its special capacity-building needs.

Following that identification of the need for Council to seek external support, the General Manager received an invitation from Edith Cowan University in WA to participate in a survey relating to community engagement in Rural-Remote and Indigenous Councils. The questionnaire was completed in February and asked questions in relation to the community engagement practices of this Council, the challenges it faces in engaging with its communities, the resources available to support community engagement activities, the approaches that have been successful or unsuccessful and what extra support is need to help Council improve its community engagement.

As a part of the ACELG program aimed at building the capacity of Rural-Remote and Indigenous Local Government, it convened a Search Conference to discuss the capacity needs of CEOs and senior officers in rural-remote and Indigenous councils in Western Australia, Queensland, the Northern Territory, New South Wales and South Australia. A key component of the ACELG program is the recognition of the important role played by CEOs and senior managers in remote Australia.

The objectives of the search conference were to:

- Discuss the special challenges facing CEOs in small remote and Indigenous councils.
- Identify the skills and support required to improve CEO and senior management performance.
- Develop options for recognising and rewarding those CEOs in remote councils who demonstrate high quality local government leadership.
- Consider pathways to provide mentoring and support for senior managers.
- Consider options for a rural-remote and Indigenous CEOs development strategy.

As a result of attending this conference, the General Manager was able to contribute to the development of strategies that will go some way to addressing the unique needs of CEOs/Managers of rural-remote and Indigenous Councils.

The conference also provided the General Manager with the opportunity to meet with a number of people familiar with the challenges faced in the Western Division in NSW due to their prior involvement with either research or work in local government in the area.

In attendance at the conference was a delegate from the Division of Local Government in NSW, Karen Paterson. Some of the matters raised at the conference may be taken up by the DLG in work being undertaken by it and the Local Government Review Panel.

Many of the issues raised at the conference have relevance for the Central Darling Shire into the future. The recruitment and retention of skilled and motivated staff with the capacity to perform the roles needed by Council will be one of the most significant issues.

The conference was valuable in terms of establishing a network of CEOs/General Managers across Australia, all from councils in Remote, Rural or Indigenous communities and providing a future forum in which CEOs/GMs can share information and provide support across their councils.

8.1.6 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
21 ST June 2012	MANEX	
22 nd June 2012	GM, Acting Finance Manager	Audit Committee Meeting
	GM, Sgt Luke Tsykalas	Police Matters
25 th June 2012	GM	Community Working Party
27 th June 2012	GM	ACELG Conference, Cairns
29 th June 2012	GM, Mayor	Meeting with Sunset Strip Progress Association Inc.
	GM, MTES, MES, Acting-FM, EA	Council Meeting Menindee
2 nd July 2012	GM	ABC Radio Interview
3 rd July 2012	GM, Acting FM& IT Manager	Digital TV Switchover Satellite Subsidy Scheme Teleconference
4 th July 2012	GM	Mallee Playground opening
	GM	Meeting with Sunset Strip Progress Association Inc.
5 th July 2012	GM, Darren Flowers, Returning Officer, NSW Electoral Commission	Meeting regarding up and coming LG elections.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Information Items report be received and noted.

8.2 2012/13 OPERATIONAL PLAN UPDATE

ATTACHMENT 5

Summary

At its June 2012 meeting, Council adopted the 2012/13 Operational Plan and Budget. At the time of adoption, it was known that changes would be required to accommodate some requests made by the Sunset Strip Progress Association. An additional change is required in relation to the interest rate applicable to overdue rates and charges.

Commentary

At its June 2012 meeting, Council was advised when adopting its 2012/13 Operational Plan and Budget that changes would be required to accommodate some requests made by the Sunset Strip Progress Association.

The Association prepared a list of 21 items it wanted addressed in the 2012/13 Operational Plan and Budget. Discussions in relation to these items were held with the Association prior to the Council meeting held on 29 June and again on Wednesday 4 July.

As a result of those meetings, it was suggested that the following items would be put to Council for it to consider making amendments to the 2012/13 Operational Plan and Budget (the General Manager's comments and observations in relation to each request follow each item):

1. **Public toilet maintenance** – increase annual payment from \$500 to \$600 (This is listed on page 69 of the 2012/13 Operational Plan & Budget – note, this would also entail similar increase to Broken Hill Speedboat Club for Copi Hollow toilets. The amount has not been increased for at least 7 years, so would appear to be a reasonable request.)
2. **Special events funding** – SSPA has requested that funding similar to that provided to other communities be provided. The request is for Australia Day, the Community Christmas function, Anzac Day wreath, Seniors Week, Volunteer Week and Youth Week (page 69 of the 2012/13 Operational Plan & Budget – note: there is a general request from SSPA that Sunset Strip not be referred to in conjunction with Menindee for these purposes. Practice has been to denote Menindee/Sunset Strip in the Operational Plan, which makes it difficult to determine if both communities are to be allocated the full amounts specified, or whether they are to share the amounts. SSPA has also requested that the distinction made between villages and townships be removed and that Sunset Strip be considered a township. In relation to Anzac Day, it is not clear what the wreath would be for, as there does not appear to be a war memorial in Sunset Strip. The Australia Day function is already allowed for in the Plan. Council does not allocate funding to any organisation for Volunteer Week. Funding for Youth Week is limited by the grant funding received and the addition of a Youth Week activity would dilute the funds normally made available to each of the towns' activities.)
3. **Allocation of \$70,000 works program** – SSPA is seeking \$70,000 be allocated to Sunset Strip each year for works. They have suggested that the funding could be used for the hall roof and painting; the area around the hall including the playground and tennis courting seating area; the toilet for the golf club; regeneration works – trees, solar pump, tanks, pipeline, rabbit fence netting, vermin control; playground softfall, tourist information bay; printing new residents welcome pack; printing 50th anniversary historical booklet; administration office equipment upgrade; 15 rubbish street bins; art & heritage park; hall seniors lounge; solar power installation. (Note: The allocation of \$70,000 per annum for capital works

specifically in Sunset Strip is not likely to be affordable for CDSC. Many of the items listed are now the responsibility of SSPA as the Trust Manager for the Crown Reserve. Many of the items are not related to capital works and are either matters for SSPA or the Sunset Strip community in general to deal with. The provision of 15 rubbish street bins would appear to be disproportionate to the property/population base of Sunset Strip and would add significantly to Council's rubbish collection costs – no case has been forward regarding this need.)

The remaining items do not require amendment to the 2012/13 Operational Plan and Budget, but are being dealt with as ongoing operational issues or are otherwise being followed up by SSPA in its own right. Due to the late notice, some items included in the letter cannot be considered until the 2013/14 financial year, for example, the request for 500 trees for National Tree Day.

In addition to the issues raised by the Sunset Strip Progress Association, one other amendment is needed to the Operational Plan. The interest rate applicable to overdue rates and charges has been quoted at 9% on page 81 of the Plan.

The interest rate has been revised and will actually be 10% for the 2012/13 year, as per the attached circular from the Division of Local Government.

(a) Policy Implications

The 2012/13 Operational Plan and Budget is the key document that will drive Council's activities in the financial year. It is required to be produced in accordance with the Integrated Planning and Reporting framework set down by the NSW Government.

(b) Financial Implications

The changes recommended to the 2012/13 Operational Plan and Budget will have a negligible financial impact if adopted.

(c) Legal Implications

Nil to report at this stage.

(d) Community Consultation

Meetings have been held with the Sunset Strip Progress Association in late June and early July.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council amend the 2012/13 Operational Plan and Budget for the following items:

- 1 Increase the annual fee for public toilet maintenance at Sunset Strip and Copi Hollow to \$600.*
- 2 Provide \$200 to Sunset Strip for a Christmas Community Celebration in its own right.*
- 3 Amend the interest rate applicable to overdue rates and charges to 10% in accordance with Circular 12-17 from the Division of Local Government on 6 June 2012.*

8.3 2011/12 SPECIAL PROJECTS FUNDING

Summary

\$25,000 was provided for in the 2011/12 budget for special projects at Sunset Strip and Tilpa. The Sunset Strip Progress Association nominated the construction of a viewing platform at the rear of the Community Hall as its preferred project for this funding.

Council should now determine how it intends to spend these funds.

Commentary

As part of a series of letters written to Council since October 2011, the SSPA has sought to gain an understanding of how the \$25,000 funding for special projects in Sunset Strip in 2011/12 was to be spent.

The amount was included in the 2011/12 Operational Plan, on page 15, in the 5 year works program.

In response to this request, the General Manager requested that the Association nominate its preferred project for this funding and advised that the matter would then be considered by Council.

The Association advised in that its preferred project was for the construction of the viewing platform at the rear of the community hall and the hall renewal project. The viewing platform project is being undertaken by the Association as part of its 50th anniversary activities.

In the normal course of events, this funding would be allocated to a project involving Council infrastructure, not that belonging to a community group or other body. In earlier correspondence from October 2011, the Association had also identified a number of other projects, mostly involving the community hall, the golf club or infrastructure associated with the Crown reserve.

As none of those assets fall within Council's area of responsibility now that the Association has assumed the role of Trust Manager of the Crown reserve, Council will need to carefully consider if this would be the most effective use of its funding in Sunset Strip.

The funding could be used to deal with another issue of concern that has been raised by the Association, which relates to stormwater drainage and water runoff from roads not being adequately channelled away from properties.

(a) Policy Implications

Nil.

(b) Financial Implications

\$25,000 would need to be carried over from the 2011/12 budget to 2012/13 for a project to be undertaken with this funding.

(c) Legal Implications

Nil to report at this stage.

(d) Community Consultation

Consultation has taken place with the Sunset Strip Progress Association.

RECOMMENDATION

For Council's consideration.

8.4 PROMOTING BETTER PRACTICE REVIEW UPDATE

ATTACHMENT 6

Summary

At its June meeting, Council adopted a number of policies that had been prepared in response to recommendations arising from the 2011 Promoting Better Practice Review Report. The Disposal and Sale of Assets Policy was advertised for public consultation purposes, but left off the list of policies to be adopted. It is appropriate that Council adopt the policy at the July meeting.

Commentary

Council has been receiving regular updates in relation to the implementation of recommendations arising from the 2011 Promoting Better Practice Review Report.

A number of policies had previously been prepared in response to recommendation 1 from the report and were adopted by Council at its June 2012 meeting. The Disposal and Sale of Assets Policy was to be included in the list of those policies for adoption, but was mistakenly omitted.

The policy was subject to the usual 28 day public consultation process, during which time, no submissions were received. It is appropriate that the policy now be adopted by Council.

(a) Policy Implications

As included in the policy.

(b) Financial Implications

Nil.

(c) Legal Implications

Nil.

(d) Community Consultation

The policy was subject to the usual 28 day public consultation period. No submissions were received.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the Disposal and Sale of Assets Policy.

8.5 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW PANEL

ATTACHMENT 7

Summary

The NSW Independent Local Government Review Panel was established by the State Government in March 2012 following discussions on the future of the sector at the Destination 2036 workshop in Dubbo in August 2011. The suggestion for the establishment of the panel came from the Local Government and Shires Associations.

The Review Panel has recently issued a consultation paper in relation to the work it will be undertaking over the next 12 months. The panel is inviting written submissions on a series of questions relating to local government in NSW. Council should consider making a submission to the panel.

Commentary

The Local Government Review Panel was established in March 2012 by the State Government in response to an approach from the Local Government and Shires Associations, following the Destination 2036 workshop held in Dubbo in August 2011.

The Panel's terms of reference state that it has been established to investigate and identify options for governance models, structural arrangements and boundary changes for local government in NSW, taking into consideration:

1. Ability to support the current and future needs of local communities.
2. Ability to deliver services and infrastructure efficiently effectively and in a timely manner.
3. The financial sustainability of each local government area.
4. Ability for local representation and decision making.
5. Barriers and incentives to encourage voluntary boundary changes.

The first body of work completed by the Panel is the preparation and release of a consultation paper entitled "Strengthening Your Community". The consultation paper covers a number of key topics in relation to the review of local government in NSW, including the reason for the establishment of the panel, the importance of the review, the characteristics of a good council, the scope of work of the panel, 5 big issues facing local government in NSW and the next steps in the review process.

The next step consists of a call for written submissions in response to 3 questions:

- 1 What are the best aspects of NSW local government in its current form?
- 2 What challenges will your community have to meet over the next 25 years?
- 3 What 'top 5' changes should be made to local government to help meet your community's future challenges?

This is the first stage in a 4 stage process that the panel will be undertaking in conducting its review. Other work to be undertaken in Stage 1 and following stages is described below.

Stage 1 Identifying key issues and exploring ideas (July - September 2012)

The first stage of consultation will look at the issues facing local communities and the councils that serve them now and over the next 25 years.

During the next 2 months, the panel will hold a series of meetings in regions around the State to discuss the issues in the Consultation Paper and learn more about the challenges faced by different communities.

Stage 2 Options for change (October 2012 – January 2013)

Release of a case for change paper based on the first round of consultation and background research undertaken by the panel. It will seek to generate debate on a range of potential models for governance, structures and boundaries to meet future challenges.

Consultation will focus on key issues and ideas, and will mainly take the form of roundtables and focus groups.

Stage 3 Future directions (February – May 2013)

The final stage of consultation will be based on a third paper that will set out the panel's emerging views on what sort of changes may need to be made to governance, structures and boundaries in different parts of NSW. It will include the panel's ideas on barriers and incentives for voluntary boundary changes.

Consultation will include a further round of regional meetings across NSW and call for written responses to the future directions paper.

Stage 4 Final report (June – July 2013)

The panel will submit its final report and recommendations to Government by mid-July 2013.

Whilst no dates or locations for the regional meetings to be held in Stage 1 have yet been decided, Council should seek to have at least one of those meetings held in the Central Darling Shire Council area.

Much discussion about Central Darling Shire Council was generated following the Destination 2036 workshop and the State Government had proposed that Council be a pilot Council for the trialling and implementation of a new model of local government in the State.

The work originally envisaged to be undertaken under this trial is now to be covered by the work of the panel. Given the significant interest in the future of this Council, the panel should be required to hold one meeting in the Shire.

(a) Policy Implications

The work of the Local Government Review Panel is expected to have a significant bearing on the future structure of the Central Darling Shire Council.

(b) Financial Implications

Nil at this stage.

(c) Legal Implications

Nil at this stage.

(d) Community Consultation

As described in the report above.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council request that the Local Government Review Panel hold at least one regional meeting in the Central Darling Shire Council area under Stage 1 of its review process.

8.6 COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Summary

The Mayor has received a request from a resident that a Council meeting be held in Tilpa. No Council meeting has been held in Tilpa for 2 years. A meeting was originally scheduled for Tilpa in March 2012, but had to be deferred due to flooding.

Commentary

Since adopting its 2012 meeting schedule in December 2011, Council has made a number of changes due to the impact of the floods and the need to deal with issues of importance. As a result, the March meeting was moved from Tilpa to Wilcannia due to flooding; the April meeting was moved from Menindee to Wilcannia due to the need to conduct a workshop on the Community Strategic Plan; and the June meeting was transferred from Wilcannia to Menindee to compensate for the transfer of the April meeting.

The original schedule of meetings for the remainder of the year was set as follows:

- 21st August – Ivanhoe
- 18th September – Wilcannia
- 16th October – Wilcannia
- 20th November – White Cliffs
- 18th December – Wilcannia

It is suggested that the August meeting remain in Ivanhoe, as there is no other meeting scheduled for the town this year. It is also suggested that the September meeting remain in Wilcannia, however that the date be changed from Tuesday 18th to Tuesday 25th, to ensure that there is enough time to prepare and send the agenda to all Councillors following the declaration of the election results.

This is similar to a change in meeting date that occurred in September 2008, when the meeting originally scheduled for 16 September was changed to 30 September to allow for the election processes to be completed.

It is anticipated that a Councillor induction process and information session will be held prior to the meeting in September, to ensure that all Councillors, both new and returning, are up to date in relation to key local government and Central Darling Shire Council issues.

In relation to the meetings to be held after September, it is suggested that the October meeting scheduled for Wilcannia be transferred to Tilpa. This will be the best opportunity to hold a meeting at Tilpa in 2012.

The November meeting should remain in White Cliffs, as there is no other meeting scheduled to be held there in 2012. The December meeting should also be left unchanged, as it will again provide the opportunity to for staff and Councillors to gather for a pre-Christmas function, as happened in 2011.

(a) Policy Implications

Nil.

(b) Financial Implications

Nil at this stage.

(c) Legal Implications

Nil at this stage.

(d) Community Consultation

The rotation of Council meetings across the Shire is an effective way of Council keeping in touch with its communities.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the following meeting schedule for the remainder of 2012:

- ***21st August – Ivanhoe***
- ***25th September – Wilcannia***
- ***16th October – Tilpa***
- ***20th November – White Cliffs***
- ***18th December – Wilcannia***

SECTION 9. MANAGER TECHNICAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES REPORT

9.1 INFORMATION ITEMS

ATTACHMENT 8

9.1.1 GRADING PROGRAM – ATTACHMENT 8

The July 2012 Grading Program has been included to enable Council to follow the progress of the grading crews working throughout the Shire. Any changes, updates will be presented on a monthly basis.

9.1.2 2012 FLOOD DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS

Council staff has completed 90% of flood damage assessments on the Shire road network. The remaining inspections and submissions are expected to be completed and submitted by Friday 13th July 2012. Roads and Maritime Services inspected the Wilcannia-Menindee East and West side roads and Pooncarie Rd on Thursday 5th July 2012. Formal funding amounts for flood restoration works will be forthcoming.

9.1.3 SH21 COBB HIGHWAY CAPITAL WORKS

Council staff and Roads Maritime Services inspected and scoped capital works for the Cobb Highway on Friday 13th July 2012. The proposed \$1M works will be issued to Council via a Works Order under the RMCC contract. Council staff will be proceeding with survey and design of the 3km section, White Elephant Tank approximately 55km south of the Barrier Highway. RMS will be carrying out environmental approval works and geotechnical works for possible gravel sourcing.

The date of commencement is yet to be determined.

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 four grading crews operating with priorities being on the completion of flood damage works, reconstruction works and RTA Ordered Works

Commentary

State Roads:

- 2012/2013 RMCC works estimated cost for Routine Maintenance Works on both highways is \$514,000

- No Works Orders received this financial year to date.
- 3 Works Orders remaining from 2011/12 financial year. All 3 are in progress at present.
- Cobb Highway works that are in progress include Gravel Resheeting (RMS Works Order \$200,127) Flood Restoration Works \$217,142 and maintenance grading works.

	Original Budget	Remaining Budget	% Expended
RMCC	\$514,000	\$514,000	0%
Flood Damage 2010	\$298,000	\$0	100%
Flood Damage 2011	\$176,571	\$26,000	85%
Flood Damage 2012	\$217,142	\$8,903	96%

Regional Roads:

- 2010/2011 Pooncarie Rd Bridge replacement and approach roads Reconstruction complete
- 2011/2012 Balranald Rd Reconstruction in Progress.
- All Regional Road 2010 Flood Damage works completed
- All Regional Road 2011 Flood Damage works completed
- Regional road 2012 Flood Damage assessments are in progress

	Original Budget	Remaining Budget	% Expended
MR67 Balranald Rd (2011/12)	\$2,015,000	\$1,672,447	17%
Regional Road Block (including Supplementary and Traffic)	\$2,323,000	\$2,323,000	0%
Flood Damage 2012	\$TBC	\$0	0%

Local Roads:

- 2012 Flood Damage Assessments are in progress
- 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	\$1,391,646	0%
Flood Damage 2012	\$TBC	\$0	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

Nil to report at this stage.

Town Improvement Funds:

- \$70k per town to be funded from Untied Local Road (FAG) Funds

	Original Budget	Remaining Budget	% Expended
Wilcannia	\$70,000	\$70,000	0%
White Cliffs	\$70,000	\$70,000	0%
Menindee	\$70,000	\$70,000	0%
Ivanhoe	\$70,000	\$70,000	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

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.

	Original Budget	Remaining Budget	% Expended
Parks & Gardens	\$94,000	\$94,000	0%
Ancillary Works	\$102,000	\$102,000	0%
Street Cleaning/ Bins	\$113,500	\$113,500	0%
Aerodromes	\$53,000	\$53,000	0%
Public Conveniences	\$37,250	\$37,250	0%

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 = 5.2 m, Tank 2 =5.6m, Tank 3 (Wakefield) 8.75m
- Ivanhoe town water supply is currently being sourced from the underground bore fields. Morrison’s Lake storage is currently 450 megalitres, town storage dam 50 megalitres.
- Ivanhoe Filtration Plant has undergone necessary repairs and maintenance prior to the utilization of the storage water from Morrison’s Lake. The NSW Office of Water has indicated that they will be present mid to late July for initial treatment.

	Original Budget	Remaining Budget	% Expended
Wilcannia Water	\$308,250	\$308,250	0%
Wilcannia Sewer	\$93,500	\$93,500	0%
White Cliffs Water	\$108,500	\$108,500	0%
Ivanhoe Water	\$145,500	\$145,500	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 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	\$3.03 Mil	\$3.03 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	\$184k	0%
Talyawalka Bridge	Structure complete. Roadworks Complete	\$2,040,000	\$10,275	99%
Integrated Water Management Plan	GPS equipment purchased. Dept Public Works Engagement in progress. See report in July Agenda	\$167,000	\$8,354	95%
Warrali Mission Footpath Upgrade	Formation complete, lighting in progress	\$121,000	\$72,607	40%
Old Wilcannia Bridge	Timber Ordered	\$90,000	\$36,089	60%

MR67 Ivanhoe-Balranald Rd Reconstruction	In progress	\$2,000,000	\$1,540,000	33%
--	-------------	-------------	-------------	-----

(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 ROADS TO RECOVERY 2012/13

Summary

Council staff are required to prepare and submit a works schedule to the department. It is recommended that Council have 12 months of rolling projects at all times. Council is asked to consider the preferred projects for submission. The amount of funding available is \$703,770

Commentary

At the ordinary meeting of Council, May 2012, Council resolved the following

That Council commits \$540,000 per annum from its Regional Roads Block Grant, Roads to recovery funding and the Supplementary Component (Ex 3x3 Grant) of the Regional Road Block Grant over the next 3 years for the reconstruction and sealing of the Ivanhoe-Balranald Road (MR67) and seek additional funding of \$200,000 from the State Government, \$200,000 from Roads and Maritime Services and \$200,000 from Bemax, per annum for 3 years.

The General Manager has received no response to date in regards to funding requests.

Additional funding is available through the Regional Roads Repair Program. It is unlikely that Council will have the accumulated points to enable any payment in this financial year. Because Council has not received any funding from this program for the last 2 consecutive years the \$400k submission is likely to be granted in 2013/14. The project identified in that submission details MR416 Ivanhoe-Cobar Rd \$1.1M gravel resheet, stock grid replacements and sealing.

Councils operational plan refers to the following road priorities; 2012/13 MR416 Ivanhoe-Cobar Rd, 2013/14 MR68B Wilcannia-Menindee West Rd, 2014/15 MR428 Kayrunnera Rd.

The Transport Asset Management plan identifies the following assets that are in need of replacement and/or upgrades.

RB00078	Bridges	SR 1 Papenpapinbilla Creek Bridge (Timber- 19m long & 3m wide)	2011
RB00077	Bridges	SR 1 Talyawalka Creek Bridge (Timber- 30.3m long & 3m wide)	2011
IT00012 - 03	Aerodromes	Ivanhoe Aerodrome (Chip Sealed Surface Level)	2013
IT00012 - 04	Aerodromes	Ivanhoe Aerodrome (Chip Sealed Surface Level)	2013
IT00014 - 01	Aerodromes	Tilpa Aerodrome (Chip Sealed Surface Level)	2013
IT00013 - 03	Aerodromes	White Cliffs Aerodrome (Chip Sealed Surface Level)	2013
IT00010 - 02	Aerodromes	Wilcannia Aerodrome (Chip Sealed Surface Level)	2013
MR 428	Sealed Road	Broken Hill - White Cliffs Rd (Chip Sealed Surface Level)	2013
SR 50	Sealed Road	Copi Hollow (Chip Sealed Surface Level)	2013
SR 24	Sealed Road	Ivanhoe Town Streets (Chip Sealed Surface Level)	2013
SR 11	Sealed Road	Menindee - Pooncarie (Chip Sealed Surface Level)	2013
SR 30	Sealed Road	Menindee Town Streets (Chip Sealed Surface Level)	2013
MR 68 C	Sealed Road	Pooncarie - Menindee Rd (Chip Sealed Surface Level)	2013
SR 34	Sealed Road	Tilpa Town Streets (Chip Sealed Surface Level)	2013
MR 68 A	Sealed Road	Wilcannia - Bourke Rd (Chip Sealed Surface Level)	2013
SR 10	Sealed Road	Wilcannia - Menindee (Chip Sealed Surface Level)	2013
SR 5	Sealed Road	Wilcannia - Wanaaring Rd (Chip Sealed Surface Level)	2013
SR 26	Sealed Road	Wilcannia Town Streets (Chip Sealed Surface Level)	2013

(a) Policy Implications

Reference is made to Councils Asset Management Plan - Transport

(b) Financial Implications

Mid 2011 Council considered a financial strategy empathizing the need to use available funds in the replacement of existing assets rather than expanding the asset base with new infrastructure provisions. The recommendation below is consistent with this resolution

(c) Legal Implications

Nil to report at this stage

(d) Community Consultation

Consultation is deemed to have been undertaken with Councils determination of this matter, taking into account that the Transport Asset Management Plan was publicly exhibited prior to adoption.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council confirm that the previous commitment of \$540,000 per annum for the Ivanhoe-Balranald Rd be sourced from the 2012/2013 Regional Road Block Grant

2. That the 2012/2013 Roads to Recovery work schedule submission identify the replacement of Papenpabinbilla Creek Bridge and Talyawalka Creek Bridge on the Wilcannia-Tilpa East Rd.

9.6 INTEGRATED WATER CYCLE MANAGEMENT AND LIVING WITH CLIMATE CHANGE – A PLAN FOR THE CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE COUNCIL, STRENGTHENING BASIN COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a progress report concerning the plan development and inform Council of the upcoming community workshops scheduled for early August 2012.

Background

The Australian Government's Water for the Future plan provides a national framework integrating rural and urban water issues, to secure the long-term water supply for all Australians.

The success of Water for the Future relies on all levels of government responding in a cooperative and coordinated way to secure sustainable, long term water supplies for the benefit of all Australians.

The Australian Government recognises the immense challenge faced by local communities in tackling Australia's water scarcity and the impact of climate change. The CSIRO Sustainable Yield studies for the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) point unambiguously to the reality of a future with less inflow into our river systems and reductions in water available for extractive uses.

The Australian Government has committed \$200 million from Water for the Future to establish the Strengthening Basin Communities program (the 'Program'). Under the 'Program' competitive grants will be available for local governments in the Murray Darling Basin (MDB) for:

1. Planning to assist them in community-wide planning for a future with less water and
2. Water Saving Initiatives including cost effective water infrastructure that meets the needs of communities now and into the future.

The objectives of the Planning component of the 'Program' are to allow local government bodies in the MDB to apply for funding to systematically assess the risks and implications associated with climate change, with a particular focus on water availability, and then review existing plans of develop new plans to take account of these risks and implications.

The development of the Integrated Water Cycle Management and Living with Climate Change – A Plan For The Central Darling Shire Council is funded pursuant to the Strengthening Basins Program.

Commentary

The proposed project outcome is to develop an integrated water cycle management strategy with due regard to the challenge of climate change to ensure that water resource management in the Central Darling Shire Council area is sustainable. The proposed project will be developed in accordance with the structured planning approach underpinning integrated water cycle management (IWCM) and shall be consistent with the Integrated Water Cycle Management Guidelines for NSW Water Utilities and the NSW governments Climate Change Action Plan. Central Darling Shire Council has recently considered the issue of verge maintenance and specifically mowing of footpaths within the urban areas of the LGA, and sought advise with respect to Council's responsibilities.

A key preliminary step is the development of IWCM Evaluation Report which is the basis for determining key targets and outcomes. The Evaluation Report is nearing completion and community workshops are proposed to be undertaken in the first week of August 2012.

Community workshops are proposed to be held in White Cliffs on Tuesday afternoon (1st August 2012), in Wilcannia Wednesday afternoon (2nd August 2012) and Ivanhoe Thursday afternoon (3rd August 2012). Inspection of Council's water supply and sewerage infrastructure will also be undertaken during this week.

(a) Policy Implications

Nil at this stage.

(b) Financial Implications

Nil financial implications at this stage. Funding provided by Commonwealth Government Strengthening Basins Program.

(c) Legal Implications

Nil.

(d) Community Consultation

Nil to report at this stage

RECOMMENDATION

That this progress report including advise of community workshops, concerning the development of the Integrated Water Cycle Management and Living with Climate Change – A Plan For The Central Darling Shire Council, be noted

SECTION 10. MANAGER ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORT

10.1 INFORMATION ITEMS

10.1.1 MENINDEE COMMON

Further to information provided to Council last month, the Draft Menindee Common Plan of Management was to be presented to the July Ordinary Meeting of Council, however comments on the submission received have not yet been provided by the Department of Primary Industries – Crown Land Division. As per Council resolution, it is required *That Council as Trust Manager of the Menindee Common consider any submissions that are received on the Draft Menindee Common Plan of Management in consultation with the Department of Primary Industries and make any changes necessary.* Once comments from the DPI are received the draft plan will be presented to Council with recommendations of any changes necessary.

10.1.2 VICTORY PARK CARAVAN PARK

The Victory Park Caravan Park has been closed for an extended period due to the recent flood event in the Darling River. Signing of lease agreements is almost complete, and it is anticipated that Summit Employment with the Wilcannia CDEP will commence management of the park in the near future. Clean-up works are required and will be undertaken by the CDEP.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Information Items report be received and noted.

10.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPT STATISTICS FOR JUNE 2012

Summary

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

Commentary

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

<u>Statistics for June 2012</u>	
Number DA'S Approved for June 2012	3 – broken down into the following categories; Commercial = 1 Residential = 2
Total Value of DA's approved for June 2012	\$815,000
Food Premises Inspected in June 2012	7 inspections
Animal Control Activities for June 2012	Impounded = 4, Euthanised = 2 dogs Registered = 4, Microchipped = 16, Complaints attended to

	= 4
Water Sampling for June 2012	Microbiology Samples Collected = 5 Chemistry Samples Collected = 0 Disinfection By Products = 0 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 June 2012 report be received and noted.

10.3 MALLEE PLAYGROUND

Summary

This report provides Council with an update on the Mallee Playground project and associated land transfer.

Commentary

In January 2012, Council resolved to provide land in Barkindji Drive, The Mallee, Wilcannia for the construction of a playground by Save The Children. Prior to construction, the Wilcannia Local Aboriginal Land Council indicated to Council’s General Manager they were willing and dedicated to manage the site and provide ongoing maintenance to the facility. On this basis, Council resolved to transfer ownership of Lots 15 & 16 in DP2809 to the Wilcannia Local Aboriginal Land Council pending approval and construction of the playground. The playground has been constructed and works completed in June 2012. An official opening of the playground was held on Wednesday 4th July 2012.

It is therefore appropriate that the transfer of the land proceed and instructions sent to Council’s solicitor to commence preparation of the transfer documents. It is necessary for Council to resolve to delegate authority to Council’s General Manager and Mayor to sign and seal transfer documents as required.

(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 Council delegate authority to the Mayor and General Manager to sign and seal land transfer documents for Lots 15 & 16 in DP2809 as required.

10.4 JOINT REGIONAL PLANNING PANELS

ATTACHMENT 9

Summary

This report provides Council with an update on Western Joint Regional Planning Panel.

Commentary

Correspondence has been received from the Hon Brad Hazzard MP – Minister for Planning & Infrastructure indicating that all State members and alternatives of the Western Joint Regional Planning Panel (JRPP) have been re-appointed for a period of 12 months up to 30 June 2013. The correspondence is attached for Councillors information. Ms Gabrielle Kibble AO, Mr Gordon Kirkby and Ms Ruth Fagan have been re-appointed as State members to the Western Joint Regional Planning Panel. The appointments are for 12 months only at this stage pending the implementation of a proposed review of the NSW planning system.

It is also necessary for Council to review our two nominations to the regional panel. In the past it has been difficult to nominate two persons to the panel as the Department of Planning advised it was inappropriate to nominate staff that may have been involved in the dealing with or considering any part of the DA. This was due to the potential for an actual or perceived conflict of duties and responsibilities to arise between a staff member's role with Council and responsibilities as a member of the Regional Panel. The Department of Planning strongly recommended in the past it is not appropriate for Council staff or Councillors to be members of JRPP's.

The Department of Planning has indicated that Council is required to nominate two members. It is required that at least one of the nominees have expertise in at least one of the following; planning, architecture, heritage, the environment, urban design, land economics, traffic and transport, law, engineering or tourism. As Central Darling is yet to receive a regional DA that needs to be assessed by the JRPP it is possible that Council could nominate its panel members if/when the need arises. In the past Council has opted to nominate its two panel members when required. Other smaller Councils have also used this option. It would be appropriate that the Mayor and General Manager be delegated the authority to appoint Council's nominees to this panel when/if the need arises.

(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 Council inform the Department of Planning that Council will provide the names of our JRPP nominees when the need arises, and further,

That the Mayor and General Manager be delegated authority to appoint Councils JRPP nominees when the need arises.

10.5 RISK BASED DRINKING WATER MANAGEMENT

ATTACHMENT 10

Summary

This report provides Council with information regarding a program designed by NSW Health to assist Council develop a risk based drinking water management system.

Commentary

In October 2011, a report was presented to Council outlining the requirements of the draft Public Health Regulations 2011. As part of that report details were provided to Council outlining the items that would impact on Council. One of those items noted in the report was the requirement of Council to prepare and implement a quality assurance program that addresses the twelve elements of the Framework for Management of Drinking Water Quality (as per the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines) including;

1. Commitment to drinking water quality management
2. Assessment of the drinking water supply system
3. Preventative measures for drinking water quality management
4. Operational procedures and process control
5. Verification of drinking water quality
6. Management of incidents and emergencies
7. Employee awareness and training
8. Community involvement and awareness
9. Research and development
10. Documentation and reporting
11. Evaluation and audit
12. Review and continual improvement

A copy of the quality assurance program must be supplied to the Director-General of Health.

NSW Health has invited Central Darling to participate in the development of a risk-based drinking water management system. They have engaged a team of water quality specialists and engineers to assist selected Councils to develop risk-based drinking water management systems. NSW Health has

offered this service to Council and will pay for the contractors to undertake the works. It is expected the project will be completed within six to twelve months. An indication has been given to NSW Health stating Council is willing to be involved in the project.

(a) Policy Implications

Nil to report at this stage

(b) Financial Implications

Minimal costs to Council being mainly staff time to assist provide data and information.

(c) Legal Implications

Legislative requirement under the Public Health Act 2010 and Public Health Regulations 2011.

(d) Community Consultations

Nil to report at this stage

RECOMMENDATION

That the Risk Based Drinking Water Management System report be received and noted.

10.6 CENTRAL DARLING DRAFT LEP, DCP & SHIRE STRATEGY

ATTACHMENT 11

Summary

This report provides Council with a summary of the submissions received from the public exhibition period of the draft LEP, DCP and Shire Strategy and seeks to progress the plan to gazettal.

Commentary

Council will be aware that the Central Darling LEP process is nearing completion. Council has exhibited its draft LEP, draft DCP and draft Shire Strategy from 16 April to 21 June 2012.

During the exhibition period information forums were held at White Cliffs and Wilcannia on 30 May and in Menindee on 31 May. A Councillor workshop was also held in Wilcannia on 30 May. Council's consultant, Ian Sinclair of Edge Land Planning attended these forums. Further consultation with government agencies at the office of Department of Planning in Dubbo was undertaken last week. Any issues arising from this consultation session will be dealt with as part of Council's report back to the Department of Planning. Any major changes requested by government agencies will be reported back to Council.

As a result of the exhibition period, Council has received one submission from the public and one submission from Government Agencies as well as one from Council. The submissions and a summary of each are presented below.

- White Cliffs Miners' Association. This submission is in relation to the issues raised in the draft Shire Strategy concerning the potential new dug out areas proposed at White Cliffs. The Association has suggested that no new dugouts be allowed until the areas outlined (Karrara Hills and Sullivan's Hill) have been fully tested for the presence of opals. The Association then goes on to state that it believes the Sullivan's Hill is not an appropriate area for dugouts because of the geology and land forms in the area.

Comment: The issue of further dugouts at White Cliffs was raised by the Council as a specific matter to be addressed. An assessment was made of the area and it was determined that only Karrara and Sullivan’s Hills were appropriate from a settlement planning point of view. The views of the Miners’ Association are very significant as the members know the area better than others and it is recommended therefore that Karrara Hills be identified for future dugouts but that this needs to be discussed with the Department of Primary Industries Minerals Branch and the Western Lands Commissioner. One aspect that needs to be highlighted is that any development of land for new dugouts must be at the expense of the developer and that Council should not provide any infrastructure.

- Western Lands Commissioner. The following issues have been raised:
 - ⇒ No minimum lot size for the Dugouts.
 - ⇒ The dugout zone does not match the survey provided by the Western Lands Commissioner
 - ⇒ Flexibility built into the minimum lot size for community and recreational purposes so that land can be subdivided to a lesser minimum

Comment: The reason why there is no minimum lot size for the dugouts is that the area of each one varies and the clause associated with the Dugouts does not allow any additional ones to be built so there is no need for a minimum lot size for them. The dugout zones are the same as the ones that were the subject of the amendment to the current LEP that was made last year. The reason for the larger area is to ensure that the roads to the dugouts are included in the zone to allow for more flexibility. The issue of allowing non-dwelling house uses on smaller lot sizes is not something that can be allowed anymore under the provisions of the Standard LEP.

- Central Darling Shire Council. The issues raised by Council relate to matters that concern minor amendments to the LEP and are as follows:
 - ⇒ Caravan Parks in the Primary Production zone
 - ⇒ Reference to Hatching on the Maps for the Dugouts

Comment: Caravan Parks are prohibited in the Primary Production RU1 zone. This matter was raised with the Department prior to the exhibition as an omission and it was not included in the draft LEP. The clause dealing with dugouts refers to hatching on the map and this has not occurred. Both of these are minor and changes should be made to the draft LEP.

The next step in the process is for a report on the submissions to be lodged with the Department of Planning along with a request from Council that the LEP be 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 Council adopt the draft LEP, draft DCP and draft Shire Strategy having regard to the changes outlined in the report and prepare a Report to the Department pursuant to section 68 of the LEP requesting that the LEP be made.

SECTION 11. FINANCE MANAGER’S REPORT

11.1 INVESTMENTS

Schedule of Investments – June 2012

DATE	TIME PERIOD	INTEREST RATE	DUE DATE	TOTAL (\$)
Deposits at Call				
Westpac		4.55%		\$1,105,000
Australian Corporate Mortgage Backed Securities (Face Value)				
<i>Castlereagh Trust 90 Points over 3mth BBSW</i>				
		6.05%	21-Jun-13	\$1,500,000.00
Capital Value - 31 st March, 2012				\$1,084,380
Total Investments as at 30th April, 2012				
11 am Call Account				\$ 1,105,000
Mortgage Backed Security				<u>\$ 1,084,380</u>
				<u>\$ 2,189,380</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 June 2012 be received and adopted.

11.2 RATES COLLECTIONS STATEMENT

Summary

This report provides a summary of rates and charges levied and collected for the year ended 30th June, 2012. The figures and statistics are a compilation of the monthly reports provided to Council and are subject to audit.

Commentary

Council levied \$1.390 million in rates and charges for the 2011/2012 financial year, of which \$1.195 million – 85.9% - was collected.

\$357,500 was levied in water consumption fees, of which \$282,000 – 78.9% - was collected. Efforts to improve payment of these charges may include the installation of water restrictors or the disconnection of water services.

Rates and charges in arrears (older than 12 months) fell from \$685,000 as at 01-07-2011 to \$567,000 as at 01-07-2012, a reduction of 17%. A report to Council on further reduction of this debt will be presented at a later meeting. This may include a Sale of Land for Unpaid Rates.

Water consumption fees in arrears (older than 12 months) fell from \$200,500 as at 01-07-2011 to \$166,000 as at 01-07-2012, a reduction of 17%. Ongoing efforts to reduce this balance may include the installation of water restrictors or the disconnection of water services.

Interest charged and carried forward increased slightly from \$236,000 to \$243,000.

Council's rates and charges outstanding percentage fell from 28.04% in 2010/11 to 23.8% in 2011/12.

Conclusion

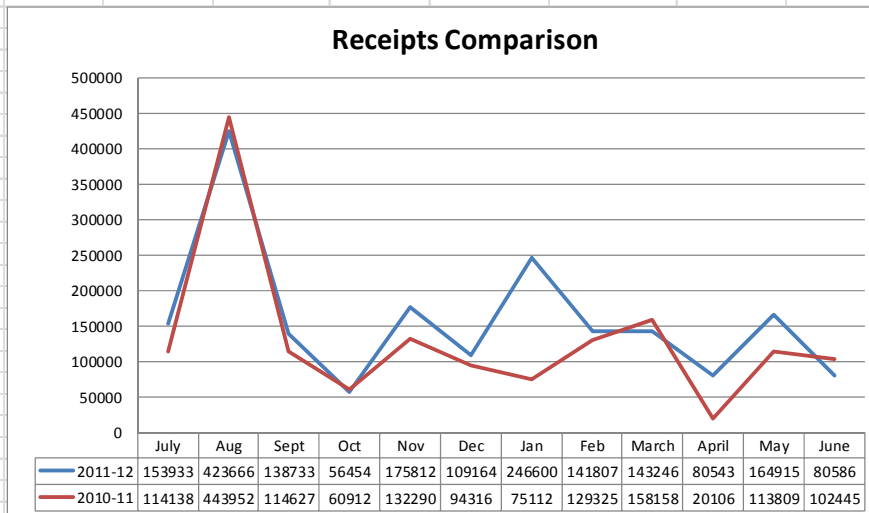
The carry forward balance of rates and charges, water consumption fees and interest fell from \$1.17 million as at 01/07/2011 to \$1.02 million as at 01/07/2012 – a reduction of \$151,000. Payment arrangements representing \$180,000 have been entered into. These improvements have been achieved without incurring significant legal costs, a factor that will continue to be a consideration with regards to ongoing recovery efforts.

The rates collection statement for the month for June 2012 is presented for Council’s information.

STATEMENT OF RATES and CHARGES as at 30th June 2012

Fund	Current Levies	Current Interest	Arrears Incl Interest	TOTAL	Receipts	Adjustments W/offs & Credits	Pensioner Subsidy	Rates in Credit	BALANCE
General	\$ 656,829	\$ 22,805	\$ 276,324	\$ 955,957	\$ 658,289	\$ 7,792	\$ 17,067		\$ 272,810
Special	\$ 29,410	\$ 2,024	\$ 25,865	\$ 57,299	\$ 30,768	\$ 1,892			\$ 24,640
Water	\$ 284,556	\$ 17,670	\$ 234,622	\$ 536,847	\$ 325,196	\$ 7,933	\$ 6,606		\$ 197,112
Sewer	\$ 98,753	\$ 5,724	\$ 91,191	\$ 195,668	\$ 140,249	\$ 3,573	\$ 1,225		\$ 50,621
Garbage	\$ 320,578	\$ 21,034	\$ 261,431	\$ 603,044	\$ 341,549	\$ 7,449	\$ 15,996		\$ 238,051
Excess Water	\$ 466,678	\$ 17,483	\$ 251,096	\$ 735,257	\$ 415,473	\$ 109,113			\$ 210,671
Charge on Land	\$ 644		\$ 31,750	\$ 32,393	\$ 4,596	\$ 432			\$ 27,365
Rates in Credit								-\$ 66,335	-\$ 66,335
TOTALS	\$1,857,447	\$ 86,740	\$ 1,172,278	\$3,116,465	\$ 1,916,118	\$ 138,184	\$ 40,894	\$ 66,335	\$ 954,935
								Previous Balance	\$ 1,035,713
								This Period	
								Interest Raised	\$ 12,384
								Water Levies Raised	\$ -
								Supplementary Levy	\$ -
								Receipts	\$ 80,586
								W/Offs & Adjustments	\$ 1,799
								Pensioner Rebate	\$ 3,284
								Rates in Credit	\$ 7,493
								Current Balance	\$ 954,935
								Net Movement	-\$ 80,778

Aged Balances	Current	1 Year	2 Years	3 Years	4 Years	5 Years & Over	Interest	Rates in Credit	
1/06/2012	\$342,691	\$141,726	\$112,817	\$76,105	\$56,718	\$131,304	\$233,194	-\$58,842	\$1,035,713
1/07/2012	\$271,832	\$137,218	\$109,531	\$73,902	\$55,572	\$130,055	\$243,159	-\$66,335	\$954,935
Net movement	-\$70,859	-\$4,508	-\$3,286	-\$2,203	-\$1,146	-\$1,249	\$9,965	-\$7,493	-\$80,778



RECOMMENDATION

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

SECTION 12. CORRESPONDENCE**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Correspondence for Council be received and noted.

12.1 MEDIA RELEASES

Date	Sender	Contents
28/06/2012	Member for Murray-Darling	Willams joins thousands at the community rally in Griffith.
26/06/2012	Local Government Association of NSW & Shires Association NSW	Ouncils call on the Autsraliam Government to speed up Melbourne to Brisbane Inland Rail Line construction.
5/07/2012	Member for Murray-Darling	Barham Bridge Closures postponed
5/07/20122	The Hon Mike Baird MP & The Hon Michael Gallacher	NSW Government to move to a better way of funding emergency services.
9/07/2012	Member for Murray-Darling	\$5 Million in Grants available boating infrastructure projects.
9/07/2012	Member for Murray-Darling	\$3.1 Million to support Youth Leadership.

12.2 CIRCULARS/NEWSLETTERS

Sender	Date	Contents
Local Government Association of NSW and the Shires Association of NSW	4/05/2012	Local Government Weekly 18/12
NSW Government Premier& Cabinet	7/05/2012	Amendments to the Local Government Act 1993
NSW Government Premier& Cabinet	7/05/2012	Release of Companion Animals taskfprce dicussion paper
Local Government Association of NSW and the Shires Association of NSW	22/06/2012	Local Government Weekly 25/12

Sender	Date	Contents
NSW Government Premier& Cabinet	25/06/2012	September 2012 Local Government Elections- Caretaker Provisions
NSW Government Premier& Cabinet	28/06/2012	September 2012 Local Government Elections- Use of Councils Resources and Electoral Material.
Local Government Association of NSW and the Shires Association of NSW	29/06/2012	Local Government Weekly 26/12
NSW Government Premier& Cabinet	4/07/2012	Local Government Infrastructure Audit-Data Collection
NSW Government Premier& Cabinet	4/07/2012	Preparation of Non-Residential Rolls
NSW Government Premier& Cabinet	5/07/2012	TCORP Assessment of Financial Sustainability
Local Government Association of NSW and the Shires Association of NSW	6/07/2012	Local Government Weekly 27/12
NSW Government	10/07/2012	Use of Biofuels
Local Government Association of NSW and the Shires Association of NSW	11/07/2012	Efficient water and utilities management focus of Conference this dry July
NSW Government Premier& Cabinet	12/07/2012	Practice Note No.15 Water Safety Update

SECTION 13. THE RECEIPT OF REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

RECOMMENDATION

That the MANEX Minutes dated 21st June 2012 be received and noted.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Audit Committee Meeting Minutes dated 22nd June 2012 be received and noted.

Central Darling Shire Council

**Minutes - MANEX Meeting
Thursday 21 June 2012 – 3.30pm, Council Chambers**

1. Apologies

Nil.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the meeting held 17 May 2012 reviewed.

3. Council meeting – 29 June 2012

- Agenda items and reports for Council meeting discussed.

4. Governance issues

- Integrated Planning & Reporting Update – discussion took place in relation to the Asset Maturity meeting held earlier today. Council still needs to develop an asset management strategy. Progress on asset management plans has been satisfactory.
- Promoting Better Practice Review Update – the General Manager advised that the DLG's focused has moved from the PBP review to the implementation of the IPR framework, as well as the work of the LG Reform Panel. The need to continue with the work required under the action plan in implementing the 56 recommendations of the Review was emphasised.
- The GM advised that the next Audit Committee meeting was to be held Friday 22 June, where matters to be discussed include the payroll review and the development of a risk register.
- 2012 Council election – the GM advised that the electoral rolls close on 30 July, and also spoke about the nominations process and the upcoming meeting with the returning officer.
- Progress on the community bus contracts was discussed.
- The GM provided an update on the High Court's decision in relation to the Williams case challenging the validity of the Commonwealth Government funding school chaplains. Implications for funding direct to local government for things such as R2R were discussed.
- Organisational structure review for TES/ES was discussed. Agreed that 2-4th July would be suitable.

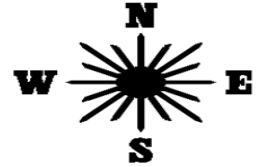
5. Corporate and Community Services

- David Cuming updated the meeting on various finance matters including the 3rd quarter budget review, year-end preparations, financial systems issues, server replacements.

6. Legislative Compliance

- Key items of IPR public consultation and LEP public consultation were discussed.

Central Darling Shire Council
Audit Committee
Minutes of informal meeting held Friday 22 June 2012
Council Chambers, Reid Street, Wilcannia



Meeting opened at 10.30am

Members Present

Vern Hembrow	Independent Member
Garry Mottau	Independent Member
Cr. Moya Reid	Alternate for Councillor Sullivan

Attendees

Tim Drew	General Manager
David Cuming	Acting Finance Manager
Allen Bolaffi (UHY Haines Norton)	Internal Auditor

1 Welcome

Due to the lack of a quorum, it was agreed that the proceedings would constitute an informal meeting of the Committee.

Due to their being no elected Chair of the Committee at this stage, it was agreed that Vern Hembrow would chair the meeting.

2 Apologies

Cr. Moya Reid
Cr. Paul Brown

3 Election of Chairperson

Held over until next meeting.

4 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

Nil.

5 Confirmation of minutes

The minutes of the informal meeting held on 16 December 2011 were tabled and received. It was noted that the minutes had previously been received and considered by Council.

6 Business arising from minutes

Discussion took place regarding the quorum required under the Audit Committee's charter. It was agreed that the 3 options be considered for the avoidance of meetings without quorums in the future:

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. How often is the couchgrass around the playground on Burke & Wills Reserve at Menindee get watered.

Answer.

The Couch grass in question is not regularly watered or on any established irrigation system. The sporting oval, swimming pool grounds and cenotaph receive sprinkler irrigation only.

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 COMMUNITY ACCESS BUS CONTRACTS

ATTACHMENT

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

This report provides an update to Council on the Community Access Bus services to Menindee and Wilcannia.

17.2 ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE/STAFFING ARRANGEMENTS

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

This report provides an update to Council on key organisational structure and staffing arrangements.

SECTION 18. DATE AND VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Council will be held on the 21st August 2012 in Ivanhoe commencing at 9:30am.
