

Message from the ADMINISTRATOR - Bob Stewart

April After some heavy rain up north both the Paroo and Darling Baaka Rivers are set to flood. Council and the Unincorporated Area Local Emergency Management Committee have been meeting regularly. They're working with the SES to plan and respond over the coming weeks as the flood waters make

their way through our communities.

Good News for Wilcannia - Minister Jackson's Independent Review Panel for the Wilcannia Weir has wrapped up its work. The final report will be released soon.

Because of the timing of the Federal election and

delays in finalising the rules for the Rural and Remote Council model, we couldn't hold Council elections in March. The Minister has extended my appointment as Administrator until September, which gives enough time for an election to be called. It also means we'll be able to finalise the 2025-2026 budget so the new



Council has something solid to work with. We've already started drafting the budget.

Regards
Bob Stewart.



For the latest flood updates and advice people should keep up to date with information from the SES as they are the combat agency. There are links to the SES and further information on Council's website homepage. Council is hoping that Natural Disaster Declaration Assistance will be fast tracked to assist communities immediately as required.

Equal Employment Opportunity plan on exhibition for comment

The draft Workplace Diversity Equity and Inclusion Plan is Council's Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan. It is open for public comment until 30 May. More information is on Council's website.



Potential groundwater bore sites at Wilcannia

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water Group has completed due diligence cultural heritage walkovers of potential groundwater bore sites at the Wilcannia Golf Club in April.

This work was completed under the guidance of archaeologists and four Barkandji representatives. During the walkovers, it was evident that one of the identified sites is scattered

with artefacts. As such this site will likely be avoided for test drilling.

A hearth and grinding stone were found at the other site, however these are at the edge of the area surveyed and can be avoided during test drilling. The department is waiting on a formal report from the archaeologists. In the meantime, the department is organising for test drillers to confirm the presence of suitable groundwater.



In April Archaeologists and four Barkandji representatives investigated potential sites for the groundwater bore at Wilcannia.

A new draft Child Safe Policy will be placed on public exhibition for comment. The policy has been developed in alignment with the national Child Safe Standards, state and federal legislation and outlines how Council will prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.



We are looking forward to the White Cliffs water treatment plant and new reticulation network being completed soon. The tender for the new Wilcannia water treatment plant was recently awarded to SNG Engineering Pty Ltd and preliminary work is due to start in June. The Ivanhoe Plant is progressing well with off-site fabrications in progress.



At the April Council meeting the Verge and Street Tree Policy was adopted. It provides guidelines for residents to create, install and maintain an authorised street verge in front of their property on Council land. The policy supports the strategic plan delivery program objectives for the greening and beautification of towns and streetscapes.



Council land classification

Public submissions are invited about a draft resolution by Central Darling Shire Council to classify three properties as operational land.

Council purchased the vacant land parcels at the sale of land for unpaid rates auction in February 2025.

- 49 Yartla Lane/49 Menindee Street - Lot 2 DP 39788
- 44 Paringa Street Menindee - Lot 7 Section 27 DP 758669
- 21 Cleaton Street Wilcannia - Lot 2 DP 524832

The reclassification will



enable Council to put the land to an operational use and/or dispose of the land if and as need or demand arises in the future. Submissions close on 30 May and further details are on Council's website under Public Notices.

Lighting investigation



Council will investigate the lack of lighting concerns, raised by a member of the community, at the front of the Ivanhoe swimming pool entrance and play park adjacent to the swimming pool entrance.

If funds are available in the coming financial budget the works will be programmed, however if funds are not available, Council would be seeking grant funding to undertake the works.

Central Darling Shire Council



Action needed on our Shire police numbers

The Council General Manager, Greg Hill, has written to the Member of Barwon, Roy Butler, raising concerns about permanent police numbers in the Shire.

- Ivanhoe Police Station is unattended, with both officer positions currently in the recruitment

process. As a result, the Ivanhoe community is serviced by the Balranald Police Station, which is located approximately 200 kilometres away.

- Menindee Police Station has only one sergeant. Two vacant police officer positions are yet to

be filled.

- Wilcannia Police Station is staffed by eleven officers; however, key senior positions including inspector, sergeant, and several constables are vacant and undergoing recruitment. Leaving approximately four officers in Wilcannia.