

# Central Darling Shire Council

We're going ahead - Advancing our Shire

## Message from the ADMINISTRATOR - Bob Stewart

We are continuing to work with government to bring Council out of administration in September. We have not received any formal advice on whether an election is to be held. However, under legislation we are required to work towards this being the case. We have been working with government to examine options on how a future Council can be financed and its ongoing governance structure.

Council has engaged the NSW Electoral Commission at a fee to conduct the election. We are seeking financial assistance from the state government to support the reintroduction of councillors. The estimated cost associated with conducting the elections and sustaining elected members for the four-year term is estimated that it would approximately cost Council \$406,200 for the initial set up and an ongoing annual current

cost of approximately \$288,700 for each remaining year (3). Council's solvency is dependent on government grants and contributions. Accordingly, with the introduction of elected members, additional funds will need to be sourced from the budget, meaning Council will need to reduce its level of services in future budgets, and this the community would regard as unacceptable. We now await a response.



### Weir redesign rejected

Council has rejected the proposed redesign of the Wilcannia weir. The Council General Manager, Greg Hill, advised Council that the "possible reality" is that the Wilcannia weir will never be completed unless plans for a short-sighted redesign were scrapped and federal and state governments provided more money for the project. The media release is on Council's website.

## Road works

### Slashing

#### Cobb Highway - Ivanhoe - Mossgiel

Slashing operations are currently ongoing, with work completed from Ivanhoe to Hay. The team has been working to clear vegetation, ensuring visibility and safety for motorists.

#### Repair Pothole, Edge Breaks (Barrier Highway/ Cobb Highway)

The repair of potholes and edge breaks on the highway is ongoing. Ensuring a smoother and safer driving experience for motorists.

## Health & Wellbeing Centre opens

Congratulations to Maari Ma Health Aboriginal Corporation and all those involved in the Wilcannia Health and Wellbeing Centre project. The Centre opened earlier this year and is delivering primary health care services from a purpose-built facility, designed and built for the local community. It is a significant project for Central Darling Shire. The work was funded by



the Department of Regional NSW, the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care, the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation, Maari Ma and the NSW Ministry of Health.

## Streetscape Improvements

Ivanhoe, Menindee and Wilcannia are set to see streetscape upgrades in the CBD areas of the towns. A grant of \$975,000 has been received for the project which will involving paving works. The work will be funded under the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program phase 4. In February Council was finalising tender documents to appoint a contractor to do the work. Also funded under the



same program also includes providing shade over the Tilpa playground and improvements to drainage at Ivanhoe. Improved Streetscape improvement/beautification is highlighted as a goal in Community Strategic Plan.

# Central Darling Shire Council

## Congratulations to residents recognised on Australia Day



White Cliffs: Jane Stevenson, Service to the Community, White Cliffs Hotel (Sarah and Matt), Event of the Year, Maxx Richardson, Citizen of the Year.



Menindee: Petrina Williams, Service to the Community, Adam Bailey, received the award for Event of the Year on behalf of Menindee Central School Carols by Candlelight, Jane McEwan, Service to the Community Council staff.



Ivanhoe: Robert Rogers pictured with Jessie Rogers, Citizen of the Year.

## White Cliffs plant progressing

The White Cliffs Water Treatment Project is being completed by SNG Engineering. Initial civil works have been completed by Council including site clearing and shaping, lagoon excavations, tank pads, building slabs and associated plumbing works. On site works will commence this month. Council is still in discussions with the funding bodies to secure additional funding to complete the Wilcannia and Ivanhoe water treatment plants. Council will update the community once there is further news.



## Our housing issues raised in Canberra

Council's Senior Planning Officer attended the National Regional Housing Summit in Canberra. She raised some of the issues facing our Shire including the shortage of housing, affordable housing, lack of builders and cost of housing. Insufficient housing stock to rent or buy in Wilcannia, Menindee and Ivanhoe and disproportionately high property rental prices in comparison to home values were two of the issues identified in the Central Darling Shire Community Strategic Plan 2022-2032.

## Community news - Baaka Cultural Centre appointment

The Baaka Cultural Centre has a new Operations Manager. Gail Russell has been employed to assist with progressing the operational side of the project.



### News / Updates / Information

Council is proposing the allocation of names for 43 unnamed roads, streets, and lanes across our Shire. This is required for legal purposes and to finalise the urban and rural addressing project. The Documents are on Council's website and at Council offices. Public consultation closes at 4pm on March 28,



White Cliffs streets have had a facelift. At the end of February resealing works were completed in all streets. The work was funded by the Federal Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Grant, Phase 4. Under the program the resealing of streets in Ivanhoe and Menindee have also been



The Environment Protection Authority has partnered with the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water to deliver the Darling-Barka River Health Project. This will deliver ecological monitoring across priority areas of the Darling Barka River affected by both floods and fish deaths in 2023.

