



CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE COUNCIL

December 18, 2023

Council will struggle to afford 2024 Local Government Election

Central Darling Shire Council Administrator and General Manager will seek financial assistance from the State Government to support the reintroduction of elected members at the 2024 Local Government election.

At report to the December Council meeting noted that the Council will find it difficult to source additional funds to support costs associated with returning to an elected Council at next year's Local Government elections this is because of Councils inability to source revenue from the general fund and restraints with a limited operational budget.

The Minister for Local Government has indicated the potential for Central Darling Shire Council to come out of administration and return to Elected Members. Council has been in Administration since 2013.

At the December Ordinary Council meeting it was resolved that an arrangement will be entered into for the Electoral Commissioner to administer the ordinary election of councillors for Central Darling Shire Council.

It is estimated that the engagement of NSW Electoral Commission will cost \$30,000, which would need to be budgeted in the 2024/25 Financial Year.

Council was also provided with an estimate of the costs associated with the reintroduction of elected members, after the information was requested by the Administrator.

The total estimate on expense to be incurred by Council with the reinduction of elected members for 2024/25 Financial Year is \$406,200. This figure takes into account councillor items including remuneration, additional mayoral fees, mayoral vehicle, travel and accommodation, IT support and programs, computers, mobile phones and training.

The cost provided in the report to Council were estimates only. Council will be developing a Councillors Expenses and Facilities Policy and submit a budget allocation for elected members in the 2024/25 financial year.

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