

Central Darling Pre Election Briefing July 2025

Central Darling Shire

- Constituted in 1959
- At 53,511 square kilometres--- largest incorporated local government area in New South Wales.
- Council has been under administration since 2014
- Population- 1837
- Employees- 70 plus
- Roads 2,800 kms
- 25/26 - day to day operations \$25.5m
- 25/26 – Capital works \$17.7m

Recent Situation

- CDS has been on borrowed time since 2012
- Decisions about future governance have been repeatedly deferred
- Current governance, financial and service delivery arrangements are not sustainable in the medium-long term
- All levels of government are yet to come to terms with the long-term costs of delivering adequate levels of service
- Communities cannot be expected to accept reduction of services
- Ensuring good governance and service delivery to Aboriginal people and communities must be addressed

Challenges

- Sparse and declining populations limits Council's rate base
- Dispersed nature of communities fragments economic and social relations
- Distance and separation between towns adds to the cost for services
- Need to enhance local leadership, representation and advocacy of community needs and aspirations
- Issues with housing, water supply, health and wellbeing, opportunities for local employment, and internet services exacerbate social disadvantage

Challenges

- Need to enhance local leadership, representation and advocacy of community needs and aspirations
- Aboriginal governance and service delivery agencies tend to operate alongside Council and government programs and initiatives rather than being integrated and collaborative
- Fragile environment, rangeland management and natural disasters
- Inadequate coordination between service delivery agencies

Rural and Remote Councils Legislation

- Introduced 2024
- Central Darling designated 'rural and remote'
- Three Councillors to be elected – one from each ward
- Election 20th September 2025
- Three Councillors appointed by the Minister for Local Government
- Election conducted by Electoral Commission NSW
- Term will be to September 2028

Rural and Remote Councils Legislation

- In making appointments the Minister will, as far as practical, ensure Councillors collectively will have the following attributes
 - experience in local gov. administration, finance & governance
 - ability to represent interests of Aboriginal population
 - experience in emergency management
 - experience in conservation, environmental sustainability
- Minister will appoint an appointed Councillor as Chairperson to September 2028 with Mayor's powers

Rural and Remote Councils Legislation

- Councillors may elect Deputy Chairperson from elected and appointed Councillors
- LG Act expenses apply to elected Councillors
- LG Remuneration Tribunal to set fees for Chairperson and appointed Councillors
- Council must meet at least 4 times a year & in each quarter
- Regulations will be made by the Minister

What does a Councillor do?

- Councillors find out what local people want and represent their views.
- Decisions made by Councillors have a direct impact on daily life
- Councillors work together to decide how to meet community needs and influence the long-term vision and direction for the Council

What qualities do I need to be a successful Councillor?

Key skills include

- willingness to learn
- good communication with the community
- time management and organisation
- problem solving
- teamwork

Councillors need to read papers, attend meetings and represent the Council at events and community meetings.

For more “Becoming a Councillor” [Office of Local Government Website](#)

Office of Local Government

Email olg@olg.nsw.gov.au

Website www.olg.nsw.gov.au

Phone 02 44284100

Make Central Darling a Better Place

Being a Councillor;

- Will be challenging
- Can be very rewarding
- Does not require special qualifications
- You will make decisions that improve lifestyles
- Provides opportunities for professional and personal development
- Involves you in all aspects of your community
- Enables you to advocate for your community

Election Legislation

- Local Government Act 1993
 - Electoral Funding Act 2018
 - Local Government Amendment (Rural and Remote Councils) 2024
 - Local Government (General) Regulation 2005
 - Local Government (General) Regulation 2021
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- Best information - NSW Electoral Commission Website

Election

- 20th September 2025
 - One councillor to be elected from each ward
 - A Ward – Wilcannia, outlying rural electors north and east of Menindee
 - B Ward – Ivanhoe, Tilpa, White Cliffs
 - C Ward – Menindee, Sunset Strip
 - Voting is compulsory
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- Visit Electoral Commission NSW Website <https://elections.nsw.gov.au>

How to Vote

Polling Places Saturday 20th September 2025
8am to 6pm

- A Ward – Wilcannia, Community Hall
- B Ward – Ivanhoe, Town Hall
- C Ward – Menindee, Community Hall

How to Vote

Pre Poll Voting

- Monday 15th September to Friday, 19 September 2025
- Details to be provided

How to Vote – Pre Poll

You may be eligible to vote at a pre poll venue

- outside your ward or council area on election day
- more than 8km from a polling place in your ward or council area on election day
- travelling and unable to attend a polling place on election day
- seriously ill or infirm
- approaching maternity
- religious membership or beliefs
- in a correctional centre
- caring for a person outside of a hospital setting
- working on election day
- silent elector
- Have a disability
- personal safety or the safety of your family at risk.

How to Vote – Declared Institutions

- Wilcannia Hospital

How to Vote – Postal Voting

You can apply:

- outside your ward or council area
- more than 8km from a polling place
- travelling
- resident in a hospital, aged care facility or retirement village
- seriously ill, disabled or approaching childbirth (or caring for someone who is)
- religious beliefs that prevent you from attending
- in prison or a correctional centre
- working on election day
- silent elector
- disability
- risk to your personal safety or the safety of your family
- risk to your or another person's health or safety because of COVID-19.

How to Vote – Postal Voting

- Postal voting applications open [Tuesday, 12 August 2025](#).
- Applications for Postal Votes Close [Monday 15th September 2025](#)
- You must vote and complete your postal vote certificate envelope by [6pm on election day, Saturday, 20 September 2025](#).
- Completed postal votes must be received by the NSW Electoral Commission by [6pm Friday, 10 October 2025](#).
- Registered General Postal Voters will automatically receive ballot papers in the mail for this election.

How to Vote - Overseas

If you are interstate or overseas on election day for a local council election, you can:

- vote before election day in your council area or ward
 - Postal vote
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- **Please note: You cannot vote in person outside of your council area for local council elections.**

Am I eligible to stand for Council?

- Must be on the Electoral Roll or Non-Resident Roll – Roll closes 11th August 2025
- Resident
- Non resident owner
- Occupier
- Ratepaying lessee
- See Section 274 of the Local Government Act

Who Cannot Stand

- Member of parliament
- While serving a sentence (including a sentence the subject of an intensive correction order)
- Council employee or holding a place of profit with Council
- Cannot owe Council money
- See Section 275 of Local Government Act

Key Dates

- Friday 20th June 2025 – Capped expenditure period opens
- Monday 28th July 2025 – Advertising of Enrolments
- Monday 11th August 2025 – Start of regulated period for electoral material
- Monday 11th August 2025 – Close of electoral Roll
- Monday 11th August 2025 – Nominations open
- Tuesday 12th August 2025 – Lodgement of postal vote applications open
- 12 noon Wednesday 20th August 2025 – Close of nominations and close of registration of candidates
- 10 am Thursday 21st August 2025 – Announcement of candidates & Ballot Paper Draws

Key Dates

- Thursday 21st August 2025 – Uncontested elections declared
- Thursday 21st August 2025 – Notice of contested elections published
- Monday 25th August 2025 – Postal vote distribution begins
- Monday 8th September 2025 – Display of registered electoral material commences
- 5pm Friday 12th September 2025 – Registration of electoral material closes
- Monday 15th September 2025 – Pre poll voting period opens (dates vary)
- Monday 15th September 2025 – Postal vote applications close
- 5pm Friday 19th September 2025 – Pre-poll period closes
- Saturday 20th September 2025 8am-6pm – ELECTION DAY

Key Dates

- Saturday 20th September 2025 8am-6pm – ELECTION DAY
- Saturday 20th September 2025 – End of capped expenditure period
- 6pm Friday 10th October 2025 – End of postal vote returns
- 10am Monday 13th October 2025 – Distribution of Preferences
- Wednesday 15th October 2025 – Declaration of results

Go to NSW Electoral Commission for key dates

Considering being a Candidate?

- Know why you want to be elected and what you want to achieve
- You should understand the processes involved in becoming a candidate and the laws that apply to how you campaign and raise and spend money.
- You should also have a preliminary idea of how a Council operates and the roles and responsibilities of being a Councillor
- Ensure your family and work life can cope with you being a Councillor

Considering being a Candidate?

If you are considering being a candidate you should register,

- before accepting political donations or making payments for electoral expenditure.
- Political donations include funds raised through fundraisers as well as other monetary and non-monetary gifts
- Electoral expenditure is any expenditure that promotes or opposes a political party or the election of a candidate, or influences voting at an election
- Register using [Funding and disclosure online](#).
- The deadline for registration is the day of the close of nominations.
- **Note: Registering for an election does not mean you are nominated for the election.**

Registration and Nomination

- Candidates must be registered for the purpose of lawfully accepting political donations and incurring electoral expenditure
- Register using [Funding and Disclosure Online](#)
- Being registered will mean that you will receive information from the Electoral Commission
- Registration process is separate to the process to get name on ballot paper
- A candidate must understand requirements for political donations and electoral expenditure and disclosures
- Being nominated means candidates will have their name on the ballot paper for the election

More information '[Political Donations](#)' Section of Handbook

Campaign Finances

- Political parties, candidates, groups and elected members must understand their responsibilities for managing and disclosing political donations and electoral expenditure.
- Each candidate and elected member is responsible for their own political donations and electoral expenditure
- Candidates must open and operate a campaign account before accepting \$1,000 or more in political donations or incurring \$1,000 or more in electoral expenditure.
- Complete and accurate accounting and financial records of political donations and electoral expenditure must be kept.
- Political donations and electoral expenditure are capped
- See Electoral Commission website
- [caps on political donations](#) , [caps on electoral expenditure](#), [how to operate a campaign account](#) and [how to keep proper records](#).

Campaign Accounts and record Keeping

- Candidates are responsible for understanding and complying with rules for campaign accounts and record keeping set out in Electoral Funding Act and Electoral Funding Regulation
- Rules set out in the 'Political donations' section of Handbook

What is a Political Donation

A political donation is a gift made to or for the benefit of a candidate the whole or part of which was used or intended to be used by the candidate for a purpose related to an election, including:

- a monetary or non monetary gift
- provision of a service at no charge or discounted rate
- contribution, entry fee to election fundraising event
- disposition of property from a political party
- uncharged interest on a loan

More information [‘What is a political donation?’ In Handbook](#)

What is not a Political Donation

A political donation does not include:

- provision of voluntary labour
- provision of voluntary professional services to a party
- a gift to an individual made in a private capacity for personal use
- public funding payments made by Electoral Commission

More information [‘What is a political donation’ in Handbook and guidelines on Electoral Commission website](#)

Who can make a political donation?

- an individual enrolled to vote
- an entity with a business number recognised by ASIC
- an individual or entity acceptable to Electoral Commission

It is unlawful to accept a political donation from a person or entity who is not eligible to make political donations.

Prohibited Donors

- a property developer
- a tobacco industry business entity
- a liquor or gambling industry business entity including a registered club which includes betting
- any industry representative organisation if the majority of its members are prohibited donors
- a close associate of a prohibited donor

More information [‘Prohibited donors’ in Handbook and section 53 of the Electoral funding Act](#)

Caps on Political Donations

- It is unlawful to accept a donation that exceeds the cap
- Small political donations less than \$1,000 or multiple donations by the same donor which total less than \$1,000
- Donations of \$1,000 reportable
- Cap on Political donation for a candidate \$3,900
- Contributions made by a candidate to finance their own election campaign are not political donations and are not subject to donation caps

More information [‘Caps on Political Donations’](#)

Caps on Electoral Expenditure

- It is unlawful for a candidate, group of candidates, party to exceed the cap on electoral expenditure
- Expenditure cap \$7,700 per candidate
- Expenditure cap \$2,570 for third party campaigners
- More information 'What are the expenditure caps for local government elections'

Nomination Process

Candidates must lodge a nomination to have their name on the ballot paper including

- Nomination form
- Candidate information sheet
- Statistical information sheet
- Nomination deposit (\$125 per candidate)

Nomination by 2 electors enrolled in the Ward

Your Campaign team

- Volunteers – family, friends and supporters to letterbox, fund raise, handouts at Pre-poll and election day, signs
- Campaign Manager
- Finances- someone to record financial transactions and report

Campaigning

- Get a team around you
- Get out and about
- Meet with community groups
- What is your agenda?
- Let the community know
- Understand the rules
- Know the spending cap (\$7,700 per candidate)
- Constantly visit the NSW Electoral Commission website

System of Voting

- Optional Preferential
- Under the NSW system of optional preferential, voting the voter only needs to number one square, but can preference all candidates

Electoral Commission Webinars

- Key Dates
- Enrolment
- Electoral Funding and disclosure
- Nominations & ballot paper draw
- Electoral material
- Voting options
- Candidate workers and scrutineers
- Counting and results
- Allegations, offences and feedback process

Electoral Commission NSW

Rely on the Electoral Commission Helpdesk for advice

Contact

- [Email - candidates@elections.nsw.gov.au](mailto:candidates@elections.nsw.gov.au)
enquiries@elections.nsw.gov.au
- Phone - 1300 022 011
- Website - elections.nsw.gov.au

Social Media

- Stick to the facts and be honest
- Don't argue on line
- For your own well-being block people who are offensive
- Don't make offensive or inappropriate comments
- Be respectful, professional and polite
- If it goes on line it stays on line

Social Media

- If you wouldn't say it don't write it
 - Think and delay before responding
 - Defamation applies to online content
 - Don't respond to every comment
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- Remember every mobile phone is a camera

The Council

- Strong and effective leadership, planning and decision making
- Providing best value for money
- Acting fairly, ethically and without bias
- Being a responsible employer
- Being transparent
- Actively engaging with the community

Local Government Act Principles

Exercise of functions generally - The following general principles apply to the exercise of functions by councils—

- (a)** Councils should provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning and decision-making.
- (b)** Councils should carry out functions in a way that provides the best possible value for residents and ratepayers.
- (c)** Councils should plan strategically, using the integrated planning and reporting framework, for the provision of effective and efficient services and regulation to meet the diverse needs of the local community.
- (d)** Councils should apply the integrated planning and reporting framework in carrying out their functions so as to achieve desired outcomes and continuous improvements.

Local Government Act 1993 - Principles

- e) Councils should work co-operatively with other councils and the State government to achieve desired outcomes for the local community.
- (f) Councils should manage lands and other assets so that current and future local community needs can be met in an affordable way.
- (g) Councils should work with others to secure appropriate services for local community needs.
- (h) Councils should act fairly, ethically and without bias in the interests of the local community.
- (i) Councils should be responsible employers and provide a consultative and supportive working environment for staff.

The Governing Body

- Working together to provide effective civic leadership – setting the tone of the organization's culture
- Ensuring financial sustainability
- Ensuring Council acts in accordance with the principles of the Act
- Developing and endorsing strategic plans and rating and revenue policy, operational plans and optimal allocation of resources
- Reviewing performance and service delivery
- Determining process for appointment of the GM and monitor performance
- Overseeing community engagement
- Ensuring council acts honestly, efficiently, appropriately

Role of the Governing Body

- **1)** The role of the governing body
 - (a) direct and control the affairs of the council
- **(b)** provide effective civic leadership,
 - (c) ensure as far as possible the financial sustainability of the council,
 - (d) ensure as far as possible that the council acts in accordance with the principles set out in Chapter 3 and the plans, programs, strategies and policies of the council,
 - (e) develop and endorse the community strategic plan, delivery program and other strategic plans, programs, strategies and policies of the council,

Role of the Governing Body

- (f) determine and adopt a rating and revenue policy and operational plans that support the optimal allocation of the council's resources to implement the strategic plans
(g) review the performance of the council, including service delivery,
(h) make decisions necessary for the proper exercise of the council's regulatory functions,
(i) determine the process for appointment of the general manager by the council and to monitor the general manager's performance,
(j) **Repealed**
(k) consult regularly with community organisations and other key stakeholders and keep them informed of the council's decisions and activities,
(l) responsible for ensuring that the council acts honestly, efficiently and appropriately.
- (2) The governing body is to consult with the general manager in directing and controlling the affairs of the council.

The Role of a Councillor (Sec 232)

- (a)** to be an active and contributing member of the governing body,
 - (b)** to make considered and well-informed decisions as a member of the governing body,
 - (c)** to participate in the development of the integrated planning and reporting framework,
 - (d)** to represent the collective interests of residents, ratepayers and the local community,
 - (e)** to facilitate communication between the local community and the governing body,
 - (f)** to uphold and represent accurately the policies and decisions of the governing body,
 - (g)** to make all reasonable efforts to acquire and maintain the skills necessary to perform the role of a councillor.
- (2)** A councillor is accountable to the local community for the performance of the council.

Some Expectations of Councillors

- Attend training sessions and workshops to enhance skills and knowledge.
- Mayor and/or Deputy Mayor attend National and State Local Government Conferences.
- Mayor and appointed delegates to attend organisations Council is associated with.
- Ward Councillors to attend committees associated with Council.
- Councillors represent the whole of the local government area not just their ward.

To Achieve Better Outcomes for your Community

- Be an effective **leader** of your local community
- Ensure effective **participation** in Council business
- **Conduct** yourself in a way that enhances and maintains the credibility of your Council and local government
- Be **accountable** for understanding and meeting your community's needs
- Take **responsibility** for your ongoing learning and professional development

The Mayor First Among Equals

- Mayor is the leader of the Governing Body, spokesperson of the council, and a community leader
- Mayor ensures effective community engagement
- Mayor's leadership role in IPR, policy/program development and implementation
- Mayor has a strong mandate to work with the GM
- Mayor has a leadership role in oversight GM performance and delegations
- Mayor has responsibilities in forging partnerships, regional cooperation and inter-government relations

Role of the Mayor (Sec226)

The role of the mayor —

- (a) the leader of the council and a leader in the local community,
- (b) advance community cohesion and promote civic awareness,
- (c) the principal member and spokesperson of the governing body, including representing the views of the council as to its local priorities,
- (d) exercise, in cases of necessity, the policy-making functions of the council between meetings of the council,
- (e) preside at meetings of the council,
- (f) ensure that meetings of the council are conducted efficiently, effectively and legally
- (g) ensure the timely development and adoption of the strategic plans, programs and policies of the council

Role of the Mayor

- (h) promote the effective and consistent implementation of the strategic plans, programs and policies of the council,
- (i) promote partnerships between the council and key stakeholders,
- (j) advise, consult with and provide strategic direction to the general manager in relation to the implementation of the strategic plans and policies of the council,
- (k) in conjunction with the general manager, to ensure adequate opportunities and mechanisms for engagement between the council and the local community,
- (l) carry out the civic and ceremonial functions of the mayoral office,
- (m) represent the council on regional organisations and at inter-governmental forums at regional, State and Commonwealth level,
- (n) in consultation with the councillors, to lead performance appraisals of the general manager,
- (o) exercise any other functions of the council that the council determines.

Separation of Roles

- Wingecarribee Public Inquiry
- David Parish
- ***"it is clear that there is a clear distinction between "direct and control" which is for the governing body and "implement and manage" which is for the General manager and staff.***
- ***The roles don't interact or overlap. There is a clear bright line between those activities"***

Functions of the General Manager

- Day to day management of the Council
- Implement lawful decisions of the Council without delay
- Advise Council on range of matters
- Prepare with Council IP&R documents
- Ensure Council has timely information and advice
- Exercise delegated functions
- Appoint staff in accordance with org structure and resources approved by Council and implement the workforce management strategy

Functions of the General Manager

The general manager of a council has the following functions--

- (a) to conduct the day-to-day management of the council in accordance with the strategic plans, programs, strategies and policies of the council,
- (b) to implement, without undue delay, lawful decisions of the council,
- (c) to advise the mayor and the governing body on the development and implementation of the strategic plans, programs, strategies and policies of the council,
- (d) to advise the mayor and the governing body on the appropriate form of community consultation on the strategic plans, programs, strategies and policies of the council and other matters related to the council,

Functions of the General Manager

- (e) to prepare, in consultation with the mayor and the governing body, the council's community strategic plan, community engagement strategy, resourcing strategy, delivery program, operational plan and annual report,
- (f) to ensure that the mayor and other Councillors are given timely information and advice and the administrative and professional support necessary to effectively discharge their functions,
- (g) to exercise any of the functions of the council that are delegated by the council to the general manager,
- (h) to appoint staff in accordance with the organisation structure and the resources approved by the council,
- (i) to direct and dismiss staff,
- (j) to implement the council's workforce management strategy,
- (k) any other functions that are conferred or imposed on the general manager by or under this or any other Act

Code of Conduct General Obligations

Councillors and staff must not act in a manner that :

- is likely to bring Council/Councillor into disrepute
- is contrary to statutory & Council requirements & Council policy
- is improper or unethical
- is an abuse of power
- causes comprises intimidation or verbal abuse
- involves misuse of position for private benefit
- constitutes harassment or bullying behaviour or is lawfully discriminatory

Code of conduct General Obligations

- You must consider issues consistently, promptly and fairly
- You must not harass or unlawfully discriminate against others
- You must not engage in bullying behaviour towards others
- You must comply with duties under WHS Act and Council policies and procedures to ensure workplace health and safety
- You must ensure land use planning, development assessment and other regulatory decisions are properly made and fair
- You must not participate in binding caucus votes

Pecuniary Interest

A pecuniary interest is an interest that you have in a matter because of a reasonable likelihood or expectation of appreciable financial gain to

- You

- Your spouse

- Your relative

- Your business partner

- Your employer

- a company where the above have an interest

There are exemptions and detail in Code of Conduct

Pecuniary Interest you don't have to Disclose

- Elector, ratepayer or where service/goods offered to community
- Member of a club unless you hold office
- Beneficial interest in a company if shares don't exceed 10%
- Payment of fees to Councillors
- Interest in Payment of Expenses & Provision of Facilities Policy
- And more

Pecuniary Interest Disclosure at Meetings

- Nature of interest must be disclosed as soon as practicable
- Councillor or staff member must not be present at any time the matter is being considered, discussed or voted on.
- Note Disclosure of Interests Form must be lodged within Three Months after becoming a Councillor

Non-Pecuniary Interest

- A non-pecuniary conflict of interest exists where a reasonable and informed person would perceive that you could be influenced by a private interest when carrying out your official functions in relation to a matter.
- A non pecuniary interest will be significant if it is not pecuniary but it involves close personal relationship eg current or former spouse, friendship, business relationship, member of club etc
- If significant don't participate or leave the meeting
- If you determine interest is not significant you must explain why in writing and orally to the meeting

Personal Benefit

- A gift or benefit is something offered to or received for personal use or enjoyment but not:
 - item with value of ? or less
 - political donation
 - sister city gift
 - benefit or facility provided by Council
 - attendance at work related function
 - free or subsidised meals refreshments provided in conjunction with performance of duties

Personal benefit – Token Value

- You may accept gifts and benefits of token value up an aggregate value of \$100 in a year
 - invitations
 - gifts of alcohol
 - ties, scarfs chocolates
- Gifts of more than token value which must not be accepted
 - tickets to major sporting events
 - corporate hospitality at major sporting events
 - use of holiday homes
 - ongoing dinners or hospitality

Areas of Vulnerability

- Conflicts of interest
- Lobbying (especially planning matters)
- Misuse of public office and resources
- Confidential information

Areas of Vulnerability

- Tendering and dealing with current contractors
- Relationships with staff
- Gifts, benefits and hospitality

Conflicts of Interest

- People don't always disclose:
 - They don't recognise they have a conflict
 - They think they can rise above it
 - It's nobody else's business
 - Corrupt people hide their conflicts
 - People are tempted to under disclose a conflict

Lobbying

- Greatest risk lies with those who stand to gain from a discretionary decision
- Lobbying covers a wide range of activities
- Common in planning matters
- Dealing with existing contractors and potential contractors
- Do not allow lobbying outside of a formal tender process

Confidential Information

- Unauthorised release or use of confidential information might constitute corrupt conduct
- Be cautious in dealing with confidential information, for eg:
 - If meeting with community members
 - When seeking business opportunities outside of Council
 - When interacting with family and friends

Tendering and dealing with current contractors

- When considering tenders:
 - Probity principles are important
 - Consider legal obligations
 - Watch out for:
 - Relationships
 - Communications outside of official processes
 - Perceptions
 - Dealing with current contractors

Relationship with Staff

- Comply with Councillor and Staff Interaction Policy
- Respect separation of roles

Gifts benefits and hospitality

- Follow your Code of Conduct (based on the Model Code)
- Do not accept gifts/benefits that create a sense of obligation or may be perceived as intended or likely to influence you
- Never accept cash
- Repeated attention and giving helps establish relationships
- Disclose

5 Things to do to achieve better outcomes for your community

Be an effective **leader** of your local community by:

- setting the vision and direction for your community without getting involved in the day-to-day operations of your council
- balancing your advocacy role with the need to work with other councillors to make decisions that benefit the whole community
- balancing short and long-term community needs and interests
- fostering and maintaining positive internal and external relationships
- stay focussed on what is the best for your community

5 Things

Ensure effective **participation** in Council business:

- making informed decisions through good preparation and involvement
- following the Code of Meeting Practice and legislation on meetings
- Drawing on the information and assistance that the General Manager and the community can provide to Councillors in making their decisions

5 Things

Conduct yourself in a way that enhances and maintains the credibility of your council and local government as a whole by:

- acting lawfully, honestly, transparently and respectfully in line with the Code of Conduct
- exercising care and diligence in carrying out your functions
- Ensuring your relationships with the General Manager and staff are based on trust and mutual respect, following clear and agreed protocols about staff contact

5 Things

Be **accountable** for understanding and meeting your community's needs by:

- engaging and consulting with your community
- responsibly managing your Council's money and assets to meet current and future needs
- considering the long-term consequences of your decisions
- ensuring the requirements of the Integrated Planning and Reporting framework are met

5 Things

Take **responsibility** for your ongoing learning and professional development by:

- regularly assessing your learning needs
- actively seeking opportunities to acquire further knowledge and skills
- contributing your knowledge and skills to the development of local government as a whole

Are you ready to make Central Darling a Better Place?

- Why do you want to get elected?
 - What would you like to achieve?
 - Is your family supportive?
 - Can you arrange with your business or employer?
-
- Make sure you can achieve a work/life balance

What you will need to do

- Register with Electoral Commission **NOW**
- Visit the NSW Electoral Commission and Office of Local Government websites
- Engage your team and supporters
- Establish your credentials in the community
- Follow the Council meetings and decisions