

Central Darling Shire Council

Message from the ADMINISTRATOR - Bob Stewart

Local Government Election

The Minister for Local Government is considering several governance models and is working with the Office of Local Government to finalise a preferred model and its implementation. The Minister wants to return a Council, with democratically elected representatives, which is financially sustainable to enable it to deliver the necessary services to the community. He reiterated,

he wanted to get it right and understands that Central Darling Shire Council must have ongoing financial support. The General Manager and I and Office of Local Government representatives, are work-shopping the detail on the practical delivery. As previously reported the Government referred to IPART to examine the Financial Model of Local Government. The latest news is that the Parliament has now itself established a

committee to examine the issue. Council will now make submissions to this Committee. Council is a member of Country Mayors and whilst in Sydney we attended its March Meeting. The group has been lobbying the government on rural crime and the failure of the current approach particularly in regard to young offenders. Parliament has established an all-party Inquiry on the issue.

Rural Addressing update

At the April Council meeting a report provided an update on the Shire road naming project, which is part of the Urban and Rural Addressing project. The proposed names for 43 Councils unnamed roads/streets and lanes were publicly exhibited between February and April 2024. Council received 23 submissions which were tabled as part of the report to Council.

Council staff will now assess the submissions received and investigate whether the proposed community road name changes comply with the Geographical Name Board requirements. A proposed list of draft names will be prepared and sent to the Geographical Names Board for comment and approval prior to the next public exhibition of the revised proposed draft road names.



Lobbying over Weir

Council is continuing lobbying activities in an effort to ensure the new Wilcannia weir will be built at the right height to guarantee long-term water supply for the town. An update

on the situation was provided in a report to the April Council meeting by the General Manager. This report and further information is available on Council's website

Calling for storm funding support

A storm that occurred early this year causing \$1.3 million in damages has been deemed not eligible for Natural Disaster Assistance. Council has written to the NSW Reconstruction Authority asking that the rejection of the application for assistance be reversed and for the funding to be made available for vital storm repairs and reimbursement of costs

Progress report about Shire projects

At the April Council meeting the General Manager provided a verbal update on the delay of several projects in the Shire and a project variation at Ivanhoe. Council was allocated \$1million under the Local Government Recovery Grant program. Council put forward several projects for funding. The new state government has been

stringently assessing projects under the grant and it has taken some time for the approval. Council has received in principal funding approval for the following projects:

- Construction of public toilets at the Menindee Airstrip \$93,000.
- Ivanhoe Community Golf Course revitalization \$151,000.
- Victory Caravan Park amenities replacement

contribution \$320,000.

- White Cliffs Caravan Park septic system upgrade \$250,000.

Still under review

- White Cliffs Community Activation Hub \$100,000.
- Sunset Strip playground upgrade \$85,000.

The General Manager will provide further updates on these project to the May Council meeting.

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ANZAC DAY 2024 - Lest We Forget



Movie nights popular during school holidays

Community Movie Nights were held during April with a free screening of the Movie Wonka in the towns of Ivanhoe, Wilcannia, White Cliffs and Menindee. Residents gathered to enjoy a family night with a movie, barbecue and more, including face painting. The movie nights would not have been possible without

grant funding from the NSW Government, and support from other organisations including Outdoor Movies Australia, Maari Ma Health, Ivanhoe P&C, White Cliffs P&C, Menindee CWA, White Cliffs Public School, and the Uniting Family Connect and Support Program. For more photos see Council's website under Projects in the Shire.



A fun night out at the movies in Ivanhoe, left. Face painting at White Cliffs was popular, top photo.



Official opening

Congratulations to all involved in Maari Ma's new Health and Wellbeing Centre. It is a major asset for our community. Photo: Maari Ma Health.

Far West Regional Drought Resilience Plan

Central Darling Shire Council, Broken Hill City Council, Regional Development Australia Far West NSW Unincorporated Area



Online survey - have your say to help improve our drought preparedness into the future. Details on Council's website under Projects in the Shire.

This program is jointly funded by the Commonwealth & NSW Governments