

# Message from the ADMINISTRATOR - Bob Stewart

In March the General Manager and I met with The Hon Ron Hoenig MP Minister for Local Government and Local Member Roy Butler to discuss the implementation of the new Rural and Remote Council Model for Central Darling Council. Discussion included the election timing and essential ongoing financial support for Council. My appointment has been extended until September this year.

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Also, in March I represented Council at the Country Mayors Meeting which was held in Sydney. Country Mayors is an excellent organisation that enables regional councils to bring forward issues impacting their areas. As they meet in Parliament House, good access is available to Ministers and Department heads.

Regards  
Bob Stewart.



## Sale of land for unpaid rates

A report was provided with an update on the outcome of the sale of land for unpaid rates auction held 27 February 2025.

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 28 August 2024, Council resolved to sell 17 properties for unpaid rates and authorised the General Manager to carry out the relevant steps necessary to undertake the sale.

Six properties were withdrawn before auction. At the auction, the 11 properties offered were all sold.

Council purchased three of

these properties for a total purchase price of \$10,480. Each property was purchased for either the reserve price or slightly less than the reserve price set prior to the auction and well below the value of rates and charges outstanding against each.

All purchased properties are vacant parcels.

From the total of 11 properties sold it will result in a shortfall which will require write-off, as buyers are not liable for outstanding rates. In total, write-offs are estimated at \$154,000.

## The Wilcannia Water Treatment Plant tender to be awarded

At the March Council Meeting Council resolved to award the tender for the Wilcannia Water Treatment Plant. The successful tender was SNG Engineering Pty Ltd.



## Stories Behind the Stones coming soon

After about 18-months research historical stories from Central Darling Shire Pioneer Cemeteries – Ivanhoe, Wilcannia, Menindee, and White Cliffs – are about to be revealed under the Stories Behind the Stones project.

The piecing together family histories is a growing interest for many Australians with people wanting to know more about their ancestors. The Stories Behind the Stones modules are created by

Historian and App consultant Dr Bernadette Drabsch and Heritage Specialist Ben Churcher, in collaboration with community members. A total of 106 stories will soon be revealed.

Dr Drabsch and Mr Churcher visited the Shire at the end of March to conduct testing. Provided there are no issues with GPS functionality the new modules will be available at some stage in April. More details are on Council's website.



*Historian and App consultant Dr Bernadette Drabsch was visiting the Shire in March, seen here at White Cliffs.*

Drainage and roadworks planned for Sunset Strip will now occur later than expected due to delays with materials. Council was unable to start the drainage and roadworks in Lakeview Avenue and Kingfisher Avenue in February due to the supply issue. The work is now expected to start after Easter.



The Central Darling Shire Council **Venue Hire Agreement** will be amended. The Council will no longer accept hire bookings at Wilcannia Hall for private functions for personal celebration events, if alcohol is involved. The Council has authorised the General Manger to reject any hire applications of Council venues, if there is the potential for any damage to these facilities.



An invasive weed known as **Spiny Burrgrass** has recently been found in Wilcannia Cemetery. This weed has a sharp and clingy burr with ability to spread rapidly. The weed has been sprayed by biosecurity officers. However, people visiting the cemetery are being asked to still keep an eye out for the weed and take precautions



## Drought management plans

At the March Council meeting the updated **Drought Management Plan** was endorsed. Council will implement control measures in times of drought. The main aim of the plan is to ensure continued water supply during drought conditions in order to meet water users, public health and fire-fighting needs.

While, the Far West Regional Drought Resilience Plan was also officially released earlier this year. In March last year Central Darling Shire Council, Broken Hill City Council and



the Regional Development Australia Far West NSW Unincorporated Area started working together to produce the plan. It is relevant to our far west communities whilst also acknowledging the differences between them.

## New trucks arrive for Menindee & Ivanhoe



*In March Council received two new trucks for the Menindee and Ivanhoe depots. These trucks will benefit Council operational activities.*

# Central Darling Shire Council



## Wilcannia joins the RV Friendly Town program

The Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia Limited (CMCA) has approved Wilcannia as an RV Friendly Town. This is expected to result in substantial tourism benefits and economic growth for Wilcannia and surrounding areas.

The Campervan and Motorhome Club is the largest recreational vehicle (RV) club in the southern hemisphere, with over 68,000 members and more than 34,000 vehicles. Campervan and motorhome club members will now receive information

about Wilcannia. Victory Caravan Park will be listed in the monthly club magazine, The Wanderer. The caravan park will also be advertised in the CMCA monthly e-newsletter, going out to a database of over 28,000 recipients.