



2010/2011 Annual Report

Central Darling Shire Council

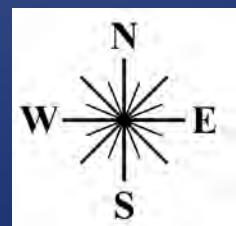




Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	1
Our Shire	2
Our Mission.....	2
Our Values.....	2
Our Towns.....	3
Elected Council 2010/2011	6
From the Office of the Mayor	7
From the Office of the Acting General Manager	8
Management and Executive Team	9
Human Resources	10
Corporate Services	14
Health.....	23
Public Order & Safety.....	25
Properties & Community Amenities	28
Town Planning.....	35
Environment	36
Domestic Waste Management	38
Community Services.....	39
Economic Development and Tourism.....	45
Roads & Bridges	46
Water, Sewer & Stormwater.....	51
Footpaths, Kerb & Guttering.....	53
Plant & Equipment.....	54
Business Undertakings	55
Policy: Payment of Expenses & Provision of Facilities to Councillors.....	Appendix A
2010/2011 Annual Financials.....	Appendix B
2010/2011 State of the Environment Report.....	Appendix C



Our Shire

Central Darling Shire encompasses an area of over 53,000 square kilometres, making it the largest Local Government Area (LGA) in New South Wales. Conversely, population figures for the Shire are one of the lowest with 2000 residents dispersed throughout and surrounding the towns of Ivanhoe, Menindee, Wilcannia and White Cliffs, and its localities of Darnick, Mossgiel, Sunset Strip and Tilpa.



The principal economic activities within the Shire include pastoral, horticultural, agricultural, mining and tourism. Rural grazing properties represent the largest land use within the Shire, accounting for 97% of the entire area.

The Central Darling Shire is bounded by the Shires of Bourke, Cobar, Carrathool, Balranald, Wentworth and the Unincorporated Area.

Our Mission

“Realising quality opportunities for all in the Central Darling Shire through Effective Leadership, Community Involvement and Facilitation of Services”.

Our Values

Through a collaborative approach and strong commitment, the values that will support our mission and guide us in achieving our vision are:

- Energising Leadership
- Customer Service and Contribution to Community
- Innovation and Continuous Improvement
- Equal Opportunity and Caring for Individuals
- Political Harmony
- Teamwork
- Ethical Behaviour



Our Towns

Menindee



Menindee is an oasis in the Outback, a beautiful spot to soak up the outback atmosphere with the convenience of modern services at your fingertips. Dubbed the first town on the Darling River, Menindee has a rich Indigenous and European history. Menindee is located close to Kinchega National Park where visitors can enjoy spectacular views of the Menindee lakes and the Darling River, as well as close encounters with local wildlife.

Menindee is associated with bold explorers of the outback, Burke and Wills, Mitchell and Sturt, and the pastoral tradition of wool production and labouring paddle steamers transporting bales to market. Many travellers today are surprised to find great fields of grapevines and fruit under irrigation beside the Lakes that Major Mitchell originally named "Laidley's Ponds".

Today, Menindee produces much sought after fruits such as table grapes, rock melons, and many varieties of apricots, tomatoes and oranges.

Ivanhoe



Ivanhoe is a town situated on the Cobb Highway 220 kilometres north west of Hay. The township provides visitors with a pleasant break to their journey in an Outback pastoral community. Friendly people, clean amenities, landscaped recreational areas and a self guided Heritage Trail enable visitors to enjoy a short break and gain an insight into the town's interesting past.



Retrace the exploits of bushrangers, the journeys of Cobb & Co and the advent of the railways as you follow the Ivanhoe Heritage Trail. Through tough times and good, flood and crippling drought, towns like Ivanhoe have earned their place in Australian history.

Wilcannia



Wilcannia has a rich and vibrant history. Once known as the "Queen City of the West", it was the third largest shipping port in Australia. In the boom years of the 1880's sandstone was quarried locally for the beautiful buildings that stand today as a reminder of those heady days.

A short drive or walk around town will reveal the great sandstone buildings, historic centre Lift Bridge and old wharf that handled all that cargo so many years ago. Wilcannia has a large Aboriginal community, being the traditional home of the Barkandji people (barka meaning river). Many fine traditional craftsmen in Wilcannia still practice their craft today.

White Cliffs



White Cliffs is unique! Precious seam opal was discovered in White Cliffs in the 1890's and opal from this field was the first to be marketed overseas (giving White Cliffs the distinction of being known as Australia's first Commercial Opal field).



To escape the high summer temperatures, early miners soon began to live in their working mines enjoying the constant underground temperature in the mid twenties all year round. These were known as 'dugouts' and became home for many miners.

Today, modern Dugout homes provide a unique housing style for many White Cliffs residents-with all the conveniences of any modern home but being environmentally friendly, little heating or cooling is required.

Tilpa



The origin of the name "Tilpa" may be found in the Barkandji word "thulpa", which means "floodwaters", for it is in the vicinity of Tilpa that the Darling River floods up to seventy kilometres wide in major floods.

The village of Tilpa came into existence in 1876 when Arthur Cotton opened a store. James Buckley built the Wee Wattah Hotel where the Tilpa Trading Post is now located in the same year.

By 1894, Cotton's store was owned by David Jones & Co. who sold it to Edmond Perrott who turned it into a hotel named the Royal. This is the existing Tilpa Hotel.

In 1880 a Postal Receiving Office was opened in the store. Tilpa had a school from 1896 till its closure in 1945.

A punt served as the only means of crossing the Darling River at Tilpa until the bridge was completed in December 1963.

Sunset Strip

Sunset Strip was gazetted in 1965 as a village within the Central Darling Shire, 20 km north of Menindee, situated on the northern shore of Lake Menindee. A unique outback take on a holiday by the sea, Sunset Strip is a home-away-from-home for many Broken Hill residents needing a weekend escape. Sunset Strip can boast having its own Post Office and Community Hall with boating, fishing, golf and tennis being some of the activities available.



Elected Council 2010/2011



Paul Brown
Mayor



Peter Sullivan
Deputy Mayor



Ray Longfellow
Councillor



Graham Wellings
Councillor



Clive Linnett OAM AFSM
Councillor



Moya Reid
Councillor



Eamon Sammon
Councillor



Lorraine Looney
Councillor



Ron Page
Councillor



From the Office of the Mayor



The past year has been one of physical change throughout the Shire as the final phase of the drought passed and we received good rains and even better, Darling River and Paroo River flows. This of course brought its own challenges with a number of properties cut off and roads impassable for long periods of time and extensive damage done.

Engineering staff and contractors were still repairing damage done to roads during 2010 prior to the 2011 floods and final repairs are not expected to be completed until well into next year. Delays were experienced in gaining access to those areas that had been flooded. Over \$6.1 million in funding has been allocated for flood repair to the roads over 2010 and 2011.

Whilst these external changes were taking place across the Shire, internal changes also occurred. In October 2010, Council first became aware of the preliminary results of the Better Practice Review carried out in April 2010 into Council's performance by the Division of Local Government. The resulting report was highly critical. (A copy is available on the Central Darling Shire Council website.)

Within the report were a number of recommendations and a timetable for Council to address these issues. Council has accepted the criticisms and have been working with Staff, advisors and the Division of Local Government to comply with the recommendations and meet the reporting guidelines required. Council is also progressing the selection process for the position of General Manager.

Financially, the Shire continues to experience the challenges brought about by increased costs, limited opportunities for increased incomes and the expectations of residents and ratepayers. The reports enclosed give an accurate assessment of the Shire's financial position. Council has this year taken full consideration of these financial challenges in the development of the next year's budget. Reviews of all Council activities have been commenced as part of this process and for the Integrated Planning process and Community Strategic Plan which must be in place by June 2012.

The key changes in this year I believe have been the establishment of an Audit Committee, improved financial reporting, recognition of those areas of services and compliance in which Council has been less effective than it should be, and, a commitment by Staff and Councillors to address these shortcomings to provide improved services in the future.

Paul Brown
Mayor



From the Office of the Acting General Manager



Welcome to the Central Darling Shire Council 2010/11 Annual Report. There is no doubt that Council faced one of its most difficult years in 2010/11.

Major changes in personnel occurred with the departure of the General Manager, Tim Hazell and the Manager Community and Economic Development, Kym Fuller. Normal roadwork operations were disrupted due to flooding events and the remedial action needed to rectify damage to the road network.

A Promoting Better Practice Review was conducted by the Division of Local Government, which resulted in a report containing 56 recommendations for change and improvement in Council, all of which have been accepted. An action plan has been developed for the implementation of those recommendations in the 2011/12 year.

Challenges identified in this report relate to the key areas of:

- Financial and asset management
- Organisational performance
- Governance
- Human resource management

Further need for change has been identified in a series of internal audit reports delivered during the year, with a focus on legislative compliance, improved asset stewardship and financial accountability.

Council's financial result for the year was a deficit of \$724,000, excluding capital items. Cash assets at the end of 2010/11 increased by \$1.3m over the previous year, to \$2.5m. The increase was part of a strategy to ensure coverage of a higher proportion of restricted cash assets.

Operationally, Council made a number of achievements, with the key highlights included in this report. Council's range of activities are extensively detailed and showcase the input that Council has had into community life throughout the Shire.

2011/12 will be a busy and exciting year for Council. A new General Manager has been appointed and will be commencing early in the financial year. Council will also be developing its first Community Strategic Plan, which will set the strategic direction for the Shire for the next 10 years.

The Community Strategic Plan will be complemented by an Asset Management Plan, a Long Term Financial Plan, Workforce Management Plan and Delivery Program. An annual budget and operational plan will be the tools that turn these plans into reality each year.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of all Council staff throughout the year. All staff should take pride in their achievements and their contribution to Council's performance during an especially challenging year.

Leanne Ryan
Acting General Manager



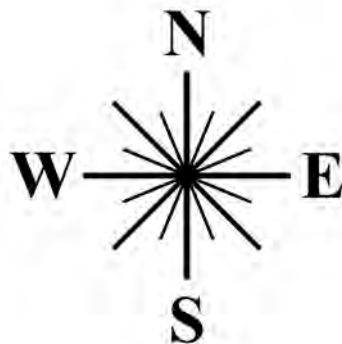
Management and Executive Team



S428(2)(g)	Number Senior Staff Members employed by Council during the year	1
cl 217(1)(b)	Total Remuneration	\$174,472.93
cl 217(1)(b)(i)	Salary	\$132,543.97
cl 217(1)(b)(ii)	Vehicle Allowance	\$21,000.00
cl 217(1)(b)(iii)	Superannuation	\$11,928.96
cl 217(1)(b)(iv)	Non Cash	\$9,000.00
cl 217(1)(b)(v)	Reportable FBT	\$14,301.00

Leeanne Ryan

Acting General Manager
&
Manager Environmental Services



Mel Scott
Executive Manager



Reece Wilson
Manager Technical and
Engineering Services



Jeff Forster
Finance Manager



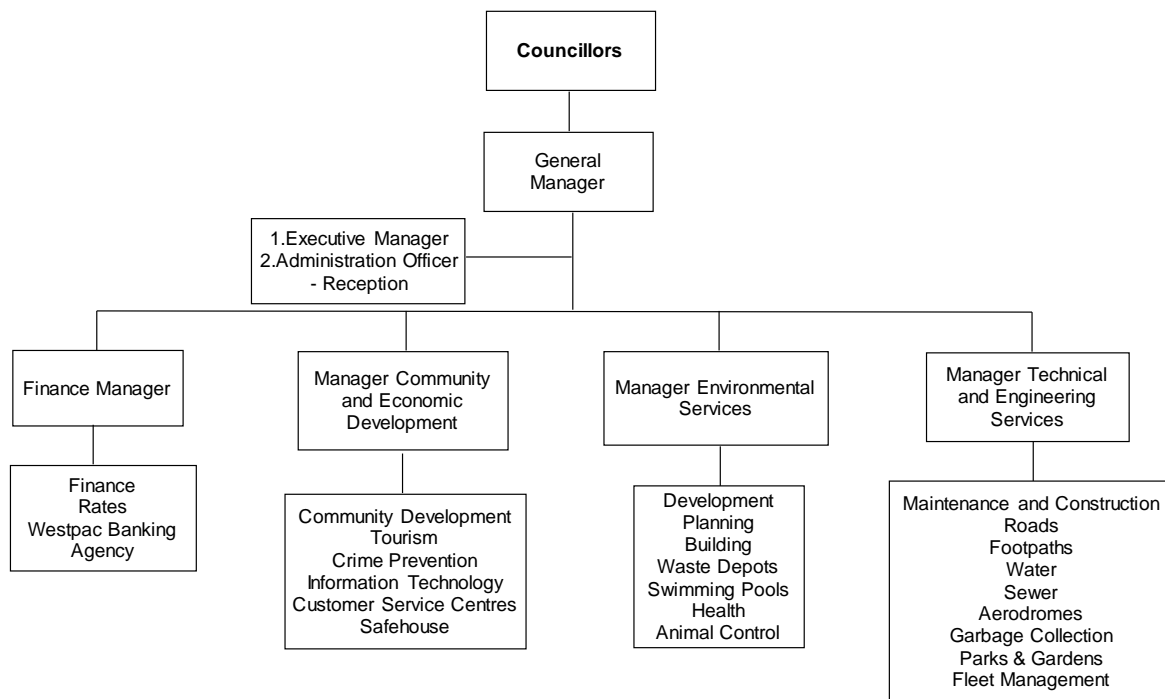
Human Resources

Human Resource Activities S428(2)(m)

Following the review of Council as part of the Division of Local Government Promoting Better Practice program, it was identified at recommendations 48-54 that Council must give significant consideration to its human resources strategy. As part of Council’s requirements under the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework, Council is in the process of preparing a Workforce Management Plan in order to develop the staffing and human resourcing needs to ensure effective and efficient delivery of services.

Currently the recruitment and selection process is managed by the Executive Manager. No formal staff training exercises relating to team building and morale were undertaken by all staff in this financial year however, individual staff members undertook various training courses specific to their needs.

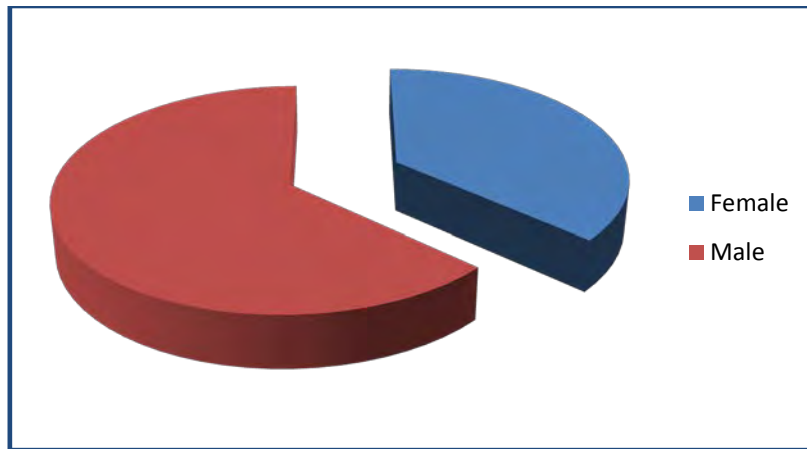
The following structure has been redefined from that adopted after the 2008 Council elections.





Human Resources

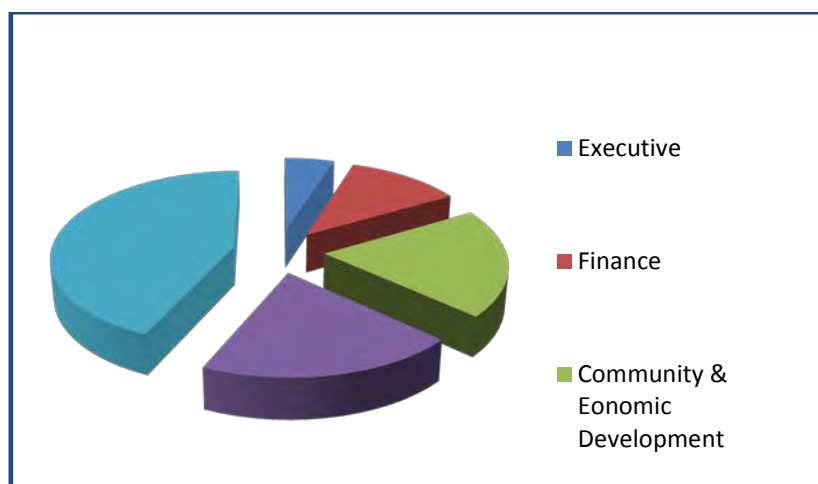
Gender Balance



Age of Workforce



Breakdown of Employees per Department



Employee Sick Leave Entitlements

For the reporting period 464.10 hours of sick leave were used at a total cost to Council of \$163,063.

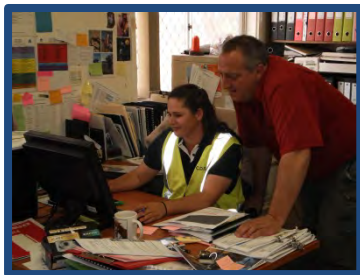


Human Resources

Training and Professional Development

Throughout the 2010/2011 financial year, Council had 17 staff undertaking traineeships utilising TAFE as the Registered Training Organisation. Council values its existing staff and offering traineeships for the professional development of the employee enhances satisfaction levels and provides for further on the job knowledge. Listed below are the details of the traineeships undertaken:

- Certificate III in Civil Construction (Road Construction and Maintenance)
- Certificate III in Business Administration
- Certificate III in Financial Services
- Diploma in Environmental Health and Building Surveying
- Certificate IV in Frontline Management



**Roxanne Kennedy
&
Darren Scotti**

Further to the Council employees undertaking traineeships, Council employed four School Based Trainees, Roxanne Kennedy, Philip Hunter, Michael Kelly and Bianca Doyle. Council continues to work with the schools in the Shire for the benefit of their students and aims to employ further school based trainees in future years.

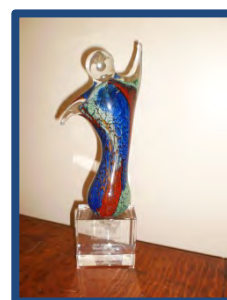
Council staff also attended a number of other training courses as listed:

- Senior First Aid
- OH&S Consultation
- Statewide Risk Management Conference
- Rangers Conference
- LGSA Water Management Conference
- Plant & Vehicle Management Workshop
- Water Treatment Operation
- Yellow, Blue & Red Traffic Control Plan Training
- National Asset Management System Training
- Emergency Management Training
- Chemical Dosing Systems Training
- Asset Edge (Reflect)
- Chemcert Training
- Chainsaw
- CivilCad
- GPS
- Authorised Officers Training – (Protection of Environmental Operations Act)
- Surf Lifesaving Bronze Medallion Training
- Property and Drainage Inspection Course
- Food Authority Training



Occupational Health and Safety / Risk Management

Council employed a Risk Officer who was tasked with ensuring Council's compliance with OH&S Legislation and Risk Management. This Officer was the Secretary of the Orana Risk Management Group. At the Statewide Mutual Risk Management Awards, Council received a commendation for its pools. Out of the 152 Councils in the state, Central Darling was 1 of 4 Councils to receive a commendation.



Equal Employment Opportunity S428(2)(n)

Council's EEO Management Plan covers all aspects required under legislation. This includes plans for redeployment, retraining, retrenchment and redundancy. Council have ensured that the EEO Management Plan has been adhered to, however, no specific activities have been undertaken in relation to this plan.

S428(2)(b) Corporate Governance	
Performance Requirement	Assessment
Ensure pecuniary interest returns are completed	Completed and presented to Council
Complete and present Annual Financial Report	Completed and presented to DLG
Complete and present Annual Management Plan	Completed and adopted by Council
Complete and present Annual Report	Completed and presented to DLG
Submit s252 policy for review	Policy reviewed and adopted by Council, presented to DLG

S428(2)(e) Legal Proceedings	
30 June 2010	Summary of Legal Proceedings
Legal Proceedings	1 Property Claim & 1 Public Liability Claim
Total Expenditure	\$25,335

S428(2)(f) Mayoral & Councillors Fees	
Fee	Amount
Mayoral	\$20,890
Councillors	\$100,000

S428(2)(r) cl217(1)(a) – No Councillors, Council Staff or any other persons representing Council partook in any overseas visits.

S428(2)(r) cl217(1)(a1) Councillors Facilities & Expenses	Amount
(i) Provision of dedicated office equipment allocated to Councillors	Nil
(ii) Telephone calls made by Councillors	\$427
(iii) Attendance of Councillors at conferences & seminars	\$24,727
(iv) Training of Councillors & provision of skill development	\$1,364
(v) Interstate visits by Councillors	Nil
(vi) Overseas visits by Councillors	Nil
(vii) Expenses of any spouse or partner	Nil
(viii) Carer expenses	Nil

A copy of Council's S252 policy, Provision of Facilities for use by Councillors and the Payment of Councillors' Expenses can be seen at Appendix A.



Corporate Services

Summary of 2010/2011

The Income Statement shows a net operating result for the year of \$665,000, almost double the 2010 result of \$343,000. Items to note on the income statement when compared to the prior year include:

Rates and Annual Charges

- Ordinary rates increased \$67,000 to \$1,259,000 in line with rate pegging limits and normal land movements.
- Other annual charges increased \$38,000 (7%) due to an increase in charges.

User Charges and Fees

- Domestic waste management fees fell to \$14,000 due to a change in tip operational hours.
- Private work fees fell \$222,000 due to less works being performed; in part due to the time allocated to flood damage works.
- Works for the RTA increased by \$315,000 to \$1,633,000 as a result of flood damage and ordered state road works.
- Planning and building fees increased by \$32,000 to \$67,000 due to increased development in the shire.

Investment Income

- This increased by \$31,000 due to higher average bank balances during the year, higher interest rates and higher interest charges on rates.

Grants and contributions revenue

- Overall grants and contributions for operational purposes increased by more than 30% over the prior year to \$9,744,000; most related to flood damage funding.
- Grants and contributions for capital purposes decreased by \$64,000.

Other Revenue

- This decreased by \$222,000 to \$653,000 and was mainly due to the reversal in the revaluation decrement on the CDO being less this year versus last year.

Employee Benefits and On-costs

- Overall there was an increase of \$453,000 (10%) to \$5,032,000.
- Overtime increased due to employees working additional time due to flood events and work on the water treatment plant.
- Several long serving employees left; \$159,000 was paid to former employees.
- Workers compensation insurance increased by \$42,000 to \$187,000 due to a worsening rolling claims history over the past three years, and higher salaries and wages.



Depreciation Expense

- Increased \$205,000 due to adjustments to the 2010 revaluation and road improvements since the revaluation.

Materials and Contracts

- The increase was \$1,009,000 to \$5,681,000 (2010 - \$4,672,000) and resulted from increased maintenance and flood damage works.

Other Expenses

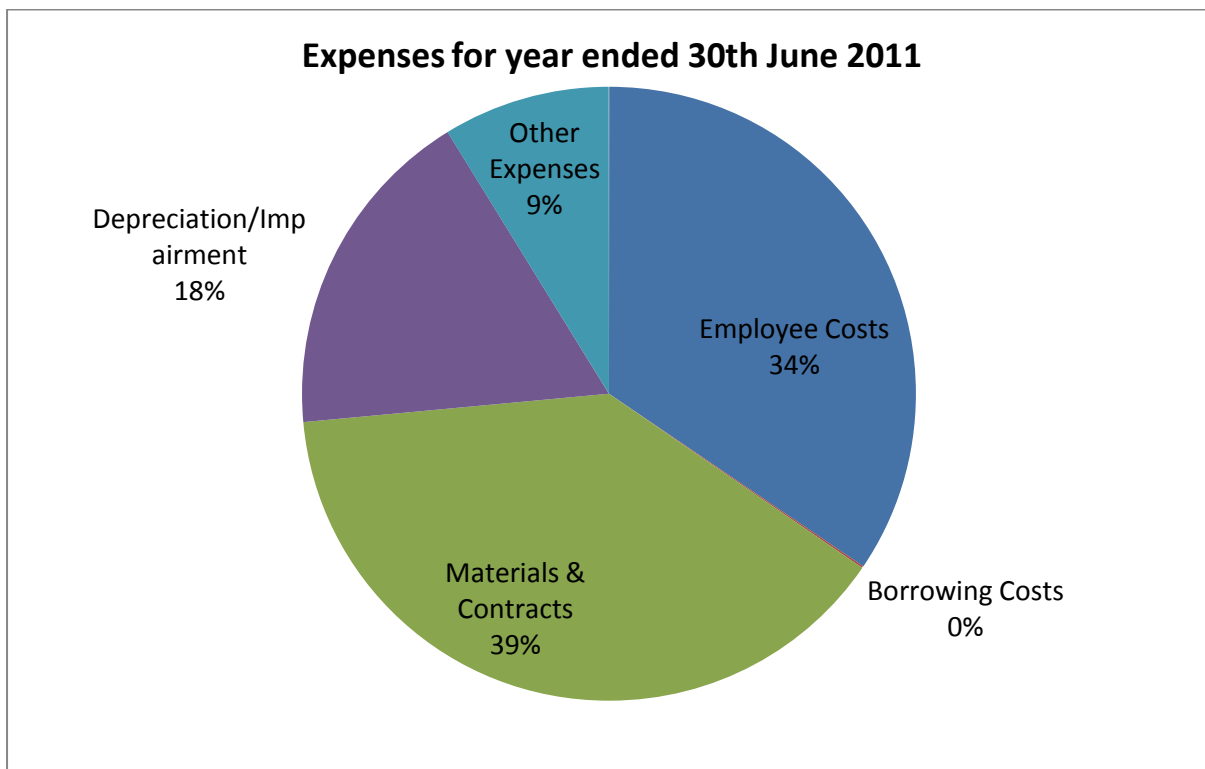
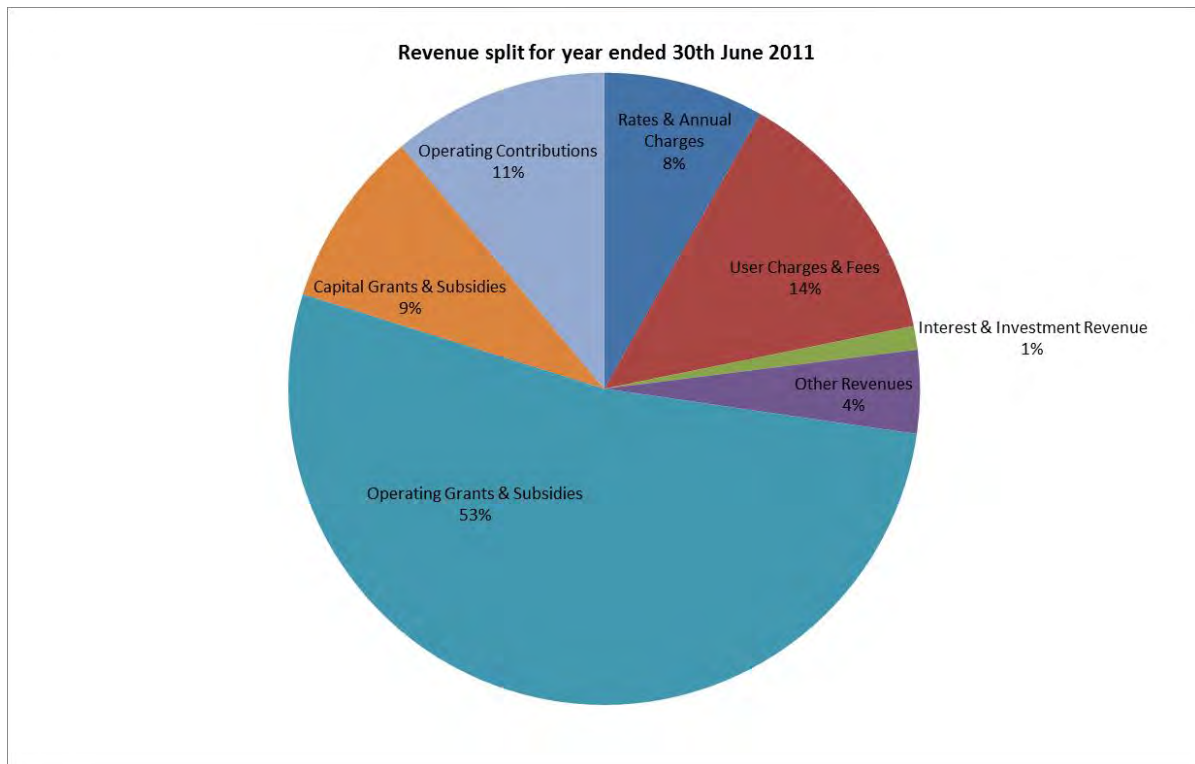
- Other expenses increased 21% to \$1,283,000 (2010 - \$1,062,000).
- The bad and doubtful debt provision was increased by \$82,000 to reflect continued uncertainty over the collection of some receivables.

Cash position

- Council had total cash and investments of \$3,698,000 at the 30th June 2011 (2010 - \$2,078,000).
- Of this amount \$2,926,000 (2010 - \$1,531,000) is subject to external restriction, meaning Council is required to commit those funds to the purpose for which they were provided. The largest part of this related to unspent roads funding.
- In addition \$746,000 (2010 - \$516,000) is subject to internal restrictions although such restrictions can be altered by Council.
- The remaining balance of \$26,000 (2010 - \$31,000) is unrestricted and is funding available to cover non-budgeted discretionary expenditure and short term cash flow needs.
- Council has resolved to increase its overdraft limit from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 as a precaution against cash flow fluctuations. During the 2011 year the overdraft was not used.

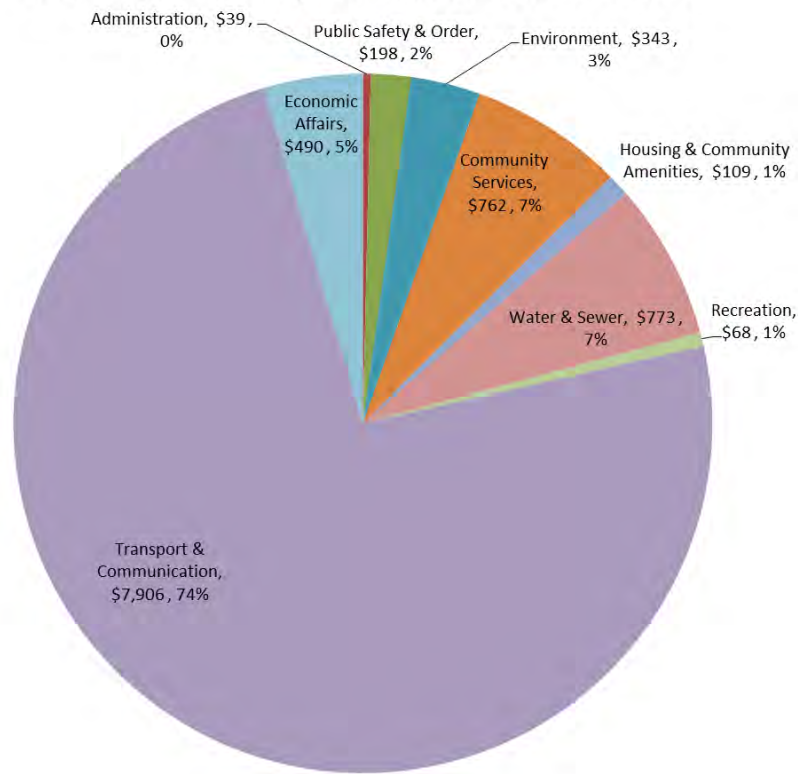
Major influences on results

- The weather events of the last two years have resulted in significant time being allocated away from routine works to flood damage repairs. This has led to a backlog of scheduled works and this is reflected in the external restrictions which were high at 30th June 2011. The result is that funds received and recognised in the income statement of 2010-11 will in some cases not be spent until the 2011-12 year.

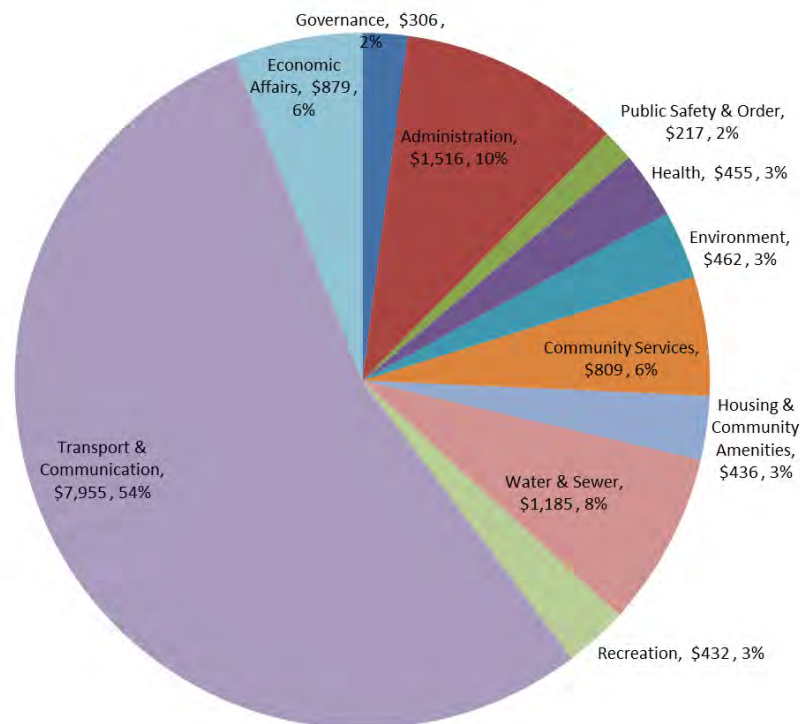




Income Received by Function for Year 2010-2011



Net Cost of Services by Function for Year 2010-2011





Corporate Services

S428(2)(b) Corporate Services	
Performance Requirement	Assessment
Complete Grants Commission return	Completed
Complete FBT Returns	Completed
Complete all GST Returns	Completed
Complete Pensioner Concession Claims	Completed
Submit salary details for workers compensation	Completed
Submit details for annual insurance assessment	Completed and submitted to Jardine Lloyd Thompson
Maintain solid relations with local media	Press releases, public notices, information and newsletters distributed as and when required to all local media authorised by Mayor or General Manager
Meeting of targets within Management Plan	All targets met as required
Levy Rates	Rates levied quarterly
Levy water accounts	Water accounts levied quarterly
Levy sundry debtor accounts	Accounts levied monthly



Corporate Services, Community Development & Environmental Services Staff

S428(2)(a) Copy of Council's Audited Financial Reports

See Appendix B: Audited Financial Statements 2010/2011

cl132 Rates & Charges written off during the 2010/2011 period = \$9,576



Corporate Services

S428(2)(h) Central Darling Shire Council Awarded Contracts 2010/2011		
Contractor	Goods/Service Provided	Amount of Contract
Tracserv Dubbo	Highway Maintenance Truck	\$169,264
Dearnu Pty Ltd	Talyawalka Bridge reconstruction	\$1,143,700

PPIP Act S33 Privacy & Personal Information Protection Act 1998

In accordance with Section 33 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.

S125(1) cl13 Sched1 Government Information (Public Access) 2009 (GIPA) Act

Council received no applications under the Government Information (Public Access) 2009 (GIPA) Act. Applications must be made by way of formal correspondence to Council's Public Officer, PO Box 165, Wilcannia NSW 2836. There is a \$30 (GST exempt) application fee applicable to all GIPA requests.

Freedom of information requests for the year 2010/2011 compared to 2009/2010 are summarised below:

	<u>2010/2011</u>	<u>2009/2010</u>
Applications received during the year	0	1

There was no contravention by Council of an information protection principle or of a privacy code of practice, or disclosure of personal information kept in a public register under Part 5 Section 33. **S68 cl10 FOI** – there were no Freedom of Information activities outstanding from the 2009/2010 financial year.

S428(2)(j) Details of programs to promote services and access for people with diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds consistent with principles of multiculturalism.

At the 2006 Census, Central Darling Shire's population totalled 1,790 with 38% of the population being from Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage. This is a significant number compared to the 6.8% of residents who are from a non-English speaking background. Due to this low number it is neither practical nor economically viable for Council to place a strong emphasis on the non-English speaking community.

Throughout the Council towns there are a number of State and Federal Government funded services who provide for the Indigenous population and Council has over the 2010/2011 reporting year has received funding to auspice the services of the Community Buses, Wilcannia Womens and Childrens Safehouse, Meals on Wheels and Home Care.



Corporate Services

Act/General Regulation	Requirement	Assessment
S428(2)(o)	Statement of external bodies that exercised functions delegated by Council	Council has 12 s355 Committees that exercise functions of Council
S428(2)(p)	Statement of all companies in which Council held a controlling interest	Nil
S428(2)(q)	Statement of partnerships, co-operatives and other joint ventures	Council has a number of partnerships with varying groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ryde City Council • Netwaste • Regional Development Australia • West Darling Arts • Regional Arts NSW • Western Shires of NSW • Westpac • RTA • CountryLink
S428(2)(r) CI217(1)(c)	Details of activities to develop and promote services and programs that provide for the needs of children	Whilst Council support all local Schools and Youth Groups, the Council's Social Plan expired in 2009. The needs of activities and services for the youth of the Shire will be identified as part of the Community Strategic Planning Process.
S428(2)(r) CI217(1)(d)(i)	Report on the Council's performance in relation to access and equity activities to meet residents' needs outlined in Council's Management Plan	Principal Activity achievements listed throughout report.

S508(2) & S508A Special Variation Expenditure

Council has no special variation.



S428(2)(I) Financial Assistance Grants 2010				
Applicant	Amount Requested	Purpose of Grant	Executive Manager's comments	Recommended Grant Amount
Ivanhoe Revival Group	\$4,000	Street Scaping and Development of Playground in Main Street, Build Public BBQ	Enhance street scape to encourage pride and tourism in an area accessible to the public.	\$1,000
Menindee Development Committee	\$1,000	Prizes for 2010 Fishing Competition	Encourage community involvement and activity.	\$1,000
Menindee Newspaper Group	In Kind Support	Photocopying of fortnightly newspaper at RTC	To provide the town an surrounds with informative information about Menindee. Encourage tourism and community involvement.	\$500
Menindee Charities Inc	\$810	Menindee Charities – Op Shop Signage	Council has provided funding in 2008 for revamp of verandah. A sign would give the store a professional street presence.	\$810
Menindee Sporting Club	\$2,000	Purchase and install new BBQ and Equipment	Provide facilities for future community use	\$1,000
Menindee Sunset Strip Anglican Pensions Association	\$500	Service and Repair Evaporative Air conditioner and other minor repairs to Hall	Repairs to be undertaken by Shire Maintenance Staff	\$500
Friends of Old Tintinallgy	\$2,000	Erection of Stock proof fence around bush cemetery	Ensure preservation of site of historic significance within the Shire	\$1,000
White Cliffs Parents and Citizens Group	\$2,900	Ballarat Excursion, SOTA Physical Education Camp and Excursion to Stewart House, Sydney	Allow children of remote communities the ability to discover interesting learning opportunities	\$1,000



S428(2)(I) Financial Assistance Grants 2010				
Applicant	Amount Requested	Purpose of Grant	Executive Manager's comments	Recommended Grant Amount
Menindee Children's Centre Inc	\$2,000	New resources for Childrens dramatic play area	Allow pre school aged children the ability to extend learning capabilities	\$1,000
Ivanhoe Quick Shear Competition	\$6,570	Purchase of portable sheep yards	Ensure tourism prospects are maintained in Ivanhoe	\$1,000
Ivanhoe Golf Club	\$1,000	Update septic system, carryout work on the Club House and update the sand green	Ensure the ability to undertake social and sporting activities within the town of Ivanhoe are maintained	\$1,000
Menindee Rugby League	\$4,500	Repair and upgrade oval	Ensure that sporting facilities within Menindee are maintained to encourage community health and involvement	\$1,000
Kilfera Field Day	\$1,000	Funds raised from Field Day be used to install 2 recycled air conditioners at Ivanhoe Hospital	To ensure that the Hospital is a comfortable environment to visit. Bring it to a similar standard of other hospitals in the Shire	\$1,000
St Therese's Community School	\$1,000	Purchase classroom chairs	Increase attention of children during classroom hours	\$1,000
Ivanhoe CWA	\$500	Purchase heating equipment for rooms	The CWA hall is used for various functions and houses the visiting hairdresser and beautician. To ensure that hall environment is more comfortable	\$500
15	\$40,130			\$13,810



Health

Drinking Water Quality Testing

S428(2)(b) Health	
Performance Requirement	Assessment
Undertake water samples (microbiology) for potable water supplies	Samples taken weekly/fortnightly
Undertake water samples (microbiology) for swimming pools	Taken monthly during swimming season
Undertake routine chlorine residual readings	Weekly
Undertake blue-green algae sampling along river	As required

Sampling of drinking water quality is carried out within the towns of Wilcannia, Ivanhoe and White Cliffs. The frequency of sampling is different in each town however the sample parameters are the same, with most samples tested for microbiology and chemistry. The below tables demonstrate the sampling pattern, the number of samples collected and the number of non-compliant results identified.

<u>Town</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>No of Sites Sampled</u>	<u>Samples Collected</u>
Wilcannia	Weekly	12	- Microbiology - Chemistry – biannually
Ivanhoe	Fortnightly	7	- Microbiology - Chemistry – biannually
White Cliffs	Fortnightly	7	- Microbiology - Chemistry – biannually
Wilcannia - Aboriginal Water and Sewage Program	Monthly	2	- Microbiology - Chemistry - Disinfection-by-products - Pesticide

<u>No of Samples Collected</u>	<u>Microbiology</u>	<u>Chemistry</u>
Wilcannia	63	16
Ivanhoe	28	0
White Cliffs	21	0
<u>No of Non-Compliant Results</u>	<u>Microbiology</u>	<u>Chemistry</u>
Wilcannia	11	5
Ivanhoe	7	0
White Cliffs	4	0



Food Inspections

S428(2)(b) health	
Performance Requirement	Assessment
To provide level of services as per Category B	Ongoing task
To implement food premises inspections to Category B level	Completed in 4 th Quarter
To investigate complaints to Category B level	Ongoing task

Central Darling Shire Council is classified as Category B under the Food Regulation Partnership as per agreements with NSW Food Authority. Under this arrangement food premises are inspected annually.

The following table demonstrates Council food premises activities over the past 12 months. During the reporting period two businesses required a second inspection and were found to be satisfactory. On re-inspection they both complied with the Food Act 2003 and Food Regulation 2010.

Key issues in this reporting period were rodents. This was due to the mouse plague which was a wide spread problem.

No of inspections undertaken	No of food outlets	No of non-compliance	No of food business requiring re-inspection
22	23	2	2

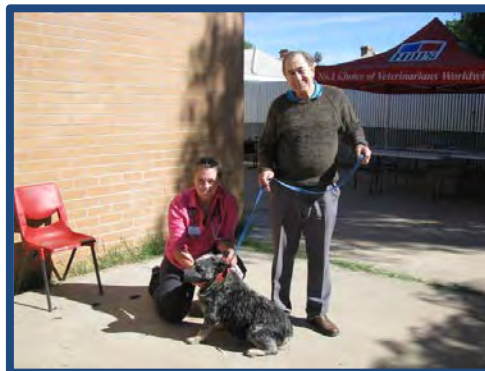


Public Order & Safety

cl217(1)(f) Companion Animals

S428(2)(b) Health	
Performance Requirement	Assessment
To implement companion animal control measures	Ongoing task
To encourage registrations and microchipping	Ongoing task
To assist with de-sexing clinics and education programs as required	RSPCA de-sexing clinic held April 2011

Animal Control in Central Darling is an ongoing issue. Constant monitoring and control measures are needed to deal with roaming and straying animals including both dogs and cats. In April 2011 Council partnered with RSPCA, NSW Health and Remote Service Delivery providers to undertake a Dog Health & Desexing Program. This program provided a free service to community members located in Wilcannia to treat companion animals in the form of worming, flea treatments and desexing. During the program held in April 2011, 60 -70 dogs and cats were treated and desexed. This was an excellent achievement and greatly assists Council to control companion animals through less puppies being born and left to roam around the township. The desexing program has been held 4 times over the past 8 years, and would be held yearly if funding permitted.



Desexing clinic held at Wilcannia Community Hall April 2011. (photo courtesy of Chris Elliott)

Other activities Council has undertaken to assist animal control within the Shire include provision of dog and cat traps to local residents (on a loan basis) to capture roaming animals, assist residents to surrender animals and rehome/remove as required, tend to injured animals and seek veterinary care as required through RSPCA in Broken Hill. Information items have been provided to educate local residents on animal control matters per the local newspaper and on rates notices.

Council has lodged relevant returns to the Department of Local Government as required being pound data collection returns and dog attack data. The amount of funding spent relating to companion animal management and activities was \$99,938.

At this stage it has not be deemed necessary to allocate specific off leash areas within any Shire towns.



Animal Control Statistics for 2010/11								
Month	Seized & Impounded	Returned to owner	Surrendered	Dumped	Euthanased	Stolen	Re-homed	In Pound at end of month
July 2010	19	0	15	5	39	0	0	0
Aug 2010	20	1	19	3	41	0	0	0
Sept 2010	21	0	17	0	37	0	0	1
Oct 2010	23	2	17	0	39	0	0	1
Nov 2010	10	0	20	0	28	2	0	0
Dec 2010	12	0	6	0	16	0	0	2
Jan 2011	19	1	6	0	21	0	4	1
Feb 2011	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
TOTAL	124	4	100	8	221	2	5	5
Mar - June 2011	No activities as Ranger/Animal Control Officer resigned and difficulties in finding replacement.							

S428(2)(i1) Bushfire Hazard Reduction

Council continues to assist the Rural Fire Service to undertake Fire Hazard Reduction work across the Shire. In 2010/2011 financial year, the Rural Fire Service Far West Team received a total of \$109,000 in funding to perform Hazard Reduction works in the Central Darling Shire Council Area.

The funding came from the following sources:

Original Council Estimates	\$6,000
Additional Council Estimates	\$50,000
Bush Fire Mitigation Program (BMP)	\$25,000
Fire Mitigation Works Fund (FMWF)	\$23,000
Mallee Fire Trail Funding	\$5,000
Total	\$109,000

The Council funding of \$56,000 was spent on Hazard Reduction works in and around Central Darling Shire villages and included slashing, grading and burning to maintain fire breaks, asset protection zones and strategic fire advantage zones.

The \$25,000 BMP funding was used to improve the fire trail running from Baden Park to Cobb Highway in Ivanhoe and \$20,000 of the FMWF funding was used to improve this trail further from Cobb Highway to Darnick.



**Bush Fire
Hazard
Reduction
Works**



The remaining \$3,000 FMWF funding was used for Hazard Reduction works in and around Ivanhoe village.

The Mallee Fire Trail funding, \$5,000, was used on access gates for the Tolarno (C5) fire trail in the Menindee area.

The Rural Fire Service undertakes its activities in accordance with the Central Darling Operations Plan – this plan deals with operational arrangements. The Service also uses the Central Darling Risk Management Plan – this plan addresses risks and threats in the district and the treatments for the risks. Each plan is a requirement under the Rural Fire Service Act.



Properties & Community Amenities

Properties

S428(2)(b) Environmental	
Performance Requirement	Assessment
Issue temporary licences for Crown Land as required	5 temporary licences issued in reporting period
Submit financial statements for Crown Land as required	Financial statements submitted
Support National Tree Day through tree allocations to local communities	Tree Day held in all Shire communities
Maintain all public parks, sporting facilities and public toilets to an acceptable community standard	All amenities maintained as per budgetary allocations
Manage Local Heritage Funding Program pending funding support from NSW Heritage Office	Continuing program with 5 projects funded in reporting period

Crown Land – Council is Trust Manager of a large portfolio of Crown Land within the Central Darling LGA. This land has been gazetted for many differing purposes of use. At this stage, Council is responsible for 51 Crown land parcels scattered across all towns, villages and localities.

Crown Land Properties Managed by Council in 2010/11 – facility and purpose of use			
Reserve/Facility	Reserve Number	Location	Purpose of use
Bourke & Wills Park	28962	Menindee	Oval, swimming pool
Burke Park	630012	Wilcannia	Showground
Crick Park	82520	Menindee	Public Recreation
Darnick Community Reserve	230084	Darnick	Community Purposes
Emmdale Emergency Reserve	1001363	Emmdale	Airstrip
Ivanhoe Aerodrome	85153	Ivanhoe	Aviation
Ivanhoe Bushfire Brigade	83244	Ivanhoe	Bushfire Brigade
Ivanhoe Recreation Grounds	83596	Ivanhoe	Recreation
Ivanhoe Regeneration Reserve	85989	Ivanhoe	Regeneration
Ivanhoe Rubbish Depot	84487	Ivanhoe	Rubbish Depot
Ivanhoe Water Supply	78333	Ivanhoe	Water Supply
Lake Menindee Plantation Res.	86859	Sunset Strip	Plantation, tourism purposes
Menindee Aerodrome	230056	Menindee	Aviation
Menindee Common Reserve	64609	Menindee	Camping, access
Menindee Common Reserve	64899	Menindee	Addition – commonage
Menindee Common Reserve	71522	Menindee	Common
Menindee Fire Brigade	78117	Menindee	Fire Station
Menindee Racecourse	84041	Menindee	Racecourse
Menindee Regeneration Res.	88474	Menindee	Regeneration
Tilpa Reserve	1004528	Tilpa	Cemetery
Menindee Reserve	13524	Menindee	Works Depot
Wilcannia Reserve	19334	Wilcannia	Common
White Cliffs Reserve	24554	White Cliffs	Cemetery
Menindee Reserve	28978	Menindee	Cemetery


Crown Land Properties Managed by Council in 2010/11 – facility and purpose of use

<u>Reserve/Facility</u>	<u>Reserve Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Purpose of use</u>
White Cliffs Reserve	38958	White Cliffs	Not Known
Ivanhoe Reserve	3966	Ivanhoe	Plantation & Cemetery
Ivanhoe Reserve	3967	Ivanhoe	Not Known
Menindee Reserve	87753	Menindee	Rubbish Depot
Ivanhoe Reserve	87826	Ivanhoe	Trucking & stock yards
Tilpa Reserve	88701	Tilpa	Public Recreation
White Cliffs Reserve	91119	White Cliffs	Rubbish Depot
Menindee Rubbish Depot	90833	Menindee	Rubbish Depot
White Cliffs Rubbish Depot	97755	White Cliffs	Rubbish Depot
Wilcannia Rubbish Depot	90899	Wilcannia	Rubbish Depot
Sturt Park Reserve	630016	Wilcannia	Recreation
Sunset Strip Bushfire Brigade	230091	Sunset Strip	Bushfire brigade purposes
Sunset Strip Rubbish Depot	97736	Sunset Strip	Rubbish Depot
Tilpa Airport	96846	Tilpa	Aviation
Trida Public Hall	85640	Trida	Public Hall
Victory Park Caravan Park	1004988	Wilcannia	Recreation
White Cliffs Aerodrome	86808	White Cliffs	Aviation purposes
White Cliffs Gymkhana Res	30642	White Cliffs	Racecourse
White Cliffs Regeneration Res	89857	White Cliffs	Regeneration
White Cliffs Water Supply	97857	White Cliffs	Water Supply
Wilcannia Common Reserve	77322	Wilcannia	Commonage
Wilcannia Effluent Ponds	91299	Wilcannia	Sanitary Purpose
Wilcannia Golf Course	87463	Wilcannia	Golf Course
Wilcannia Public Recreation Res	85567	Wilcannia	Recreation
Wilcannia Regeneration Res	87409	Wilcannia	Regeneration
Wilcannia Septic Tank Pumpout	90900	Wilcannia	Sanitary Depot
Wilcannia Urban Services	230082	Wilcannia	Fire Brigade

Public Buildings/Council Owned or Managed Facilities – Council owns many buildings across the Shire primarily related directly to its operations and staff accommodation. There are 211 buildings and structures in total. These buildings consist of houses, flats, work depots, administration buildings, Rural Transaction Centres, Community Halls, bushfire sheds and buildings, SES buildings, public toilets, sporting ovals, swimming pool amenities, roadside shelters, animal pounds, filtration plants and various other sheds.

Council Owned or Managed Facilities

<u>Facility Type</u>	<u>Number of Buildings</u>	<u>Locations</u>
Staff Houses and flats	15	Wilcannia
Community Housing	6	Menindee
Community Halls	7	Darnick, Wilcannia, Ivanhoe, Menindee, White Cliffs, Sunset Strip, Tilpa
ATCO's	3	Wilcannia, Menindee, Ivanhoe
SES Sheds	4	Wilcannia, Menindee, Ivanhoe, White Cliffs
Bushfire Brigade	6	Wilcannia, Ivanhoe, Menindee, White Cliffs, Sunset Strip, Tilpa
Rural Transaction Centres	1	Menindee



Council Owned or Managed Facilities		
<u>Facility Type</u>	<u>Number of Buildings</u>	<u>Locations</u>
Multiservice Outlets	1	Ivanhoe
Administration Buildings	1	Wilcannia (Council Chambers – heritage listed)
Customer Service Centre	1	Wilcannia
Works Depots	4	Menindee, Wilcannia, Ivanhoe and White Cliffs
Womens & Children Safehouse	1	Wilcannia
Athenaeum	1	Wilcannia
Old Heritage Buildings/Sites	2	Wilcannia (Post Office, Knox & Downs)
Caravan Parks	2	Wilcannia and White Cliffs
Public Toilets	6	Wilcannia, Menindee, Ivanhoe
Ovals, sports grounds	4	Wilcannia, Menindee, Ivanhoe, Tilpa
Swimming Pools	4	Wilcannia, Menindee, Ivanhoe and White Cliffs
Cemeteries	5	White Cliffs, Tilpa, Menindee, Ivanhoe & Wilcannia
Water Filtration Plants	3	Wilcannia, White Cliffs & Ivanhoe
Waste Depots	7	White Cliffs, Tilpa, Ivanhoe, Wilcannia, Menindee, Sunset Strip & Copi Hollow

The above list is not exhaustive and does not include smaller buildings attached or associated with these main facilities. Three of the above listed items notably the Old Wilcannia Post Office, the Wilcannia Council Chambers and the Knox & Downs building are heritage listed sites within Wilcannia.

The Old Wilcannia Post Office building has had some renovations undertaken to the exterior of the building and inside the main front room, however still requires extensive works to the residential section and to the yard. Funding to continue the works is required, and to date Council has not been successful in obtaining funding to undertake these works to make the building useable.

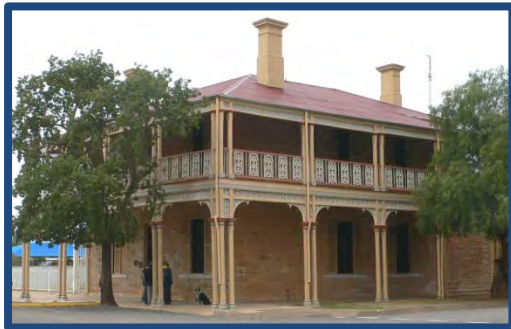
Photos of the Old Wilcannia Post Office, Wilcannia Council Chambers and Knox & Downs are provided below. The Knox & Downs building contains the remnants of a burnt out supermarket. No specific future use has been found for this site, nor has a suitable funding stream been identified. Considerable clean-up and either rebuild or demolition works are required before this site could be utilised for any specific purpose.



Old Wilcannia Post Office – Cnr Reid and Myers Street, Wilcannia



**Former Knox and Downs
building destroyed by
fire in 2002 – located in
Reid Street. Wilcannia**



**Wilcannia Council
Chambers, Reid Street,
Wilcannia**

Generally, the condition of public buildings varies from building to building. Those directly accessed by the public are of good, sound condition. Works undertaken to these buildings are of a standard suitable for acceptable use by the public. To date, Council has undertaken limited work on asset management planning to be able to give a good indication of the funds required to bring all Council owned and operated buildings up to a satisfactory standard. Asset management planning is due to commence in the next financial year. On this basis, Council is unable to estimate the amount of money required to bring the works up to a satisfactory standard.

Generally it costs Council \$325,000 per year to maintain the buildings to their current standard.

Caravan Parks

Victory Park Caravan Park, Wilcannia



Situated on the banks of the Darling River at Wilcannia is Victory Park Caravan Park, set amongst majestic gum trees. The park grounds are still recovering from recent flooding but are slowly returning to normal. During the reporting period this caravan park was under lease agreement by Murdi Paaki Regional Enterprise Corporation.

Opal Pioneers Caravan Park, White Cliffs



Situated in the opal mining town of White Cliffs is Central Darling Shire Council's Opal Pioneer Caravan Park. The park has had upgrades to its power system and a dump point has been installed due to the increase in tourism numbers. The park has modern amenities. Rainwater tanks have also been installed at various locations within the grounds. This park is managed by a S355 Committee of Council being the White Cliffs Community Association.

Heritage

Council is actively involved in preservation of heritage items and assisting owners of local heritage items to retain and conserve buildings and items of heritage significance on a regular basis. Council has a Heritage Strategy that includes the provision of a Heritage Advisory Service and a Local Heritage Fund. Council receives funding from the NSW Heritage Office for these programs and during 2010/11 allocations were as follows:

Heritage Advisory Program - \$17,500

Local Heritage Fund - \$15,000

During 2010/11, Council's Heritage Advisor visited the Shire and met with local residents for free appointments on 7 occasions. As part of these appointments 32 consultations occurred. During this period the Heritage Advisor also prepared a Main Street Report for Wilcannia to assist staff with planning and development queries relating to the older heritage buildings and remnants/relics.

The Local Heritage Fund attracted 5 projects across the Shire in Menindee and Wilcannia. From these 5 projects a total of \$33,732 was spent by residents on their own buildings. Council supplemented out of the Local Heritage Fund a total of \$12,000 towards these projects. Some of the works funded out of the Local Heritage Fund are shown below in the following photographs.

The Heritage Strategy continues to be a worthwhile program for delivery across the Shire and has been in progress since 2008.



Verandah Repairs – Reid Street, Wilcannia



Verandah Installation – Reid Street, Wilcannia

Swimming Pools

Council owns, manages and operates 4 public swimming pool facilities across the Shire. These facilities are located in Wilcannia, Menindee, Ivanhoe and White Cliffs. Within each facility is a large pool and a small toddlers wading pool, apart from White Cliffs which only has one large pool. Council’s public swimming pools are relatively aged, and require ongoing works to keep operational. Menindee has the newest pool being constructed in the late 1990’s. Council employs Casual Pool Attendants each year to supervise its swimming pools. These employees are trained in First Aid, Bronze Medallion and Royal Lifeguard Licence. Extensive works have been undertaken to manage risks at our pools in the areas of signage and supervisory activities.

Council is mindful of the extensive summer heat, and has installed large shade sails over its pools in all locations. The amenities are all in average condition, apart from Ivanhoe which requires extensive works in the near future. Works are planned to be undertaken in late 2011 to repaint the Ivanhoe pool and implement urgent renovation works to the amenities.

The pools are open from mid- November to March/April each year. The hours of operation are limited to 3pm to 6pm on school days, and 3pm to 8pm on weekends and school holidays.

Town	Attendance Numbers
Wilcannia	2252
Menindee	2155
Ivanhoe	670
White Cliffs	520



Tree Day



**Local residents receiving
their free trees at
National Tree Day held
in Wilcannia**

Council holds a tree day every year in conjunction with National Tree Day. Council has been participating in this event since 1993 and purchases trees (as seedlings) to give away to our ratepayers and community members. Trees are free on a first in basis, with two free trees being given to each resident that attends the distribution point in each town/locality. This program is held in Wilcannia, White Cliffs, Menindee, Ivanhoe, Sunset Strip and Tilpa. Schools from all towns also participate and are given free trees to plant on School Tree Day, generally held at the same time as National Tree Day.



Town Planning

S428(2)(b) Town Planning	
Performance Requirement	Assessment
Undertake LEP Amendment	Completed
Update LEP to Comprehensive LEP – to be achieved under joint funding with Brewarrina & Bourke Shires	In progress – due for Gazettal December 2010

Development Applications

Council receives a number of Development Applications (DAs) each year for a wide range of development varying from residential to commercial work. Council receives in the vicinity of 20-30 DAs per year, in the 2010-11 reporting period Council has received 22 DAs. The table below provides a breakdown on the types of DAs received, and the total value of these three main categories of development. Development in the Central Darling LGA is mainly in the townships of Wilcannia and Menindee, however development in the other towns and in rural settings has occurred as well. Most DAs lodged with Council are for smaller residential developments, however at least a couple of times a year Council receive applications for larger developments. Council supports Complying Development Certificates when possible. Over the reporting period 3 Complying Development Certificate applications were lodged with Council for development in Wilcannia. As part of the DA process Council has also issued 17 Construction Certificates and 4 Occupation Certificates.

Some of the larger scale developments approved over the 2010/11 reporting period include – new Wilcannia Safehouse, Transfield Railworkers Camp located at Ivanhoe, new dwellings in Wilcannia, CDEP shed in Wilcannia.

DA Categories and Values for 2010/11 reporting period		
<u>Development Category</u>	<u>Number of DAs related to this Category</u>	<u>Total Value of Category</u>
Residential	12	\$5,288,440
Commercial	11	\$1,331,399
Rural	2	\$149,700
TOTAL	25	\$6,709,539



**New
Safehouse
located in
Wilcannia**

S93G(5) Information about planning agreements

Central Darling Shire Council has not entered into any planning agreements for the reporting period.

S428(2)(k) Section 67 – Work Carried out on Private Land

Central Darling Shire council has had no Section 67 works completed for the reporting period.



Environment

Flooding

During 2010/11, flows down the Darling River were extensive and consistent due to ongoing rain events in the catchment. The two rivers in the Central Darling area are the Darling and the Paroo. Both rivers contributed to extensive flooding of floodplains across a vast area within the Shire. The flooding led to the filling of many lakes and tributaries giving flood reliant vegetation a long awaited drink to assist with sustainability and regeneration. With the floodwaters came waterbirds and a hive of activity to generally dry lakebeds.

The floodwaters filled the Menindee Lakes and generated some flooding of properties in the Menindee area. Some residents were stranded for lengthy periods waiting for floodwaters to recede. Other towns and localities were stranded, but not directly flooded. Tilpa for example was cut off via road, however flood waters did not breach the town levee. Wilcannia's caravan park was flooded, but no other buildings or structures were affected.

One lake in particular located west of Wilcannia was filled by the flood events. This lake known as Lake Woytchugga had remained empty for approximately the last ten years. With the flood waters this lake filled to capacity. The lake is ephemeral in nature and covers an area of approximately 2,045 hectares. In 2009, Council undertook an extensive conservation and fencing project of the lake through the assistance of the Department of Primary Industries Wetlands on Farms program, and also applied and received funding through the Western Catchment Management Authority High Conservation Value Program. This assistance provided the means for Council to fence the lake area, generate interpretative funding, and to install larger culverts under the west side Menindee-Wilcannia Rd to assist floodwater flow to and from the lake. The lake and its surrounds are important for environmental and cultural heritage reasons. In early 2011, Council nominated the project for the 2011 Western Catchment Environmental Care Awards, and won the category for the Business, Industry or Local Government Award. This award has generated some media interest, and a short film has been made on the lake and project, along with professional photography. A story on the project is due for release in the RMW Outback Magazine in late 2011.



Lake Woytchugga full from flood events in 2011. (Photo: Peter Elfes/Western CMA)



Water flowing through the new culverts into Lake Woytchugga, CDSC staff and Mayor Paul Brown with Maree Barnes from WCMA and local Aboriginal community members. (Photo: Peter Elfes/Western CMA)



Climate Change

Over recent years increased focus is being placed on climate change and what this means for the local environment and local communities. To date, Council has had minimal input into climate change and the possible effects on the local area and the operations of Council.

S428(2)(c) cl218-226 State of Environment Report

The State of the Environment report can be seen in Appendix C.



Domestic Waste Management

S428(2)(b) Waste Management

S428(2)(b) Asset Management	
Performance Requirement	Assessment
Continue to improve Menindee & Wilcannia Waste Depots	Ongoing
Implement improvements to Ivanhoe Waste Depot	Completed in reporting period
Source contracts through Netwaste for sale of recyclables	Contracts continually being sourced.

Council manages and operates 7 waste depots across the Shire. Each waste depot consists of a landfill, with Wilcannia, Menindee and Ivanhoe also having broader recycling streams. Council's waste depots are located in Wilcannia, Menindee, Ivanhoe, Sunset Strip, White Cliffs and Tilpa. Due to numerous complaints regarding illegal burning over past years, Council introduced restricted access to its waste depots in Menindee, Wilcannia & Ivanhoe. This means these waste depots are manned by a Waste Operator during opening hours and open 4 days a week on Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday for 3 hours per day with an extra 2 hours on Saturday afternoons. The larger recycling streams provide for separation of large wastes, such as scrap metal, tyres, green waste, timber products, concrete products. It is often difficult to keep these lines defined, as many dumpers do not segregate their wastes, and often the wrong materials end up in the wrong areas. This is an ongoing challenge for Council.

Future recycling opportunities are very difficult to secure due to distance and freight costs. The option to further refine recycling lines into glass, plastic, cans and other streams is not currently viable and Council does not currently have available funds to introduce these changes.

Council provides kerbside collection services to the towns of Wilcannia, Menindee and Ivanhoe. Collection is via 240L wheelie bins and garbage trucks and is provided to 799 residential and commercial properties. It is difficult to estimate exact tonnages of waste disposed at the waste depot each year without having access to a weighbridge in each facility.

<u>Waste Depot</u>	<u>Waste Received during 2010/11(tonnes)</u>
Menindee	527
Ivanhoe	413
Wilcannia	585
Sunset Strip	39
White Cliffs	289
Tilpa	25



Community Services

S428(2)(b) Community Services	
Performance Requirement	Assessment
Complete Annual Service Agreement for Wilcannia Womens and Childrens Safehouse	Completed 4 th Quarter
Provide continued support to facilitate the provision of health buses to Wilcannia and Menindee	Ongoing
Ensure the Ivanhoe Multi Service Outlet is operated to funding guidelines	Ongoing
Review Crime Prevention Plan	Ongoing
Ensure the Menindee Transaction Centre is maintained to community expectations	Ongoing
Continue to support the Community Working Parties of the Shire in achieving their action plans	Attendance at monthly Community Working Party meetings where possible
Assist community groups to stage regular and ongoing events	Assistance given on an as needs basis

Indigenous Liaison

Wilcannia is one of 29 aboriginal communities in Australia and one of only 2 in NSW that were selected for the Remote Service Delivery (RSD) program aimed at closing the gap on Aboriginal disadvantage. Closing the Gap is linked to a wider reform of Commonwealth-State financial relations. COAG's national agreements and partnerships, in areas such as education, housing and health, have a clear focus on overcoming Indigenous disadvantage. COAG has agreed to specific timeframes for achieving six Closing the Gap targets, relating to Indigenous life expectancy, infant mortality, early childhood development, education and employment.

Underpinning Closing the Gap is a new way of working across government and of engaging with Indigenous communities. Governments are cooperating to better coordinate their services and funding. Clear responsibilities, specific targets and rigorous reporting will help to keep governments on track.

As part of that framework, Council has a role to play in the RSD program. The RSD program is guided by a Local Implementation Plan (LIP), which has the specific purpose of improving government services in Wilcannia. Whilst not a signatory to the LIP, Council is a partner organisation and has an important role to play in the RSD program.

Community working parties (CWP) are another important mechanism through which Council is able to maintain direct communication with its Indigenous population. CWPs have been established by the State Government as part of its Two Ways Together Partnersip Community Program. The CWPs are a way of working together to improve outcomes for Aboriginal people on the ground. 40 Partnership Communities have been established in towns across NSW, including Wilcannia, Ivanhoe and Menindee. Council is an active participant in the CWP meetings.



Australia Day

Australia Day celebrations are held in each of the towns every year. Council provides grants of \$200 to organisations within the towns to help with the celebrations, this year the Wilcannia Tourism Association held a fun day at the Wilcannia swimming pool with games and a BBQ. Sunset Strip Progress Association held a community fun day. In Menindee there was an Australia Day morning tea, Ivanhoe held their celebrations when school went back, Tilpa had a BBQ and White Cliffs held many events including a morning tea. White Cliffs hosted the ambassador Mrs Mary-Ruth Mendel. Australia Day awards were well received with citizen of the year being awarded to; Mrs Lorraine King (Menindee), Ms Germaine Bates (Wilcannia), Ms Heather McGinty (Ivanhoe), Mr Rodney Cook (White Cliffs). Young citizen of the year awards recipients were: Miss Belinda King (Wilcannia), Master Peter McKenzie (Ivanhoe). Community event of the year was given to; Darling River Dash (Wilcannia), Mossgiel six a side cricket (Ivanhoe), White Cliffs Art and Music Festival (White Cliffs). A special community award was awarded to the ladies of the Tilpa district.



King Family of Menindee

Youth Week

Every year council makes available grants of \$500 for each town to assist in Youth week events and celebrations. This year the grants were received by Wings drop in centre (Wilcannia), Menindee Youth Centre and Menindee Central School shared the money for Menindee, Ivanhoe youth centre received the money for Ivanhoe. From all reports, the celebrations that were held in Youth Week were the best attended for many years. Wilcannia hosted over 500 young people at the disco and hip hop workshops that were held. Council received some grant funding from the national youth week grant funding to offset some of the cost.



Youth Week Wilcannia



Seniors Week

Every year Council makes available grants of five hundred dollars per town for seniors week events and celebrations. The White Cliffs Community Association held a Chinese dinner with nibbles, Menindee Pensioners Association held a luncheon, Sunset Strip celebrated with a morning tea, Wilcannia health service held an outdoor luncheon. In 2012 Council will be raising the amount of grant funding available to \$750 each town. Council has applied for and in the past has been successful in gaining a grant for the Seniors week to offset some of the costs.

Ivanhoe MSO

Over the financial year 20/10/2011 the Ivanhoe MSO has continued to provide support services to our MSO/HACC Clients and the wider Ivanhoe community through providing Community Transport Distance and local, Home Care, Social Support, and Meals on Wheels service as well as handling general CDSC enquiries.

The MSO Office has become a 'drop-in Centre' for many locals and travellers making enquiries on various subjects ranging from local Road Conditions to Native Flora and Fauna, Maps and local history to borrowing library books and videos, and other Agency queries. Brochures are made available ranging from Dog Registrations to Financial Planning, Legal Aid, 'What's On in our Shire' and placing information on our services in our Monday News. We have a photocopying and faxing service and help with filling in of forms and making phone enquiries on their behalf if clients are finding this difficult.



Medical/Social Trips

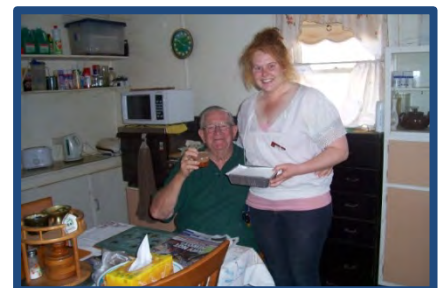
Our CDSC MSO Community Bus is an essential service and a popular trip away for clients as well as other community members for shopping, medical appointments, and social outings. The BUS comes home with happy but tired people and their goodies after the fortnightly trips to Griffith and Hat. The Bus has become a local identity as staff pick up and drop off clients and community members for local shopping and social outings. This service is available Monday to Friday. Council would not be able to provide this service without the dedicated help from Volunteer Bus Driver, Ron Maiden.

For Specialist Medical Trips (Scans, X-Rays and Day Surgery, etc) to Broken Hill, Griffith and Mildura Council has two Volunteer drivers who take the time to provide special care for our clients either driving the bus or the MSO work car to their appointments.

Community Transport NSW and ADHAC NSW fund these trips for remote and isolated Communities and CDSC auspice this funding.

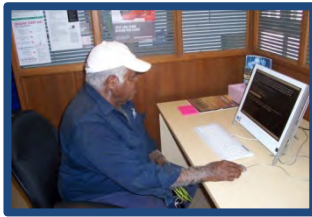
Meals on Wheels - Ivanhoe

Meals On Wheels is available from the Correctional Services kitchen Mondays to Fridays (even Christmas and Easter Day and other public holidays). Staff are rostered to deliver the evening meals each day.





Seniors BroadBand



The MSO was lucky to receive two new Computers from NEC for Seniors Broadband. The Computers get used quite frequently as the elderly people are very appreciative with the help using the new computers from volunteer tutors Ashley Bourke, Sam McKenzie, Tammie McMaster and Margie Barter. We have had Clients come in the MSO office, that have never used a computer before and do practise test on the RTA website for their licence.

Homecare

The MSO Office offers homecare to the elderly and other people that are in need of help with cleaning in their home. Council have two Homecare workers, Samantha McKenzie and Tammie McMaster. This has been a great service to the clients as they really appreciate the help in their home. The clients and the Homecare workers have made great friendships with their clients.

Menindee RTC

The Transaction Centre is a presence for the Central Darling Shire Council in Menindee as part of the Community and Economic Development sector of Council.

Meals-On-Wheels – Menindee

CDSC has been the auspicing body for the Menindee Meals-On-Wheels and with the support of volunteer deliverers some 2,000 meals were provided to 8 clients. Staff attendance at Food Forums in the Far West area allowed for networking and training to keep abreast of the requirements of Common Standards for the provision of meals.



New Meals-on-Wheels kitchen in Menindee with Howard Seddon taking delivery of meals from Tina Philp

The staff of the Transaction Centre endeavor to support and take part in all community events where possible. We have once again been involved with charity fundraising with the holding of the Biggest Morning Tea in conjunction with Menindee Charities and the selling of items for Daffodil Day, Happy Tails and Pink Ribbon Day. The Centre works closely with charitable organisations such as St. Vincent de Paul and Lifeline to distribute Christmas hampers, presents as well as other items.



Assisting charitable organisations with the distribution of donated items



Waste to Art

After CDSC hosted the Regional Waste to Art Exhibition in June 2010, the 2011 local competition was a much smaller affair with only 7 entries being received with 6 of these entries going onto the Regional Exhibition in Parkes. Long time entrant, Lorraine Looney, was successful in receiving the Curator’s Award with her ‘Specimens’ entry.



'Specimens' by Lorraine Looney

The Centre is also a meeting place for the community to access the following services:

Centrelink Agency for lodgement of forms, phone contact, and identification needs etc. 9.30am-12.30pm Monday — Friday

Room Hire - available for meetings or appointments

Hall Hire - Menindee Civic Hall for meetings, functions and courses

All secretarial needs – Word processing, laminating, photocopying, shredding, printing

Community Library – All of the books available have been donated by the community

Community Access Bus - Monday to Friday Priority Health Patients booked by Health Service - free travel. \$7.50 single trip to Broken Hill \$15 return trip to Menindee.

Menindee Community Bus Statistics

	Health Pass (per leg)	Paying Pass(per leg)	Total Passengers
Jul-10	66	201	267
Aug-10	72	226	298
Sep-10	57	243	300
Oct-10	78	193	271
Nov-10	77	244	321
Dec-10	44	187	231
Jan-11	27	74	101
Feb-11	77	254	331
Mar-11	49	216	265
Apr-11	50	165	215
May-11	69	156	225
Jun-11	63	171	234
Total for Year	729	2330	3059



Men-In-Dee Shed —Wednesday 10am-2pm and Saturday 10am-12 noon in the grounds of the Transaction Centre is being more utilised since purchasing machinery and equipment to allow participants to make timber products for themselves and to sell at the community markets. The men of the shed support other community events by cooking BBQs as a further fundraising avenue to keep the shed stocked in the resources that are needed.



Men-In-Dee Shed participant cooking up a storm



Back to Menindee Fishing Challenge – CDSC has been one of the major sponsors of the annual fishing challenge by providing \$1,000 from the Financial Assistance Grants to the Menindee Development Committee for prize monies for the event. Council Staff were involved with preparations

for the event which attracted some 100 participants.

Burke & Wills Environmental Expedition September 2010 –The Centre was used as a contact to organise the Menindee section of the re-enactment of the 150th Anniversary of the trek whereby modern day environmentalists followed the footsteps of the initial explorers. Botanists, artists, film-makers and others interested in Burke and Wills came to Menindee to document what the local environment is today compared to 150 years ago. A group of botanical artists will return over a three year period in the endeavour to find as many plant specimens as those found by Thomas Beckler, the Botanist on the original trek.



Dr Jonathan King and cameraman, Steve

Wilcannia Community Access Bus - Monday to Friday Priority Health Patients booked by Health Service - free travel. \$7.50 single trip to Broken Hill \$15 return trip to Wilcannia.

Wilcannia Community Bus Statistics				
	Health Pass (per leg)	Paying Pass(per leg)	Children (Per Leg)	Total Passengers
Jul-10	76	392	23	491
Aug-10	63	218	2	283
Sep-10	86	266	13	365
Oct-10	84	178	3	265
Nov-10	112	239	8	359
Dec-10	59	166	9	234
Jan-11	22	30	2	54
Feb-11	88	185	6	279
Mar-11	84	238	7	329
Apr-11	82	294	13	389
May-11	85	266	12	363
Jun-11	86	162	7	255
Total for Year	927	2,634	105	3,666



Economic Development and Tourism

Council's Tourism and Economic Development activities had been co-ordinated by Kym Fuller until his resignation in early 2011. Kym had been a representative on the RDA Far West NSW Board, as was the former General Manager, Tim Hazell.

Council is affiliated with RDA Far West NSW, which replaced the former Australian Government's Outback NSW Area Consultative Committee and the NSW State Far Western Regional Development Board. Regional Development Australia (RDA) is an Australian Government initiative that aims to bring together all levels of government to enhance the growth and development of regional Australia. RDA Far West NSW

The four key functions for national RDA network are:

- Community and economic development
- Consultation and community engagement
- Regional planning
- Promoting whole of government programs policies and initiatives

Council's tourist attractions are actively promoted by tourism bodies such as Outback Tourism NSW and the Long Paddock. The Long Paddock is a touring route that follows the old stock route along the Cobb Highway in New South Wales, from Echuca-Moama on the Murray in the south, through to Wilcannia.

In March 2011, Council decided that it would supply funding of \$5,000 to each town's Community Tourism Association. Whilst this funding had not been allocated during the year, the funding will assist with the development and promotion of tourism throughout the Shire.

Tourism plays a vital role in the economy of the Central Darling Shire Council, with many tourists visiting the Council area every day. Each of Council's towns has its own identity and appeal for tourists. Historical features form a key part of the tourist appeal and are supported by self-guided heritage trails with interpretive signage.

Council caravan parks are an important link in Council's tourism infrastructure and are well-managed by the local committees or other groups. Public Council caravan parks are located in Wilcannia and White Cliffs.



Roads & Bridges

Natural Disaster Declaration

As a result of extensive rain across the Shire in mid January, the Shire was given a Natural Disaster declaration. This came in addition to the two natural disasters that destroyed an estimated 650 kilometres of the road network in 2010. It was estimated that damage has occurred to over 800 kilometres of the road with an estimated repair bill exceeding \$2 million.



Barrier Highway, Wilcannia

A significant rainfall event occurred west of White Cliffs and north of the Barrier Highway on 13th January 2011. White Cliffs recorded rainfall of 89.6 mm at 9am on 14th January. Wilcannia recorded rainfall of 80.2 mm at 9am on 14th January for a seven day total of 150 mm. Water from Grassmere Creek crossed the Barrier Highway at a number of locations in the following days.



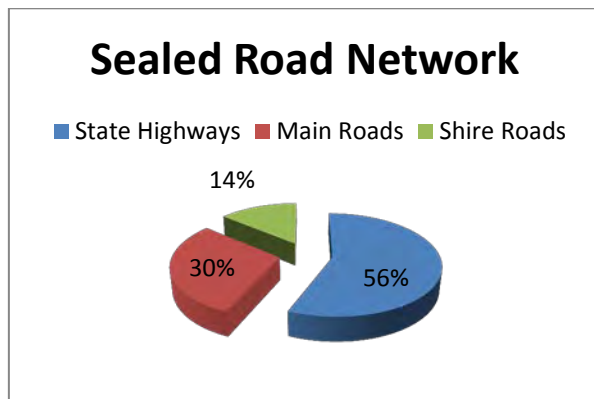
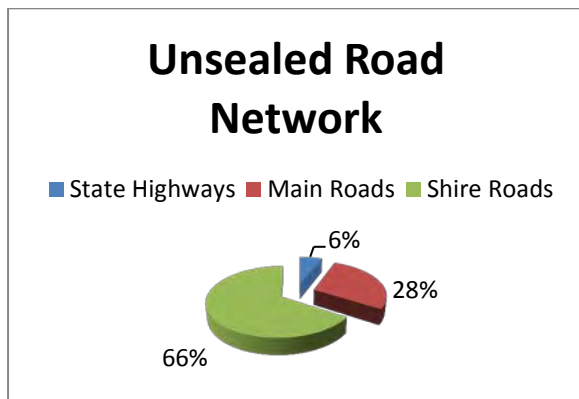
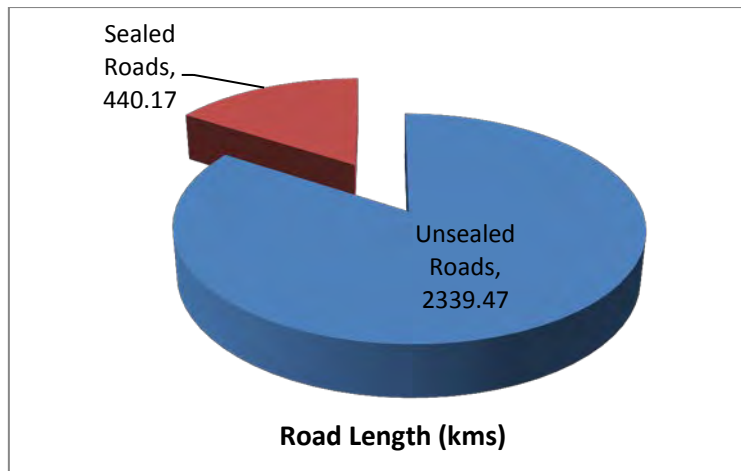
Impassable Irrigation Road, Menindee due to the rising of the Darling River

This inundation was water from Grassmere Creek – following a traditional pathway unseen in this generation

23km west of Wilcannia, adjacent to Netallie Station, water crossed the road in a natural box swamp. It exceeded safe travel depth, subsequently the road was closed on 18th January 2011. RTA Engineers determined the best possible route to drain the large amount of flood water at the site and the Roads Overseer supervised subcontractors with heavy earth moving machinery over the 5 days it took to complete the works. The road was reopened on Sunday 23rd January.



Shire Engineers, General Manager, RTA Engineer and Contractors surveying large earthworks to drain floodwaters.



S428(2)(b) Asset Management	
Performance Requirement	Assessment
Ensure all roads within the Shire are maintained	Ongoing maintenance grading program reviewed monthly
Acquit grant funds as required	Funds acquitted with the RTA
Maintain Routine Maintenance Council Contract	Ongoing with assistance from RTA

The following is a summary of the works undertaken on the State, Regional and Shire road network with the Shire in the 2010/2011 financial year.

State Highways

Under Council’s Routine Maintenance Council Contract (RMCC), Council is responsible for 387km of State Highway which includes both sealed and unsealed sections. The majority of funding was expended on reseals, heavy patching, flood damage restoration, new grids and approaches, reshape and capping works and safety barrier upgrade works.



Report on RMCC Routine work 2010/11

Total Budgeted cost paid to Council for RMCC routine work=	\$727,250
Council's expenditure for RMCC routine work=	\$696,726
% of Completion=	95.80%

- List of Jobs being done under this routine work
- Routine Inspection
 - Pothole Repair
 - Edgebreak repair
 - Formation Grading
 - Shoulder Grading
 - Litter and debris removal
 - Ground vegetation control
 - Control saplings within clear zone
 - Stock grids and races Maintenance
 - Stockpile sites Maintenance
 - Rest area - Service
 - Rest area - Repair
 - Clean culverts
 - Minor repair culverts
 - Minor repair headwalls and/or wingwalls
 - Guide post maintenance
 - Replace minor signs
 - Maintain major signs



List of Work Orders issued in 2010/11

1 WO 111.10.01_V01 Culvert HW 21 \$44810.00	Completed and Paid
2 WO 111.11.01 HW 8 Heavy Patching \$115,734.18	Completed and Paid
3 WO 111.11.02 HW 21 Heavy Patching \$49,690.70	Completed and Paid
4 WO 111.11.03 HW 8 Reseal \$406,146.84	Completed and Paid
5 WO 111.11.04 HW 21 Reseal \$238,824.64	Completed and Paid
6 WO 111.11.05 HW 8 & HW 21 Flood Emergency Response \$41,062.00	Completed and Paid
7 WO 111.11.06 HW 8 & HW 21 Woody Weed treatment \$20,000.59	Still in progress
8 WO 111.11.07 HW 21 Gravel resheeting \$200,040.80	Completed and Paid
9 WO 111.11.08 HW 21 Grid replacement \$197547.80	Completed and Paid
10 WO 111.11.09 HW 8 Barrier \$22556.00	Completed and Paid
11 WO 111.11.10 HW 8 Rest Area \$14960.00	Completed and Paid
12 WO 111.11.11 HW 8 HW 21 Signs \$9990.10	Completed and waiting for Payment
13 WO 111.11.12 HW 21 Safety Barrier HW 21 \$23125.00	Completed and Paid
14 WO 111.11.13 HW 21 Signs destination \$15880.00	Completed and Paid

Regional Roads

Council maintains 790km of Regional (or Main) Roads within the Shire. Funding received included \$2,301,000 from Regional Road Block Grant and \$625,800 for Flood Restoration Works.

Major Works consisted of \$1,100,000 Reconstruction on MR428 Kayrunnera Rd.

Flood Damage Restoration Works and maintenance grading works accounted for the remainder of Regional Road works.

No reseals were carried out this financial year.



**Road Gangers
Bob Hocking & Vic Sammut**

Local Roads

Council maintains 1600km of Local Roads within the Shire. Funding received from Federal Assistance Grant totalled \$1,255,000 and Flood Damage Restoration Works \$1,370,000.

The majority of all local road works included emergency flood, flood restoration works and other maintenance grading works.

Town Street routine maintenance works are ongoing and include kerb and gutter cleaning on a weekly basis, tree and ground vegetation maintenance, street sweeping and sign maintenance.

Bridges

Routine maintenance carried out on Council owned bridges included visual inspections, termite treatment and minor repairs.



2011/12 will see the completion of Talyawalka Bridge, Pooncarie Rd, timber bridge replaced with a concrete structure. (\$1.2m).

2011/12 will also see the restoration works carried out to the Old Wilcannia Bridge. (\$90k)

Shire Road bridge improvements into the future will see the replacement/ improvements to SR1, Wilcannia to Tilpa East side Rd, Pappenbilla and Talyawalka timber bridges which currently are impassable with weight restrictions in place.

S428(2)(k) Works on Private Land

Council has not conducted any works on private land during the reporting period.



Water, Sewer & Stormwater

S428(2)(b) Asset Management	
Performance Requirement	Assessment
Maintain consistency of primary treated water to town of White Cliffs	Ongoing
Maintain consistency of potable and raw water supplies to Ivanhoe and Wilcannia	Ongoing
Ensure that the current standard of sewerage collection is maintained	Ongoing

Major Activities

Wilcannia Water Supply and Sewerage services are subject to 2 major initiatives.

Firstly the Aboriginal Communities Water Supply and Sewerage Program, funded and implemented by Commonwealth and State agencies respectively, supports the servicing of the Mallee and Waralli Mission Water Supply and Sewerage Schemes with \$184,000 funding to be expended in accordance with the interim service agreement between Central Darling Shire Council, NSW Office of Water and Wilcannia Aboriginal Lands Council.

Secondly the Remote Communities Water Supply and Sewerage Program has approved in excess of \$2.6m towards the augmentation of the Wilcannia Water Supply and Sewerage Schemes. The water supply augmentation includes relining the filtered water reservoir, construction of raw water trunk main, OH&S and chemical improvements to the WTP and river well intake upgrade. The sewerage augmentation includes construction of new sewerage pump station at the Waralli Mission, rising main construction, sewage collection improvements at the Mallee Mission and STP inlet improvements.

Water

Potable (treated) and raw reticulated water services continued to be provided to the townships of Wilcannia and Ivanhoe in accordance with NSW Office of Water and NSW Department of Health regulations and guidelines in conjunction with a testing regime undertaken by Council operators in consultation with these government departments. Generally operational issues were related to turbidity and disinfection levels which were corrected in a timely manner.

Wilcannia Water Supply and Ivanhoe Water Supply are generally sourced from a combination of river and bore supplies. In the past year, Wilcannia was serviced predominately from the Darling River and Ivanhoe from bores.

White Cliffs is serviced by a reticulated non-potable filtered water supply. White Cliffs is sourced from surface water run-off in large ground tanks (dams). Generally operational issues related to system leakage and water pressure complaints. Leakage issues were repaired and water pressure complaints addressed. Water pressure issues were investigated and clarified. The White Cliffs Water Supply is a low specification supply aimed at providing the prescribed amount of water to a



landowner supplied header tank which provides the necessary water pressure for operational purposes.

Menindee Water Supply is managed by Essential Water and is not a responsibility of Council.

Sewer

Wilcannia Sewerage Services is comprised of a pressurised collection (reticulation) network and oxidation treatment ponds.

Ivanhoe, Menindee and White Cliffs sewerage generation is managed with on-site facilities by the landowner.

cl217(1)(e) Stormwater

Council completed the Hood Street Stormwater upgrade works in Wilcannia which included 9 new stormwater pits and 300m of 225mm stormwater pipe. The project totalled \$112,000 and has greatly improved the stormwater assets and road drainage issues in Wilcannia.



Other works included the high pressure cleaning of assets in Menindee and the routine maintenance cleaning of the gross pollutant Traps in Wilcannia and Menindee.

S428(2)(d)(i), (ii) & (iii) Public Works

See Appendix B



Footpaths, Kerb & Guttering

Footpaths

The townships of Wilcannia, Ivanhoe and Menindee have extensive footpath networks. The concrete network in these urban centres are predominately concrete but do also include gravel or earth formation.

The extent of the footpath network in each township is summarised below:

Wilcannia	4895 m
Ivanhoe	2189 m
Menindee	1312 m

A footpath audit was completed for each township in the past year which identified the scope and type of defects. From this assessment a list of priority works was established. Council resolved to increase funding by a minimum of \$25,000 to address high and medium hazard defects over the next 5 years.

Kerb and Gutter

The townships of Wilcannia, Ivanhoe and Menindee have extensive kerb and gutter infrastructure.

Extensions to the existing kerb and gutter network during the last year included 220 m extension in Hood Street, Wilcannia.



Plant & Equipment

Council purchased (\$169,264) a new highway maintenance truck Isuzu FTR900 Long to replace the old Mitsubishi FM658M truck.



Council replaced a 12.5kva Lister Generator and trailer (\$25,000)

Council replaced 5 light vehicles in this financial year (\$153,882)

Various repairs and maintenance carried out throughout the year with additional funds spent on the town garbage compactors which are nearing the end of their useful life.



Business Undertakings

cl217(1)(d)(iv)(v) Competitive Neutrality

The Division 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. In relation to competitive neutrality Council provide the following:

S428(2)(r) cl217(1)(d)(ii), (iv) & (vii) Category 1 Business Activities

"Category 1" Business Units have total annual operating revenues that exceed \$2million.

Council has no Category 1 Business Units.

S428(2)(p) cl217(1)(d)(iii)

"Category 2" Business Units have total annual operating revenues that do not exceed \$2 million.

Council has no Category 2 Business Units.

cl217(1)(d)(iiv), (ix) Competitive Neutrality

Following the review of Council as part of the Department of Local Government Promoting Better Practice Review, it was identified at recommendation 18 that Council's draft Complaints Handling Policy requires review and Council adoption. This task has been set down for review in February 2012, once adopted the policy will be available on Council's website.

No complaints were received by the Darling Shire Council during the reporting period.