CENTRAL DARLING

SHIRE COUNCIL

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

BUSINESS PAPER

27 APRIL 2022

The Meeting will be held at 9 am in the
Council Chambers, 21 Reid Street, Wilcannia

MISSION STATEMENT

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

RECORDING AND WEBCAST OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council meetings are recorded and webcast on Council's website, your attendance and/or input may be recorded and publicly broadcast.

PUBLIC RECORDING PROHIBITED WITHOUT COUNCIL AUTHORITY

A person may only use a recording device, including audio and visual recording and any device capable of recording speech, to record a Council meeting by the resolution of the Council.

A person may be expelled from a Council meeting for having used a recording device without consent.

PHOTOGRAPHY PROHIBITED WITHOUT PERMISSION

Photography is not permitted at a Council meeting without the consent of the General Manager.

PUBLIC FORUM - EXTRACT FROM THE CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE POLICY

1. The Council may hold a public forum prior to each ordinary meeting of the Council for the purpose of hearing oral submissions from members of the public on items of business to be considered at the meeting. Public forums may also be held prior to extraordinary Council meetings and meetings of Committees of the Council.

2. Public forums are to be chaired by the Mayor or their nominee.

3. To speak at a public forum, a person must first make an application to the Council in the approved form. Applications to speak at the public forum must be received by same day 8.50am before the date on which the public forum is to be held and must identify the item of business on the agenda of the Council meeting the person wishes to speak on, and whether they wish to speak 'for' or 'against' the item.

4. A person may apply to speak on no more than two (2) items of business on the agenda of the Council meeting.

5. Legal representatives acting on behalf of others are not to be permitted to speak at a public forum unless they identify their status as a legal representative when applying to speak at the public forum.

6. The General Manager or their delegate may refuse an application to speak at a public forum. The General Manager or their delegate must give reasons in writing for a decision to refuse an application.

7. No more than three (3) speakers are to be permitted to speak 'for' or 'against' each item of business on the agenda for the Council meeting.

8. If more than the permitted number of speakers apply to speak 'for' or 'against' any item of business, the General Manager or their delegate may request the speakers to nominate from among themselves the persons who are to address the Council on the item of business. If the speakers are not able to agree on whom to nominate to address the Council, the General Manager or their delegate is to determine who will address the Council at the public forum.

9. If more than the permitted number of speakers apply to speak 'for' or 'against' any item of business, the General Manager or their delegate may, in consultation with the Mayor or the

Mayor's nominated Chairperson, increase the number of speakers permitted to speak on an item of business, where they are satisfied that it is necessary to do so to allow the Council to hear a fuller range of views on the relevant item of business.

10. Approved speakers at the public forum are to register with the Council any written, visual or audio material to be presented in support of their address to the Council at the public forum, and to identify any equipment needs no more than three (3) days before the public forum. The General Manager or their delegate may refuse to allow such material to be presented.

11. The General Manager or their delegate is to determine the order of speakers at the public forum.

12. Each speaker will be allowed five (5) minutes to address the Council. This time is to be strictly enforced by the Chairperson.

13. Speakers at public forums must not digress from the item on the agenda of the Council meeting they have applied to address the Council on. If a speaker digresses to irrelevant matters, the Chairperson is to direct the speaker not to do so. If a speaker fails to observe a direction from the Chairperson, the speaker will not be further heard.

14. A Councillor (including the Chairperson) may, through the Chairperson, ask questions of a speaker following their address at a public forum. Questions put to a speaker must be direct, succinct and without argument.

15. Speakers are under no obligation to answer a question put under Clause 4.14. Answers by the speaker, to each question are to be limited to three (3) minutes.

16. Speakers at public forums cannot ask questions of the Council, Councillors or Council staff.

17. The General Manager or their nominee may, with the concurrence of the Chairperson, address the Council for up to three (3) minutes in response to an address to the Council at a public forum after the address and any subsequent questions and answers have been finalised.

18. Where an address made at a public forum raises matters that require further consideration by Council staff, the General Manager may recommend that the Council defer consideration of the matter pending the preparation of a further report on the matters.

19. When addressing the Council, speakers at public forums must comply with this code and all other relevant Council codes, policies and procedures. Speakers must refrain from engaging in disorderly conduct, publicly alleging breaches of the Council's Code of Conduct, or making other potentially defamatory statements.

20. If the Chairperson considers that a speaker at a public forum has engaged in conduct of the type referred to in Clause 4.19, the Chairperson may request the person to refrain from the inappropriate behaviour and to withdraw and unreservedly apologise for any inappropriate comments. Where the speaker fails to comply with the Chairperson's request, the Chairperson may immediately require the person to stop speaking.

21. Clause 4.20 does not limit the ability of the Chairperson to deal with disorderly conduct by speakers at public forums in accordance with the provisions of Part 14 of this code.

22. Where a speaker engages in conduct of the type referred to in Clause 4.19, the General Manager or their delegate may refuse further applications from that person to speak at public forums for such a period as the General Manager or their delegate considers appropriate.

23. Councillors (including the Mayor) must declare and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in relation to any item of business that is the subject of an address at a public forum, in the same way that they are required to do so at a Council or Committee meeting. The Council is to maintain a written record of all conflict-of-interest declarations made at public forums and how the conflict of interest was managed by the Councillor who made the declaration.

CENTRAL DARLING

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SHIRE COUNCIL

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, 27 April 2022
9 am
Council Chambers, 21 Reid Street, Wilcannia

BUSINESS PAPER AGENDA

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1 OPENING OF MEETING

The Council Meeting will be declared open by the Mayor/Administrator.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land and pay respects to Elders past and present.

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3.1 APOLOGIES

3.2 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

4 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Pursuant to the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW Councillors and Council staff are required to declare any pecuniary or non-pecuniary conflicts of interest.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

5.1 PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION:
That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 23 March 2022 be received and confirmed as an accurate record.

Attachments:

1. Ordinary Council Meeting - 23 March 2022

6 NOTICE OF MOTION

Nil

7 MAYORAL (ADMINISTRATOR) MINUTE(S)

7.1 MAYORAL MINUTE -

FILE NUMBER: **GD22/7120**

REPORT AUTHOR: **EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT**

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: **GENERAL MANAGER**

It has been an extremely busy month - one that has focused on external activities that will provide for the future capacity of the Shire both financially and for delivery of services to residents, by meeting and briefing relevant Ministers. This has required attendance at the LGNSW Special Conference where all Councils come together to set policy, meet with NSW Cabinet Ministers on issues impacting the Shire and attendance at the NSW Joint Organisations Chairs Forum Meeting.

LGNSW Special Conference held in Sydney -28 Feb-2 March

Address –

The Hon Wendy Tuckerman MP - Minister for Local Government

The Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC- Minister for Women, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Regional Health

The GM and I met with the Minister for Local Government at the Conference and subsequently online to discuss the administration of Central Darling Shire. I extended an invitation for the Minister to visit and stressed the need for consultation with our communities on any future model for local governance of Central Darling. The Minister undertook once she has received the final consultant's report from OLG and it is presented to Cabinet that consultation with Council and the community will occur. There has been unfounded speculation that a decision has been made, I believe this is incorrect.

Meeting with Cabinet Ministers

The Hon Dugald Saunders MP- Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Western NSW

- Water issues of the lower Darling and Menindee Lakes
- Administration and future governance
- Native Title issues – Dugouts and Mining Lease at White cliffs.
- Funding for completion of the Wool Track Project - Ivanhoe to Cobar
- General Road issues and challenges for local road authorities in the Far West
- Wilcannia Weir Project
- Service Delivery Issues in the Far West
- Social Housing with a focus on Aboriginal Housing
- Lack of Weather Radar coverage in the Far West
- Emergency Management

The Hon Sam Farraway MLC-Minister for Regional Transport and Roads

- Funding Wool Track Project. Minister to bring Departmental officials for discussion at the Western Division of Councils May Conference in Cobar.
- General Road issues and challenges for local road authorities in the Far West
- Live Traffic App and lack of information on Local Government Road closures which is confusing to those travelling across multiple LGAs. CDSC offered to be part of a trial for local information to be shown on the app.

The Hon Kevin Anderson MP - Minister for Lands and Water and Minister for Hospitality and Racing

- Floodplain Plans lack coverage for the lower Darling and need for funding for Council to prepare.
- Lower Darling Water Management
- Building Better Baaka

NSW Joint Organisation Chairs Forum

As Vice Chair of the Far West Joint Organisation of Councils I attended the Forum via video link at the NSW Parliament House along with other Chairs and Executive Officers. The Forum was addressed by the Minister for Local Government who indicated she is finalising her position on the Review of Joint Organisations.

JOs must be funded by the government at least to underwrite their annual operational costs if they are to achieve what the Government has mandated. CDSC has benefited from the JO with funding for projects and the two pieces of strategic work being undertaken being the Transport Study and Destination Management Plan.

Council is a member of the Western Division of Councils, and the midterm meeting is to be held in Cobar early May which the GM and I will attend. This is an important forum in that Ministers and Shadow Ministers attend and is a good opportunity to lobby on issues impacting the shire.

A major piece of work to prepare a representative Community Strategic Plan is nearing completion where the draft will be presented to Council for adoption and be placed on public exhibition for public comment.

This plan will set the Communities blueprint for the development of the Shire over the next 10 years. Council has attempted to provide multiple opportunities for the public to have their say both in person to our consultant and submissions online. Covid has certainly proved to be a challenge over the last 2 years restricting movement and the traditional ways of consultation.

This is not a tick the box exercise but a legislative requirement for the Council to prepare so that the communities desires are documented and set out for all to see. It is the plan that Councils and Governments draw from to inform them of priorities. Councils are required to report on achievements back to the community.

To those that have taken the time to attend meetings, make submissions and comment, thankyou as this will be a powerful tool for the shire and its communities. Unfortunately, some have chosen not to engage in the process and that is fine as I believe we have captured the key issues and directions the community desires.

I will provide an update on administration and the issues that we have been dealing with to strengthen the organisation.

When a LGA is put into administration by the state government, there is a loss of the representative democratic process by not having an elected body representing and advocating for the community. The decision to place a LGA in administration is one that goes through an intensive investigative and public inquiry process and is set out in the Local Government Act.

Central Darling has been in administration since 2013 which I believe it is the longest period that any Council has been required to serve by government.

The Inquiry identified the critical issues facing the organisation - its financial position (both short and long term) and failure to comply with legislative requirements.

The challenges facing Central Darling, a rural and remote Council, have long been recognized by government as being a large area; small population; low-rate base; dependence on grants to operate and a road network of 2400kms of which 95% is unsealed.

A council is only as good as an organisation that supports it. Sadly, resourcing the organisation was never a priority as there was no financial capacity to do so to enable the recruitment of skilled staff, provide a contemporary work environment with health and safety protection or a human resource management framework with systems and process embedded in the culture of the organisation to underpin its success.

The period of administration has uncovered many long-term legacy issues that have required action. When the Minister in 2020 extended the period of administration, I said at the time it would be used to address the internal systems and processes to build capacity of the organisation.

Issues have included:

- A non-representative Community Strategic Plan
- No 4-year Delivery Plan
- No Disability Inclusion Plan
- No review of S355 Committees.
- No Workforce Plan
- No Work Health and Safety Framework
- No IT Strategy
- Poor internal Audit and Risk Management Framework
- Poor Policy Framework requiring review
- No Human Resource Framework
- Out of date Chart of Accounts
- No Complaints Management System
- No electronic Records Management System
- No software to manage Agendas and Minutes.
- Staff Delegations required review
- Failure to lodge Annual Audited Statements on time
- Failure to lodge the Annual Report on time
- Failure to issue/undertake water meter readings on time and issue accounts
- No Flood plain Management Plans
- Poor debt and rate recovery practices resulting in Council being owed in the order of $1 .6m
- Poor communication with its ratepayers and residents
- Emergency Management Plans require updating.

Many of the above have been addressed but many are also a work in progress as we must still deliver day to day management and services.

Council was never given any grants to address the above except after lobbying in 2020 when we were successful in obtaining a small Capacity Building Grant.

Council has been fortunate to attract significant grant funding to improve local infrastructure across the shire. The focus here has been investment in renewal to meet our depreciation requirements.

Our eye must always be on the future to obtain grants to deliver infrastructure and services. To this end we have invested in obtaining outside grant writing expertise which has proved successful. Coupled with this, we have identified strategic projects and alliances such as working with Cobar Shire to lobby for the Wool Track upgrade from Ivanhoe to Cobar.

An essential element of getting projects on the table and funded, is the engagement of government, its agencies and local representatives to build relationships and understanding. My thanks and appreciation go to our local State and Federal members who have at all times listened and support our efforts.

Last month Council adopted a set of draft procedures for the conduct of Public Forums that occur prior to the monthly Council Meeting . We now have upgraded the technology in the chambers to introduce an online opportunity for residents to raise issues listed in the agenda. Given Councils large geographical footprint, it was never acceptable that residents had to attend in person at the Wilcannia Chambers.

Once the process is bedded down it is my desire to introduce virtual town hall meetings to provide even more opportunity for residents to raise issues. This will be a work in progress.

The last 2 years, because of Covid, has limited opportunities for face-to-face meetings. However, residents have always had the opportunity to arrange for me to contact them through the Shire Office by telephone or send an email. Many residents chose to do so, and I am happy to engage.

Attachments:

NIL

8 FINANCIAL REPORTS

8.1 ADDITIONAL SPECIAL RATE VARIATION 2022-23

FILE NUMBER: **GD22/5196**

REPORT AUTHOR: **ACTING RATES OFFICER**

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: **DIRECTOR BUSINESS SERVICES**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of an opportunity to make an application for a Special Rate Variation for the 2022-23 financial year, in accordance with the Additional Special Variation (ASV) guidelines released by the Office of Local Government on 6 April 2022.

This report recommends that Council decline the opportunity to make an ASV application to increase its General Income from Ordinary Rates above the rate peg of 0.7% in 2022-23.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive the report
2. Decline the opportunity to apply for an Additional Special Variation under section 508(2) of the Local Government Act 1993.

BACKGROUND:

Since 1977, NSW councils' general income (from Ordinary Rates) has been regulated in NSW under an arrangement known as 'rate pegging'. Rate pegging limits the amount which councils can increase their general income.

The rate peg is the maximum percentage amount that a council may increase its general income for the year. Previously, the rate peg was set by the Minister for Local Government. Since 2011-12, the rate peg has been set by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) under a delegation by the Minister for Local Government.

Since around that time IPART has also been responsible for establishing a Local Government Cost Index (LGCI) and having regard to a productivity factor to be used in setting the rate peg. The LGCI is essentially the inflation factor as it applies to local government in NSW generally, the equivalent to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) that applies to the broader economy and community. The productivity factor is an adjustment to the LGCI to allow ratepayers to share in the efficiency gains made by councils.

Until 2021-22, the rate peg applied uniformly to all Council's in NSW, with individual Council's having available an option to make Special Variation (SRV) applications, for increases above the rate peg, on needs basis and subject to consultation to determine their community's appetite and capacity to pay for increases above the rate peg. Generally, the process to make an SRV application would span over a period of at least 12 months with applications for the following financial year typically needing to be flagged prior to the end of the preceding calendar year with applications lodged early in the new calendar year.

Historically, Central Darling has adopted the rate peg in full and has not made an SRV application.

In June 2021, Council adopted the Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) for 2022-31 which included an assumed rate pegging increase from Ordinary Rates of 2% per annum over the 10 year term of the plan, based on the rate peg set for the 2021-22 period.

Following a review of rating provisions within the Local Government Act 1993 (LGA), changes were made to that legislation in May 2021, including the method under which the rate peg would be set. The NSW Government requested IPART to recommend a rate peg methodology that allows the general income of councils to be varied annually in a way that accounts for population growth. IPART delivered its recommendations on 5 October 2021 and these were subsequently adopted.

In December 2021, IPART released the 2022-23 rate peg for each Council, ranging from 0.7% to 5%. The rate peg set for Central Darling was set at 0.7%, which is 1.3 percentage points under the Council's LTFP estimates.

On 7 March 2022, the Office of Local Government (OLG) released Circular 22-03 advising Councils of a one-off opportunity to make an Additional Special Variation (ASV) application. The circular provided guidelines for ASV applications (the guidelines) and that the closing date for ASV applications is 29 April 2022.

A further OLG Circular was released 6 April 2022 setting out slightly varied (eased) criteria for ASV applications.

Each circular also states – "*Separately, IPART has also agreed to undertake a broader review of its rate peg methodology, including the Local Government Cost Index, with outcomes from the review expected to shape rate peg determinations in future years.*"

REPORT:

The guidelines provide for an ASV application for a temporary or permanent increase capped at the lower of:

- 2.5% (including population factor), or
- Council's assumed 2022-23 rate peg its 2021-22 Integrated Planning and Reporting which was 2.0%

The maximum ASV increase available to Council under the guidelines is 1.3% (for a total increase in general income of 2.0%). This would enable Council to raise and additional of $11,501 in General Income (being the revenue it receives through Ordinary Rates) in 2022-23 to a total of $897,105.

IPART's ASV application includes a model with assumes a rate peg of 2.5% for each of the forward years, 2023-24 to 2028-29 and forecasts an ASV of 2.0% would result in General Income of $1,040,000 in 2028-29. This assumption is subject to variation as the rate peg in each forward year is determined.

Under the rate peg of 0.7%, without an ASV application, Council's Total Permissible General Income for 2022-23 would be $885,595 i.e. $11,501 less than that available under the ASV process. The resulting forecast General Income in 2028-29 would be $1,027,018.

As IPART have agreed to review the rate peg methodology for future years it is difficult to foresee future rate peg increases being as low as the 0.7% handed down for 2022-23 – depending of course on many factors including general inflationary trends.

Impact of Increase Options

Modelling has been performed to assess the impacts of increases on each rating category using the Rate Peg of 0.7% and a 2.0% increase with an ASV.

These increases have been modelled and applied to both the General Income/Ordinary Rates and the Annual Charges (Waste, Water and Sewerage) to identify the net movement of each ratepayer's total annual rate bill, including pensioner concessions where applicable.

The results of this modelling are set out in the following tables;

Rate Peg Only (0.7%)			
Category	**Average**	**Median**	**Max**
Farmland	$1.88	$0.00	$20.00
Residential	$20.85	$15.96	$68.05
Business	$26.84	$25.31	$81.16
Overall	$16.79	$13.89	$81.16

Rate Peg plus ASV (2% Total)			
Category	**Average**	**Median**	**Max**
Farmland	$18.71	$13.53	$122.72
Residential	$25.31	$22.99	$104.48
Business	$31.56	$30.24	$97.61
Overall	$24.26	$22.62	$122.72

Rate Peg plus ASV over Rate Peg Only (Extra 1.3%)			
Category	**Average**	**Median**	**Max**
Farmland	$16.84	$11.46	$122.72
Residential	$4.46	$3.07	$38.24
Business	$4.73	$3.93	$18.24
Overall	$7.47	$3.42	$122.72

In isolation, the above modelling suggests increases from an ASV of 1.3% would be modest – Refer Table - *Rate Peg plus ASV over Rate Peg Only (Extra 1.3%)*

ASV Guidelines

The OLG Circular of 6 April 2022 together with IPART's information paper of 7 April 2022 set out the criteria against which an ASV application will be determined. The following table provides a summary and an assessment of the proposed application against those criteria.

Guideline Criteria	**How Assessed**	**Assessment**
Percentage increase sought is the lower of 2.5% or the rate peg assumed for 2022-23 in Council's Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP).	Compare increase percentage with LTFP	Maximum increase available 2.0%
2021-22 IP&R documentation identifies a budgeted increase in general income above the rate peg of 0.7% for 2022-23.	2021-22 LTFP	Met

2021-22 IP&R documentation, forecast an average Operating Performance Ratio (OPR) of 2% or lower over 2022-23 to 2026-27. Or By evidence of need where the forecast average OPR is higher than 2% over the next 5-years.	2021-22 LTFP Or Capital funding requirements and/or variations to the OPR due to unforeseen events or changes in circumstance since the adoption of the 2021-22 LTFP	Not met Assessment not performed – refer commentary below
Council Resolution stating: i. whether the increase sought is temporary or permanent. ii. the additional income that council will receive if the special variation is approved. iii. why the increase is needed. iv. that the council has considered the impact on ratepayers and the community in 2022-23 and, if permanent, in future years if the special variation is approved and considers that it is reasonable.	Council resolution	Not Met - Subject to recommendations in this report being adopted by Council.

As Council's 2021-22 LTFP predicts an average OPR over the next 5 years of 2.88, an ASV application would need to be supported by evidence that the need for the additional income is warranted through some other means.

An assessment of possible reasons that would support has not been performed in view of the limited increase to Council's revenue lines that an ASV would deliver and an understanding of community sentiment towards what it already perceives as high rates and charges. This understanding is explained in more detail below.

Community Consultation

The ASV guidelines state the following in relation to Community Consultation:

> *IPART will not require councils to demonstrate community consultation outside of the processes outlined above. To demonstrate community consultation, IPART will consider the consultation undertaken through the IP&R process and consider the resolution to apply for a ASV meets the requirements outlined above.*

Specific consultation with the Central Darling communities regarding the affordability of rates and charges and/or "value for money" does not appear to have occurred, at least not in recent years.

However, unsolicited feedback during recent Community Strategic Plan/Town Plan consultation indicates that Central Darling ratepayers do not believe they receive good value for money, that they receive little value through services and that they pay higher than average rates.

These views may be a result of a lack of understanding of what services Council provides and the costs attached, particularly given the remoteness, small size and large distances separating Central Darling communities from each other and larger centres. Such views are not uncommon throughout local government generally.

Facts known regarding affordability include:

- Central Darling rates and charges are comparatively high.
- Central Darling has a higher than average proportion of socio/economically disadvantaged persons within its communities.

Despite modelling suggesting that average rate increases under an ASV appear to be modest, general feedback is that the community have no appetite for increases in rates and charges.

Much more targeted communication and consultation would appear necessary to support any Special Variation/increase above the Rate Peg however time does not allow that to occur on this occasion.

Application and Decision Timeline

27 April 2022	Ordinary Meeting of Council to consider the Draft Operational Plan 2022-23 including the subject ASV opportunity
29 April 2022	ASV Applications close
2 May 2022	Proposed start of exhibition of Council's Draft Operational Plan 2022-23
4 May 2022	Public submissions open (IPART)
24 May 2022	Public submissions close (IPART)
25 May 2022	Ordinary Meeting of Council
30 May 2022	Proposed close of exhibition of Council's Draft Operational Plan 2022-23
21 June 2022	IPART notifies Council of its decision
22 June 2022	Ordinary Meeting of Council to consider adoption of the Operational Plan 2022-23.

The above timeline evidences the need for Council's timely decision as to this proposal for an ASV application however it should be noted that, any decision to make an ASV application does not bind council to set rates for 2022-23 that would take up any approved increase.

LINKS TO THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN AND DELIVERY PROGRAM AND OPEARTIONAL PLAN:

Community Plan Strategic Plan Outcomes	**Delivery Outcomes**
GOAL 4: A consultative and professional Council providing relevant, attainable and efficient delivery of services as per the standards set by Council and providing community development and succession planning.	Objectives 4.1 Effective communication and consultation with Shire communities.

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:

	Assessment
Social	Positive

Environmental	NA
Economic	Negative
Governance	NA

Financial and Resource Implications:

Foregoing the opportunity to make an ASV application will have a negative impact on Council's revenue of approximately $11,500 in 2022-23, with compounding impacts on future years should a permanent increase be granted.

In the overall scheme of Council's operating budget, in the order of $20 million p.a. (excluding capital grants), the foregone revenue is not significant at approximately 0.06%.

Councils' ability to maintain and improve its' capacity to provide services to the community is, and likely to remain for the foreseeable future, highly dependent on external funding through state and federal government grants.

Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:

None identified.

Risk Management - Business Risk/Work Health and Safety/Public:

Foregoing the opportunity of making an application for an ASV mitigates some risk of reputational damage for Council. Applying the rate peg only, albeit it well below Council's previous forecasts, alleviates such risk, given the rate peg is independently determined by IPART.

OPTIONS:

Apply for an ASV of between 0.1 and 1.3 per cent for one year or as a permanent increase to Council's General Income base.

COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:

No

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:

Internal Exhibition:

Discussion has occurred internally including through the draft budget development process and with those involved in developing Council's Community Strategic Plan.

External Exhibition:

External consultation is not required under the ASV process however to satisfy the ASV guidelines, Council would need to resolve that it has considered the impacts of rate increases and considers those impacts reasonable.

IPART will consider the consultation undertaken through the IP&R process and consider the resolution to apply for a ASV meets the requirements outlined above.

Additionally, IPART will publish applications to enable it to undertake community consultation from 4 May 2022 to 24 May 2022.

Attachments:

NIL

8.2 OUTSTANDING RATES AND CHARGES UPDATE

FILE NUMBER: **GD22/6597**

REPORT AUTHOR: **ACTING RATES OFFICER**

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: **DIRECTOR BUSINESS SERVICES**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report aims to provide Council with update on efforts to recover and reduce outstanding rates and charges.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive the report
2. Receive a further report at the Ordinary meeting of Council in July 2022 on progress of efforts to reduce outstanding Rates and Charges.
3. Adopt the Draft Debt Recovery Policy.

BACKGROUND:

At Council's Ordinary Meeting on 20 May 2021, Council considered the report Outstanding Rates, Charges and Other Debts and resolved

"That the General Manager bring forward an action plan to reduce outstanding debt".

Council received reports on these matters at its Ordinary Meetings on 25 August 2021, 27 October 2021 and 23 February 2022.

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 23 February 2022, Council resolved:

1. *Receive and note the report.*
2. *Receive a further report at the Ordinary Meeting of Council in April 2022 on the progress of efforts to reduce outstanding Rates and Charges.*
3. *Place the Draft Debt Recovery Policy on Public Exhibition for a minimum of 28 days.*
4. *At the close of the exhibition period, a report is to be provided to Council to consider any submissions that were received.*

At that meeting the following question was put on notice:

On page 22 of the Business Paper under Notice/Debt Type, The Administrator asked how the break up of Rates, Rates & Water, and Water under the table have been arranged?

REPORT:

<u>Answer to Question on notice raised 23 February 2022</u>

When recovery actions are initiated, these may relate to either;

Rates	being overdue annual rates and charges, or;
Water	being overdue water consumption charges.

Where a property carries arrears of both Rates and Water on one property, recovery actions are initiated for the combined amounts, identified as "Rates & Water" matters.

Outstanding Rates and Charges Position Comparison

Overdue by Amount as of 31 January 2022

(Bracketed figures indicate movement since 11 October 2021)

Overdue Amount Range	Number of Properties		Percentage of Properties in Arrears	Total Overdue $000's		Percentage of Total $ Overdue
$10K plus	31	(-1)	5.2%	$556	(-$2)	50.0%
$5K to <$10K	35	(-5)	5.9%	$244	(-$35)	21.9%
$2K to <$5K	56	(-4)	9.4%	$180	(-$15)	16.2%
$1K to <$2K	41	(-10)	6.9%	$59	(-$15)	5.3%
$500 to <$1K	57	(-18)	9.6%	$40	(-$16)	3.6%
$250 to <$500	54	(-12)	9.1%	$19	(-$4)	1.7%
$100 to <$250	67	19	11.3%	$11	($2)	1.0%
<$100	253	(-17)	42.6%	$3	($1)	0.2%
Totals	**594**	**(-48)**	**100%**	**$1,112**	**(-$84)**	**100%**

Overdue by Amount as of 31 March 2022

(Bracketed figures indicate movement since 31 January 2022

Overdue Amount Range	Number of Properties		Percentage of Properties in Arrears	Total Overdue $000's		Percentage of Total $ Overdue
$10K plus	29	(-2)	5.3%	$532	(-$24)	50.0%
$5K to <$10K	35	(0)	6.4%	$243	(-$1)	22.8%
$2K to <$5K	56	(0)	10.2%	$173	(-$7)	16.3%
$1K to <$2K	41	(0)	7.5%	$60	($1)	5.5%
$500 to <$1K	40	(-17)	7.3%	$29	(-$11)	2.7%
$250 to $500	47	(-7)	8.5%	$18	(-$1)	1.7%
$100 to $250	49	(-18)	8.9%	$8	(-$3)	0.8%
<$100	205	(-48)	46.0%	$2	(-$1)	0.1%
Totals	**502**	**(-92)**	**100%**	**$1,065**	**(-$47)**	**100%**

An improved reduction to the total overdue is evident in the 2 months to 31 March 2022. During this period the 3rd rate instalment fell due.

Overall collections in that were approximately $47,000

Since 31 January 2022 recovery action has moved forward at a slower than previously expected rate. These delays can be attributed to several factors including:

- Re-issue letters of demand to include rate instalments and water accounts that had subsequently fallen due since initial actions were commenced.
- Providing additional and adequate time for postal delivery.
- Reliance on Court Post to serve summonses, rather than personal service, which was not economically viable given the relatively low numbers of matters involved and the remoteness of the debtors being pursued.

A summary of outstanding amounts by amount range and actions taken or proposed is provided below:

Action/Status	No. of Accounts	Amount Overdue
>$100	204	$1,483
>=$100 <$250	47	$7,962
Arrangement	55	$200,809
Deceased (pending estate finalisation)	9	$64,499
Future Recovery Action (next cycle)	82	$78,418
Future Sale Unpaid Rates	4	$24,285
Hardship Arrangement	2	$29,570
Letter of Demand	8	$23,015
Location Search	1	$1,992
Mortgagee Sale	1	$1,518
Next Sale for Unpaid Rates	21	$216,223
Plan Restriction of Water	2	$7,211
Possible Write Off	3	$19,009
Statement of Claim Issued	22	$65,237
Summons Warning	35	$272,353
Under Review	4	$14,848
Under Review for Hardship	2	$37,306
Grand Total	**502**	**$1,065,737**

Sale of Land for Unpaid Rates

At least 21 properties have been identified as requiring sale for unpaid rates at the next opportunity with 4 others requiring sale once the arrears on those exceed 5 years.

Further properties are likely to be identified a requiring sale for unpaid rates as the current recovery actions progress however it is appropriate to continue existing actions to ensure sale of land is exercised as a last resort.

Restriction of Water Supply

Two properties have been identified as suitable candidates to implement water restriction to recover arrears. It is proposed that action will be taken should Council resolve to adopt the Draft Debt Recovery Policy as recommended in this report. Matters will continue to be reviewed to determine if water restriction is appropriate for other properties.

Draft Debt Recovery Policy

Following the Council's resolution to publicly exhibit the Draft Debt Recovery Policy, it was placed on public exhibition from 2 March 2022 to 1 April 2022, satisfying the requisite 28 day period.

No submissions were received in response the exhibition. Adoption of the Draft Policy as exhibit is therefore recommended.

LINKS TO THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN AND DELIVERY PROGRAM AND OPEARTIONAL PLAN:

Community Plan Strategic Plan Outcomes	Delivery Outcomes
GOAL 3: A protected and supported natural environment and a sustainable and well maintained built environment.	Objectives 3.4 Improved infrastructure across the Shire.

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:

	Assessment
Social	NA
Environmental	NA
Economic	Positive Improved Cashflow
Governance	Positive Improved Collection Ratio

Financial and Resource Implications:

None identified.

Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:

The relevant Policy, Legal and Statutory framework includes;

Local Government Act 1993

Civil Procedure Act 2005

Council's Debt Recovery Policy

Council's Economic Hardship Policy

The Office of Local Government's Debt Management and Hardship Guidelines

Risk Management - Business Risk/Work Health and Safety/Public:

No risks identified.

OPTIONS:

None identified.

COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:

No

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:

Internal Exhibition:

None applicable.

External Exhibition:

The Draft Debt Recovery Policy has been on public exhibition for a period of not less than 28 days with no submissions received.

Attachments:

1. Draft Debt Recovery Policy

8.3 CASH & INVESTMENTS REPORT MARCH 2022

FILE NUMBER: **GD22/6769**

REPORT AUTHOR: **FINANCE MANAGER**

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: **DIRECTOR BUSINESS SERVICES**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Insert summary

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report.

REPORT:

In accordance with Clause 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005, a monthly report setting out details of all money that Council has invested under Section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993 is required to be submitted to Council

Cash and Investment Accounts:

Cash and Investment Accounts	Current Month	Last Month	Movement	Interest Rate	Current Month Interest	YTD Interest
Westpac 11am Investment Account	$2,500,000.00	$3,950,000.00	($1,450,000.00)	0.10%	$30.30	$265.42
Operating Account	$887,083.36	$881,332.57	$5,570.79	0.01%	NIL	NIL
Post Office Clearing Account	$474,978.66	$963,174.21	($488,195.55)	N/A	NIL	NIL
Total Cash at bank as of 31st March 2022			$3,862,062.02			

Commentary:

The net movement of cash for the month of March 2022 was a decrease of $1,932,624.76

Payments for the month of March 2022 totalled $4,740,240.32 being, payments for wages and to suppliers.

Receipts for the month of March 2022 totalled $2,295,991.11 being predominately:

- Transport NSW -- RMS Ordered & Routine Works $ 841,641.80

- Transport NSW – Flood Damage Funding $1,203,166.23

Major receipts expected by the end of April:

- Prepayment of 2023 Federal Assistance Grant $5,191,310
- Cobar Shire Council private works $1,551,871
- Pooncarie Road grant funding $4,000,000

Major outgoings expected to settled before the end of April:

- Water Treatment Plants contract works $1,100,000

Restrictions:

	Restriction Amount
Total Restriction as of 30 June 2022	$5,711,000

Loan Accounts:

Loan Account	**Current Month**	**Last Month**	**Movement**	**Interest Rate**	**Current Month Interest**	**YTD Interest**
	NIL	NIL	NIL	3.66%	NIL	$1,496.98
Total Loan Liability as of 28th February 2022	NIL					

Commentary:

This loan was taken out during the 2013 financial year to fund the purchase of three garbage trucks and other operational expenditure. The loan balance as at the year ended 30 June 2013 was $1,249,000.

Westpac Banking Corporation contacted Council in February 2022 to inform Council that Westpac had made an error in the term of the loan. This has given Council the option to pay-out the loan early, with no penalty and an interest and fee saving of approximately $993.99.

Council paid out the loan on the 9th of February 2022.

The payout figure was: $42,243.99

Attachments:

NIL

8.4 SMART WATER METERS, METER READING AND BILLING UPDATE

FILE NUMBER: **GD22/6598**

REPORT AUTHOR: **ACTING RATES OFFICER**

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: **DIRECTOR BUSINESS SERVICES**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report aims to provide Council with an update on the smart water meter rollout, water meter readings and water consumption billings.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive the report
2. Receive further reports on Smart Metering, Meter Reading and Billing at the Ordinary Meeting of Council scheduled for 27 July 2022.
3. Receive future updates on Water Consumption Account collections through Outstanding Rates and Charges Update reports.

BACKGROUND:

Smart metering of filtered water supplies in Ivanhoe and Wilcannia was substantially completed in March 2020 with further smart metering installed in October 2020. Funding of these works was provided through the NSW Government's Safe and Secure Water Program.

Smart metering of the White Cliffs filtered water supply is proposed as part of the reticulation network upgrade works in that township.

Raw water supplies are metered in Ivanhoe but are unmetered in Wilcannia. Currently there are no plans to install smart meters on raw water supplies in either Ivanhoe or Wilcannia. White Cliffs does not have a raw water supply.

Council received a report on smart metering, water meter reading and billing activities at its Ordinary meeting on 24 February 2021. That report identified that approximately 70-80 filtered water services in Ivanhoe and Wilcannia do not yet have smart meters installed.

At Council's Ordinary Meeting on 22 April 2021, Council resolved to:

> ***Receive quarterly reports on water meter reading, billing and collections commencing in April 2021.***

Council has received quarterly reports on these matters since that time. Additionally, collections have also been reported through regular Outstanding Rates and Charges Update reports since 25 August 2021

REPORT:

Water meters throughout the Shire were the last read in the last full week of February 2022.

Water Consumption accounts were issued on 15 March 2022 with the due date for payment of 17 April 2022.

The next round of water meters readings is planned for the last full week in May 2022 with accounts to issue 15 June 2022 and due for payment 15 July 2022.

An updated quote to complete smart metering in Ivanhoe and Wilcannia has been sought and is expected within the next 2 weeks. It is expected that existing funding within the 2021-22 Water Capitals Works budget will be adequate to cover the costs including any increases since the previous quote was received in early 2021.

An updated quote was necessary as commencement of this work had previously been delayed due to the COVID situation restricting the availability of contractors to perform the work. Given those issues have eased it is expected the work may be completed by 30 June 2022.

Council's water billing program was restored to a true quarterly cycle in March 2021 and has remained on schedule since that time. Completion of smart metering will further improve Council's capacity to maintain a quarterly program going forward.

Whilst the collection of water consumption charges may have been impacted by previous delays in billing, during 2019 and 2020, the maintenance of a quarterly program over the past 12 months, has removed those impacts.

As Council has separately received regular reports on the collections of rates and annual charges as well as water consumption accounts since August 2021 it is proposed to continue to report on collections through that channel. This will avoid duplication in reporting on essentially the same item going forward.

LINKS TO THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN AND DELIVERY PROGRAM AND OPEARTIONAL PLAN:

Community Plan Strategic Plan Outcomes	**Delivery Outcomes**
GOAL 3: A protected and supported natural environment and a sustainable and well maintained built environment.	Objectives 3.4 Improved infrastructure across the Shire. 3.3 Safe and reliable water supplies and road networks for Shire communities.

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:

	Assessment	
Social	Positive	Improved customer engagement through regular billing
Environmental	Positive	Improve water efficiency through regular meter reading and smart meter technology
Economic	Positive	Improved cashflow stability through regularity in billing
Governance	Positive	Compliance with Council's water billing program

Financial and Resource Implications:

The appointment of a permanent Finance Officer (Revenue) in late 2021 will support continuation of quarterly water meter readings, water consumption billing and further improvement of collections.

Completion of smart metering of filtered water supplies has alleviated many of the issues which contributed to previous delays in meter reading and water consumption billing.

Smart Meters enabled the quarterly readings to be completed and bills issued on schedule (with a small number of exceptions/non-smart meters) in October 2021, despite the significant disruptions caused by Covid-19 in Wilcannia around that period

Finalisation of smart metering in Ivanhoe (filtered supply) and Wilcannia will assist further in this regard.

Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:

Local Government Act 1993
Local Government (General) Regulation 2021
Office of Local Government Debt Management and Hardship Guidelines
Councils Debt Recovery Policy
Council's Economic Hardship Policy

Risk Management - Business Risk/Work Health and Safety/Public:

None identified

OPTIONS:

None identified.

COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:

No

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:

Internal Exhibition:

Relevant internal stakeholders have been engaged with and will continue to influence future outcomes in this space.

External Exhibition:

Not required.

Attachments:

NIL

8.5 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

FILE NUMBER: **GD22/6773**

REPORT AUTHOR: **FINANCE MANAGER**

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: **DIRECTOR BUSINESS SERVICES**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report is to provide a summary of Council's cash and investments as at the 31st March 2022.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive the report

BACKGROUND:

Council has been working towards improving its financial reporting systems over the past two years to meet best practice financial reporting guidelines. In line with these objectives a monthly report is to be presented to Council on its financial performance against budget.

REPORT:

This monthly financial performance report provides Council with a summary of performance against budget as 31st March 2022.

	Annual Budget **$000**	**YTD Budget** **$000**	**YTD Actual** **$000**	**YTD Variance** **$000**	
Operating Revenue	37,023	19,461	20,078	617	Favourable
Operating Expenditure	20,756	17,368	17,939	(571)	Unfavourable
Operating Result	16,267	2,093	2,139	46	Favourable
Capital Grants	16,084	2,015	2,015	NIL	Nil
Operating result Before Capital Items	183	78	124	46	Favourable

For the month of March 2022 there are no significant variances to report, further details are provided in Attachment 1.

LINKS TO THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN AND DELIVERY PROGRAM AND OPEARTIONAL PLAN:

Community Plan Strategic Plan Outcomes	Delivery Outcomes
GOAL 4: A consultative and professional Council providing relevant, attainable and efficient delivery of services as per the standards set by Council and providing community development and succession planning.	Objectives 4.2 Efficient and effective services.

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:

	Assessment
Social	NA
Environmental	NA
Economic	Positive
Governance	NA

Financial and Resource Implications:

Monitoring of monthly against budget enables timely financial management.

Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:

N/A

Risk Management - Business Risk/Work Health and Safety/Public:

Monthly financial reporting allows Council to keep informed of the progress of the budget to actual income and costs.

OPTIONS:

Nil

COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:

No

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:

Internal Exhibition:

No

External Exhibition:

No

Attachments:

1. Attachment 1

8.6 COUNCIL 2021-22 CURRENT GRANTS REGISTER

FILE NUMBER: **GD22/6776**

REPORT AUTHOR: **FINANCE MANAGER**

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: **DIRECTOR BUSINESS SERVICES**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary reconciliation of Council's current grant funding status as of 31 March 2022.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive the report

BACKGROUND:

To deliver Council's commitment to transparency and greater financial management it has developed a Grants and Contributions Register for public access to be presented during ordinary Council Meetings.

REPORT:

With that stated purpose in mind, Council will continue to update the respective incumbent Grants status details into its in-house Pulse program which documents all of Council's Projects under each funding facility. It is intended to complete the initial update by the end of June 2022.

In March 2022 Council has received notification of the success of the Diorama Display Case at Menindee Tourism Centre application for $10,000 under the Cultural Tourism Accelerator Program (NSW). This project will enable the artistic display of a one-of-a-kind large scale, scientifically accurate 'megafauna' diorama, created by students from the University of Newcastle. This project is based on the history of the Menindee region's paleo-landscape and extinct megafauna that once inhabited the region. This project is to be completed by October 2022.

In the 2022-23 Budget, the Australian Government brought forward ($2.113 billion) of the Financial Assistance Grant program 2022–23 estimate for payment in 2021–22. In April Council has received over $5.1m. The remaining 2022-23 allocation to states and territories will be determined early in 2022-23.

LINKS TO THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN AND DELIVERY PROGRAM AND OPEARTIONAL PLAN:

Community Plan Strategic Plan Outcomes	Delivery Outcomes
GOAL 2: A strong regional economy supported by developing industries, strong businesses and increased employment.	Objectives 2.3 Improved infrastructure across the Shire.
GOAL 4: A consultative and professional Council providing relevant, attainable and efficient delivery of services as per the standards set by Council and providing	Objectives 4.2 Efficient and effective services.

community development and succession planning.	

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:

	Assessment
Social	NA
Environmental	NA
Economic	Positive
Governance	NA

Financial and Resource Implications:

Ensures that any funding sourced is being deployed within the approved scope of services, works and facilities for which they were intended.

Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:

Regulation 208 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 provides a requirement that:

A member of the staff of a council who has control of any of the council's accounting records must—

(a) produce those records for inspection and audit in proper order whenever directed or requested to do so by the council's mayor, responsible accounting officer, general manager (if not the council's responsible accounting officer) or auditor or by the Director-General or a person to whom the Director-General's functions under section 430 of the Act have been delegated or subdelegated under section 745 of the Act, and

(b) render all practicable assistance to the mayor, responsible accounting officer, general manager, auditor, the Director-General or such a delegate or subdelegate with respect to those records.

Risk Management - Business Risk/Work Health and Safety/Public:

Periodic reporting enables Council to keep both funding providers and the community informed on the deployment of those funds as intended and as such significantly mitigate the risk of inappropriate usage of those funds.

OPTIONS:

There are no alternative options.

COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:

No

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:

Internal Exhibition:

No

External Exhibition:

No

Attachments:

1. Attachment 1
2. Attachment 2
3. Attachment 3

9 GOVERNANCE REPORTS

9.1 BAAKA CULTURAL CENTRE - EMPLOYMENT OF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FILE NUMBER: **GD22/5042**

REPORT AUTHOR: **GENERAL MANAGER**

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: **GENERAL MANAGER**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The report outlines progress to date on the development of the Baaka Cultural Centre for the construction of the building at 44 &42 Reid Street, Wilcannia. Furthermore, seeking the employment of a Executive Officer for the Baaka Cultural Centre during the construction of the building and in preparation and readiness for its opening.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive the report
2. Council employs an Executive Officer for the Baaka Cultural Centre for a period of 18 months, with the following conditions:
   (a) All cost of employment to be funded by $600k funding by the State Government.
   (b) Management of the Executive Officer falls under the General Manager
   (c) On employment of the Executive Officer, a advisory committee be established consisting of representatives outlined in the report, but not limited to other business specialists and community members, at the committee's discretion.

BACKGROUND:

In late 2019, state and federal governments announced funding of $7m for the construction of the Wilcannia Baaka Cultural Centre. The site for the new development is on the former Knox and Downs site, 44 Reid Street (Lot1 Section 13 DP 759091), the property is owned by Council. The Knox and Downs building was devastated by fire in 2014 and the property fell into the ownership of Council and never remediated. Funding for the project is to be auspice through Council with ownership at completion of building works to become Baaka Cultural Centre Wilcannia Aboriginal Corporation Inc. asset.

Once construction of the Baaka Cultural Centre building has been completed, the land will be transferred to the Baaka Cultural Centre Wilcannia Aboriginal Corporation Inc. for their ownership. In 2021, the Knox and Downs site was remediated in preparation for the construction of the building. The State Government, Public Works Advisory (PWA) are project managing consultation and construction of the building.

Following the funding announcement, community consultation was undertaken on the design of the building. During this process, the community wanted to expand the footprint of the development which would include the neighbouring property, 42 Reid Street (Lot 2 Section 13 DP 759091). PWA approach the property owner to purchase the land, however negotiations for the land purchase stalled and eventually became a stalemate. PWA, with other state government authorities using legislation, began compulsory acquisition of the land. The land acquisition was resolved earlier this year (2022), with the settlement price still pending.

A Development Application has now been lodge by PWA for planning approval and construction of the Baaka Cultural Centre, it is expected that Planning and Building Approval will be forthcoming in the next 3 months. Following these approvals, it is anticipated the following milestones will occur:

July 2022-Tender for the construction

September 2022-Award preferred tenderer

October 2022- Construction commencement

January 2024 -Construction completion

March 2024- Handover to Baaka Cultural Centre Wilcannia Aboriginal Corporation

REPORT:

Council received additional funding of $600k by the State Government to be used for the establishment of governance and operating procedures for the Baaka Cultural Centre. These funds are not to be used for construction works, purely to ensure the facility is in readiness for operations on completion of construction at handover. To date, very little of these funds have been used, with only a small amount for administration for development. Council does not have the staff resources or the capacity to manage and establishment of the necessary framework and procedures needed to operate the centre.

Therefore, to ensure the Baaka Culture Centre is in readiness on its completion, it will be necessary to employ a Executive Officer (EO) with the appropriate skills and knowledge to complete this task over a 18 month period. The role of the Executive Officer will include:

- secretariat and financial duties for the Baaka Cultural Centre Wilcannia Aboriginal Corporation Inc.
- established business relationships with potential suppliers
- liaise with all stakeholders
- develop the Business Plan
- implementation strategy to ensure the Baaka Cultural Centre will open as a functioning business on completion of construction.

The Executive Officer will be employed for a period of 18 months, working 3 days/week, reporting to the General Manager (GM). Near completion of the centre and prior to handover, it may be necessary for the EO to work additional days/hours to ensure readiness of handover. Whilst the EO is answerable to the GM, the EO will be guided by advisory committee consisting of representatives from each of the following organisations:

- Chairperson of Baaka Cultural Centre Wilcannia Aboriginal Corporation Inc.
- Department of Regional NSW (DRNSW)
- National Indigenous Australia Agency (NIAA)
- Central Darling Shire Council (CDSC)

It is estimated the engagement of the EO for a period of 12 months will be at a cost of $161,196. Council with the EO will investigate if the Baaka Cultural Centre can utilise council existing financial and record management software, which may incur further cost. However, in doing so, this will eliminate some operating risk for the centre and reduce overall cost in having to purchase software and ITC Services outright for the centre minimal use.

LINKS TO THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN AND DELIVERY PROGRAM AND OPEARTIONAL PLAN:

Community Plan Strategic Plan Outcomes	Delivery Outcomes
GOAL 1: A healthy and cohesive community receiving recognition and supported by coordinated, appropriate and affordable services.	Objectives 1.3 Enhanced community spirit, cultural and arts awareness and pride. 1.1 Closer co-operation and cohesion between community groups. 1.2 Improved community services and facilities.

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:

	Assessment
Social	Positive
Environmental	NA
Economic	Positive
Governance	Positive

Financial and Resource Implications:

12 Month/1 year period

Wage/Salary: up to $98,200 + oncosts at 28% (inc super, Workers comp, ALL) = $125,696

Travel & Accommodation: $25,000

IT & Communication operational (inc software licences): $10,500

Total Cost $161,196

Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:

Nil

Risk Management - Business Risk/Work Health and Safety/Public:

Nil risk to Council

OPTIONS:

Do not employ EO, however this will have detrimental implications preparation of the Baaka Cultural Centre opening

COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:

No

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:

Internal Exhibition:

Advisement of the EO position to be National

External Exhibition:

Nil

Attachments:

NIL

9.2 COUNCIL NOMINATION FOR MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION REGION 4 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

FILE NUMBER: **GD22/6083**

REPORT AUTHOR: **GENERAL MANAGER**

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: **GENERAL MANAGER**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report is seeking Council endorsement of the General Manager for Murray Darling Association Region 4 Executive Committee

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive the report
2. Council endorses the nomination of the General Manager for MDA Region 4 Executive Committee.

BACKGROUND:

In past years, Central Darling Council has been a member of the Murray Darling Association (MDA) inc. where the General Manager has been Council's representative for Region 4 Executive Committee. Murray Darling Association inc. consist solely of members from local government councils across the Murray Darling basin catchment, from Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia.

REPORT:

There will be an AGM followed by an Ordinary Meeting of MDA Region 4 on 31 May 2022 at the Midway Centre, Buronga at 1:00pm. Nominations for the Region Executive Committee are to be lodged with the Returning Officer by Thursday 19 May 2022. All nominations to the chair by serving councillors must be accompanied by a resolution of the member council for which the nominee is a delegate. The resolution must reflect that the delegate's nomination has been endorsed by the council they represent.

For the General Manager to be a representative of the MDA Region 4 Executive Committee, Council will need to endorse the nomination.

LINKS TO THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN AND DELIVERY PROGRAM AND OPEARTIONAL PLAN:

Community Plan Strategic Plan Outcomes	Delivery Outcomes
GOAL 3: A protected and supported natural environment and a sustainable and well maintained built environment.	Objectives 3.1 Collaborative approach to environmental management and protection.

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:

	Assessment
Social	Positive

Environmental	Positive
Economic	NA
Governance	NA

Financial and Resource Implications:

No significate impact, maybe some travel maybe required for attendance of the annual conference.

Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:

Nil

Risk Management - Business Risk/Work Health and Safety/Public:

Nil

OPTIONS:

Council may elect no to have a representative of the MDA Region 4 Executive Committee

COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:

No

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:

Internal Exhibition:

No

External Exhibition:

No

Attachments:

NIL

9.3 COMMUNITY DONATIONS POLICY

FILE NUMBER: **GD22/5331**

REPORT AUTHOR: **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER**

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: **GENERAL MANAGER**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993 allows for Councils to provide small grant funding to community groups. This report seeks to update the Policy surrounding Council's Community Donations.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive the report
2. Endorse the revised Policy to be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.
3. Receive a report at the June meeting outlining any submissions received.

BACKGROUND:

In line with the provisions made through Section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council has an allocation of funding which provides small grants to community groups and individuals to assist them with running of events or other relevant activities. The Community Donations Policy has recently been reviewed and minor changes proposed.

REPORT:

While conducting a policy review, it was noted that the Policy was not consistent with the practice of Council. The Policy as it stands allows for applications for funding under S356 twice per year, with no mechanism for application outside that period.

Council's current practice is to approve (through Council resolution) applications for funding under S356 on an ad hoc basis until the allocated budget is exhausted. Council currently has $15,000 budgeted for S356 applications.

This Policy has been revised to formally recognise the current practice, giving community groups and individuals more opportunity to access small grant funding through Council's S356 budget.

The currently adopted Policy allows for one application per year per organisation. A further modification to the Policy will allow community groups to apply for funding up to a total of $1000 per year over multiple applications. This will give community groups who are offered an unforeseen opportunity to present events through the year to apply for funding through S356, pending assessment of the application, there being adequate funds available, and the group not having reached the $1000 ceiling.

LINKS TO THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN AND DELIVERY PROGRAM AND OPEARTIONAL PLAN:

Community Plan Strategic Plan Outcomes	Delivery Outcomes
GOAL 1: A healthy and cohesive community receiving recognition and supported by coordinated, appropriate and affordable services.	Objectives 1.4 Improved opportunities for our communities.

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:

	Assessment
Social	Positive
Environmental	Positive
Economic	Positive
Governance	Positive

Financial and Resource Implications:

Funds to be administered under this Policy are already budgeted in line with S356 of the Local Government Act 1993.

Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:

Revision of the Policy will bring our written statement in line with current practice.

Risk Management - Business Risk/Work Health and Safety/Public:

NIL

OPTIONS:

Not endorse the Policy as reviewed.

Return the Policy to the General Manager for further review.

COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:

No

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:

Internal Exhibition:

None required, however staff will be made aware of the Policy revision and given the opportunity to comment

External Exhibition:

The reviewed Policy must be placed on Public Exhibition for a minimum of 28 days.

Attachments:

1. Community Grants Policy

9.4 FILMING IN THE SHIRE

FILE NUMBER: **GD22/5352**

REPORT AUTHOR: **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER**

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: **GENERAL MANAGER**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report seeks to formalise an application and approvals process for companies looking to undertake commercial filming activities in the Shire.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive the report
2. Endorse the Policy to be placed on public exhibition for 28 days
3. Receive a further report at the June meeting outlining any submissions received.

BACKGROUND:

Central Darling Shire, along with other regions in the Far West, is becoming increasingly more attractive to commercial film companies who are looking to produce documentaries, films and other commercially available productions. The implementation of a formal policy will streamline processes for application and approval and will protect the assets of Council and the Shire.

REPORT:

The lifting of COVID restrictions at the end of 2021 and the inflow of water into the Menindee Lakes system has resulted in an increase in enquiries about filming in the Central Darling Shire area. Recent enquiries have been one-off documentaries however it is an indication of the valuable assets Shire communities have to production companies.

While there has been a process in place following the proposed Policy, this report seeks to formalise that policy to ensure the protection of Council assets and infrastructure.

As a related suite of documents, the Policy and an official application form will be accompanied by a template letter of approval which contains the base conditions of approval. These conditions can be modified and added to as required.

Division 4 of the *Local Government Act 1993* sets out guidelines for filming approval in a local government area. Section 116 of that Division provides the instrument to charge application fees, lease fees, bonds etc. After discussion between the General Manager and the Community Engagement Officer, this report does not seek to impose a financial cost for filming in the Shire as these activities are seen to promote the region and build relationships with these industries. However, the adoption of the Policy without potential revenue streams does not limit Council's ability to impose those streams in the future.

In addition, conditions of approval include Council's right to claim against the applicant company if, in the belief of Council, there has been damage or injury caused to Council's assets. This includes any damage to roads which are traversed during an official road closure.

LINKS TO THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN AND DELIVERY PROGRAM AND OPEARTIONAL PLAN:

Community Plan Strategic Plan Outcomes	Delivery Outcomes

GOAL 2: A strong regional economy supported by developing industries, strong businesses and increased employment.	Objectives 2.1 Expansion of industries and growth in businesses.

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:

	Assessment
Social	Positive
Environmental	NA
Economic	NA
Governance	Positive

Financial and Resource Implications:

NIL

Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:

NIL

Risk Management - Business Risk/Work Health and Safety/Public:

NIL

OPTIONS:

Not adopt the policy.

COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:

No

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:

Internal Exhibition:

Not required, however staff will have the opportunity to comment on the Policy when it is presented for public exhibition.

External Exhibition:

A public exhibition period of 28 days will be required.

Attachments:

1. Filming in the Shire Policy
2. Filming Application Form
3. Template Filming Approval

9.5 CORRESPONDANCE- HON. DUGALD SAUNDERS MP

FILE NUMBER: **GD22/6248**

REPORT AUTHOR: **GENERAL MANAGER**

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: **GENERAL MANAGER**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

To report correspondence received from Hon. Dugald Saunders MP and provide the public with information discussed with Minister Sam Faraway MP, for the upgrade of the Wool Track between Ivanhoe and Cobar.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report

REPORT:

Council has received correspondence from The Hon. Dugald Sanders MP (Minister for Western New South Wales) in relation to a email sent to the minister's office on Thursday 24 February, regarding the upgrade of the Wool Track between Ivanhoe and Cobar Council areas. The Minister has indicated he supportive of the project and will endeavour to facilitate a meeting for Council representatives to meet with the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, Hon. Sam Faraway MLC.

Council's Administrator and the General Manager met with Minister Sam Faraway at Sydney's Parliament House on Thursday 31 March, to discuss the project being constructed as a joint venture between Cobar and Central Darling Shire Councils. Further discussion about the project will be established at the Western Division Conference, held in Cobar on the 2nd & 3rd May between both Councils, minister representatives and Transport for New South Wales.

Attachments:

1. Correspondance received from Minister Dugald Saunders MP
2. Correspondance received from Minister Sam Farraway MP

9.6 COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

FILE NUMBER: **GD22/6611**

REPORT AUTHOR: **GENERAL MANAGER**

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: **GENERAL MANAGER**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report is to seek endorsement from Council to place the Draft Community Strategic Plan, Draft Advocacy Plan, Draft Disability Inclusion Plan, and Draft Town and Village Plans on exhibition in preparation for adoption prior to 1 July 2022.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive the report
2. Endorse the suite of documents that make up the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework to go on public exhibition for 28 days.
3. A further report to be prepared, outlining any submissions received, be presented to the June meeting of Council to adopt the IP&R Framework documents.

BACKGROUND:

In 2020, Central Darling Shire Council initiated a major project, the Community Strategic Plan Review, to review and revise all of its plans in the Integrated Planning and Reporting framework, and to develop a series of new plans to better represent the needs and interests of its communities.

This report provides an account of the processes undertaken to develop the plans and presents the completed plans in draft form, for public exhibition in preparation for adoption by council.

REPORT:

The Community Strategic Plan Review commenced in October 2020, guided by the following scope of works:

- To plan the public consultation and conduct a comprehensive engagement exercise reflective of the unique characteristics of rural and remote community, its history, and values.
- To submit a review of the Central Darling Shire Council 2017-27 Community Strategic Plan and delivery of a Community Strategic Plan 2020-2030 in line with legislative requirements.
- To develop and delivery of a Township/Village Strategic Plans 2020-2030 in line with legislative requirements for:
    - Wilcannia
    - Menindee
    - Ivanhoe
    - White Cliffs
    - Tilpa
    - Sunset Strip

- To develop and deliver a Tourism Strategic Destination Plan 2020-2030 in line with legislative requirements.
- To develop and deliver a Community Engagement Strategy & Plan 2020-2030 in line with OLG NSW Guidelines.
- To develop and deliver an Advocacy Plan 2020-2030.
- To develop and deliver a Workforce Management Plan in line with legislative requirements.
- To develop and deliver a Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) in line with legislative requirements, *NSW Disability Inclusion Act (2014).*
- Format the following documents with the same branding/format to create suite of documents similar to the Plans mentioned above:
  - Delivery Program 4 year.
  - Operational Plan and Budget 1 year.
  - Long Term Financial Plan.
  - Annual Report.

Following a competitive quotation process, the contract to deliver this project was awarded to Helicopter View P/L as the lead agency, with subcontracts additionally awarded to Zion Engagement and Planning P/L to provide specialist support in Aboriginal engagement and Site-Specific P/L to undertake all design work in the revision and/or development of all plans.

Whilst the project was intended to be completed by June 2021, the impacts of Covid 19 and a range of unanticipated events and influences elongated the project timetable by twelve months.

To ensure that the plans adopted by council truly reflect the priorities, needs and aspirations of communities across the Shire, community and stakeholder engagement was a central component in process. Four rounds of engagement were incorporated into the overall project plan in primary locations across the shire including Wilcannia, Menindee, Ivanhoe, White Cliffs, Tilpa, and Sunset Strip.

Engagement activities included broad community meetings, meetings with Aboriginal communities, Community Working Parties and Local Aboriginal Land Councils, meetings with students in all local public schools and meetings with council staff and relevant local agencies and groups.

The following table provides details regarding the timing and purpose of each engagement round, the number of meetings held and the total number of participants overall:

Timetable	**Purpose of meetings**	**Number of meetings**	**Participant numbers**
November 2020	Community briefings to describe the project, intended outcomes and engagement timetable.	10	65
February-March 2021	Comprehensive community engagement for development of all draft plans.	18	259
May-June 2021	Community meetings to review first draft of all plans.	13	113
February-March 2022	Community meetings to review final draft of all plans.	10	52

In addition to engagement with local communities, the consultants established liaison channels with relevant external agencies including the NSW Department of Regional NSW, the NSW Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Transport for NSW and the Department of Planning and Environment and the National Indigenous Australians Agency.

In February and April 2020, with assistance from the NSW Department of Regional NSW, the council ran workshops with these and other agencies in Broken Hill and Dubbo to brief them on the project and its anticipated outcomes. A total of 38 participants representing 22 federal, state, and non-government agencies attended these workshops. It is anticipated that further briefings will be held to launch the plans following their adoption.

During the course of the project, a number of influences and events occurred that changed the outputs for the project. These included:

1. Shortly after the project commenced, Central Darling Shire Council employed a human resource officer. Following the development of a structure for the Workforce Plan, the officer took on the process to complete the plan as its development required a comprehensive knowledge of the range of other human resources activities and initiatives occurring within the council.

2. During 2021, the Far West Joint Organisation, of which Central Darling Shire Council is a member, established a project to develop a Destination Management Plan (DMP) for far west NSW. This negated the need to develop a plan for Central Darling Shire. It was subsequently determined that when the Far West DMP is completed, a Tourism Action Plan will be developed as part of this project. It is anticipated that the Far West DMP will be completed towards the middle of 2022.

Throughout the project, the consultants maintained close liaison with the Council's Administrator, General Manager and leadership team and other key community and agency contacts to provide periodic progress updates and seek ongoing input in all aspects of decision-making surrounding the project.

LINKS TO THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN AND DELIVERY PROGRAM AND OPEARTIONAL PLAN:

Community Plan Strategic Plan Outcomes	**Delivery Outcomes**
GOAL 4: A consultative and professional Council providing relevant, attainable and efficient delivery of services as per the standards set by Council and providing community development and succession planning.	Objectives 4.1 Effective communication and consultation with Shire communities.

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:

	Assessment
Social	Positive
Environmental	Positive
Economic	Positive
Governance	Positive

Financial and Resource Implications:

Implementation of the IP&R documents is accounted for in annual budgets.

Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:

Complies with requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993.*

Risk Management - Business Risk/Work Health and Safety/Public:

NIL

OPTIONS:

NIL

COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:

No

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:

Internal Exhibition:

Internal Exhibition will run concurrent with external exhibition.

External Exhibition:

To be placed on Council's webpage for 28 days accompanied by advertising and media.

Attachments:

1. DRAFT CDSC Advocacy Plan
2. DRAFT CDSC Community Strategic Plan 2022-2032
3. DRAFT CDSC Disability Inclusion Action Plan
4. DRAFT Ivanhoe and District Improvement Plan 2022-2032
5. DRAFT Menindee and District Improvement Plan 2022-2032
6. DRAFT Sunset Strip and District Improvement Plan 2022-2032
7. DRAFT Tilpa and District Improvement Plan 2022-2032
8. DRAFT White Cliffs and District Improvement Plan 2022-2032
9. DRAFT Wilcannia and District Improvement Plan 2022-2032

9.7 HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

FILE NUMBER: **GD22/6698**

REPORT AUTHOR: **HUMAN RESOURCE OFFICER**

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: **GENERAL MANAGER**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information on the current human resource activities to ensure the organisation meets its statutory and legislative requirements.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive the report

BACKGROUND:

This report has been created with the view to provide regular updates to Council on key human resource matters as it relates to the continuity in the delivery of services to the community, and the associated financial impacts.

REPORT:

Vacancies:

Below are the vacancies currently being advertised externally:

Position	Closing Date	Status / Progress
Water Treatment Plant Operator (Ivanhoe)	22 February 2022	Candidate offered position.
Town Ganger Ivanhoe - Readvertised	22 February 2022	Candidate offered position.
Administration Officer (Post Office) / Administration Officer (CDSC)	29 November 2021	Preferred candidate identified.

Organisational Structure:

Below is a summary of the FTE numbers for 2021/22 as at 12 April 2022:

Department	Original Budget	Adjusted Budget	Variation	Actual	Vacant
Governance	4.23	5.23	+1.0	4.23	1
Business Services	13.36	13.40	+0.04	12.40	1
Shire Services	43.52	43.60	+0.08	36.60	7
Total	**61.11**	**61.23**	**+0.10**	**53.23**	**8**

As indicated in previous reports, the Executive Management team will monitor the structure as part of their regular meeting agenda, with any changes in the structure reported through to Council.

LINKS TO THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN AND DELIVERY PROGRAM AND OPEARTIONAL PLAN:

Community Plan Strategic Plan Outcomes	Delivery Outcomes
GOAL 4: A consultative and professional Council providing relevant, attainable and efficient delivery of services as per the standards set by Council and providing community development and succession planning.	Objectives 4.3 Skilled and informed Councillors and staff. 4.2 Efficient and effective services.

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:

	Assessment
Social	Positive
Environmental	Positive
Economic	Positive
Governance	Positive

Financial and Resource Implications:

Attracting quality candidates is challenging for Council which has an impact on the service delivery.

Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:

Council has an obligation to ensure that it meets all legislative obligations as it relates to the employment relationship. In addition to reputational impact, financial penalties apply where Council is found to breach its obligations.

Risk Management - Business Risk/Work Health and Safety/Public:

Regular monitoring and review of employment related practices will assist Council in addressing financial and business risks, along with staff wellbeing.

OPTIONS:

Nil

COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:

No

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:

Internal Exhibition:

Nil

External Exhibition:

Nil

Attachments:

NIL

10 CORPORATE SERVICES REPORTS

Nil

11 SHIRE SERVICES REPORTS

11.1 ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT REPORT

FILE NUMBER: **GD22/5326**

REPORT AUTHOR: **ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER**

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: **DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report is to provide a summary of Council's Environment Services statistics for the months of March 2022.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive the report

REPORT:

Statistics for February 2021 – March 2022		
Development approvals from February 2022	Number of DAs Approved – New Dwellings	
	Number of DAs Approved – Renovation	
	Number of DAs Approved – Other	
	Total Value of DAs Approved	
	Number of Construction Certificates Issued	
	Number of Complying Development Certificates Issued	
	Number of LGA S68 Approvals	
Food Safety	Food Premises Inspected	
Animal Control Activities January 2022	Impounded	
	Rehomed	
	Returned to Owner	
	Euthanized	
	Registrations	
	Microchipped	
	Penalty Notices Issued	
Water Sampling	Microbiology Samples Collected	14 (4 pool samples)

Chemistry Samples Collected	3
Pesticide samples	2
Radiological samples	0
Algae samples	0
Non-Compliant Samples	1 sample Whitecliffs Filtration plant exceeded aluminum aesthetic guidelines.

LINKS TO THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN AND DELIVERY PROGRAM AND OPEARTIONAL PLAN:

Community Plan Strategic Plan Outcomes	Delivery Outcomes
GOAL 1: A healthy and cohesive community receiving recognition and supported by coordinated, appropriate and affordable services.	Objectives 1.1 Closer co-operation and cohesion between community groups. 1.2 Improved community services and facilities. 1.3 Enhanced community spirit, cultural and arts awareness and pride. 1.4 Improved opportunities for our communities. 1.5 Enhanced public order and safety.
GOAL 3: A protected and supported natural environment and a sustainable and well maintained built environment.	Objectives 3.1 Collaborative approach to environmental management and protection. 3.3 Safe and reliable water supplies and road networks for Shire communities. 3.5 Well planned towns in accordance with LEP and sound planning principles. 3.4 Improved infrastructure across the Shire. 3.2 Improved town entrances and streetscapes.

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:

	Assessment
Social	Positive
Environmental	Positive
Economic	NA
Governance	NA

Attachments:

NIL

11.2 AIRPORTS

FILE NUMBER: **GD22/5490**

REPORT AUTHOR: **DEPUTY DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES**

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: **DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In approximately 2017/8 council was approached by RFDS to install Instrument Approach Equipment at the Wilcannia, Ivanhoe and White Cliffs airports.

The installation of this type of equipment required council to register the 3 strips which resulted in the airports falling under CASA (Civil Aviation Safety Authority) regulations which in turn led to heavily increased financial costs and further drained already stretched administration resources and work crews.

Central Darling Shire Council now operates 3 certified airstrips (Wilcannia, Ivanhoe and White Cliffs) and three ALA's (Aircraft Landing Areas) (Emmdale, Tilpa and Menindee).

It has been found that there is general consensus among regional airport managers that there is no community or council benefit in certifying airports and that amounts to significant financial cost.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive the report
2. Council pursues decertification of the Wilcannia, White Cliffs and Ivanhoe airports

BACKGROUND:

- Wilcannia, Ivanhoe and White Cliffs strips were registered in August 2019
- CASA Regulations changed in 2021 where all registered strips became certified
- Menindee, Tilpa and Emmdale remain uncertified ALA's (Aircraft Landing Areas)
- Wilcannia, Ivanhoe and White Cliffs airstrips registration/ certification was instigated by a request from RFDS to install instrument landing assistance technology called R Nav at the 3 strips
- Wilcannia, Ivanhoe and White Cliffs had the R Nav facility installed by RFDS at their cost which resulted in the 3 airstrips falling under the regulated airstrip umbrella and therefore were mandated to be registered as per the regulations. This, according to Terry Horan the South Australian CASA Senior Safety Officer ensures that all 3 Airstrips are maintained to a high level of safety and to CASA standards. Once the strips have the R Nav facility installed the expectations of the aviation industry is that R Nav airports be maintained to a higher level of safety and meet all the necessary CASA requirements, regulations and standards hence the necessity to have them certified
- Terry's opinion was that because we now have R Nav in place it would be almost impossible to deregister the airports as it would be politically unfriendly and strongly resisted by RFDS.

REPORT:

- It is expected that council employ an experienced Airport Manager to be able to manage and maintain the strips at the required safety levels and to MOS standards (Manual of Standards). No formal training is required for this position however, it is expected that the Manager has

enough formal knowledge, training and expertise to be capable of understanding the aviation regulations and processes.

- At present RFDS still maintains the medical contract for Western NSW. This may or may not change in the future as private institutions such a Pel-Air slowly encroach on services formerly provided by RFDS such as medevac and government support services
- RFDS were required to meet the initial installation costs and increased maintenance costs for the first 3 years after the R Nav was installed. After that period all costs were to be met by council. As from 2022 council will be meeting all costs associated with airstrips
- RAUP Annual Funding $150,000.00
- RAUP Council Contribution $150,000.00
- RAUP funding is conditional and is required for capital works of significant scope
- Regardless of certification it is a requirement that council maintains airports to a safe and satisfactory level and council has always managed to accomplish this in the past
- R Nav Instrument approach technology makes it easier to land aircraft not necessarily safer nor does it guarantee the pilot will land. CDSC is aware of 2 aborted landings in the past 12 months even with the IA equipment
- Under certification council will be required to be audited annually and will be held accountable to the standards/ schedules and requirements in the Airport Manuals
- Investigation and discussion has occurred with airport Managers in other regional airports in Australia and there is consensus in that there is no advantage to the council or the community to be certified

LINKS TO THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN AND DELIVERY PROGRAM AND OPEARTIONAL PLAN:

Community Plan Strategic Plan Outcomes	Delivery Outcomes
GOAL 4: A consultative and professional Council providing relevant, attainable and efficient delivery of services as per the standards set by Council and providing community development and succession planning.	Objectives 4.2 Efficient and effective services.

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:

	Assessment
Social	NA
Environmental	NA
Economic	Positive
Governance	NA

Financial and Resource Implications:

Estimates of additional initial costs and ongoing costs to meet certification requirements

Initial Costs to bring airports up to CASA Standard:

- 4 Safety Findings: $22,000.00
- 25 Safety Observations: $290,000.00
- Airport Manuals- $25,000.00
- Airport Management & Administration - $25,000
- ARO Training- additional training of back up ARO's (Airport Reporting Officer)- $4,000.00
- Insurance Software training- $8,000.00
- Radio Licences- ARO's must now have radio licences to operate VHS radios- minimum 8 licences $1,200.00
- **Initial costs to bring airports up to CASA Certified standards**: $375,200.00

Certified Annual Ongoing costs: (these costs will be incurred annually by council once the 3 years RFDS grace period expires in 2022)

- Scheduled Inspections: Under certification CDSC must carry out inspections prior to each scheduled landing. CDSC don't have much RPT (regular passenger traffic) however scheduled medical clinics are held weekly-
  - 3 x Wilcannia $14,040.00 p/a
  - 2 x Ivanhoe $9,360.00 p/a
  - 1 x White Cliffs $4,680.00
- OLS Surveys- Annually $18,000.00 p/a
- CDSC OLS Compliance: $6,500.00
- Airport External Audits- Annually $20,000.00 p/a
- ARO Refreshers- $1,600.00 p/a
- Increased Admin- $24,000.00 p/a
- Increased Maintenance- $65,000.00 p/a
- CASA Inspections- $15,000.00 p/a
- Airport Manuals Annual review- $3,500.00 p/a
- Instrument Landing fly overs- Carried out by CASA now at no cost but this is one service that CASA carries out for free at the present, but this is expected to change to user pays in the near future. This cost may as high $15,000 p/a
- **Certified Annual ongoing costs total: $196,680.00 per annum**

- **Conclusion:**
  - ALA Annual Maintenance Costs $15,000.00
  - Certified Annual Maintenance Costs $196,680.00
    - Total Annual Maintenance Costs $211,680.00

- Available Budget $ 124,000.00

- Shortfall $87,680.00

Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:

Certified:

- CASA MOS standards for certified strips
- NSW WHS Act 2011
- Australian WHS Model 2011
- Airports Act 1996

Uncertified:

- NSW WHS Act 2011
- Australian WHS Model 2011
- Airports Act 1996

Risk Management - Business Risk/Work Health and Safety/Public:

Insurance liability remains the same. It makes no difference whether the airport is certified, or uncertified. StateWide Insurance treats all airports the same as the liability remains the same.

OPTIONS:

Option 1: Decertify Wilcannia, Ivanhoe and White Cliffs air strips.

- Will immediately alleviate the increased financial burden
- Decrease the strain on limited human resources
- Meet with resistance from RFDS

Option 2: Council pursues funding to offset the increased financial burden imposed by certification

- Funding will finance increased operational/ managerial and administration costs
- Funding will be dependent on political climate and state finances and cannot be guaranteed or relied upon

COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:

Yes

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:

Internal Exhibition:

NA

External Exhibition:

- In the best interest of transparency and public relations it would be prudent for council to pursue discussion and negotiation with RFDS in regard to decertification for input, feedback and impacts to RFDS operations and future relationship effects. I would expect some resistance from RFDS.

Attachments:

NIL

11.3 ROADS AND AERODROMES REPORT

FILE NUMBER: **GD22/6599**

REPORT AUTHOR: **DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES**

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: **DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on road and aerodrome maintenance and capital works expenditure within the Central Darling Local Government Area.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report

REPORT:

State Roads

Council are engaged by Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) to maintain the State Highway network within the Shire boundaries. The two State Highways are the Barrier Highway and the Cobb Highway.

Council are engaged under contract conditions specified under the Routine Maintenance Council Contract (RMCC). The contract details routine works required to be completed throughout the year and capital works which are supplied to Council via a Works Order (WO).

2021/22 RMCC Routine Maintenance preliminary allocation is: $1,049,000

2021/22 RMCC Works Orders issued this financial year include

1. HW21 111.22.01 Rosewood South IS Project $2,321,646
2. HW21 111.22.02 Gravel Supply Rosewood Sth $225,000
3. HW21 111.21.03 Gravel Supply Kerpa $675,000
4. HW21 111.22.04 Rosewood Sealing $224,466
5. HW21 111.22.05 Mt Manara South Sealing $218,446
6. HW21 111.22.06 Segment 2420 Full Rehab $804,947

Total $4,469,507

Works Description	Original Budget	% Expended	Remaining budget
RMCC Routine	$1,048,240	76%	$259,134

WO 2021/22	$4,469,507	69%	$1,364,197

Regional Roads

Council maintains 790km of Regional Roads throughout the Shire.

2021/22 Regional Road Block Grant amount (including traffic and supplementary components) has not been confirmed. The figures below reflect the 2020/21 allocation. Payments to Council's will be made in July and January with any reconciliations required being done in January following State (RMS) budget adoption.

2021/22 Regional Roads Repair Program was successful with $400,000 being 50% of the project costs. The remaining funds is proposed to be sourced from the Regional Roads Block Grant which is reflected in the table below. MR433 Ivanhoe-Menindee Rd, 3km reconstruction and seal.

Works Description	Original Budget	% Expended	Remaining Budget
Regional Road Block Grant	$2,233,000	69%	$681,936
Regional Roads Repair Program	$975,000	4%	$936,910

Local Roads

Council maintains 1600km of Local Roads throughout the Shire.

2021/22 The Financial Assistance Grant – Local Roads Component, has not been confirmed. Estimated on last year's allocation as $1,655,000

2021/22 Roads to Recovery (R2R) allocation is $695,670. Three capital improvement projects are proposed to be delivered this year.

Water NSW have engaged Council to undertake Upgrade works to Union Bend Rd, Wilcannia. The project aims to provide all weather access for the new weir construction traffic scheduled for commencement 2022. The project will be delivered in 3 stages, stage 1 is programmed to commence Tuesday 7 December 2021

Works Description	Original Budget	% Expended	Remaining Budget
Local Roads Component (FAG)	$1,655,000	36%	$1,063,136
Woore Street (R2R)	$201,670	3%	$194,622
Trida Road (R2R)	$220,000	51%	$107,621
Moolah-Trida Road (R2R)	$274,000	89%	$29,380
Union Bend Rd, stage 1	$559,474	37%	$351,765

Aerodromes

Council maintains 6 aerodromes throughout the Shire; Wilcannia, Menindee, Ivanhoe, White Cliffs, Tilpa and Emmdale.

The Remote Aerodrome Upgrade Prograde (RAUP) funding was granted for the Wilcannia aerodrome resealing and linemarking project. The works are funded up to $150,000 with in kind contribution from Council for $107,000

Works Description	Original Budget	% Expended	Remaining Budget
Aerodromes R&M	$124,000	123%	-$28,400
RAUP 2021/22	$257,000	4%	$247,070

Attachments:

NIL

11.4 SERVICES UPDATE

FILE NUMBER: **GD22/6600**

REPORT AUTHOR: **DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES**

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: **DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the services expenditure on all associated assets within the Central Darling Local Government Area.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report

REPORT:

Services:

Works Description	Original Budget	% Expended	Remaining Budget
Parks & Gardens/ Sporting Facilities	$126,500	157%	-$72,347
Ancillary Works	$236,500	7%	$220,153
Street Cleaning/Bins	$175,000	87%	$22,923
Buildings	$882,850	42%	$508,558
Swimming Pools	$345,000	84%	$55,537
Domestic Waste	$190,000	83%	$32,364

Services Capital Works

Council has received funding to improve facilities throughout the Shire through the Building Stronger Country Communities Projects for Round 1, 2 and 3. The table below reflects expenditure and progress to date.

Projects included in each funding stream are detailed below

Stronger Country Communities Round 1 is completed. Works included the Refurbishment of community meeting places in Ivanhoe, Menindee, Wilcannia, White Cliffs, Tilpa and Wilcannia.

Stronger Country Communities Round 2

Menindee Swimming Pool	$39,300.00

Menindee Burke and Wills Park	$187,500.00
Menindee Pistol Club	$31,880.00
Ivanhoe Swimming Pool	$140,300.00
Ivanhoe Oval	$99,430.00
Wilcannia Swimming Pool	$96,500.00
Wilcannia Burke Park - Field	$196,965.00
Wilcannia Burke Park - Canteen	$8,000.00
White Cliffs Swimming Pool	$16,000.00
White Cliffs Gymkhana	$89,500.00
White Cliffs Sporting Club	$50,720.00
Tilpa Tennis Courts	$20,000.00
Menindee Streetscape	$45,000.00
Ivanhoe Streetscape	$25,000.00
Wilcannia Streetscape	$65,000.00
White Cliffs Community Hall	$56,855.00
White Cliffs CWA	$35,794.00
White Cliffs War Memorial	$32,000.00
Tilpa Community Hall	$20,600.00
Tilpa Park - Recreation	$12,450.00
Darnick Community Hall	$17,290.00
Sunset Strip Community Hall	$109,000.00

Stronger Country Communities Round 3

Wilcannia Skate Park	$260,000.00
Menindee Toilet Refurbishment	$50,000.00
Murals on Caravan park administration Building and local Hotel	$30,000.00
Installation of Playgrounds ad minor upgrades	$188,340.00
Installation of Children’s Adventure playground - Sunset Strip	$85,000.00
Soundshell	$50,000.00
Youth Leadership Expedition	$97,000.00

Works Description	Original Budget	% Expended	Remaining Budget
Building Stronger Country Communities Round 1	$893,640.00	100%	$0
Building Stronger Country Communities Round 2	$1,395,084	99%	$13,561
Building Stronger Country Communities Round 3	$760,340	53%	$359,972

Attachments:

NIL

11.5 WATER AND SEWER UPDATE

FILE NUMBER: **GD22/6601**

REPORT AUTHOR: **DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES**

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: **DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on water and sewer maintenance, capital works and expenditure an all assets within the Central Darling Local Government Area.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report

REPORT:

Water & Sewerage Operations:

- Wilcannia's potable water supply is sourced from the Darling River Weir Pool
- White Cliffs town water supply is sourced from Wakefield Tank. Wakefield Tank storage supply is 7.8m, 10 months' supply remaining.
- Ivanhoe town water supply is currently being sourced from Morrison's Tank. Morrison's Tank is at capacity, 410 megalitres. 20 months' supply remaining
- The Aboriginal Communities Water and Sewer Program contributes to Councils operational costs for services supplied to the Wilcannia Mallee and Waralli precincts.

Works Description	Original Budget	% Expended	Remaining Budget
Wilcannia Water	$311,500	71%	$89,589
Wilcannia Sewer	$131,500	33%	$88,425
White Cliffs Water	$167,000	46%	$89,533
Ivanhoe Water	$273,000	74%	$70,121
Aboriginal Communities Water and Sewer program	$144,770	20%	$115,249

Water and Sewer Capital Works

- Council awarded the contract for new Water Treatment Plants at Wilcannia, Ivanhoe and White Cliffs on 1 July 2021 to Membrane Systems Australia. Council submitted the 100%

Design and application for Section 60 approval on 31 January 2022.

Works are expected to commence at White Cliffs May 2022 pending Section 60 approval from DPE Water and Covid-19 restrictions. The current program aims to complete all 3 Water Treatment by early 2023.

MSA visited all 3 locations 7 March to 9 March 2022 and are finalising layout drawings at present.

- The White Cliffs Reticulation design has been completed, Environmental inspections including Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment have been completed and Aboriginal Heritage Impact permit (AHIP) was applied for 17 February 2022. Date for calling tenders for civil works here is subject to receipt of the AHIP as this will form part of tender documentation. Public Works Advisory have been engaged to manage the design and tender process.

- Smart meters and valve replacements are scheduled for 2021/22 in Ivanhoe and Wilcannia.

The table below reflects expenditure to date for Capital Projects.

Works Description	Original Budget	% Expended	Remaining Budget
White Cliffs WTP and Retic	$5,500,000	15%	$4,650,247
Wilcannia WTP	$3,500,000	27%	$2,550,028
Ivanhoe WTP	$2,500,000	25%	$1,875,178
Smart Meters	$50,000	0%	$50,000
Valve Replacements	$150,000	5%	$142,900

Attachments:

NIL

11.6 POONCARIE ROAD UPDATE

FILE NUMBER: **GD22/6606**

REPORT AUTHOR: **DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES**

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: **DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the progress of the Pooncarie Road Initial Seal Construction Project

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report

REPORT:

The main scope of the Pooncarie Road project is to seal 61km of road section south of Menindee, NSW. Construction work commenced on 18th January 2021.

To date, the project team has sealed 0-12km and 20-24km, and now these sections are open to traffic.

The Federal Government has now approved an additional $14.6 million (including contingencies) for the project. This allows council to complete total 61km of the project, complying with design and Environmental requirements

Archaeologists have carried out a test excavation program for the Karoola re-alignment and a new AHIP application will be submitted for the proposed work. These works are planned at the end of the project and planning to secure environmental approvals by October 2022.

Indigenous Participation target is 21.58% of the total project cost. Indigenous business Blore has been given two sections of the road construction work. This is equivalent to $5,562,757.75, 89% of the project cost for earthworks.

During the first three months of 2022, project teams have shown good progress and production and are on track to complete the remaining work as scheduled.

Project teams currently work between 12-20km, 40-45km and 31-39km. At the moment, project teams are well on track to complete another 13km by mid-2022.

PROJECT STATUS:

Section/Location	Current activities and progress
5-12km	This section has been sealed and open for traffic.
12-20km	Earthworks are ongoing and on track to complete by the end of May 2022.

25-40km	Ground clearing for side-track ongoing.
31-39km	Earthworks are ongoing. Planning to complete another 2km before stabilisation works at the southern end.
40-45km	CDSC has completed earthworks and planning to seal this section by the end of June 2022.
Karoola Homestead-Environmental approval for the proposed realignment	Archaeologists have excavated 26 pits across four locations and working on the required documentation works. Planning to get required environmental approval by Oct 2022.
Bono pit	Work on hold as sufficient gravel material is available at the moment.

The following table summarises project constraints,

Schedule	Funding authorities have approved revised construction scheduled and budget. However, planning to complete major construction works by December 2023. Council on track to complete half of the road construction works by mid-2022.
Cost	Council received extra $14.6 million (including contingencies) through Federal government budget to complete the project. To date the project cost is $12.6 million.
Safety	Two near misses were reported during last month. 1) Site engineer's vehicle rollover on the side-track 2) A rubber tyre roller fell onto its side while it was compacting batters. Both incidents were reported, and toolbox talks were held to avoid a similar incident. Further training and follow-up meeting are arranged.
Risk	No issue to report.
Resourcing	Three construction crews are adequate to complete construction within timeframes
Quality	No issue to report
Other issues	

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR THE COMING MONTH.

- Earthworks and gravel placing (12-20km)- Most of the works are completed. Gravel placing and final trimming works before 16 May 2022
- Stabilisation works (12-20km)- 16th May 2022
- Sealing works (12-20km) -Early June 2022.
- Earthworks (31-33km)- Mid June 2022
- Stabilisation works (40-45km, 31-33km) – End of June 2022
- Sealing works (40-45km, 31-33km)- End of June 2022
- Line marking (5-12km, 0-5km, 20-24km) – Early May 2022.
- Gravel pit operations are on hold as sufficient material is available in stocks.

Attachments:

1. Pooncarie Rd Program of Works

12 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

12.1 COMMITTEE AGM MEETING MINUTES FOR MENINDEE COMMON 28/2/2022

FILE NUMBER: **GD22/6084**

REPORT AUTHOR: **EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT**

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: **GENERAL MANAGER**

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the Minutes of the Menindee Common held on 28-2-22 be received and noted.

Attachments:

1. Menindee Common AGM Minutes

13 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

Nil

14 RESOLUTION TRACKER

Nil

15 MEETING CLOSE

The Ordinary Council Meeting will be declared closed by the Mayor/Administrator.

The next Ordinary Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 25 May 2022 in Council Chambers, 21 Reid Street, Wilcannia at 9 am.

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 21 REID STREET, WILCANNIA ON WEDNESDAY, 23 MARCH 2022

PRESENT: Administrator, Bob Stewart

IN ATTENDANCE: Greg Hill (General Manager)
Reece Wilson (Director Shire Services)
Gordon Seeto (Director Business Services) – by Teams
Glenda Dunn (Senior Planner) – by Teams
Kevin Smith (Finance Manager) – by Teams
Darryl Telfer (Acting Rates Officer) – by Teams
Gokul Chandran (Finance Officer - Revenue)
Evelyn Pollard (Human Resource Officer)
Jennie Geerdink (Community Engagement Officer) – by Teams
Jamie Parsons (Executive Assistant – Minute Taker) – by Teams

1 OPENING OF MEETING

The meeting was declared open at 9.13am.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

An acknowledgement of the traditional custodians of the land was delivered by the Administrator, Bob Stewart.

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3.1 APOLOGIES

Nil

3.2 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

4 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Pursuant to the Mode Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW Councillors and Council staff are required to declare any pecuniary or non-pecuniary conflicts of interest.

RESOLVED: OCM 01-03-2022

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

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

CARRIED

No declarations were received.

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

5.1 PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

RESOLVED: OCM 02-03-2022

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 23 February 2022 be received and confirmed as an accurate record.

CARRIED

6 NOTICE OF MOTION

Nil

7 MAYORAL (ADMINISTRATOR) MINUTE(S)

7.1 ADMINISTRATORS MINUTE - MARCH 2022

RESOLVED: OCM 03-03-2022

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report.

CARRIED

Notes from the Administrator in relation to the Mayoral Minutes:

The Administrator and General Manager were in Sydney last month attending a Special conference for LGNSW and attempted to meet with local Ministers, however were unsuccessful in arranging meetings due to pending floods in the north west and budget estimates. However they were provided the opportunity to meet with Minister Tuckerman, the new Minister for Local Government. The Administrator extended an invitation to the Minister to visit Central Darling Shire Council prior to making any decisions on the future of Administration. The Minister indicated that she would like to attend the Shire and that she will be consulting the Community on any actions she may take. The OLG has received a draft report that is to be presented to the Minister. Once this has been received, this will need to be read and the Minister will present it to the Cabinet which will then be discussed with the Administrator and General Manager before Community Consultation is able to commence.

The Administrator stated that he wanted to mention Flood Planning as there has been a lot of discussions concerning potential flooding at Menindee and how that was managed. Council have a Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) and also a State Emergency Management and Rescue Act.

The committee is established to plan and respond to disasters and emergencies. It does not get involved in on operational levels. This is for the combat agencies which is the SES.

What is missing is the Floodplain Management Plan which controls the development of the Floodplain which deals with the mitigation levels on the Floodplains. The General Manager is moving to seek funding to enable this to occur. Once funding has been received, Council will work towards this being implemented.

8 FINANCIAL REPORTS

8.1 CASH AND INVESTMENTS - FEBRUARY 2022

RESOLVED: OCM 04-03-2022

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report.

CARRIED

8.2 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT - FEBRUARY 2022

RESOLVED: OCM 05-03-2022

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report.

CARRIED

8.3 COUNCIL 2021-2022 CURRENT GRANTS REGISTER

RESOLVED: OCM 06-03-2022

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report.

CARRIED

8.4 WASTE MANAGEMENT RESERVE FUNDING

RESOLVED: OCM 07-03-2022

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report.
2. Council to establish a Waste reserve for the Financial Year 2022/23.
3. Funds/money saved through the loan payment during the 2021/22 Financial Year are to be entered into the new reserve fund for Waste Management.

CARRIED

9 GOVERNANCE REPORTS

9.1 MODEL CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE

RESOLVED: OCM 08-03-2022

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report.
2. Resolved to adopt the Code of Meeting Practice.
3. A final copy of the Code of Meeting Practice is to be displayed on the Council's website.

CARRIED

9.2 FLOOD MANAGEMENT FOR MENINDEE-LOWER DARLING CORRESPONDENCE

RESOLVED: OCM 09-03-2022

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report.
2. That the correspondence from the NSW Southwestern Water Users Group be presented to Minister Anderson during the scheduled meeting in Sydney.

CARRIED

9.3 HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

RESOLVED: OCM 10-03-2022

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report.
2. That the works program for the Development Implantation of the Human Resources Procedures to address the obligations be tabled at the April meeting.

CARRIED

10 CORPORATE SERVICES REPORTS

10.1 TRANSFER OF LAND TO THE ABORIGINAL HOUSING OFFICE

RESOLVED: OCM 11-03-2022

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report.

2. To transfer Lot 1, DP 524832, known as 23-25 Cleaton Street Wilcannia, Lot 17, Section 13, DP 759091, known as 71 Woore Street Wilcannia, and Lot 4, DP 660317, known as 100 Hood Street Wilcannia to the Aboriginal Housing Office in the consideration of $1.
3. That Council's legal costs associated with the above land transfers be borne by the Aboriginal Housing Office.
4. To authorise the General Manager to execute all necessary documents to facilitate the above land transfers.

CARRIED

11 SHIRE SERVICES REPORTS

11.1 EMPLOYMENT ZONES AMENDEMENT TO THE CENTRAL DARLING LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN 2012

RESOLVED: OCM 12-03-2022

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council will:

1. Receive the report.
2. Receive and note the information on the *Standard Instrument (Local Environmental Plans) Order 2006* (SI LEP Order).
3. To endorse the proposed amendments to the *Central Darling Local Environmental Plan 2012* proposed by the Department of Environment and Planning, where the B2 Local Centre zone and the R1 Residential zone are replaced by the RU5 Village Zone. The current industrial zones will be retained and retitled as E4 General Industrial Zone.
4. Note that the Department of Planning and Environmental (DPE) will exhibit in April 2022, the proposed amendments to the *Standard Instrument Local Environmental Plan* and the amendments to the *Central Darling Local Environmental Plan 2012* (CDLEP 2012) on the NSW Planning Portal. Council will also be required to exhibit the proposed amendments to the CDLEP 2012 on to the Council Website.

CARRIED

11.2 IVANHOE WASTE COLLECTION

RESOLVED: OCM 13-03-2022

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council will:

1. Receive the report.
2. Reduce Waste Collection services in Ivanhoe to 1 day per week effective from 1 July 2022.
3. Complete a bin collection audit to ascertain how many bin are being collected from commercial properties and reconcile with this information with the existing commercial waste charges.
4. Write to the Commercial Property Owners advising of the change in service and offer free bins if deemed required, noting an additional service charge per bin will be charged.

CARRIED

11.3 REGIONAL ROADS REPORT PROGRAM 2022/23

RESOLVED: OCM 14-03-2022

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council will:

1. Receive the report.
2. Consider the allocation of $470,000 from the Capital Roads allocation in the Draft 2022/23 budget to match the funding amount to enable works to be completed.

CARRIED

11.4 UNSEALED ROAD - MAINTENANCE GRADING PROCEDURE

RESOLVED: OCM 15-03-2022

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report.
2. A letter is to be prepared to be sent back to the letter writer.

CARRIED

11.5 WATER AND SEWER UPDATE

RESOLVED: OCM 16-03-2022

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report.

CARRIED

11.6 SERVICES UPDATE

RESOLVED: OCM 17-03-2022

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report.
2. That the over expenditure in the parks and gardens sporting facility be adjusted in the April QBR.

CARRIED

11.7 ROADS AND AERODROMES REPORT

RESOLVED: OCM 18-03-2022

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report.

CARRIED

12 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

12.1 MENINDEE COMMON FINANCES

RESOLVED: OCM 19-03-2022

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

1. That the information received from the Menindee Common in relation to their finances on the 5th of March 2022 received and noted.

CARRIED

12.2 WHITE CLIFFS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - 355 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

RESOLVED: OCM 20-03-2022

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

1. That the Minutes of the White Cliffs Community Association held on Thursday 17th February 2022 be received and noted.

CARRIED

13 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

It was resolved that Council moved into Confidential to consider the matters listed in the confidential section of the agenda in accordance with Section 10A 2 of the *Local Government Act 1993* for the reasons specified. Confidential section was closed to the public and began at 9.54am.

RESOLVED: OCM 21-03-2022

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council moved into Confidential to consider the matters listed in the confidential section of the agenda in accordance with Section 10A 2 of the Local Government Act 1993 for the reasons specified.:

Item 13.1 and 13.2 are confidential under the Local Government Act 1993 Section 10A(2) - (c) and (d) as it relates to information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business and 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.

CARRIED

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council moves out of Confidential and back into Open Chambers at 10.07am.

The General Manager provided a review of the Confidential Resolutions as listed below:

RESOLVED: OCM 22-03-2022

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

13.1 Plant Hire Rates 2022-2024

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report.
2. Adopt the Plant Hire Rates Schedule 2022-2024.
3. Delegate authority to the General Manager to add new Contractors to the Standing Order Deed Plant Hire Rates if deemed appropriate.

At 10.01am, the General Manager left the Room and returned to the room at 10.04am.

CARRIED

RESOLVED: OCM 23-03-2022

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

13.2 Tilpa Emergency Water Supply Pipeline

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report.
2. Reward the 17km of pipeline installation works to Kallara Partners for the sum of $225,000 (ex GST).
3. Note that given the extenuating circumstances and remoteness of the locality and the unavailability of competitive quotations, Council has resolved the above.
4. That the project be supervised under the Council Work Health and Safety and Environmental Guidelines of the Engineering Department.

CARRIED

14 RESOLUTION TRACKER

Nil

15 MEETING CLOSE

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed at **10.08am.**

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting of the Central Darling Shire Council held on Wednesday, 27th April 2022 at 9 am.

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ADMINISTRATOR