

Message from the ADMINISTRATOR - Bob Stewart

In 2024 we celebrated the completion of important infrastructure projects. After three years of work the \$39.6M million Pooncarie Road sealing project was completed. We have also been enjoying watching progress on the building of the \$9.5 million Baaka Cultural Centre. The new Maari Ma Health Aboriginal Corporation Community Health and Wellbeing Facility was officially opened and work progressed on town water treatment plants.

It has been a landmark year for the future of Central Darling Shire. The NSW Local Government Minister, Ron Hoenig, announced plans to bring our Council out of Administration. We will become a 'Rural and Remote Council' made up of three locally elected councillors from the community and three councillors appointed by the NSW Government. A considerable amount of work has been done by Council staff to ensure that the Council is prepared with everything in place

for the return of councillors.

I would also like to thank all our community volunteers and member organisations for their efforts looking after our towns. The Local Emergency Management Committee was called upon again during the power outage emergency and the support during times of disaster is sincerely appreciated.

I wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.
Kind regards Bob Stewart.

Dates for 2025 Council meetings

At the December Council meeting the dates were adopted for the 2025 Ordinary Council meetings to be held under Administration at 21 Reid Street Wilcannia:

- No meeting in January
- Wednesday 26 February
- Wednesday 26 March
- Wednesday 30 April
- Wednesday 28 May
- Wednesday 25 June
- Wednesday 23 July
- Wednesday 27 August
- Wednesday 24 September
- Wednesday 22 October
- Wednesday 26 November
- Wednesday 17 December

Once the new councillors are appointed the meeting dates will be replaced.

Council adopted alternative meeting replacement dates under an elected/appointed Council with meetings to be held at 21 Reid Street Wilcannia. These are:

- Wednesday 28 May
 - Wednesday 25 June
 - Wednesday 26 November
- It was noted that following the local government election the meeting dates and times may change, additional meetings included, and venues to be confirmed.

2025 Council Election

The Council election for Central Darling Shire will be held In 2025. We will move from Administration and become what's known as a *Rural and Remote Council*. Becoming a councillor is an opportunity for local people to represent their communities and voice local views about the future direction and plans for Central Darling Shire.

The date for the election is yet to be announced.

For anyone considering representing the community there is information about the election on Council's website in the News section.

Proposed road names on exhibition

As part of the Urban and Rural Addressing project the proposed road names that are acceptable to the Geographic Names Board are now on exhibition for public consultation.

The Geographical Names Board requires the Council to exhibit these proposed names and publish a notice about the proposed names.

Due to the Christmas and New Year holidays the exhibition time is extended beyond the usual 28 days.

Further information including the list of road names is available on Council's website under Public Notices.

Submissions must be made in writing to: The General Manager, Central Darling Shire Council, PO Box 165, Wilcannia NSW 2836 Or by email to: council@centraldarling.nsw.gov.au Submissions will not be accepted via social media. Submissions must be received by 4pm On Friday 31 January 2025



Far West NSW Excellence in Business Awards night was held in Broken Hill at the end of November. Two Wilcannia businesses were recognised at the gala awards night.

St Abram
Wilcannia
Pharmacy
team -

2024 Best
Business
Award finalist.

Wilcannia Post Office team -
2024 Excellence in Customer
Service finalist.

A great achievement.

Congratulations

Between Christmas and New Year the Wilcannia Council building and Menindee Rural Transaction Centre will be closed from Monday 23 December and will re-open on Monday 6 January at 9am. The Wilcannia Post Office/ Service NSW agency and Ivanhoe Multi Service Outlet/ Post Office will only be closed on the public holidays. During the closure Council will be contactable by phone for emergency situations: 08 8083 8900.

The Council advises Wilcannia residents that the rubbish collection dates over the Christmas and New Year period will change. This is because Christmas and New Year's Day occur on a Wednesday, which is the usual rubbish collection day.

- **Christmas week** collection will be on Friday 27 December.
- **The week of New Year** collection will be on Friday 3 January 2025.

There will be no changes to the services in other towns. The service returns to normal in Wilcannia on 8th January 2025.

Red alerts for blue-green algae lower Darling River 17 December 2024



People are asked to stay informed about the alerts for blue-green algae.

The following regular algal monitoring sites in the lower Darling River (from the Menindee Lakes to Wentworth where the Darling joins the Murray River) are currently on red alert for blue-green algae (as at 17 December 2024).

- In the vicinity of the Lake Menindee Outlet Regulator.
- Tolarno,

- Pooncarie
- Ellerslie

The warning applies only to untreated water at the identified locations. People should avoid consuming untreated water from this waterbody and prevent pets and livestock from drinking this water. People should avoid any recreational activity that brings them into contact with this waterbody until the red alert warning is lifted.

Properties for Sale in Central Darling Shire

There is a strong indicator that government agencies, businesses and potential private property owners are

looking to invest in our Shire. In November Council started listing surplus land on the Council



Facebook Page *Properties for Sale in Central Darling Shire* and also through direct negotiation with NSW Government organisations. From 18 available properties three are under offer and enquiries have been received on six other properties.

Central Darling Shire Council



Opening hours extended for our town pools

Town swimming pools will be open for longer over the summer holidays. Council is grateful for \$10,000 in funding from the Royal Life Saving Society Australia – NSW Branch which will allow for pool hours to be extended. Special thanks also

goes to the local State Member for Barwon, Roy Butler, for helping secure this valuable support. The Council operates swimming pools at Ivanhoe, Menindee, Wilcannia and White Cliffs. Local business, Cultural Solutions, is engaged to manage the pools during

opening times. The new operating hours come into effect from Sunday 22 December to 9 February 2025:

- Supervised 1pm – 7pm (7 days a week).
- Unsupervised 10am – 7.30pm (7 days a week).

Pools will be closed on Christmas and New Year's Day.