

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 21 REID STREET, WILCANNIA
ON WEDNESDAY, 22 MARCH 2023**

PRESENT: Administrator, Bob Stewart

IN ATTENDANCE: Greg Hill (General Manager)

Reece Wilson (Director Shire Services)

Glenda Dunn (Senior Planning Officer) - video

Kevin Smith (Finance Manager) - video

Darryl Telfer (Acting Rates Officer) - video

Evelyn Pollard (Human Resource Officer) - video

Kara Mohr (Risk & WHS Officer) - video

Nerida Carr (Governance Officer) - video

Gabrielle Johnston (Community Engagement Officer) - video

1 OPENING OF MEETING

The meeting was declared open at 9.01am

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 01-03-2023

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 02-03-2023

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 22 February 2023 be received and confirmed as an accurate record.

CARRIED

6 NOTICE OF MOTION

Nil

7 MAYORAL (ADMINISTRATOR) MINUTE(S)

7.1 MAYORAL MINUTE -

RESOLVED: OCM 03-03-2023

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

Central Darlings Future

Council has been successful in attracting Grants to improve services and infrastructure across the Shire. We have actively pursued grants as part of our business model because if we only relied on rates and charges the level and quality of services that could be delivered would not be acceptable. This reliance on grant-to-grant funding as opposed to a reliable and predictable revenue source makes a long-term approach to financial planning for service delivery difficult and unsustainable in the long term.

Property rates and annual charges deliver very limited income and along with the annual Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grant represent the Councils only source of discretionary funding, as nearly all other revenues are linked to specific areas of expenditure (grants). This means that Council must constantly ration and prioritize available resources towards works, services and organisational capacity which ultimately results in the delivery of a makeshift or substandard service outcome for the community.

Community expectations of service delivery standards far exceed the capacity of the organisation to meet under the current arrangements. This means that Council must also continually prioritize and improvements to its professional, technical and governance capacity in a bid to correct years of underperformance and neglect.

A focus over the past 3 years has been rebuilding the organisations system processes to ensure regulatory compliance. Whilst significant progress has been made, the organization is like a sandcastle, whereby at any time a redirection of resources could undermine or wash away any gains.

Moreover, CDS does not have sufficient funds to operate, maintain, renew, replace and upgrade its assets. To deliver services and meet regulatory requirements demanded on local government

we must employ a skilled and experienced staff. Attracting and maintaining that staff base has proved challenging for a rural and remote community.

Critical decisions about the future governance and financing of the shire have been deferred and it is imperative that government come to terms with the reality of the long-term costs of delivering an adequate standard of service and democratic governance to the shire.

There will be no decision on a future governance model before the upcoming state election, as a critical component of the process that is community consultation has not occurred. With local government elections set for September 2024 early consultation must occur. The issues facing Central Darling are well known and documented, but what is lacking is the will to have an open discussion that puts the issues on the table and commitment to a long term sustainable solution.

The reality what is needed is a new governance model that can deliver sustainable services to the Far West Community, committed ongoing funding from treasury to underwrite the ongoing cost and a sense of urgency by government to resolve the issues.

Administration of Central Darling was never going to solve the fundamental issues facing Central Darling, and we must now hold the Government to account to bring forward a solution and engage with our community.

This will be a priority after the March State election.

CARRIED

8 FINANCIAL REPORTS

8.1 REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE - COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION, WHITE CLIFFS BRANCH

RESOLVED: OCM 04-03-2023

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council will:

1. Receive the report
2. Approve financial assistance of \$1,000.00 to the Country Women's Association, White Cliffs Branch under Council's Community Grants Policy to assist with payment of the annual service charges for the 2022-23 period on its Johnston Street, White Cliffs property.

CARRIED

8.2 CASH AND INVESTMENTS - FEBRUARY 2023

RESOLVED: OCM 05-03-2023

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council will:

1. Receive the report

CARRIED

8.3 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT - FEBRUARY 2023**RESOLVED: OCM 06-03-2023**

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council will:

1. Receive the report **CARRIED**

8.4 GRANTS REGISTER – FEBRUARY 2023**RESOLVED: OCM 07-03-2023**

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council will:

1. Receive the report **CARRIED**

9 GOVERNANCE REPORTS**9.1 CORPORATE CREDIT CARD POLICY REVIEW****RESOLVED: OCM 08-03-2023**

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council will:

1. Receive the report.
2. Approve the Draft Corporate Credit Card Policy Version 2.
3. Draft Corporate Credit Card policy to be place on public exhibition for a period 28 days with report back to council with intention of adoption.

CARRIED**9.2 CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE COUNCIL WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2023-2027****RESOLVED: OCM 09-03-2023**

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council:

1. Receive the report
2. Endorse to place the Central Darling Shire Council Workforce Management Plan on Public Exhibition for 28 days during April
3. Report to May Council meeting on comments received from the Public Exhibition with the intention of adopting the plan at the Council meeting.

CARRIED

9.3 HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**RESOLVED: OCM 10-03-2023**

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report

CARRIED**9.4 WILCANNIA VISTOR ACCOMODATION BUSINESS CASE****RESOLVED: OCM 11-03-2023**

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council will:

1. Receive the report
2. Acknowledge the engagement of Dunn & Hillam Architects and Balmoral Group in accordance to the Local Government Act 1993 - Section 55 (3) services being sought are of such as specialized and urgent in nature.
3. Endorse the General Manager to engage:
 - a. Dunn & Hillam Architects for Stage One Feasibility and Concept Design
 - b. Balmoral Group for Strategic Business Model and development
4. A report be presented to Council on completion of Wilcannia Visitor Accommodation Business Case.

CARRIED**9.5 MAY AND JUNE COUNCIL MEETNGS****RESOLVED: OCM 12-03-2023**

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council will:

1. Receive the report
2. Note the Administrator will not be attending the schedule Council meetings on 24 May and 28 June 2023 in person, however, will be attending both meetings by audio-visual link due to exceptional circumstance.

CARRIED**10 CORPORATE SERVICES REPORTS**

Nil

11 SHIRE SERVICES REPORTS

11.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES UPDATE

RESOLVED: OCM 13-03-2023

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report

CARRIED

11.2 SERVICES

RESOLVED: OCM 14-03-2023

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report

CARRIED

11.3 WATER AND SEWER

RESOLVED: OCM 15-03-2023

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council will:

1. Receive and note the report
2. A further report to be provided to Council for the construction of White Cliff, Wilcannia and Ivanhoe Water Treatment Plants

CARRIED

11.4 WASTE FACILITIES OPERATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN AND LONG TERM PLANS OF MANAGEMENT

RESOLVED: OCM 16-03-2023

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council will:

1. Receive the report
2. Place the Waste Facilities Operational Strategic Plan and all Long-Term Plans of Management on Public Exhibition for no less than 28 days and report back to Council with a report detailing any comments received.
3. Council to consult with the EPA NSW following public exhibition and a report to Council

CARRIED

12 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Nil

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 9.35am.

RESOLVED: OCM 17-03-2023

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council move 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.:

13.1 Jetpatcher Machine - Award of Tender

Item 13.1 is confidential under the Local Government Act 1993 Section 10A(2) - (c) 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.

CARRIED

RESOLVED: OCM 18-03-2023

Mover: Administrator Bob Stewart

That Council moves out of Confidential and back into Open Chambers at 9.42am.

CARRIED

The General Manager reviewed the resolutions of the confidential matters and reported the following for the listed reports:

13.1 JETPATCHER MACHINE - AWARD OF TENDER

RESOLUTION:

That Council will:

1. Receive the report
2. Resolve to award tender VP347790, Jetpatcher Road Maintenance Machine, to Ausroad Manufacturing Pty Ltd for the sum of six hundred and eighty four thousand and four hundred and eighty eight dollars (\$684,488.00) GST exclusive
3. Allocate \$380,732 in the draft capital Budget 2023/24 for the remaining payment

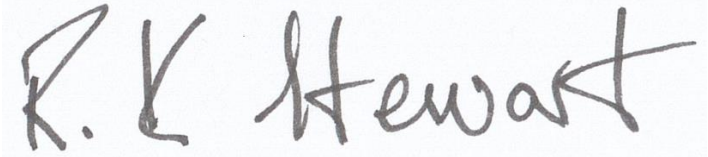
14 RESOLUTION TRACKER

Nil

15 MEETING CLOSE

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed at **9.50am**

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting of the Central Darling Shire Council held on Wednesday, 19 April 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. K. Hewart". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'H' and a long tail stroke.

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ADMINISTRATOR