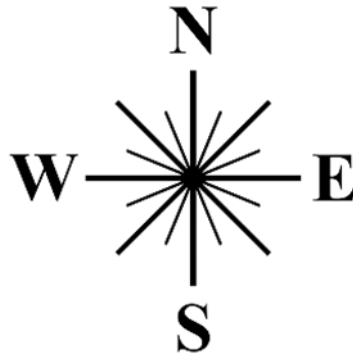


CENTRAL DARLING



SHIRE COUNCIL

EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

BUSINESS PAPER

14 MAY 2025

The Meeting will be held at 9:00 AM in the
Council Chambers, 21 Reid Street, Wilcannia

MISSION STATEMENT

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

RECORDING AND WEBCAST OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council meetings are recorded and webcast on Council's website, your attendance and/or input may be recorded and publicly broadcast.

PUBLIC RECORDING PROHIBITED WITHOUT COUNCIL AUTHORITY

A person may only use a recording device, including audio and visual recording and any device capable of recording speech, to record a Council meeting by the resolution of the Council.

A person may be expelled from a Council meeting for having used a recording device without consent.

PHOTOGRAPHY PROHIBITED WITHOUT PERMISSION

Photography is not permitted at a Council meeting without the consent of the General Manager.

PUBLIC FORUM - EXTRACT FROM THE CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE POLICY

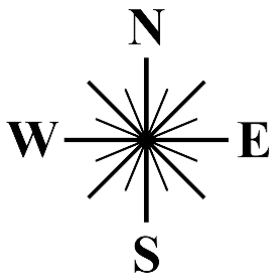
1. The Council may hold a public forum prior to each ordinary meeting of the Council for the purpose of hearing oral submissions from members of the public on items of business to be considered at the meeting. Public forums may also be held prior to extraordinary Council meetings and meetings of Committees of the Council.
2. Public forums are to be chaired by the Mayor or their nominee.
3. To speak at a public forum, a person must first make an application to the Council in the approved form. Applications to speak at the public forum must be received by same day 8.50am before the date on which the public forum is to be held and must identify the item of business on the agenda of the Council meeting the person wishes to speak on, and whether they wish to speak 'for' or 'against' the item.
4. A person may apply to speak on no more than two (2) items of business on the agenda of the Council meeting.
5. Legal representatives acting on behalf of others are not to be permitted to speak at a public forum unless they identify their status as a legal representative when applying to speak at the public forum.
6. The General Manager or their delegate may refuse an application to speak at a public forum. The General Manager or their delegate must give reasons in writing for a decision to refuse an application.
7. No more than three (3) speakers are to be permitted to speak 'for' or 'against' each item of business on the agenda for the Council meeting.
8. If more than the permitted number of speakers apply to speak 'for' or 'against' any item of business, the General Manager or their delegate may request the speakers to nominate from among themselves the persons who are to address the Council on the item of business. If the speakers are not able to agree on whom to nominate to address the Council, the General Manager or their delegate is to determine who will address the Council at the public forum.
9. If more than the permitted number of speakers apply to speak 'for' or 'against' any item of business, the General Manager or their delegate may, in consultation with the Mayor or the

Mayor's nominated Chairperson, increase the number of speakers permitted to speak on an item of business, where they are satisfied that it is necessary to do so to allow the Council to hear a fuller range of views on the relevant item of business.

10. Approved speakers at the public forum are to register with the Council any written, visual or audio material to be presented in support of their address to the Council at the public forum, and to identify any equipment needs no more than three (3) days before the public forum. The General Manager or their delegate may refuse to allow such material to be presented.
11. The General Manager or their delegate is to determine the order of speakers at the public forum.
12. Each speaker will be allowed five (5) minutes to address the Council. This time is to be strictly enforced by the Chairperson.
13. Speakers at public forums must not digress from the item on the agenda of the Council meeting they have applied to address the Council on. If a speaker digresses to irrelevant matters, the Chairperson is to direct the speaker not to do so. If a speaker fails to observe a direction from the Chairperson, the speaker will not be further heard.
14. A Councillor (including the Chairperson) may, through the Chairperson, ask questions of a speaker following their address at a public forum. Questions put to a speaker must be direct, succinct and without argument.
15. Speakers are under no obligation to answer a question put under Clause 4.14. Answers by the speaker, to each question are to be limited to three (3) minutes.
16. Speakers at public forums cannot ask questions of the Council, Councillors or Council staff.
17. The General Manager or their nominee may, with the concurrence of the Chairperson, address the Council for up to three (3) minutes in response to an address to the Council at a public forum after the address and any subsequent questions and answers have been finalised.
18. Where an address made at a public forum raises matters that require further consideration by Council staff, the General Manager may recommend that the Council defer consideration of the matter pending the preparation of a further report on the matters.
19. When addressing the Council, speakers at public forums must comply with this code and all other relevant Council codes, policies and procedures. Speakers must refrain from engaging in disorderly conduct, publicly alleging breaches of the Council's Code of Conduct, or making other potentially defamatory statements.
20. If the Chairperson considers that a speaker at a public forum has engaged in conduct of the type referred to in Clause 4.19, the Chairperson may request the person to refrain from the inappropriate behaviour and to withdraw and unreservedly apologise for any inappropriate comments. Where the speaker fails to comply with the Chairperson's request, the Chairperson may immediately require the person to stop speaking.
21. Clause 4.20 does not limit the ability of the Chairperson to deal with disorderly conduct by speakers at public forums in accordance with the provisions of Part 14 of this code.
22. Where a speaker engages in conduct of the type referred to in Clause 4.19, the General Manager or their delegate may refuse further applications from that person to speak at public forums for such a period as the General Manager or their delegate considers appropriate.

23. Councillors (including the Mayor) must declare and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in relation to any item of business that is the subject of an address at a public forum, in the same way that they are required to do so at a Council or Committee meeting. The Council is to maintain a written record of all conflict-of-interest declarations made at public forums and how the conflict of interest was managed by the Councillor who made the declaration.

CENTRAL DARLING



SHIRE COUNCIL

EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, 14 May 2025
9:00 AM
Council Chambers, 21 Reid Street, Wilcannia

BUSINESS PAPER AGENDA

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1 OPENING OF MEETING

The Council Meeting will be declared open by the Mayor/Administrator.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land and pay respects to Elders past and present.

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**3.1 APOLOGIES****3.2 LEAVE OF ABSENCE****4 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

Pursuant to the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW Councillors and Council staff are required to declare any pecuniary or non-pecuniary conflicts of interest.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Disclosures of Interest – Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary be received and noted

5 FINANCIAL REPORTS

5.1 2024-25 INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING DOCUMENTS

FILE NUMBER: GD25/8035
REPORT AUTHOR: FINANCE MANAGER
RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: GENERAL MANAGER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In 2009 the Local Government Act 1993 was amended to introduce Integrated Planning and Reporting, which places an obligation on all NSW Councils to develop a suite of long-term planning documents based on comprehensive community engagement.

This report presents the Draft Operational Plan (2025-2026) Incorporating, Draft Fees and Charges (2025-2026) and Draft Operational Budget (2025-2026), Draft Delivery Program (2022-2026), Draft Long-Term Financial Plan (2026-2035) to the community for review and feedback ahead of adoption.

The documents must be adopted before 1 July 2025.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council will:

1. Receive the report
2. Endorse the:
 - (a) Draft Operational Plan 2025-26, and
 - (b) Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2026-35be placed on public display for a period of 28 days
3. Note the 2025-26 Operating Budget indicates an Operating Deficit (after capital grants) of \$992,000

BACKGROUND:

The Integrated Planning and Reporting legislation requires all NSW Councils to have:

- A ten-year Community Strategic Plan.
- A four-year Delivery Program.
- An annual Operational Plan.
- A Resourcing Strategy including an Asset Management Plan, a Long Term Financial Plan, and a Workforce Management Plan.

In line with the Legislation, Council needs to provide an annual Operational Plan, Delivery Program, Fees and Charges and Operational Budget that can be shared in draft form with the community for feedback ahead of adoption by 1 July 2025.

Where material amendments are made to the Long Term Financial Plan and Delivery Program, these must be shared and revised using the same process.

REPORT:**BACKGROUND:**

The Integrated Planning and Reporting legislation requires all NSW Councils to have:

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REPORT:**DRAFT OPERATIONAL PLAN 2025-2026**

The Draft Operational Plan 2025-2026 supports the Delivery Program 2022-2026 and specifies the actions of Council's key functional and operational areas that will be conducted in the coming year, funded through the 2025-2026 budget.

The Draft Operational Plan has been developed by Council staff in conjunction with the Administrator. As a result, it is anticipated that throughout 2025-2026, Council will be required to assess the need for changes to budget allocations and priorities.

The attached Operational Plan and budget documents consist of the following components.

1. Operational Plan 2025-26 –
 - This document covers the six key focus areas of Council's normal strategic planning framework
 - It describes the annual operational responsibilities of Council and where possible the relevant expenditure amounts from the annual budget
 - The programs and activities described in the plan cover Council's "business as usual" and include traditional expenditure in the areas of road maintenance, water and sewerage supply, general infrastructure, and service delivery.
2. Statement of Revenue –
 - Ordinary rates have been increased by the approved IPART rate peg of 5.3%
 - An increase of 5.3% has been applied to water, sewerage, and waste collection
 - An increase in line with inflation has been applied to general fees and charges other than statutory fees.

3. Income and Expense Statement –

- The income component was calculated using the assumptions above
- Where relevant, new grants have been recognized
- The expenditure items were based on previous years expenditure and where applicable zero-based budget principles.

4. Capital Works Program 2025-/26 –

- Major capital works include:
 - Roads, Reseals and Gravel Re-sheets: \$5.993M
 - Water Plants and Reticulation System: \$8.800M

5. Fees and Charges 2025-26–

- A comprehensive list of Fees and Charges that may be charged by Council.

Changes to the Budget and Operational Plan, along with progress updates of Council's work across the year will be reported to the community through quarterly reviews to Council, the publication of a half yearly update on the Delivery Program and in Council's Annual Report.

The Operating Budget indicates that Central Darling Shire Council will have an Operating Deficit (after Capital Grants) of \$992,000.

The total 2025-2026 budgeted operating expenditure will be \$25.458 Million, Capital Expenditure will be \$17.691 Million, with total revenue expected to be \$36.015 Million.

The Draft Operational Plan for 2025-2026 continues the keys focus areas of Council's updated Community Strategic Plan which has ensued from the extensive review conducted in 2021-22. The review focused on validating the previous specific needs already noted plus capturing any new items identified by the community as part of the review consultation process. Any new Programs and Activities identified were included in the draft Operational Plan to be further assessed and refined throughout 2025-2026. These programs include Housing, Water Security, Employment, Telecommunications and Electricity Infrastructure.

The continued allocation of funding towards the renewal of assets and the consistent level of funds applied to upgrade and maintenance of assets will result in a positive investment for the community in the future.

Overall, the Long Term Financial Plan provides Council with a financial outlook that presents a number of financial challenges over the next ten years.

The plan will be a living document and will be updated each year.

Further information relating to the Draft 2025-2026 Budget can be found in the attached documents

LINKS TO THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN AND DELIVERY PROGRAM AND OPERATIONAL PLAN:

Focus/Goals/Objectives	Strategic Area	Actions
2 Local & Regional Governance	2.1 Shire governance	2.1.1 Design and implement governance systems within the shire that are culturally responsive and ensure communities have effective local democratic structures and representation
		2.1.2 Undertake ongoing engagement with shire Communities to ensure their input in the design of local governance structures and services
		2.1.3 Manage governance of the Central Darling region in co-operation with other existing governance systems including those provided by Local Area Land Councils and the Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly and Community Working Parties
		2.1.4 Ensure that governance of the shire is focused on the effective planning and delivery of adequate and appropriate services and facilities to local communities
		2.1.5 Maintain an adequate stock of local housing for appropriate council staff

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT:

	Assessment
Social	Positive
Environmental	Positive
Economic	Positive
Governance	Positive

Financial and Resource Implications:

The adoption of these Plans will incur associated expenses and resource implications for their successful implementation. These commitments are outlined in the budget provided.

Policy, Legal and Statutory Implications:

Council is required to adopt a full suite of Integrated Planning and Reporting documents before 01 July 2025.

Risk Management - Business Risk/Work Health and Safety/Public:

There is a risk that the Draft Plans provided with this report may not be understood by the community and therefore, a detailed communications and engagement approach will be applied, as outlined below.

OPTIONS:

1. Council endorses the Plans as presented and places them on public exhibition.
2. Council may opt to amend the Plans and place them on public exhibition.
3. Council may opt not to endorse any of the Plans presented at this time, being aware that councils are mandated to have the plans adopted by 1 July 2025.

COUNCIL SEAL REQUIRED:

No

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION:**Internal Exhibition:**

A review of the 2022-2026 Delivery Program commitments, the current 2025-2026 Operational Plan progress and priority organisational projects was undertaken by the Management Executive team to develop and confirm the priorities in the 2025-2026 Operational Plan.

The Operational Budget has been developed in consultation with the Management Executive team.

External Exhibition:

The Operational Plan reflects the upcoming year's actions in order for Council to deliver on its commitments in the Delivery Program 2022-2026.

Formal public exhibition of the Draft Operational Plan 2025-2026 incorporating the Draft Operational Budget 2025-2026, Draft Fees and Charges 2025-26 will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993.

Public exhibition will include the documents being available electronically on Council's website and advertisements in local newspapers and electronic media. Viewing of hardcopies at customer service counters may also take place.

Community feedback from the public exhibition period will be considered by Council before the final document is adopted at the June 2025 Ordinary Council meeting.

Attachments:

1. [Draft Operational Plan 20225-26](#)
2. [Draft Operational Plan 2025-26 Appendix1 - Draft Fees and Charges](#)
3. [Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2026-35](#)

6 MEETING CLOSE

The Ordinary Council Meeting will be declared closed by the Mayor/Administrator.

The next Ordinary Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 28 May 2025 in Council Chambers, 21 Reid Street, Wilcannia at 10:30 AM.