



CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE COUNCIL

October 25, 2023

Media Release

Wilcannia Motel Business Case completed, and potential site identified

Plans for a Wilcannia Motel have reached another milestone. The business case report for the project has been completed. The construction and development of the proposed 30-room motel would result in financial and community benefits. At the October Council meeting the preferred location for the motel and supporting facilities was adopted and funding will now be sought to progress the project.

In Wilcannia, there is only one commercially operating Airbnb and two caravan parks situated outside the main centre. The total amount of rooms available in Wilcannia is 21. There is a lack of essential services like a bakery that can provide the town with fresh bread that is locally baked.

To address these issues, the proposed 30-unit motel will offer restaurant and bakery services as well as accommodation that is not currently available in Wilcannia. It will also include meeting and conference rooms and allow more visitors to stay overnight in the town. For the broader community, the project increases available accommodation, potentially boosting the local economy by encouraging overnight stays and facilitating events and conferences.

At the October meeting Council endorsed the location at 35 and 37 Reid Street Wilcannia as the preferred location for the construction for the proposed motel. This site is the preferred option due to its ownership by Council and direct connection with the Darling River. Its location also offers a strong arrival point into town and is within walking distance to other tourist and cultural buildings, including the BAAKA Cultural Centre.

In August 2022, Council received NSW Government funding of \$156,356 for the development of the business case Wilcannia Visitor Accommodation. Council engaged Balmoral Group Australia to produce the business case report.

The Council General Manager will now pursue funding options for the development including government funding. The possibility of a private partnership with Council for the construction and lease arrangement of the motel will also be explored.

Ends.

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