

# CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE COUNCIL

## BOUNDARIES

Shires of Bourke, Cobar, Carrathool, Balranald, Wentworth and Unincorporated Area.

## MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

### A WARD - WILCANNIA

Cr Peter Sullivan  
Cr Paul Brown  
Cr Barbara MacMillian  
Cr Anthony Pease

### B WARD - IVANHOE

Cr Ray Longfellow (Mayor)  
Cr Graham Wellings (Deputy Mayor)  
Cr Clive Linnett  
Cr Robert Vagg

### C WARD - MENINDEE

Cr Mick Arandt  
Cr Rick Doyle  
Cr Moya Reid  
Cr Suzie Fisher

## COUNCIL MEETINGS

Held on the third Tuesday of each month  
Council Chambers, 21 Reid St, Wilcannia  
(Varied on occasions)  
Meetings commence at: 9.00am

## COUNCIL OFFICES & CHAMBERS

### 21 Reid Street Wilcannia 2836

Telephone (08) 8083 8900  
Facsimile (08) 8091 5994  
Email [council@centraldarling.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@centraldarling.nsw.gov.au)  
Website [www.centraldarling.nsw.gov.au](http://www.centraldarling.nsw.gov.au)  
Office Hours 9.00am to 5.00pm daily

### Engineering Services

Office and Works Depot – Myer St. (Barrier Hwy)  
Telephone (08) 8091 5927  
Facsimile (08) 8091 5175  
Email [engineer@centraldarling.nsw.gov.au](mailto:engineer@centraldarling.nsw.gov.au)

## BUSHFIRE CONTACT NUMBERS

Wilcannia	08 8091 5930
Darnick	02 6995 3901
Menindee Town	08 8091 4359
Menindee Rural	08 8091 4475
Ivanhoe	02 6995 1315
White Cliffs	08 8091 6626

## SENIOR OFFICERS

General Manager	Bill O'Brien
Director Corporate Services	Tim Hazell
Director Engineering Services	Russell Bow/ Greg Stevens
Manager Environmental Services	Leeanne Ryan
Manager Community and Economic Development	Kym Fuller

## ANCILLARY STAFF

For information on the following departments please contact the relevant personnel.

### CORPORATE SERVICES

Accountant	Jeff Forster
Accounts Clerk	Daniel Thornycroft
Debtors Clerk	Nicole Sanderson
Payroll Clerk	Vera Pearson
Rates Clerk	Margaret Sanderson
Information Technology Support	Simon Brown/ Ben Hanington
Manager Banking	Kylie Smith
Senior Administration Officer	Jade Lukas/ Mel Scott
Admin Officer – Customer Service	Sissy Thompson

### Community and Economic Development

RTC Coordinator- Wilcannia	Mardi-Anne Rogers
RTC Coordinator- Menindee	Margot Muscat
Multi-service outlet- Ivanhoe	Adrienne Whitchurch

### ENGINEERING

Works Engineer	Robert Stewart/ Kane Kreeck
Contract Administration Engineer	Mahmud Kaiser
Administration Officer	Kristy Karkoe/ Joyanne Williams

Wilcannia Overseer

Geoff Sutton

Town Gangers

Ivanhoe  
Menindee  
White Cliffs  
Wilcannia

Stephen Hill  
Trevor Jones  
Rod Dillon  
Harold Kennedy/  
Jarid Cattermole

### ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Mandatory Inspections Officer	Mick Williams
Secretarial Support	Adelaide Middleton
Environmental Health Officer	Fran Scott
Animal Control Officer	Larry Bearman

## ROAD CLOSURES

For up to date recorded information on road closures throughout the Shire area, phone 08 8091 5155 - 24 hours.

Road Closures for roads outside the Shire may be obtained by phoning the RTA on 08 8087 0660 or the relevant adjoining Shires.

Council is wasting valuable resources repairing damage done by vehicles using closed or wet roads. Police have been asked to prosecute offenders, who may be liable to a penalty of \$1000 and the cost of repairs.

Some property owners assist Council by using their own equipment to carry out emergency repairs on Council roads, often without advising Council. You should always seek prior approval for this work.

# ELECTED MEMBERS OF CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE COUNCIL



Cr Moya Reid



Cr Ray Longfellow



Cr Suzie Fisher



Cr Clive Linnett



Cr Paul Brown



Cr Mick Arandt



Cr Anthony Pease



Cr Peter Sullivan



Cr Robert Vagg



Cr Graham Wellings



Cr Rick Doyle



Cr Barbara MacMillan

# SENIOR OFFICERS OF CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE COUNCIL



General Manager  
Bill O'Brien



Director of Corporate Services  
Tim Hazell



Director of Engineering Services  
Russell Bow



Director of Engineering Services  
Greg Stephens



Manager Environmental Services  
Leeanne Ryan



Manager Community and Economic  
Development  
Kym Fuller

## MAYOR'S REPORT

Council continued to pursue its Principal Activities and introduced a number of new programs and services to the benefit of residents across the Shire. Despite continued challenges, Council made achievements in delivering a range of new and improved projects and services to its community residents.

Council continued to maintain its annual Management Plan and 5 year Strategic Plan, to address the many disadvantages and ensure a fair spread of available resources. With ongoing efforts of Council to continually improve its financial position and prepare a long term strategic plan, the result has been one of great achievement with Council once again maintaining a balanced budget. Council is currently in a sound financial position as the attached audited Annual Financial Statements for 2006 - 2007 indicate. However, Council is not complacent in these very challenging and changing times.

The ongoing challenge of the widespread drought continues to present itself as a major impact to our communities, landholders and residents at large. Council has shown that it is both prepared and willing to assist where ever practicable and possible, arise to challenges and improve current situations at hand. This demonstrates Council's lead of how to provide high standard services to remote communities.

Council has reviewed and updated the Council Social plan and a new one has been successfully adopted. The main objective to determine possible approaches to resolve the needs and issues identified in the community.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Ivanhoe Correctional Services for their generosity in providing the Council with ten (10) ATCO transportable buildings, which have being utilised

throughout the shire. The transportable building have whilst been valuable resource to the Shire and have being utilised in providing staff with accommodation and also being used as a method of attracting trades people to the Shire.

I would also like to welcome the service of Mr Warlpa Thompson of the Fred Hollows Foundation to the Shire. Located at the Wilcannia Rural Transaction Centre, Mr Thompson has been appointed by the Foundation to manage their affairs locally being primarily the Indigenous Health Program.

The National Parks & Wildlife Service is also leasing space within the Wilcannia Rural Transaction Centre. The Service will locate three Discovery Guides within the Centre in order to deliver the Discovery Program involving Mutawintji, Kinchega, and Paroo-Darling National Parks. The Guides will also conduct guided tours of the Wilcannia Township and other areas of interest including the Darling River.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the commitment of my fellow Councillors and in particular the efforts of retiring Councillor Suzie Fisher from Menindee (C Ward). Cr Fisher has made a considerable commitment to the Council over an extended period which, has been most appreciated.

Finally I would like to thank the General Manager and staff of Central Darling Shire Council for the effort they have put into their work which, continues to benefit the Shire and its people.

Cr. Ray Longfellow

MAYOR

## GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

The 2006-2007 financial year was one of unsolidation for the Central Darling Shire Council. The year built on the stability of previous years. Stability in employment and stability in policy and procedures. Council continues to meet its statutory obligations which culminated in the delivery of the Annual Financial Report. While we as a Council do continue to face many challenges, it is pleasing to note that our finances are in order.

The Drought continues to place pressure on so many within our communities, a situation that has continued for some time. We can only hope and pray that this situation is turned around as soon as possible. It is so important to remember that even with significant rainfall it will still take considerable time and effort for many to recover. Our support, as always, will continue to be offered in whatever way we can help.

Significant work has commenced on the vexed question of waste management with the Menindee Waste service the first to receive attention. While the community is accepting of the changes a number of lessons in public consultation have been learned. I would take this opportunity to thank those involved with these changes and thank the community for its response.

Finally I would like to thank each of the Councillors for their assistance throughout the year. Public service is often a very thankless task, undertaken in ones time and at ones own expense. I would also thank the Management Team for their support and finally express my gratitude to each and every Shire worker for their tireless efforts. Well done and Thank you.

Tim Hazell

Acting General Manager.

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**Financial Statements** Section 428 (2) (a)

Copies of the audit report, statement of financial performance and statement of financial position for the 2006/2007 financial years are attached as Annexure 'B'.

Further details can be obtained by contacting Council's office.

**Performance of Principal Activities** Section 428 (2) (b)

A complete report on achievements of the performance targets set out in Council's 2006/2007 Management Plan is set out in Annexure "A"

**Corporate Objectives**

**Council has the following Mission Statement as the focus for its principal activities:**

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

## **State Of The Environment** Section 428 (2) (c)

Central Darling Shire Council is the largest Council area in NSW serving a population of 1937 (as per the ABS), and covering an area of some 51,395 square kilometres. It is located in the far west of NSW where a dry climate is predominant. Central Darling Shire Council plays host to four towns and three rural locations. Wilcannia, Menindee, Ivanhoe and White Cliffs. The Rural Locations are Tilpa, Darnick and Mossgiel. The topography of the Central Darling Shire Council is quite variable due to the large area the Council covers.

### (i) Land

Local Land Care and environmental groups associated within the Central Darling Shire Council are playing a major role in environmental awareness by involving the community when undertaking tree planting and the eradication of woody weeds and exotic plants. The Council is continuing the an annual tree planting programme.

### (ii) Air

Central Darling Shire Council has no apparent air pollution problems apart from seasonal bush fires and illegal burning activities.

### (iii) Water

Department of Natural Resources monitor water quality flowing through the Darling River System, with assistance from the Central Darling Shire Council. The collection of water samples enables blue green algae growth to be monitored with sampling generally occurring over the warmer months.

The past 12-month period has seen blue green algae bloom in summer months, although reported levels were not as serious as have been in previous year.

### (iv) Biodiversity

The National Parks and Wildlife Service has recovery plans operating in the Central Darling Shire Council area, some of these include:

## **Wildlife Refuges:**

Declared over privately owned rural land with the consent of the owner for the purpose of preserving, conserving, propagating and studying wildlife; conserving and studying natural environments; and simulating natural environments.

## **Game Reserves:**

Declared over private or Crown land and provide for game conservation in its broadest sense, including the hunting of game for recreation.

These refuges and reserves along with National Parks and Nature Reserves play a major role in the preservation of threatened species

### (v) Waste

Council is currently in the process of reviewing waste management throughout the Shire. Council has recently joined the Netwaste group of Shires with a vision to gradually commence reducing waste streams presently going to landfill. Minimal recycling is undertaken throughout the Shire and the bulk of the waste is disposed of through use of landfills. In early 2006 Council reviewed it's waste management practices at Menindee, and implemented changes through its 2006/2007 Management Plan. These changes included extending the garbage pickup to include properties located in the Menindee Environs, restricting access to the waste depot to 3 hours per day, 5 days per week, and introducing gate fees relating to amount and type of waste being disposed of. Similar changes have also now been introduced to the Wilcannia Waste Depot.

### (vi) Noise

Central Darling Shire Council has no significant noise pollution problems. Some noise complaints have been registered at Menindee, associated with gas guns to scare birds in the Menindee Environs in association with horticultural activities

### (vii) Aboriginal Heritage

Two properties within the Central Darling Shire Council area have been declared Protected Archaeological Areas, to facilitate the protection of important Aboriginal sites. In total there are 1564 aboriginal site features found within the Central Darling Shire area.

### (viii) Non-Aboriginal Heritage

There are significant historical sites within the Central Darling Shire Council; many of these are listed with the New South Wales National Trust. Council's Local Environmental Plan 2004 lists many of these sites. Owners of heritage items listed in the LEP will not be able to alter or demolish these buildings without Council giving consideration to the heritage value of the building prior to making a determination.

Report On The Condition Of Public Buildings, Infrastructure, and Works Section 428 (2) (d)

Central Darling Shire Council

Special Schedule 7  
Condition of Public Works  
as at 30th June 2007

Asset Class	Asset Category	Depreciation Rate (%)	Depreciation Expense	Cost	Valuation	Accumulated Depreciation	Carrying Value	Asset Condition (see Notes attached)	Estimated Cost to bring to a Satisfactory Standard	Estimated Annual Maintenance Expense	Program Maintenance Works for current year
			'000	'000	'000	'000	'000		'000	'000	'000
	<i>References</i>	<i>Note 9</i>	<i>Note 4</i>			<i>Note 9</i>			<i>Local Govt. Act 1993, Section 428 (2d)</i>		
Public Buildings	Council Offices	1	101	2,238	-	1,106	1,132	4	176	87	110
	Works Depot	5	332	3,817	-	2,178	1,639	3,4	130	68	105
	Halls	2	42	2,334	-	1,559	775	3,4	21	16	17
	Houses	2	38	1,306	-	1,012	294	4,5,6	827	122	143
	Museum	0	-	-	-	-	-				
	Library	0	-	-	-	-	-				
	Childcare Centres	0	8	472	-	286	186	4	74	-	-
	Art Galley	0	-	-	-	-	-				
	Amenities/Toilets	5	69	2,616	-	1,760	856	3,4	14	44	46
	<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>590</b>	<b>12,783</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,901</b>	<b>4,882</b>		<b>1,242</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>421</b>
Public Roads	Sealed Roads	4	371	20,910	-	5,428	15,482	3,4,5	3,479	2,826	2,829
	Unsealed Roads	5	179	56,737	-	11,360	45,377	3,4	3,150	1,100	1,094
	Sealed Roads Structure	0	-	-	-	-	-	2	42	42	42
	Bridges	1	45	3,202	-	2,033	1,169	2,7	662	9	9
	Footpaths	1	11	1,097	-	658	439	5,6,7	175	4	15
	Aerodromes	1	25	1,201	-	308	893	2 to 5	65	32	54
	Road Furniture	0	-	15	-	3	12	3,4,5	-	-	-
	<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>631</b>	<b>83,162</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>19,790</b>	<b>63,372</b>		<b>7,573</b>	<b>4,013</b>	<b>4,043</b>

This Schedule is to be read in conjunction with the explanatory notes following.

**Central Darling Shire Council**

**Special Schedule 7 - Condition of Public Works (Con'd)  
as at 30th June 2007**

Asset Class	Asset Category	Depreciation Rate (%)	Depreciation Expense	Cost	Valuation	Accumulated Depreciation	Carrying Value	Asset Condition (see Notes attached)	Estimated Cost to bring to a Satisfactory Standard	Estimated Annual Maintenance Expense	Program Maintenance Works for current year
			'000	'000	'000	'000	'000		'000	'000	'000
	<i>References</i>	<i>Note 9</i>	<i>Note 4</i>		<i>Note 9</i>			<i>Local Govt. Act 1993, Section 428 (2d)</i>			
Water	Treatment Plants	5	14	1,797	-	1,632	165	3	159	97	129
	Water Connections	0	-	7	-	5	2	3,4	-	-	-
	Bores	3	24	806	-	43	763	1	-	-	-
	Reservoirs	1	27	2,671	-	614	2,057	3	1	18	1
	Dams	1	26	2,461	-	613	1,848	3	4	97	3
	Hydrants	1	-	1	-	-	1	4	-	-	-
	Pipelines	1	101	6,400	-	3,834	2,566	3 to 6	53	22	23
	Pump Stations	4	22	599	-	515	84	3	43	39	35
	<b>Subtotal</b>		214	14,742	-	7,256	7,486		260	273	191
Sewerage	Pump Stations	4	-	19	-	3	16	6	348	67	87
	Pipelines	1	27	2,036	-	573	1,463	3 to 6	10	11	9
	Treatment Works	4	2	158	-	49	109	3	-	-	-
		<b>Subtotal</b>		29	2,213	-	625	1,588		358	78
Drainage Works	Retarding Basins	0	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-
	Outfalls	0	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-
	Conduits	1	4	319	-	173	146	4	-	-	-
	Inlet & Junction Pits	1	1	108	-	63	45	4	-	-	-
	Head Walls	1	-	23	-	13	10	4	-	-	-
	Outfall Structures	1	-	25	-	15	10	4	1	1	1
	<b>Subtotal</b>		5	475	-	264	211		1	1	1
<b>Total Classes - All Assets</b>			1,469	113,375	-	35,836	77,539		9,434	4,702	4,752

*This Schedule is to be read in conjunction with the explanatory notes following.*

**Legal Proceedings** Section 428 (2) (e)

A total of 21,162 was expended on legal expenses in the 2006/2007 financial year.

**Councillors’ Fees And Expenses** Section 428 (2) (f)

The following fees and allowances were paid during the year 2006/2007:

Position	\$
Mayoral and Cr fees	94,416

Councillor facilities	\$
Overseas travel	0
Office equipment	0
Telephone	0
Conferences & Seminars/ Skill development	20,386
Interstate Travel	N/A
Expenses of partner of Cr	N/A
Care for child or immedicate family	N/A
Total	20,386

Mayoral and Councillors Fees are paid in accordance with those scales set by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal.

**Council Policy**

Staff travel and sustenance allowances are paid in accordance with the Local Government (State) Award while Councillor travel and other expenses were paid in accordance with the following Council policy:

- 1.) All Travel on behalf of Council or Council Committees must be as a result of Council resolution. Reimbursements will be made for reasonable out of pocket expenses on the production of receipts for the expenditure concerned. Reasonable out of pocket expenses will be determined by the General Manager. Annual Shires Conference – Mayor or

nominated delegate, General Manager and up to two observers and their spouse/partners be authorised to attend. Divisional Meeting Shires Association and Executive – Mayor and General Manager be authorised to attend.

- 2.) Travel, accommodation and meal expenses whilst away on Council business shall follow the following guidelines:

- a. Travel is to be by car, rail or by air depending on the circumstances and subject to the approval of the Mayor for Councillors and the General Manager for staff.
- b. Accommodation of an appropriate standard is to be approved by the Mayor or General Manager.
- c. Meal expenses shall be reimbursed on the production of receipts or a statutory declaration where receipts are unable to be produced or have been lost. Meal expenses are to be subject to the “reasonable” test applied in (1) above.

- 3.) Travel at night:

That it be Council’s policy that Councillors and Staff generally avoid travelling long distances in this area at night to prevent accidental damage to vehicles and injury occasioned to animals on the road. In this circumstance reasonable accommodation and meal expenses will be met by Council as determined by the Mayor or General Manager on production of receipts.

- 4.) Travel costs to Council approved meetings will be calculated using the actual cost of the fare (ie, plane or rail) or otherwise calculated using the prescribed rate per km under the State Award.

Please note it is illegal to claim a travel allowance where you are not the person meeting the cost of operating the vehicle during the journey.

- 5.) In cases of emergency travel where it is not possible to gain Council approval before travel is required, approval may be sought from the General Manager or the Mayor.
- 6.) Where a Councillor is travelling to a Council Meeting from a location outside the Shire boundaries, the travel claim will be restricted to the equivalent of travel allowance calculated on the distance travelled from the Shire boundary to the Meeting and return along the shortest possible route (weather permitting). In other cases, a Councillor will be entitled to the travel allowance calculated on the distance travelled from the Councillor's principle place of residence to the Council Meeting and return.

#### Senior Staff Section 428 (2) (g)

Council has formally resolved that three positions would be classified as senior officers and these include the General Manager, Director Corporate Services and the Director Engineering Services.

Total value of remuneration packages paid to each senior officer are as follows:

Postion	\$
<b>General Manager</b>	
Gross	106,920
Salualy Sacrifice	8,309
Superannuation	10,365
Fringe benefits	10,094
Electricity, gas & Housing	5710
Motor Vehicle	21,000.00
<b>Director of Corporate Services</b>	
Gross	111,100
Superannuation	10,043

Fringe benefits	11,290
Electricity, gas & Housing	8080
Moter Vehicle	21,000
<b>Director of Engineering Services</b>	
Gross	51,662
Superannuation	4,455
Fringe benefits	2,973
Electricity, gas & Housing	3,521
Housing	2,250
<b>Total</b>	<b>396,973</b>

#### Major Contracts Awarded Section 428 (2) (h)

The Council, apart from its own labour, used plant hire contractors for the implementation of all road works.

Council did not award any contracts in excess of \$150,000 during the year.

#### Bush Fire Hazard Reduction Activities

##### Section 428 (2) (i)

Central Darling Shire Council is divided into six bushfire control zones being Wilcannia, Ivanhoe, Menindee, Menindee Town and Environs, White Cliffs, Mossgiel and Darnick

Approximately 17 threatened flora species occur in the Central Darling Shire. When necessary a mosaic of hazard reduction burning in these areas will assist to maintain Biodivesity in the long term; by allowing fire suppression efforts that minimise the area burnt by devastating uncontrolled high intensity wildfire. Vegetation communities that should not be burnt are chenopod low woodland and Mitchell grass tussock grasslands

The Central Darling Shire Council area has a large number of fauna species. In

considering the impact of wildfire and prescribed burning it is important to recognise that these areas experience fire very infrequently and only following several years of high rain and above average growth.

### **Fire Management Plan**

Central Darling Shire Council has a Fire Management Plan that is reviewed biannually.

The aims of the Fire Management Plan are:

the protection of: life and property, community assets and values and natural and cultural heritage; and

to decrease the severity and intensity of wildfires

A copy of this plan is available from Council's Engineering Department.

Council has also received an endorsed plan from the NSW Rural Fire Service outlining Bushfire Prone Land within Central Darling. The plan can be viewed at Council's Environmental Services Department.

### **Multicultural Services Section 428 (2) (j)**

Council is required to report on programs undertaken during the year to promote services and access to services for people with diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

Council believes that there is little need for these services within Central Darling Shire as there are no established ethnic groups within the Shire.

Council does provide a wide range of services and participates in community activities for and with the Aboriginal communities throughout the Shire.

Involvements include:

MaariMa Committee delegate in Wilcannia;

Jobskills programs throughout the Shire;

Contract works and resources to CDEP groups;

Provision of administrative services to Wilcannia Women's and Children's Safe House;

Delegate to Wilcannia Working Party.

### **Private Works Section 428 (2) (k)**

Section 67(3) of the Local Government Act, 1993, requires that Council report on any works it carried out on private land and any associated costs to Council for such works.

No resolutions were made under Section 67 (3) and no works carried out under subsection 67 (2) (b).

### **Council Donations And Other Subsidy**

#### **Payments Section 428 (2) (l)**

In the reporting period the following donations and subsidies were paid:

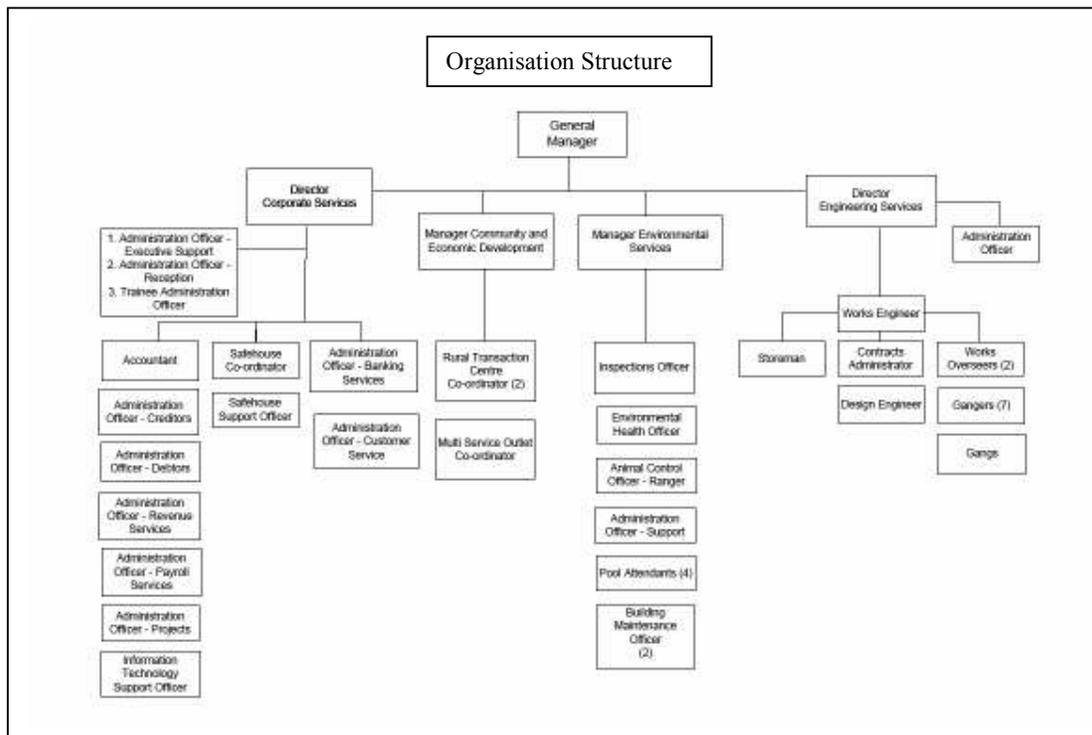
<b>Recipient</b>	<b>\$</b>
White cliffs Gymkhana Club Inc.	1 000
Momba Camp Draft Club	1 000
Country Women's Association	1 160
White Cliffs Hall Committee	1 000
White Cliffs Viillage Fire Brigade (1)	500
White Cliffs Opal Fields Tourist Assoc.	500
Wilcannia News	300
Under 12's Rugby League	350
West Darling Arts Inc.	835
Wilcannia Home Care	750
Desert Storming Posties	750
Tim Hazell- Variety Club	1 000
Kilfera Field Day	1 000
Menindee Homes for the Aged	32 000
Other/Donations	10 855
<b>Total</b>	<b>53 000</b>

**Human Resource Activities** Section 428 (2)  
(m)

With the implementation of the Local Government Act, 1993 Council determined that the structure of the organization would be based on four distinct departments being the Corporate Services area, Engineering Services area, Environmental Services area and the Community and Economic Development area. Three positions are regarded as being a senior officer and these include the General Manager, Director Corporate Services and Director Engineering Services. The organization structure is

reviewed on an annual basis in conjunction with the determination of the Annual Management Plan.

Council operates under the Local Government (State) Award which provides for the terms and conditions of employment for each staff member. Under this award Council is required to implement a salary system that provides for performance based measurement to move through the tiered salary system. These requirements are in place and working effectively.



## **Equal Employment Opportunity**

### **Management** Section 428 (2) (n)

Council's Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan was extensively reviewed towards the end of 2006-2007. While a number of the actions contained within this Plan have been reviewed most require ongoing management to ensure that they remain relevant. The Central Darling Shire Council still maintains a responsibility to each member of the community to ensure that an employment environment is maintained free of any form of discrimination and reflective of the diversity of the community the Council serves.

The Council is committed to the principles of equal employment opportunities and recognizes it's legal and moral obligations as required by legislation.

### **Category 1 Business activities** Section 428 (2) (r)

There were no Category 1 Business carried out during 2006-2007

### **Competitive Neutrality pricing** Section cl 217 (1) (d)(vi)

The Council's implementation of the competitive neutrality pricing principles is continuing.

Not applicable to category 1 Business activities as non were undertaken during 2006-2007

### **Companies In Which Council Has A Controlling Interest** Section 428 (2) (p)

There were no companies that Council held a controlling interest in during 2006-2007.

### **Partnerships, Co-Operatives Or Other Joint Ventures To Which Council Was A Party** Section 428 (2) (q)

Council was not involved in any partnerships, co-operatives or other joint public-private partnerships during 2006-2007. Council is however an active member of the Barwon Darling Alliance which seeks to further the objectives of the area.

### **Category 2 Business Activities** cl 217 (1) (d) (iii)

Category 2 business activities of the Council are: Water Services for Wilcannia, Ivanhoe and White Cliffs, Sewerage for Wilcannia.

### **Statement regarding establishment of complaints handing** cl 217 (1)(d)(vii)

Council did not receive any complaints regarding the competitive neutrality of Council's operation. Should any such complaint be received in the future it will be treated as required.

### **Stormwater Management services** cl 217 (1) (e)

Council does not provide a stormwater management service.

### **Planning Agreements** s 93G (5)

Council did not undertake any planning agreements during 2006-2007.

### **Rates & Charges Written off** cl 132

Clause 12 of the Rates and Charges Regulation made under the Local Government Act specifies that Council's annual report must include the amount of rates and charges written off during the year.

	\$
Rates and Charges	77 000
Pensioner Concessions	16 000
Total	93 000

The amount written off for pensioner concessions is equivalent to forty five percent of the total concession given, with the State Government funding the remaining fifty five percent. The amounts abandoned under Rates and Charges predominately relate to charges being written off as previously formally resolved by Council.

### **Companion Animals Act and Regulation** Section cl 217 (1)(f)

A number of activities have been undertaken to manage animal control numbers throughout the Shire during the reporting period. The most successful control measure is the surrendering of dogs to Council by the owner, followed by trapping and hand catching.

No serious dog attacks occurred during the reporting period. A number of animals were accepted by the Broken Hill RSPCA for re-homing as opposed to euthanasia. In previous years, de-sexing programs have been held jointly between Central Darling Shire Council, NSW Health and the RSPCA with success, however this program has not been undertaken during the reporting period due to the lack of funding. It is expected this program will be revitalized in future years. At present Council has no designated off-lease areas.

#### **Children's Services** s428(2) (r) cl217 (1) (c)

Council maintained children's playgrounds in many parks throughout its area, as well as several swimming pools.

Library services and sporting facilities continued to be provided while a survey of existing sporting and recreational facilities is planned to help determine their adequacy.

The impact of crime prevention strategies on children was also under review.

#### **Access & Equity**

The Social Plan has been carefully reviewed and updated. A new social plan has been successfully adopted.

#### **Freedom of information Act 1989 and Regulation** s 68 cl10

In accordance with section 33(3) of the Privacy and Personal Information and Protection Act, 1998 Council must include in its annual report a statement of the action taken in complying with the requirements of the Act. Council has adopted the Model Privacy Management Plan and its Public Officer is available for contact on privacy matters. Statement of action taken by council in complying with the requirement of the PPIP Act. There has been no review made under Part 5 of the Privacy and Personal Information Act 1998.

<b>2006-2007</b>	<b>Cats</b>	<b>Dogs</b>	<b>Total</b>
Seized	19	152	171
Surrendered by owners	17	31	48
Transferred to Council's Facility	19	149	168
Dumped	0	0	0
Released to Owners	0	3	3
Euthanased	36	174	210
Sold	0	0	0
Released to Organisation for Rehoming	0	0	0
Died at Council's Facility	0	0	0
Stolen from Council's Facility	0	0	2
Escaped from Council's Facility	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>			<b>602</b>

#### **Privacy & Personal Information**

In Accordance with Section 33(3) of the Privacy and Personal Information & Protection Act 1998, Council must include in its annual report a statement of the action taken in complying with the requirements of the Act.

Council has adopted the Model Privacy Management Plan and its Public Officer is available for contact on privacy matters. Council will review the Plan as more experience is gained from its implementation.

#### **FOI Report**

The Freedom of Information Act requires council to publish in its Annual Report statistical details of Freedom of Information requests for the reporting period.

For the reporting period only one Freedom of Information request was received and the request was met.

## Freedom Of Information Statement – Summary Of Affairs

### **Policy Documents**

Pursuant to the FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT, 1989, the CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE COUNCIL holds the following documents to be inspected by the general public free of charge:

- Agendas for Council and Committee meetings (except for those meetings closed to the public)
- Annual Financial Statements
- Annual Report
- Auditor's Report
- Australia Day Awards
- Award Restructuring
- Boundary Fencing
- Building Application – Notification to Adjoining Owners
- Building Approvals
- Child Protection Policy
- Closed Roads – Travel
- Code of Conduct
- Code of Meeting Practice
- Condolences
- Corporate Credit Cards
- Council Property Rental
- Debt Recovery
- Delegations of Authority
- Disciplinary Procedures
- Disposal of Asbestos Waste
- Dog Control – Caravan Park
- Dogs and Cats Permitted – Number
- Development Applications
- Economic Hardship
- EEO Management Plan
- Election of Both The Mayor And Deputy Mayor
- Electronic Mail Policy
- Emergency Funds
- Employment - Secondary
- Equal Employment Opportunity Program
- Expenses – Councillors
- Expenses - Staff
- Financial Assistance
- Fire Tankers and Tanker Trainers – Use of
- Gates, Grids and Stock Races on Public Roads
- Gifts, Donations – Receipt of
- Graffiti Policy and Action Plan
- Grievance and Dispute Procedures – Staff
- Insurance Excess for Committees of Management
- Internal Reporting
- Interview Expenses
- Investment Policy
- Investments Register
- Land Register
- Loans Register
- Local Approvals Policy
- Management of Barwon-Darling River System
- Management Plan
- Minutes of Council and Committee meetings (except confidential minutes)
- Motor Vehicles - Use of
- Motor Vehicles - Prevention of Injury
- Motor Vehicles – Private Use of
- Natural Disasters – Establishment of an Emergency Fund
- Occupational Rehabilitation
- OHS Code
- Outdoor Settings – Community Land
- Outdoor Staff – Procedures for Employment
- Pecuniary Interest Returns of Councillors and Designated Persons
- Pool Management Guidelines (Wilcannia)
- Privacy Policy
- Protected Disclosures – Internal Reporting Policy
- Purchase Preferences
- Recycling Policy
- References for Staff
- Removal Expenses
- Rental Council Properties
- Risk Management
- Rural Property Water Connections
- Section 355 Committees of Council – Rules Governing
- Senior Staff Selection
- Sewerage Policy
- Smoking in the Work Place
- Special Leave
- Staff Uniforms
- State Emergency Vehicles
- State Emergency Services (SES) Vehicles – Registration and Insurance
- State of the Environment Report
- Telephone Expenses
- Trucks Entering Towns – Dropping of Dust
- Unpaid Rates and Charges
- Use of Council Halls
- Use of Council Halls – Wilcannia
- Use of Council Plant for Emergency Purposes – Authority to Permit
- Use of Council Plant – General
- Vehicle Replacement Policy
- Water Consumption – Shire Properties

All enquiries and applications under the Freedom of Information Act, 1989, should be directed to:

The Public Officer,  
Central Darling Shire Council,  
PO Box 165  
WILCANNIA NSW 2836

Tel: (08) 8083 8900  
Fax: (08) 8091 5994  
Email: [council@centraldarling.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@centraldarling.nsw.gov.au)  
Website: [www.centraldarling.nsw.gov.au](http://www.centraldarling.nsw.gov.au)

Council's office hours are Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 5.00pm.

**PRIVACY AND PERSONAL INFORMATION PROTECTION ACT  
1998 (PIIP)**

Appropriate policies have been developed and implemented to ensure Council complies with the PIIP Act. Extensive staff training has also been undertaken to ensure all staff are aware of the provisions of this Act.

To date no review under Part 5 has been deemed necessary.

**THE PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES AND THEIR GOALS**

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**PA1 CORPORATE SERVICES**

To provide effective support services for all of Council's operations.

**PA2 PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY**

To have a community that is confident that personal and property safety is assured.

**PA3 HEALTH**

To maintain standards of safety, public conveniences and community health.

**PA4 COMMUNITY SERVICES AND EDUCATION**

To foster the development of the Shire through the provision of community services and education.

**PA5 HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AMENITIES**

To have an economically and well-planned community environment by providing staff housing and community amenities that meet the needs of the Shire.

**PA6 WATER SUPPLY**

To ensure a regular, cost effective and quality water supply within the designated water districts of the Council.

**PA7 SEWERAGE SERVICES**

To maintain high standards of sewerage collection and treatment in designated locations in the Shire.

**PA8 RECREATION AND CULTURE**

To maintain the quality and quantity of recreational and cultural facilities at a level that meets public expectations and Council resources available.

**PA9 BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

To encourage development in line with relevant codes, policies and standards, and to plan for the future development of the Shire.

**PA10 TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION**

To provide reliable transport and communication links to the major communities within the Council area.

**PA11 TOURISM AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

To enhance economic development and the image of the Shire by actively engaging in tourism, marketing activities and economic development

**PA12 STAFF**

To have appropriately skilled, motivated and rewarded staff, who feel that they are valued members of the Council's staff and the community.

**PA13 NATURAL RESOURCES and ENVIRONMENT**

To observe and monitor relevant environmental issues throughout the Shire.

The Principal Activities are presented in the following order: -

**Principal Activity**

**1.1 Goal or Objective** **Responsibility:**

1.1.1 Strategy or Outcome

*Performance Measure*

The officer responsible is indicated in the right hand column as follows:

- GM – General Manager
- DCS – Director of Corporate Services
- DES – Director of Engineering Services
- MES – Manager of Environmental Services
- MCED – Manager of Community and Economic Development

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**PA 1 CORPORATE SERVICES - To provide effective and economic administration support services for all of Council's operations.**

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**1.1 To provide efficient, effective and economic administrative support to Councillors and the organisation.** **Responsibility: DCS/G  
M**

1.1.1 Provide support for Council Meetings

*Agendas are distributed in a timely and appropriate manner* Achieved

*Minutes are available within 7 working days of each meeting* Achieved

*All Council resolutions are acted upon in a timely manner* Achieved

**1.2 To provide sound financial management to Council.** **Responsibility: GM/  
DCS**

1.2.1 Ensure that Council adopts an Annual Management Plan

*Plan complies with all legislative requirements* Achieved

*Quarterly reviews are provided to Council for adoption* Q4 – Presented

1.2.2 Ensure that Council adopts the completed Annual Financial Report

*Report completed in accordance with legislative provisions* Achieved

*Unqualified external audit report is received* Achieved

1.2.3 Ensure that Council adopts the completed Annual Report

	<i>Report completed in accordance with legislative provisions</i>	Achieved
<b>1.3</b>	<b>To provide the Westpac In-Store Agency.</b>	<b>Responsibility: DCS</b>
1.3.1	Ensure that the In-Store Agency is maintained in accordance with the formal agreement	
	<i>Agency to retain accreditation as measured by the Model Operation Procedures each quarter</i>	Achieved
<b>1.4</b>	<b>To provide agency arrangements for the RTA and Country Link services.</b>	<b>Responsibility: DCS</b>
1.4.1	Ensure that the in-house agency is maintained	
	<i>Contract conditions are adhered to</i>	Achieved
	<i>Service continues to be supplied to the Wilcannia community</i>	Achieved
<b>1.5</b>	<b>To provide support to Council's section 355 Committees.</b>	<b>Responsibility: DCS/M CED</b>
1.5.1	Ensure that all S355 Committees receive administrative support as required.	
	<i>Each Committee to submit regular minutes of meetings, in electronic form where possible</i>	Scheduled for 2007/2008
	<i>Provide ongoing support and advice as required</i>	Achieved
<b>1.6</b>	<b>To provide support to the Barwon Darling Alliance.</b>	<b>Responsibility: GM /DCS</b>
1.6.1	Provide ongoing support to the Alliance	
	<i>Meetings attended and initiatives supported</i>	Achieved
1.6.2	Further develop plans for the integration of banking facilities within each community	
	<i>Plans presented to Council for formal adoption</i>	Scheduled for 2007/2008
<b>1.7</b>	<b>Continued Liaison with adjoining Councils to investigate and encourage ongoing development.</b>	<b>Responsibility: GM</b>
1.7.1	Continued liaison with adjoining Councils	
	<i>Investigate the Roads to Recovery Program for funding priorities</i>	Ongoing
	<i>Support ongoing meetings with adjoining Councils</i>	Ongoing

**PA 2 PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY - To have a community that is confident that personal and property safety is assured.**

<b>2.1</b>	<b>To keep companion animals under effective control.</b>	<b>Responsibility:</b>	<b>MES</b>
	2.1.1 Ensure companion animals are registered and effectively controlled		
	<i>Ongoing program of animal registration</i>		Ongoing
<b>2.2</b>	<b>Support and assist emergency service organisations in the preparation for and delivery of emergency services.</b>	<b>Responsibility:</b>	<b>GM/DES</b>
	2.2.1 Rural Bush Fire Service		
	<i>Support regular meetings of the Fire Liaison Committee</i>		Achieved
	<i>Make provision as per resolution for Section 44 Fire Fighting Fund</i>		Achieved
	2.2.2 Emergency Management		
	<i>Support regular Emergency Management meetings</i>		Achieved
<b>2.3</b>	<b>Liase with the Police Services to develop a co-operative approach to address crime prevention and public safety issues.</b>	<b>Responsibility:</b>	<b>GM</b>
	2.3.1 Police Accountability Community Team (PACT)		
	<i>Support meetings of the PACT</i>		Achieved
	2.3.2 Aboriginal Police Liaison Committee.		
	<i>Support meetings of the Aboriginal Police Liaison Committee</i>		Achieved
	<i>Provide feedback to Council on issues discussed at Aboriginal Police Liaison Committee meetings</i>		Achieved
<b>2.4</b>	<b>Implement a Drug Action Plan</b>	<b>Responsibility:</b>	<b>MCED</b>
	2.4.1 Develop and Implement a Drug Action Plan		
	<i>Develop and Implement a Drug Action Plan, providing support where appropriate</i>		Not achieved

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**PA 3 HEALTH - To maintain standards of safety, public conveniences and community health.**

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**3.1 To maintain high standards of public health in the Shire. Responsibility: MES**

3.1.1 Maintain program of health and food business inspections

*Number of complaints not actioned within twenty-one days of receipt.*

Nil

3.1.2 Provide public education and guidance to food businesses.

*Information and guidance provided as required.*

Achieved, as required

**3.2 Foster waste management strategies aimed at reducing waste and addressing the environmental impact of waste disposal. Responsibility: MES**

3.2.1 Ensure that appropriate waste management strategies are developed for each waste disposal area.

*Overall Strategic Waste Management Plan developed and adopted.*

*Plan implemented to Environmental Protection Authority standards and acceptable levels.*

Operating as planned

**PA 4 COMMUNITY SERVICE AND EDUCATION - To foster the development of the Shire through the provision of community services and education.**

<b>4.1</b>	<b>Actively encourage resident’s involvement and participation in Community Events.</b>	<b>Responsibility: MCED</b>
4.1.1	Ensure Council Community Donations process is maintained.	
	<i>Advertise for Community donations on an annual basis.</i>	Achieved
	<i>Collate community requests for donations.</i>	Achieved
	<i>Submit priority list of community requests for donations to Council.</i>	Achieved
	<i>Ensure agreed donations are remitted as required.</i>	Achieved
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Ensure that the Menindee Community Housing is managed and maintained.</b>	<b>Responsibility: MES</b>
4.2.1	Homes managed and maintained to the necessary standard of the BCA.	
	<i>Maintain contact with Nyampa Aboriginal Housing Corporation.</i>	To be deleted – managed by Council
	<i>Ensure annual financial details as provided.</i>	To be deleted – managed by Council
	<i>Ensure annual maintenance program is developed and maintenance provided.</i>	Achieved
<b>4.3</b>	<b>To support access to community services for all residents within the Shire.</b>	<b>Responsibility: MES</b>
4.3.1	Provide opportunities for fair and equitable access to community facilities for all Shire residents.	
	<i>Ensure that all policies of Council provide for equitable access for all residents.</i>	Not yet commenced
	<i>Policies to be reviewed on an annual basis and amended as appropriate.</i>	Not yet commenced
<b>4.4</b>	<b>Support services where victims can seek respite from domestic violence and gain personal development opportunities.</b>	<b>Responsibility: DCS</b>
4.4.1	Ensure that the Wilcannia Women's and Children's Safehouse is operational.	
	<i>Annual program is developed to Departmental requirements.</i>	Continuing into 2007/2008

	<i>Regular committee meetings with minutes presented to Council for formal resolution.</i>	Committee disbanded
	<i>Ensure annual budget is developed and submitted to Council, with the aim for pre-funding.</i>	Prefunding achieved, budget still required
	<i>Ensure agreement is complied with.</i>	Continuing
<b>4.5</b>	<b>Review Community and Social Plans for the Shire.</b>	<b>Responsibility: MCED</b>
4.5.1	Ensure that Council's Community and Social Plans are relevant and meet the needs of the community.	
	<i>Assist communities to further develop Community and Social Plans for adoption.</i>	Achieved
<b>4.6</b>	<b>To encourage the development of services for the youth of the Shire.</b>	<b>Responsibility: MCED</b>
4.6.1	Support development of youth services throughout the Shire.	
	<i>Support community driven youth development.</i>	Ongoing
<b>4.7</b>	<b>Support community access bus program for Wilcannia, Menindee and Ivanhoe.</b>	<b>Responsibility: MCED</b>
4.7.1	Provide continued support to facilitate the provision of the community bus programs.	
	<i>Ensure service is maintained to agreed levels.</i>	Ongoing
<b>4.8</b>	<b>Provide support and administration to the Rural Transaction Centres and Telecentre Network.</b>	<b>Responsibility: MCED/DCS</b>
4.8.1	Ensure that the RTC's are maintained to community expectations.	
	<i>Provide support to the RTC's and the Committee generally.</i>	Ongoing
4.8.2	Ensure that appropriate support is provided to Telecentre's in other towns.	
	<i>Technical and administrative support provided as required within available resource levels.</i>	Achieved
<b>4.9</b>	<b>Provide support and development to the Rivertowns Community Program.</b>	<b>Responsibility: GM</b>
4.9.1	Liaise with Wilcannia Community Working Party to facilitate the program.	
	<i>Maintain representation on Reference Group to manage the project.</i>	Achieved

**4.10 Provide support for all Community Working Parties in the Shire** **Responsibility: GM**

4.10.1 Ensure continued membership of the Community Working Parties.

*Liaise with the Chairman of each Community Working Party in the Shire.* Achieved

*Support initiatives of each Community Working Party in the Shire.* Achieved

*Provide reports of Council's activities to each Community Working Party in the Shire.* Achieved

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**PA 5 HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AMENITIES To have an economically and well-planned community environment by providing staff housing and community amenities that meet the needs of the Shire.**

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**5.1 To implement town planning that is environmentally compatible. Responsibility: MES**

5.1.1 Ensure that Local Environment Plan remains relevant.

*Review LEP in conjunction with implementation of Development Control Plans.*

Continue into 2007/2008

*Ensure Council policies support environmental sustainability where possible.*

Achieved

**5.2 To maintain public cemeteries to an appropriate standard. Responsibility: MES**

5.2.1 Ensure that each town cemetery is managed and maintained to acceptable community standards.

*Support management committees to maintain each cemetery to an acceptable standard.*

Achieved

**PA 6 WATER SUPPLY - To ensure a regular, cost effective and quality water supply within the designated water districts of the Council.**

<b>6.1</b>	<b>To ensure that potable and raw water supplies are provided within designated water districts of Ivanhoe and Wilcannia.</b>	<b>Responsibility:</b>	<b>DCS/ DES</b>
6.1.1	Develop financial management plans for each water supply.  <i>Plans developed to Department of Land and Water Conservation standard.</i>		To be addressed in the Integrated Water Management Plan
6.2.1	Maintain consistency of water supply to community expectations.  <i>Ensure adequate maintenance is carried out to the system to ensure continuing quality of supply.</i>		Achieved
<b>6.2</b>	<b>To ensure that primary treated water is supplied within the designated water district of White Cliffs.</b>	<b>Responsibility:</b>	<b>DES</b>
6.2.1	Maintain consistency of water supply to community expectations.  <i>Ensure adequate maintenance is carried out to the system to ensure continuing quality of supply</i>		Achieved
<b>6.3</b>	<b>To ensure that potable water quality meets the guidelines as set out by NSW Health.</b>	<b>Responsibility:</b>	<b>MES</b>
6.3.1	Ensure that water samples are taken on a regular basis and submitted for analysis.  <i>Continually monitor the service with a view to minimising non-compliance.</i>		Achieved
<b>6.4</b>	<b>Provide continued support to the Central Darling Integrated Water Management Project.</b>	<b>Responsibility:</b>	<b>DES</b>
6.4.1	Ensure that projects are completed within known time and budget constraints.  <i>Regular reports presented for Council's information.</i>		Project disbanded

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**PA 7 SEWERAGE SERVICES – To maintain high standards of sewerage collection and treatment in designated locations in the Shire**

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**7.1 Maintain the standard of sewerage collection and treatment for Wilcannia. Responsibility: DES**

7.1.1 Ensure that the current standard of sewerage collection is maintained.

*Minimise complaints relating to odour and unacceptable service standard ensuring complaints are attended to within two days of receipt*

Achieved

**PA 8 RECREATION AND CULTURE - To maintain the quality and quantity of recreational and cultural facilities at a level that meets public expectations and Council resources available.**

<b>8.1</b>	<b>Foster the preservation and promotion of local heritage and indigenous Australian traditions.</b>	<b>Responsibility: MCED</b>
8.1.1	Encourage the use of the Athenaeum to display art works.  <i>Regular displays are conducted throughout the year.</i>	Achieved/Ongoing
<b>8.2</b>	<b>Provide facilities for community functions.</b>	<b>Responsibility: MES</b>
8.2.1	Ensure that each community is provided with a community hall.  <i>Each hall is managed in accordance with acceptable community standards.</i>	Achieved
<b>8.3</b>	<b>Ensure that swimming pool facilities are provided throughout the Shire towns.</b>	<b>Responsibility: MES</b>
8.3.1	Ensure each swimming pool facility is managed to community standards.  <i>Each pool is managed in accordance with acceptable community standards.</i>	Achieved
<b>8.4</b>	<b>Ensure that sporting facilities are provided and maintained.</b>	<b>Responsibility: DES</b>
8.4.1	Provide and maintain all sporting facilities to a level acceptable to the community.  <i>Maintain sporting facilities.</i>	Achieved
<b>8.5</b>	<b>Ensure that adequate public parks are provided to meet the expectations of the community and visitors.</b>	<b>Responsibility: DES</b>
8.5.1	Ensure that public parks are provided and maintained, to a level acceptable to the community.  <i>Provide and maintain amenities.</i>	Achieved
<b>8.6</b>	<b>Maintain and control Crown Reserves throughout the Shire for which the Shire is the Trustee.</b>	<b>Responsibility: DCS</b>
8.6.1	Identify all Crown Reserves within the Shire that Council is responsible for.  <i>Complete database of all Crown Reserves for which the Shire is Trustee.</i>	Achieved

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**PA 9 MINING, MANUFACTURING AND CONSTRUCTION - To encourage the development of buildings in line with relevant codes, policies and standards, and to plan for the future development of the Shire.**

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<b>9.1</b>	<b>Ensure that all activities requiring Council approval are processed to meet relevant codes and regulations.</b>	<b>Responsibility: MES</b>
9.1.1	Maintain a register of all applications.  <i>Ensure that the register is maintained.</i>	Achieved
9.1.2	Provide information to developers as required.  <i>Information supplied with all approvals.</i>	Achieved
9.1.3	Provide a system of inspections as required by legislation.  <i>Inspections carried out on a timely basis.</i>	Achieved
<b>9.2</b>	<b>To monitor development charges.</b>	<b>Responsibility: MES</b>
9.2.1	Ensure that all development charges are in accordance with the appropriate legislation.  <i>Full cost recovery methods to be utilised in setting development charges where permitted.</i>	Scheduled for 2007/2008
<b>9.3</b>	<b>To develop Council policies and plans to maintain development throughout the Shire.</b>	<b>Responsibility: MES</b>
9.3.1	Ensure that all policies, plans and procedures are updated and appropriate.  <i>Review all policies, plans and procedures in conjunction with the Annual Management Plan.</i>	Where able and required achieved
<b>9.4</b>	<b>To encourage development throughout the Shire.</b>	<b>Responsibility: MES</b>
9.4.1	Facilitate sound ecologically sustainable development throughout the Shire.  <i>Apply the principles of ecologically sustainable development to any proposal put forward.</i>	Achieved
	<i>Actively encourage development, working with the developer to achieve a balanced outcome.</i>	Achieved
	<i>Seek appropriate public consultation on any proposal being developed as required.</i>	Achieved
<b>9.5</b>	<b>Develop Development Control Plans for Wilcannia, Ivanhoe and White Cliffs.</b>	<b>Responsibility: MES</b>
9.5.1	Ensure that appropriate Development Control Plans are developed.	

	<i>Conduct appropriate workshops with local Councillors to develop Development Control Plans.</i>	
	<b>Provide for an extensive period of public consultation with each plan.</b>	Scheduled for 2007/2008 – to be undertaken in house
	<i>Ensure that each plan is consistent with the Local Environmental Plan.</i>	
	<i>Plans presented for formal Council resolution.</i>	
<b>9.6</b>	<b>Provide support for the public gazettal of roads within the White Cliffs town precinct.</b>	<b>Responsibility: DES</b>
9.6.1	Investigate the issue of public roads in White Cliffs.	
	<i>Develop submission to have roads publicly gazetted.</i>	Still in progress
	<i>Exhibit details for public submissions.</i>	Ongoing into 2007/2008
	<i>Present to Council for formal resolution.</i>	Ongoing into 2007/2008
	<i>Submit for gazettal and plan gazetted.</i>	Ongoing into 2007/2008
<b>9.7</b>	<b>Provide support for the preservation of Heritage Buildings within the Shire.</b>	<b>Responsibility: MES/GM</b>
9.7.1	Maintain a register of all appropriate buildings within the Shire.	
	<i>Register is reviewed.</i>	Achieved, listed in LEP
	<i>Register is maintained.</i>	Achieved, updated in LEP Amendment
9.7.2	Ensure all listed heritage buildings are maintained.	
	<i>Identify funding for preservation of Council owned heritage buildings.</i>	Achieved where possible
	<i>Implement policy on preservation of all heritage listed buildings.</i>	Heritage Strategy in 2007/2008
9.7.3	Wilcannia Post Office	
	<i>Continue to pursue funding options for repairs and maintenance of the Wilcannia Post Office.</i>	Ongoing into 2007/2008

**PA 10 TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION - To provide reliable transport and communication links to the major communities within the Council area.**

<b>10.1</b>	<b>Provide a safe and reliable network of roads throughout the Shire.</b>	<b>Responsibility:</b>	<b>DES/ GM</b>
10.1.1	Cobb Highway.		
	<i>Advocate for funding for the upgrading of the Cobb Highway to an all-weather surface.</i>	Ongoing	
	<i>Liaison with Cobb Highway Action Group.</i>	Ongoing	
	<i>Continue to advocate for the Mount Manara deviation.</i>	Ongoing	
10.1.2	Pooncarie Road.		
	<i>Advocate for funding for the upgrading of the Pooncarie Road to bitumen standard.</i>	Ongoing	
	<i>Support regular meetings of the Menindee/Pooncarie Road Committee.</i>	Ongoing	
10.2.3	Regional and Local Roads.		
	<i>Develop maintenance program for the entire road network.</i>	Ongoing	
	<i>Ensure all roads made all weather where possible.</i>	Ongoing	
	<i>Ensure all roads within the Shire are maintained to an appropriate standard.</i>	Ongoing	
<b>10.2</b>	<b>Ensure that aerodromes are provided to meet minimum aviation standards.</b>	<b>Responsibility:</b>	<b>DES</b>
10.2.1	Maintain all airstrips to minimum aviation standards.		
	<i>Undertake periodic maintenance to all strips as required.</i>	Ongoing	
<b>10.3</b>	<b>Ensure footpaths and walkways are provided.</b>	<b>Responsibility:</b>	<b>DES</b>
10.3.1	Maintain the network of footpaths to current standard.		
	<i>Ensure network is maintained.</i>	Ongoing	
10.3.2	Identify existing walking trails within Wilcannia.		
	<i>Document walking trails.</i>	Not achieved	

<b>10.4</b>	<b>Provide kerb and gutter and stormwater drainage.</b>	<b>Responsibility: DES</b>
10.4.1	Maintain network of kerb, gutter and stormwater drainage.	
	<i>Develop an inventory of kerb, gutter and stormwater drainage assets.</i>	Not achieved
	<i>Ensure network is maintained to current standards.</i>	Achieved
10.4.2	Investigate the possibility of kerb and gutter upgrades at Menindee	
	<i>Investigate upgrades of kerb and gutter at Menindee.</i>	Not achieved
<b>10.5</b>	<b>Provide roadside facilities to a standard to meet the expectations of the community and visitors.</b>	<b>Responsibility: DES</b>
10.5.1	Maintain the network of roadside facilities to a standard to meet the expectations of the community and visitors.	
	<i>Ensure network is maintained.</i>	Achieved
10.5.2	Establish community seats where appropriate throughout the shire	
	<i>Number of community seats established.</i>	Achieved
<b>10.6</b>	<b>Provide a private works service to meet the needs of the community on a cost recovery basis.</b>	<b>Responsibility: DES</b>
10.6.1	Ensure that a private works policy is provided as required	
	<i>Ensure that all works are carried out on a full cost recovery basis.</i>	Achieved

**PA 11 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - To enhance economic development and the image of the Shire by actively engaging in tourism, marketing activities and economic development.**

<b>11.1</b>	<b>Provide continued support to regional economic development and marketing activities.</b>	<b>Responsibility: MCED/GM</b>
11.1.1	Maintain appropriate membership on Boards and Committee's.  <i>Continue membership and provide support as required to appropriate local and regional projects and committees.</i>	Achieved
11.1.2	Provide ongoing support to the Darling to Diamantina Project.  <i>Liaise with appropriate local and regional committee members.</i>	Not achieved, to be deleted
	<i>Source funding for the Darling to Diamantina Project.</i>	Not achieved, to be deleted
	<i>Continue membership and provide support as required.</i>	Not achieved, to be deleted
<b>11.2</b>	<b>Develop and support new community capacity building initiatives throughout the Shire.</b>	<b>Responsibility: MCED</b>
11.2.1	Assist each Community with initiatives as they arise.  <i>Assist communities in developing Community Strategic Plans.</i>	Ongoing
	<i>Encourage and support community volunteers in gaining and developing appropriate skills.</i>	Ongoing
11.2.2	Communicate the benefits of tourism to Shire residents and ratepayers.  <i>Develop a community educational program for Shire residents and ratepayers to communicate the benefits of tourism for the Shire.</i>	Ongoing
<b>11.3</b>	<b>Advocate and Develop town beautification and improvement throughout the Shire.</b>	<b>Responsibility: MCED/DES</b>
11.3.1	Facilitate town beautification and improvement throughout the Shire.  <i>Develop town beautification plans for the Shire.</i>	Not achieved
	<i>Develop and maintain town entrances.</i>	Not achieved
	<i>Implement house numbers on residences within Menindee.</i>	In Progress
	<i>Ensure signs throughout the Shire are maintained to a consistent standard.</i>	Ongoing
	<i>Plant trees in towns and maintain kerbing.</i>	Ongoing

<b>11.4</b>	<b>Advocate for and support where able, new education and training initiatives for Shire residents.</b>	<b>Responsibility:    MCED</b>
11.4.1	Provide support to Communities to gain training opportunities as appropriate.	
	<i>Encourage and support community volunteers in developing appropriate skills.</i>	Ongoing
	<i>Provide ongoing support and advice as required</i>	Ongoing

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**PA 12 STAFF - To have appropriately skilled, motivated and rewarded staff, who feel that they are valued members of the Council's staff and the community.**

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<b>12.1</b>	<b>Ensure that safe work practices are adhered to.</b>	<b>Responsibility: GM</b>
12.1.1	Ensure that regular meetings of the Occupational Safety and Health Committee are supported.  <i>Regular committee meetings held with minutes presented to MANEX for formal adoption.</i>	Achieved
<b>12.2</b>	<b>Support the Staff Consultative Committee.</b>	<b>Responsibility: GM</b>
12.2.1	Provide continued support for the Staff Consultative Committee.  <i>Ensure regular meetings are held with minutes presented to MANEX for formal adoption.</i>	Achieved
<b>12.3</b>	<b>Maintain a staffing and salary structure that provides for performance review and progression.</b>	<b>Responsibility: GM</b>
12.3.1	Ensure that the staffing structure is appropriate for the organisation.  <i>Staff structure reviewed on an annual basis in conjunction with the Annual Management Plan.</i>	Completed
12.3.2	Ensure that Council has an appropriate salary structure for the attraction and retention of staff.  <i>A salary system is maintained to meet the requirements of the Local Government Award.</i>	In progress
<b>12.4</b>	<b>Support sound Management Practices</b>	<b>Responsibility: GM</b>
12.4.1	Ensure regular MANEX meetings are held  <i>Hold regular meetings.</i>	Achieved
	<i>Minutes distributed to Council and staff.</i>	Achieved

**PA 13 NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT - To observe and monitor relevant environmental issues throughout the Shire.**

<b>13.1</b>	<b>Ensure environmental pollution issues are addressed according to relevant legislation.</b>	<b>Responsibility:</b>	<b>MES</b>
13.1.1	Enforce the requirements of environmental pollution legislation.		
	<i>Ensure that any instances of environmental pollution are notified and rectified on a timely basis.</i>		Achieved
	<i>Inform Public as required.</i>		Achieved
<b>13.2</b>	<b>Maintain Blue Green Algae and Salinity monitoring of Darling River.</b>	<b>Responsibility:</b>	<b>MES</b>
13.2.1	Provide an effective monitoring and control program for Algae and Salinity of the Darling River.		
	<i>Ensure that regular samples of river water are collected and submitted for analysis.</i>		Ongoing
	<i>Provide for continual monitoring of the Algae and Salinity levels of the river.</i>		Ongoing
	<i>Provide public warnings as required by the NSW Health Department.</i>		Ongoing
<b>13.3</b>	<b>Maintain fruit fly monitoring and trapping.</b>	<b>Responsibility:</b>	<b>MES</b>
13.3.1	Provide an effective monitoring and control program for fruit fly.		
	<i>Liaise with the Department of Agriculture to provide appropriate monitoring program.</i>		Ongoing as required
	<i>Liaise with the Department of Agriculture to conduct a public awareness program.</i>		Ongoing as required
	<i>Liaise with the Department of Agriculture to control any fruit fly outbreak.</i>		Ongoing as required
	<i>Support Fruit Fly Research Project conducted by University of Sydney</i>		Ongoing as required
	<i>Inform Public as required.</i>		Ongoing as required
<b>13.4</b>	<b>To encourage public participation to care for the environment.</b>	<b>Responsibility:</b>	<b>MES</b>
13.4.1	Ensure that the general public is aware of and actively supports environmental issues.		

*Ensure that information on applicable environmental issues is presented in the public arena.*

Achieved

**13.5 Develop and maintain positive working relationships with the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service.**

**Responsibility: MCED**

13.5.1 Develop and maintain a positive working relationship with the NPWS.

*Meet quarterly with NPWS regional staff to exchange information.*

Ongoing

*Develop a positive and co-operative working relationship between the two organisations.*

Ongoing

**SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED / FACILITATED BY COUNCIL**

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<b>PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY</b>	<b>SERVICES PROVIDED</b>
Corporate Services	Administration Customer Service Financial Management
Public Order and Safety	Bush Fire Control Animal Control Emergency Services Police Liaison
Health	Health Inspections Food Control Water Quality Testing Health Services Liaison
Community Services and Education	Aged and Disabled Services Aboriginal Services Women's Services Youth Services Social Planning Community Consultation
Housing and Community Amenities	Staff Housing Town Planning Streetscapes Waste Management Urban Stormwater Drainage Public Cemeteries Public Conveniences Saleyards
Water Supplies	Water Supply Wilcannia Weir White Cliffs Storage Tank
Sewerage Services	Sewerage Collection Sewerage Treatment Sewerage Re-use
Recreation and Culture	Heritage Public Halls Swimming Pools Sporting Facilities Parks and Gardens Caravan Parks

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY	SERVICES PROVIDED
Built Environment	Building Control Activity Approvals Designated Industrial Areas
Transport and Communication	Roads Bridges Aerodromes Kerbing and Guttering Road and Traffic Signs Television Transmission Media Relations Telecommunications Fleet Management Private Works
Tourism and Economic Development	Tourism Development Economic Development Banking Services Partnerships with other organizations Asset Management
Staff	Occupational Health and Safety Consultative Committee Staff Training Recognition Progression Corporate Image Flexible Working Hours
Natural Resources and Environment	River Health Pollution (River and Air) Fruit Fly Noxious Weeds Fauna and Flora Public Awareness of Environmental issues

## **PROPOSED CAPITAL WORKS PROJECTS**

<b>PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY</b>	<b>COMPLETION DATE</b>	<b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION</b>
Administration Services	Ongoing	Plant Replacement Program
Housing and Community Amenities	Ongoing	Council Housing, Wilcannia
	Ongoing	Upgrade footpaths, Menindee
Recreation & Culture	Ongoing	Continued Restoration – Athenaeum Museum, Wilcannia
		BBQ's for Crick Park
		Crick Park Upgrade
Transport and Communication	Ongoing	Construct and seal further 17kms of MR 435, Wilcannia to White Cliffs
		MR435 Grid Construction Program

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT  
ON THE CONDUCT OF THE AUDIT OF  
CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE COUNCIL**

We have audited the financial reports of Central Darling Shire Council for the financial year ended 30 June 2007. The financial reports include the general purpose consolidated accounts of the economic entity comprising the Council and its controlled entities and the special purpose financial report, detailing the income and expenditure of Council's business units and their financial position at balance date. The contents of both of these reports include the Council's Certificate as required by section 413(2)(c) of the Local Government Act 1993. The Council is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial reports and the information they contain. We have conducted an independent audit of these financial reports in order to express an opinion on them to the Council.

In accordance with Section 417 of the Local Government Act 1993 we submit our report on the conduct of the audit of Central Darling Shire Council for the year ended 30 June 2007. Our audit reports on the general purpose financial statements of Council and the special purpose financial statements on Council's business units outline the legislative framework of our audit and should be referred to in order to establish the context in which our comments are made.

**Council's Responsibility for the Financial Report**

The Council is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

**Auditor's Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by Council, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

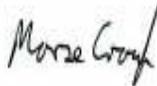


## ANNEXURE B

### Audit Opinion

In our opinion:

- (a) the Council's accounting records have been kept in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993, Chapter 13, Part 3, Division 2;
- (b) the Council's financial report:
  - (i) has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of this Division;
  - (ii) is consistent with the Council's accounting records;
  - (iii) presents fairly the Council's financial position, the results of its operations and cashflows; and
  - (iv) is in accordance with applicable Australian Accounting Standards, and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.
- (c) all information relevant to the conduct of the audit has been obtained; and
- (d) there are no material deficiencies in the accounting records or financial report that have come to light in the course of the audit.



MORSE GROUP

36 Darling Street  
Dubbo

Dated: 16 October 2007



JM SHANKS  
PARTNER

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT  
ON THE CONDUCT OF THE AUDIT OF  
CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE COUNCIL**

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We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.



## ANNEXURE B

### *Review of the Financial Statements*

#### **(a) Result from Continuing Operations**

As disclosed in Council's Income Statement the year's operations resulted in a deficit from continuing operations after capital amounts of \$364,000 (2006 - \$333,000). Some items of note in the income statement include:

- The operating deficit from continuing operations *before* capital amounts was \$1,190,000 (2006 - \$1,956,000).
- Rates and annual charges increased by \$38,000 to \$1,084,000 (2006 - \$1,046,000) consistent with the approved rating structure and movements in land values.
- User charges and fees decreased by \$41,000 to \$1,912,000 (2006 - \$1,953,000). This was mainly due to water supply decreasing by \$36,000 to \$343,000 due to increased water restrictions in the shire as a result of the ongoing drought. RTA claims - State Roads increased by \$32,000 due to more single invitation contract work being performed on state roads during the year. This was offset by a continued reduction in private works which decreased by \$48,000 to \$43,000.
- Interest and investment revenue increased by \$24,000 to \$335,000 (2006 - \$311,000). This is due to higher levels of return on Council's investments..
- Grant and contributions provided for operating purposes increased by \$561,000 to \$5,527,000 (2006 - \$4,966,000). RTA contributions increased by \$514,000 to \$1,916,000 due to the funding for the regional roads block grant being fully received in the same financial year to which it related. In the 2006 year, one of the instalments had been received in advance. Community centres decreased by \$75,000 to \$215,000 due to the health transport bus between Wilcannia and Broken Hill only operating five days per week, compare to six days per week in the 2006 financial year. Community care services increased by \$100,000 to \$327,000 due to increased funding of \$44,000 for the women's safehouse and an increase of \$76,000 in the Ivanhoe multi services grant.
- Grants and contributions provided for capital purposes decreased by \$797,000 to \$826,000 (2006 - \$1,623,000). Roads and bridges decreased by \$591,000 to \$763,000 due to a supplementary grant for Roads to Recovery of \$626,648 being received in the 2006 financial year that did not recur in the current financial year. Water supplies decreased by \$114,000 due to the completion of the Ivanhoe bore in the previous year. Community centres increased by \$53,000 due to receiving a grant for the restoration of the Wilcannia Post Office.
- Employee benefits and on-costs increased by \$439,000 to \$3,770,000 (2006 - \$3,331,000). The increase largely occurred in salaries and wages which increased by \$352,000 to \$2,949,000 due to filling previously vacant management positions during the year. In addition, normal movements in gradings and skill steps occurred. Workers' compensation insurance increased by \$68,000 to \$124,000 based on the rolling claims history of the Council over the past three years.
- Materials and contracts decreased by \$426,000 to \$4,064,000 (2006 - \$4,490,000). This was mainly due to a reduction in raw materials and consumables of \$606,000 which was consistent with Council's maintenance programme.
- Other expenses decreased by \$140,000 to \$860,000 (2006 - \$1,000,000). This was largely due to bad and doubtful debts decreasing by \$80,000 to \$77,000, as Council increased the provision for doubtful debts by \$75,000 in 2007 compared to \$150,000 in 2006.

## ANNEXURE B

### (b) Financial Position

The Balance Sheet disclosed that for the year ended 30 June 2007 Council's net assets stood at \$86,131,000 (2006 - \$84,610,000) which represents a decrease of \$364,000 being the deficit from continuing operations after capital amounts plus the asset revaluation increment of \$1,885,000 relating to the revaluation of water and sewerage infrastructure.

To assess the appropriateness or otherwise of Council's net current asset position (available working capital) it is necessary to review the level of restrictions placed against the use of Council's assets. The notes to the financial statements indicate clearly where restrictions exist and the effect of the restrictions is summarised as follows:-

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Net current assets	3,651	3,994
Less: Amounts externally restricted for special purposes (refer Notes 6; 7; & 8 of financial statements)	(2,575)	(2,800)
Less: Council internally imposed restrictions (refer Notes 6 of financial statements)	(1,318)	(1,351)
Add: Applicable liabilities (refer Note 10)		
- Water	54	86
- Sewerage	31	36
Add: Employee leave entitlements classified as current, but not expected to be settled within 12 months	176	136
Unrestricted net current asset surplus/(deficit)	19	101
Unrestricted net current assets comprise:		
<i>Unrestricted Current Assets</i>		
Cash and Investments	451	708
Receivables	121	76
Inventories	148	145
Other assets	183	201
Less:	903	1,130
<i>Unrestricted Current Liabilities</i>		
Payables	(464)	(647)
Provisions	(551)	(476)
Interest Bearing Liabilities	(45)	(42)
Unrestricted net current asset surplus/(deficit)	(1,060)	(1,165)
Add: Employee leave entitlements classified as current but not expected to be settled within 12 months	176	136
	19	101

Council's surplus of net assets to cover the restrictions in place has further diminished over the past year to \$19,000. Council may need to review its current level of internal restrictions that it has in place to see whether those projects are a priority to Council.

## ANNEXURE B

### *Liquidity*

Note 6 to the accounts discloses total cash and investments of \$4,149,000 (2006 - \$4,411,000). Of this amount \$2,380,000 (2006 - \$2,352,000) is subject to external restrictions requiring Council to commit those funds to the purposes for which they were provided and \$1,318,000 (2006 - \$1,351,000) is subject to internal restrictions agreed upon by Council for designated purposes which may be altered at the discretion of Council, consistent with their management plan.

The unrestricted balance of \$451,000 (2006 - \$708,000) represents funds available to cover non-budgeted discretionary expenditure and short-term cash flow requirements and reflects Council's solid financial position.

### **(c) Performance Indicators**

Note 13 to the Financial Statements provides a measure of Council's performance using a number of selected ratios as follows:

#### **Unrestricted Current Ratio**

The unrestricted current ratio is a measure of Council's liquidity and demonstrates Council's ability to satisfy obligations out of short-term and immediate asset balances. Council's ratio of 2.51:1 (2006 - 2.41:1) is considered sound. We stress the importance of considering these ratios in conjunction with other performance indicators and not in isolation.

#### **Debt Service Ratio**

The cost of repaying debt is reflected in the debt service ratio, which expresses that cost as a percentage of revenue from ordinary activities. Whilst there is no definitive guide on what constitutes an acceptable ratio it is generally accepted that a ratio of 10% to 20% is considered tolerable depending on the level of long-term development (infrastructure) plans and funding of entrepreneurial activities. At 1.05% (2006 - 1.05%), Central Darling Shire Council's ratio is well below these industry benchmarks.

#### **Rate Coverage Ratio**

The rate coverage ratio indicates the proportion of total revenue that is generated by rates. A changing ratio may indicate a change in the mix of Council's revenue streams. These revenue streams would include rates, user charges, grants, contributions and income from entrepreneurial activities.

Council's ratio of 10.88% (2006 - 10.3%) is slightly higher than the previous year. This ratio is extremely low in relation to other Council's due to the shires' location and population demographics. As a result it highlights Council's dependence on grant revenues and is critical in terms of the perspective that it places on Council's unrestricted current and debt service ratios.

#### **Rates and Annual Charges Outstanding Ratio**

The rates and annual charges outstanding percentage is a measure of management efficiency. Whilst prevailing economic conditions may influence Council's ability to collect revenue, the efficiency and application of collection procedures are still the largest determinant of this ratio.

Central Darling Shire Council's rates and annual charges outstanding percentage of 8.02% has increased since the prior year (2006 - 5.46%). While the ratio falls within acceptable limits, it is due to Council increasing the provision for doubtful debts each year. Council's provision for doubtful debts in relation to rates and annual charges is \$735,000 (2006 - \$695,000) and represents 83% of the outstanding rates and annual charges. This is due to the poor financial position of many of Council's ratepayers who have continued to be adversely affected by the drought, as well as the high level of unemployment in the Shire's towns.

## ANNEXURE B

### (d) Cash Flow Statement

The Cash Flow Statement reports a net decrease in cash assets held of \$262,000 (2006 - \$492,000) as follows:

	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000	Movement \$'000
<b>Cash flow provided by / (used in)</b>			
Operating activities	1,284	1,540	256
Investing activities	(1,504)	(1,993)	489
Financing activities	(42)	(39)	(3)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net increase / (decrease) in cash held during the year	(262)	(492)	742

#### *Cash Flows from Operating Activities*

The net cash flow provided by operating activities totalled \$1,284,000 (2006 - \$1,540,000). The decrease of \$256,000 was largely as a result of increased employee benefits and on-costs and reduced grants and contributions for the year.

#### *Cash Flows from Investing Activities*

The net cash flow used in investing activities totalled \$1,504,000 (2006 - \$1,993,000). The major cash outflow related to the purchase of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment of \$1,618,000.

#### *Cash Flows from Financing Activities*

The net cash flow used in financing activities was \$42,000 (2006 - \$39,000). This represents normal repayments of the loan during the year.

### (e) Comparison of Actual and Budgeted Performance

Council's change in net assets from operations for the year of was a deficit of \$364,000 compared to a balance budget.

The purpose of this report is not to provide detailed analysis of individual budget variations. Council's financial statements include Note 16, which addressed the contributing factors to these variations in detail.

### Other Matters

#### (a) National Competition Policy

In accordance with the requirements of National Competition Policy guidelines, Central Darling Shire Council has prepared a special purpose financial report on its business units for the year ended 30 June 2007. Council has determined that it has two business units within its operations: Water and Sewerage.

The Department of Local Government's July 1997 guidelines 'Pricing and Costing for Council Businesses: A Guide to Competitive Neutrality' outlines the process for identifying and allocating costs of activities and provide a standard of disclosure requirements. These disclosures are reflected in Council's pricing and/or financial reporting systems and include taxation equivalents, Council subsidies, rate of return on investments in business units and dividends paid.

An unqualified audit report on the special purpose reports for the year ended 30 June 2007 has been issued.

## ANNEXURE B

### (b) Management Letters

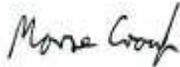
An interim management letter was issued on 7 May 2007, whilst a final report will be issued within the next few weeks.

### (c) Legislative Compliance

As a result of our audit we advise that there are no material deficiencies in the accounting records or financial reports that have come to our attention during the conduct of the audit and that Central Darling Shire Council's accounting records have been kept in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act, 1993 and regulations.

### *Conclusion*

- (a) Central Darling Shire Council's accounting records have been kept in a manner and form that facilitated the preparation of the general purpose financial report and allowed proper and effective audit of this report;
- (b) Central Darling Shire Council's accounting records have been kept in a manner and form that facilitated the preparation of the special purpose financial reports and allowed proper and effective audit of this report; and
- (c) all information relevant to the conduct of the audit has been obtained.



**MORSE GROUP**

36 Darling Street  
Dubbo  
Dated: 16 October 2007



**JM SHANKS**  
**PARTNER**

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT  
ON THE SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORT OF  
CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE COUNCIL

**Report on the Financial Report**

We have audited the special purpose financial report of Central Darling Shire Council for the year ended 30 June 2007, comprising the Statement by Council, Income Statement by Business Activities, Balance Sheet by Business Activities and accompanying Notes to the Financial Statements. Our audit responsibility does not extend to the best practice management disclosures in Notes 2 and 3 and accordingly we express no opinion on them.

**Council's Responsibility for the Financial Report**

The Council is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements which form part of the financial report are appropriate to meet the financial reporting requirements of the Council and the Department of Local Government for the purpose of fulfilling the requirements of National Competition Policy reporting. The Council's responsibility also includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

**Auditor's Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, as described in Note 1, are appropriate to meet the needs of the Council. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Council as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

The special purpose financial report has been prepared for distribution to the Council and the Department of Local Government for the purpose of fulfilling the requirements of National Competition Policy reporting. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the Council or the Department of Local Government or for any purpose other than for which the report was prepared.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

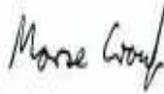
## ANNEXURE B

### Independence

In conducting our audit, we followed applicable independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

### Audit Opinion

In our opinion, the special purpose financial report of Central Darling Shire Council is presented fairly in accordance with the requirements of those applicable accounting policies detailed in Note 1, the accounting requirements of the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.



**MORSE GROUP**

36 Darling Street  
Dubbo  
Dated: 16 October 2007



**JM SHANKS**  
PARTNER