

Message from the ADMINISTRATOR - Bob Stewart

The General Manager and I attended the Community Cabinet Meeting in Broken Hill. We met various ministers and discussed issues relevant to our Shire.

• **Aboriginal Affairs Minister**

David Harris. We spoke about emergency response to aboriginal communities.

• **Local Government Minister Ron**

Hoening. We spoke about the transition to an elected council, election timing, and ongoing funding.

• **Water & Housing Minister Rose**

Jackson. We spoke about the Wilcannia Weir and social housing.

• **Roads & Regional Transport Minister**

Jennifer Atchison. We spoke about the next major road project priority in Central Darling - the Wool Track.

• **Emergency Services Minister**

Jihad Dib. We spoke about telecommunications in emergency situations including arrangements to keep our mobile towers operational. We also raised issues around the power outage.

I attended the Baaka Centre Board AGM in Wilcannia. I also undertook a site inspection. Once completed it will be a must-stop location for visitors.

The General Manager and I attended the annual LGNSW Conference in Tamworth. The body is responsible for lobbying and advocating for councils.

Regards
Bob Stewart.



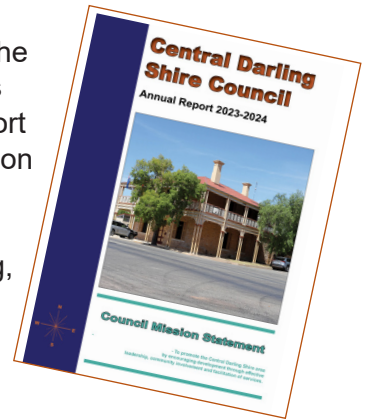
Mobility access improved

The Menindee Post Office, and supermarket now have improved mobility access. The work was funded by the Stronger Country Communities Fund, Round 5. A total of \$178,000 was provided for the improvement of mobility access at the Post Office, supermarket, and public toilets.



Council's annual report for 2023/24 adopted

At the November Council Meeting the annual report was adopted. The report provides information on Council governance, statutory reporting, audited financial reports, the achievements being seen in Central Darling and progress on items identified in planning documents. People can view the report on Council's website.



Roads to Recovery projects progressing

Three Roads to Recovery projects are underway in the Shire.

The projects are at:

• Teryawynia-Ashmont Road

• Menindee-Ivanhoe Road

• Menindee-Wilcannia East Road.

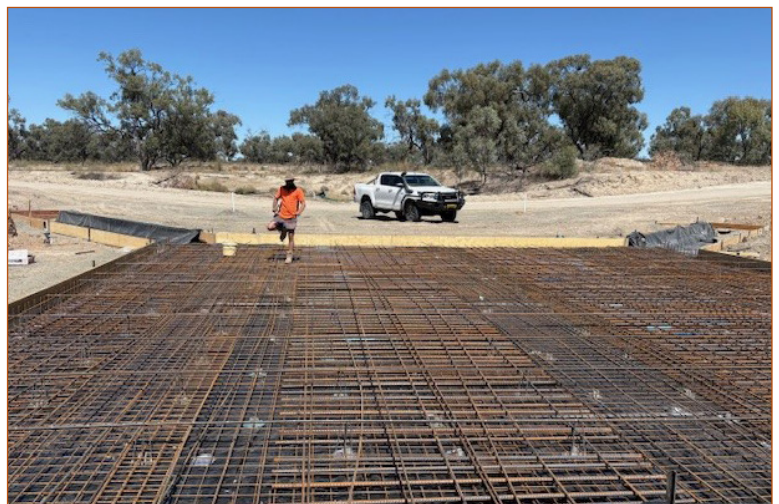
Work involves new reinforced concrete box culverts installations and will improve road safety

and reduce the impacts of flooding in times of high Darling River Flows.

The total project cost is \$1.2 million.

Work at Teryawynia-Ashmont Road is nearing completion with guardrail and road works remaining.

The Menindee-Ivanhoe Road and Menindee-Wilcannia East Road are about 25% complete.



The Ivanhoe-Menindee Road project.

Workshops have been held for people who are thinking about becoming a councillor at next year's **election**.

Drop-in Sessions are taking place in the first week of December.

Information about the election including candidate briefing information

can be found on Council's website. The election date is still to be announced.



The **ABC Broken Hill** radio service is now available on VAST (Viewer Access Satellite Television) across the Far West including Menindee, White Cliffs, Tibooburra, and Silverton.



It means that ABC Menindee now receives Broken Hill content instead of from Dubbo. Wilcannia will be able to have a satellite back up feed of local content rather than from South Australia. The White Cliffs rebroadcast service will be switched to ABC Broken Hill.

At the November Council Meeting an update on the **Wilcannia Weir** was provided.

The Independent Review Panel visited Wilcannia on 10 November. Panel members viewed the proposed location for the new weir, and also visited numerous sites of interest. They also met with key stakeholder groups and members of the community. The panel is expected to report back to the Minister either the first or second quarter of 2025.



Central Darling Shire Christmas closure

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. Essential services will continue during



the Christmas New Year period break.

The Council Staff Christmas lunch will be held on Thursday 12 December.

On this day the Wilcannia and Menindee offices will be closed for the day. The Wilcannia and Ivanhoe Post Offices will remain open as usual.

Stories behind the Stones almost ready

The Stories behind the Stones app modules are getting closer to release. Created by Dr Bernadette Drabsch and Ben Churcher, and funded through a Heritage NSW Community Heritage Grant, the modules will be part of the Central Darling Heritage Trail App. The focus is on local cemeteries. Many interesting stories about the people who lived and died in the region will be included in the app.

The Menindee, Wilcannia and Ivanhoe modules are completed. The White Cliffs module is on its way. The team will return to the Shire early next year for field testing.

Central Darling Shire Council



Sale of Surplus Land in Central Darling Shire

Central Darling Shire Council is selling surplus land in Wilcannia, White Cliffs and Ivanhoe. The land is classified as Operational land. Most of the vacant land has Village zoning with some being zoned General Industrial. By selling surplus

land, Council is assisting alleviate the critical housing shortage that exists within the Shire. The land sales will convert non-income producing assets into valuable cashflow and improve Council's future rate base with future rate income.

The land is being marketed through Council's Properties for sale in Central Darling Shire Facebook page and through direct negotiation with NSW Government organisations. People can also contact the Council for more information.