

Central Darling Shire Council

Message from the ADMINISTRATOR - Bob Stewart

I have written to the NSW Water Minister Rose Jackson about the Wilcannia Weir project. The Minister visited Wilcannia on Wednesday 26 June. I thanked the Minister for meeting with the community and representative groups, to hear concerns about the recent weir redesign. My letter states the case for the community's concerns and objections to the redesign. Community opinion is adamant, that the original designed weir

height, fishway passageway and gates, will secure water security for the township in times of little or no flows and prolong drought. Furthermore, the original design with its water security will provide environmental and social benefits. This is something that has never been identified in the Environmental Impact Statement or discussed by the government. It has been agreed that the Wilcannia weir project is to be placed on a temporary hold

position, not stopped (only paused) for a short period of time, until the above issues have been addressed. During this period, other investigations can be ongoing for the proposed bore water location, yield and resilience. Further community consultation and investigations can be done on the proposed Keeping Place, road access to the weir, and worker accommodation.

Regards Bob Stewart.

New radio station starts broadcasting

In a welcome move a new radio station has started broadcasting to the Shire. A report was provided to the June Council meeting about the new station. It is a good outcome for residents in Central Darling because communications in the remote far west shire can be challenging. Flow FM has a broadcast headquarters in Regional South Australia. People can tune in locally on the following frequencies:



- **Menindee** 101.3 FM.
- **Wilcannia** - pictured right, 106.3 FM.
- **Ivanhoe** 01.3 FM
- **White Cliffs** 105.1 FM – broadcast is due to be up and running within a matter of weeks.

White Cliffs and Ivanhoe projects receive funding

Congratulations to the **White Cliffs Gymkhana Club** and the **Ivanhoe Campdraft Association**.

The community organisations have received funding under the NSW Government Community Building Partnership 2023 grant round.

- Ivanhoe Campdraft Grounds Improvements \$14,043.
- White Cliffs Gymkhana Club (Amenities Block) \$6,375.

Both the gymkhana and campdraft are popular events. They are important for local tourism bringing visitors to the towns.

Draft Budget documents adopted

The draft operational plan, delivery program and budget 2024-25 has been adopted by Council.

No submissions were received during the exhibition period. As part of the adoption process a number of items and amendments were noted:

- A net surplus of \$15,000.
- RMS works an increase of \$250,000.
- Private works an increase of \$750,000 (these amendments due to increase in expected activity and increase in charged on-costs). Contractor costs a decrease of \$350,000 (re-assessment based on likely expenditure to be incurred in relation to the level

of grants received, private and RMS works). Adjustment to roads depreciation (minor adjustment to the useful lives of some Shire roads).

- The draft budget for capital works indicated total expenditure of \$18.099 million, which included expenditure of \$350,000 for a new three-bedroom house. On review this item was removed. Total capital works is now \$17.649 million.

There will be new rates and charges in accordance with the Local Government Act. Council will impose charges for waste management services in 2024/25.

Council to lobby over NSW cemetery fees

Council Administrator Bob Stewart be writing a letter to the NSW Government asking that they urgently reverse their decision to impose a new tax on all burials and cremations.

The new levy/s come in from July 2024 and Council adopted this because it is a statutory fee.

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Council land reclassified

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure NSW has made a legal amendment to the Central Darling Local Environmental Plan 2012 to reclassify 232 Council owned lots from community land to operational land.

It's been a lengthy process. A report on the matter was presented to the June Council meeting. At the meeting the General Manager said a list

would now be compiled of land which could be sold, and a report back to Council. The need to Identify land areas in Wilcannia, Menindee and Ivanhoe for new housing development is highlighted in community plan documents. The reclassification is an important step in the process. More information is on Council's website under the news tab.



Expressions of Interest Caretaker - White Cliffs Caravan Park

White Cliffs Caravan Park is operated/managed through the White Cliffs Community Association with delegated authority from Council. With 46 sites (25 powered, 20 unpowered and 1 cabin), the caravan park is a vital facility for tourism in the area.

The Community Association is seeking an Expressions of Interest from contractor(s) for operation/management of the caravan park.

Expressions of Interest are to be submitted via email by COB Friday 26 July 2024 to:

General Manager
EOI White Cliffs Caravan Park
Central Darling Shire Council
council@centraldarling.nsw.gov.au
Anyone wanting to make an Expression of Interest is encouraged to see further information on Council's website.

Water Treatment Plants update

At the June Council meeting an update was provided on the town Water Treatment Plants.

The **White Cliffs project** is 60 per cent complete and expected to be finished in November this year. SNG Engineering started work in March this year.

The White Cliffs Reticulation works are progressing well.



Pictured: Ivanhoe trench works.

The **Ivanhoe Water Treatment Plant** tender was awarded to Liquek Pty Ltd at the May Council meeting. Initial



Pictured: White Cliffs works.

design reviews are in progress. The **Wilcannia Water Treatment Plant** contract has not been awarded. Further process designs are being reviewed by the department of health.

Council Policies

Council adopted a policy to ensure consistency of how staff, contractors, councillors and visitors can gain access to Council properties whilst keeping Council assets and confidential information secure.

A **draft Data Breach Policy** is on exhibition for comment, for 28 days. The policy aims to inform people about Council's processes for identifying, managing, responding to and reporting data breaches of Council-held information.

Baaka Cultural Centre taking shape

Work on the Baaka Cultural Centre at Wilcannia is progressing.

The Centre is very much a community project. It will not be Council owned or run by Council. However, the Council is a big supporter of the project. Council has made new office space available for the Operations Manager at the Wilcannia Post Office residence. This space is being provided on a temporary basis until a permanent tenant is found.

The Baaka Cultural Centre office



will be open between 10am and 1pm weekdays.

The project is funded by the Australian and NSW governments.