



WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL

**ORDINARY MEETING
MINUTES**

22 JANUARY 2014

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1 OPENING OF MEETING AND PRAYER

9.00am

2 PRESENT

COUNCILLORS: Don McKinnon (Mayor), Paul Cohrs (Deputy Mayor), Brad Clarke, Peter Nunan, Brian Wakefield, Bill Wheeldon, Bob Wheeldon,

STAFF: Mr Peter Kozlowski (General Manager)
Mrs Joy Hentschke (Director Finance and Policy)
Mr Ken Ross (Director Health and Planning)
Mr Simon Pradhan (Acting Director Roads and Engineering)
Mrs Christina Ross (Executive Assistant)

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That the apology from Councillor Melisa Hederics and Ian Whitfield be received and noted.

Moved Councillor B Wakefield, Seconded Councillor P Nunan

CARRIED

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 18 December 2013 be confirmed as circulated, subject to the declaration of conflicts of interest reading:

Councillor Bob Wheeldon advised that he had pecuniary interests in item 10.4 Supplementary Report Council Roads Committee of 13 December 2013 - "TONA" Old Crown 10 Lot Subdivision on the Anabran as it relates to property part owns or has an interest in.

Moved Councillor P Nunan, Seconded Councillor B Wheeldon

CARRIED

5 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Councillor Bob Wheeldon advised that he had pecuniary interests in item 10.1 point 2 and 3 Report from Planning Liaison Committee of 18 December 2013 as it relates to a property he owns and item 13.2 Delegated Authority report - "TONA" "Grand Junction Pty Ltd Old Crown 10 Lot Subdivision on the Anabran as they relate to property he part owns or has an interest in.

Councillor Bill Wheeldon advised that he had pecuniary interests in item 10.1 point 2 and 3 Report from Planning Liaison Committee of 18 December 2013, item 13.2 Delegated Authority report - "TONA" "Grand Junction Pty Ltd Old Crown 10 Lot Subdivision on the Anabran as they relate to a property owned by a relative or part owned by a relative or a relative has an interest in.

Councillor Peter Nunan advised that he had a significant non pecuniary interest in relation to item 10.1 point 1, as he is a director of a company that owns the golf club.

6 PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

Nil

7 MAYORAL REPORTS

7.1 MAYORAL REPORT

File Number: RPT/14/43

Recommendation

That the information contained in this Mayoral Report be received.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That the information contained in this Mayoral Report be received.

Moved Councillor P Nunan, Seconded Councillor P Cohrs

CARRIED

8 NOTICES OF MOTION / RESCISSION

8.1 CRISTAL MINES LTD

NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY CLR BILL WHEELDON

File Number: RPT/14/22

Motion

That Wentworth Shire Council serves a notice of Non Compliance on Cristal Mines Ltd with regard to the construction of the Haul Road.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

a) That Council resolves to go into closed Council to consider item 8.1, at the end of the meeting, together with any late report tabled at this meeting.

b) That pursuant to Section 10A(2) (g) of the Local Government Act 1993, the media and public be excluded from the meeting on the basis that the business to be considered is classified confidential under the provisions of Section 10A(2)(g) advice concerning litigation or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege.

c) That the correspondence and reports relevant to the subject of the business be withheld from access to the media and public as required by Section 11(2) of the Local Government Act 1993.

Moved Councillor P Nunan, Seconded Councillor P Cohrs

CARRIED

Note: This motion was withdrawn by Councillor Bill Wheeldon

9 DELEGATES REPORTS - EXTERNAL COMMITTEES

Council has appointed representatives to the following:-

- Arts Mildura
- Australian Inland Botanic Gardens
- Bush Fire Management Committee

- Club Grants Category one Funding Committee formerly (CDSE)
- Local Emergency Management Committee
- Mildura Tourism
- Murray Darling Association
- Police Community Committee
- Public Libraries NSW
- Riverina & Murray Regional Organisation of Councils
- Rural Bush Fires Service Level Agreement Committee
- Wentworth Regional Tourism Inc.
- Wentworth Shire Liquor Accord Committee
- West Darling Regional Arts Committee
- Western Division Group of Councils
- Willandra World Heritage Committee

9.1 WILLANDRA WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Councillor Brian Wakefield provided an update in regards to this committee and advised that at this stage there are currently 20 -25 stakeholders and the State Government will be reviewing stakeholders to assist in managing this committee more effectively.

10 COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS – INTERNAL AND ADVISORY

Council has appointed the following Committees which meet from time to time:-

Section 355 Community Committees

- PS Ruby Board of Management

Council Advisory Committees

- Council Roads Committee
- Floodplain Risk Management Committee
- Internal Audit & Risk Management Committee
- Local Traffic (RMS) Committee
- Wentworth Showgrounds Advisory Committee
- Planning Liaison Committee
- Economic Development and Tourism Committee
- Youth and Community Services Committee
- Sport, Reserve and Recreation Committee

9.05am Councillor Peter Nunan left the chambers

10.1 PLANNING LIAISON COMMITTEE - 18 DECEMBER 2013

File Number: RPT/14/20

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - Director, Health and Planning
Responsible Directorate: Health and Planning
Reporting Officer: Kerrilyn Miller - Health & Planning Coordinator

Summary

This is a report on Wentworth Shire Council's Planning Liaison Committee meeting held on Wednesday 18 December 2013 and any matters recommended to Council.

Report

The meeting of Wentworth Shire Council's Planning Liaison Committee was held on Wednesday 18 December 2013 and the following issues were subject of recommendations from the Committee to Council and, accordingly, require a decision of Council. The recommendations from the Committee are listed with any additional officer comments, if required.

Acquisition of Land for recreational Purposes - Buronga Gol Gol Structure Plan

Committee Recommendation:

That the committee recommends to Council that the acquisition of part Lot 1 DP 1114400 having an approximate area of 2.57 hectares be continued in line with the resolution of Council dated 1 July 2009.

In accordance with Section 375A of the Local Government Act the Mayor called for a division.

For the Motion: ***Councillors P Cohrs, D McKinnon, B Wakefield and B Wheeldon.***

Against the Motion: ***Nil.***

Comment: This recommendation of the committee re-enacts a previous resolution of Council with more clarity as to the area of land to be acquired.

Grand Junction

Planning proposal at south and north Pomona

Proposed rezoning of land from RU1 to RU4

Committee Recommendation:

That Council support the Planning Proposal for referral to the Department of Planning for Gateway Determination.

In accordance with Section 375A of the Local Government Act the Mayor called for a division.

For the Motion: ***Councillors P Cohrs, D McKinnon and B Wakefield.***

Against the Motion: ***Nil.***

Comment: This matter refers to a Planning Proposal to rezone land north and south of Pomona from RU1 Primary Production to RU4 Primary Production Small Lots. The applicant seeks to enable dwellings on lot sizes of a minimum of 5 to 10 hectares in the two locations adjacent to the irrigation district of Pomona. The applicant seeks to achieve this by relocating 49 dwelling entitlements covering an area of 4,997 ha of the Grand Junction property into the subject land being an area of circa 490 ha.

DANSON AND BLABY PTY LTD

PROPOSED REZONING OF LAND FROM RU1 PRIMARY PRODUCTION TO R5 LARGE LOT RESIDENTIAL

Committee Recommendation:

That Council support the Planning Proposal for referral to the Department of Planning for Gateway Determination.

In accordance with Section 375A of the Local Government Act the Mayor called for a division.

For the Motion: ***Councillors P Cohrs, D McKinnon and B Wakefield***

Against the Motion: ***Nil.***

Comment: This matter refers to a Planning Proposal in which the applicant seeks to rezone land adjacent to Gol Gol Creek from RU1 Primary Production to R5 Large Lot Residential under the Wentworth LEP 2011. The proposal also seeks to change the minimum lot size mapping for the proposed R5 land to 3,000 square metres. The site has an area of 20.03 hectares and is currently developed for horticultural purposes with a dwelling and out-buildings for storage of farm equipment and farm products on each of the titles.

Recommendation

That Council resolves the following:

1. That the acquisition of part Lot 1 DP 1114400 having an approximate area of 2.57 hectares be continued in line with the resolution of Council dated 1 July 2009.
2. That the planning proposal for the change of zone and minimum lot size over the subject land being Lot 2 in DP 134929, Lot 4 in DP 1015663, Lot 5 in DP 756964 and Lot 2 in DP 1165816, a total area of 490 ha be forwarded to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure under Section 56(1) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, requesting that the Minister issue a *gateway determination* that will allow the planning proposal to proceed to facilitate Wentworth Local Environmental Plan 2011 Amendment No 5.
3. That the planning proposal for the change of zone and minimum lot size over the subject land being Wilga Road Lots 56 & 73 in DP 756946, a total area of 20.03 ha be forwarded to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure under Section 56(1) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, requesting that the Minister issue a *gateway determination* that will allow the planning proposal to proceed to facilitate Wentworth Local Environmental Plan 2011 Amendment No 4.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council resolves the following:

1. That the acquisition of part Lot 1 DP 1114400 having an approximate area of 2.57 hectares be continued in line with the resolution of Council dated 1 July 2009

Moved Councillor B Wheeldon, Seconded Councillor P Cohrs

CARRIED

In accordance with Section 375A of the Local Government Act the Mayor called for a division.

For the Motion: ***Councillors B Clarke, P Cohrs, D McKinnon, B Wakefield, W Wheeldon and B Wheeldon.***

Against the Motion: ***Nil.***

9.06am Councillor Peter Nunan returned to chamber.

9.06am Councillor Bob Wheeldon and Bill Wheeldon left the chambers

Note: Anthony Davis made a presentation

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council resolves the following:

2. That the planning proposal for the change of zone and minimum lot size over the subject land being Lot 2 in DP 134929, Lot 4 in DP 1015663, Lot 5 in DP 756964 and Lot 2 in DP 1165816, a total area of 490 ha be forwarded to the Department of

Planning and Infrastructure under Section 56(1) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, requesting that the Minister issue a *gateway determination* that will allow the planning proposal to proceed to facilitate Wentworth Local Environmental Plan 2011 Amendment No 5.

Moved Councillor B Wakefield Seconded Councillor P Cohrs

CARRIED

In accordance with Section 375A of the Local Government Act the Mayor called for a division.

For the Motion: ***Councillors B Clarke, P Cohrs, D McKinnon, P Nunan and B Wakefield.***

Against the Motion: ***Nil.***

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council resolves the following:

- 3.** That the planning proposal for the change of zone and minimum lot size over the subject land being Wilga Road Lots 56 & 73 in DP 756946, a total area of 20.03 ha be forwarded to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure under Section 56(1) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, requesting that the Minister issue a *gateway determination* that will allow the planning proposal to proceed to facilitate Wentworth Local Environmental Plan 2011 Amendment No 4.

Moved Councillor B Wakefield, Seconded Councillor P Cohrs

CARRIED

In accordance with Section 375A of the Local Government Act the Mayor called for a division.

For the Motion: ***Councillors B Clarke, P Cohrs, D McKinnon, P Nunan and B Wakefield.***

Against the Motion: ***Nil.***

9.13am Councillor Bob Wheeldon and Bill Wheeldon returned to chambers.

10.2 REPORT FROM COUNCIL ROADS COMMITTEE - 14 JANUARY 2014

File Number: RPT/14/46

Responsible Officer: Simon Pradhan - Acting Director Roads & Engineering

Responsible Directorate: Roads and Engineering

Reporting Officer: Sue Black - Engineering & Roads Coordinator

Previous Items: 6.1 - Schedule Bus Tour. - Council Roads Committee - 14 Jan 2014 8.30am

Summary

This is a report on Wentworth Shire Council's Council Roads Committee meeting held on Tuesday 14 January 2014 and any matters recommended to Council.

Report

The meeting of Wentworth Shire Council's Council Roads Committee was held on Tuesday 14 January 2014. The meeting was held in conjunction with a tour of various sites listed below:

Log Bridge Road
Perry Sandhills
Anabranck Hall Road
Polia Road Culverts
High Darling/Polia Road Intersection
Bilbarka Park
Pooncarie Airport Road
Pooncarie Weir
Arumpo Road Grid Replacement
Adelaide St/Wilga Road Concept

And the following issues were subject of recommendations from the Committee to Council and, accordingly, require a decision of Council. The recommendations from the Committee are listed with any additional officer comments, if required.

1. Schedule Bus Tour.

Committee Recommendation: 1. This report be noted

Committee Recommendation: 2. That the Council identifies the sealing of the Pooncarie airport Road as a project to be included in the 10 year plan.

Committee Recommendation: 3. This report be noted

Comment: As part of the Scheduled Bus Tour Committee looked at a concept plan for Adelaide Street (service road) realignment. The realignment will shift the entrance to service road from east of Gol Gol creek to Wilga Road south. See attached plan.

Recommendation

That Council notes this report and endorses the proposed realignment of Adelaide Street concept plan.

That Council identifies the sealing of the Pooncarie Airport Road as a project to be included in the 10 year plan.

This report be noted

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council notes this report and endorses the proposed realignment of Adelaide Street concept plan.

That Council identifies the sealing of the Pooncarie Airport Road as a project to be included in the 10 year plan.

This report be noted

Moved Councillor B Clarke, Seconded Councillor B Wakefield

CARRIED

10.3 REPORT FROM COUNCIL ROADS COMMITTEE - 21 JANUARY 2014

File Number: RPT/14/60

Responsible Officer: Simon Pradhan - Acting Director Roads & Engineering

Responsible Directorate: Roads and Engineering

Reporting Officer: Sue Black - Engineering & Roads Coordinator

Summary

The meeting of Wentworth Shire Council's Council Roads Committee was held on 21 January 2014 and any recommendations deemed important and urgent are submitted for consideration at this meeting.

Recommendation

That Council admits for consideration a supplementary report from the Council Roads Committee meeting held on 21 January 2014, as the recommendations are deemed urgent and it would not be appropriate to report to the February Council meeting.

That Council adopts the Committee recommendations in the supplementary report.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council admits for consideration a supplementary report from the Council Roads Committee meeting held on 21 January 2014, as the recommendations are deemed urgent and it would not be appropriate to report to the February Council meeting.

Moved Councillor W Wheeldon, Seconded Councillor P Cohrs

CARRIED

COUNCIL ROADS COMMITTEE 21 JANUARY 2014 – SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

File Number: RPT/14/66

Responsible Officer: Simon Pradhan - Acting Director Roads & Engineering

Responsible Directorate: Roads and Engineering

Reporting Officer: Sue Black - Engineering & Roads Coordinator

Summary

This is a report on Wentworth Shire Council's Council Roads Committee meeting held on Tuesday 21 January 2014 and any matters recommended to Council.

Report

The meeting of Wentworth Shire Council's Council Roads Committee was held on Tuesday 21 January 2014 and the following issues were subject of recommendations from the Committee to Council and, accordingly, require a decision of Council. The recommendations from the Committee are listed with any additional officer comments, if required.

Intersection of Proposed Road and Wilga Road

Committee Recommendation:

That Council costs the 1m widening of Wilga Rd between the Sturt Highway and Moddikerr Way and give consideration to this project in future Budget deliberations.

Comment:

Nil

Recommendation

That Council resolves the following:

That Council costs the 1m widening of Wilga Rd between the Sturt Highway and Moddikerr Way and give consideration to this project in future Budget deliberations.

Council Resolution

That Council resolves the following:

That Council costs the 1m widening of Wilga Rd between the Sturt Highway and Moddikerr Way and give consideration to this project in future Budget deliberations.

Moved Councillor W Wheeldon, Seconded Councillor P Cohrs

CARRIED

Attachments

Nil

10.4 REPORT FROM SPORTS, RESERVES & RECREATION COMMITTEE - 17 JANUARY 2014

File Number: RPT/14/49

Responsible Officer: Simon Pradhan - Acting Director Roads & Engineering
Responsible Directorate: Roads and Engineering
Reporting Officer: Sue Black - Engineering & Roads Coordinator

Summary

The meeting of Wentworth Shire Council's Sports, Reserves and Recreation Committee was held on 17 January 2014 and any recommendations deemed important and urgent are submitted for consideration at this meeting.

Recommendation

That Council admits for consideration a supplementary report from the Sports, Reserves & Recreation Committee meeting held on 17 January 2014, as the recommendations are deemed urgent and it would not be appropriate to report to the February Council meeting.

That Council adopts the Committee recommendations in the supplementary report.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council admits for consideration a supplementary report from the Sports, Reserves & Recreation Committee meeting held on 17 January 2014, as the recommendations are deemed urgent and it would not be appropriate to report to the February Council meeting.

Moved Councillor B Wakefield, Seconded Councillor Bob Wheeldon

CARRIED

9.23am Councillor Peter Nunan left chambers.

SUPPLEMENTRY REPORT FROM THE SPORTS RESERVES AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING

File Number: RPT/14/64

Responsible Officer: Simon Pradhan - Acting Director Roads & Engineering
Responsible Directorate: Roads and Engineering
Reporting Officer: Sue Black - Engineering & Roads Coordinator

Current References: Report from Sports, Reserves & Recreation Committee - 17 January 2014

Summary

This is a report on Wentworth Shire Council's Sports, Reserves and Recreation Committee meeting held on Friday 17 January 2014 and any matters recommended to Council.

Report

The meeting of Wentworth Shire Council's Sports, Reserves and Recreation Committee was held on Friday 17 January 2014 and the following issues were subject of recommendations from the Committee to Council and, accordingly, require a decision of Council. The recommendations from the Committee are listed with any additional officer comments, if required.

1.Request for extension of Lease over Reserve 88251 Coomealla Golf Course

Committee Recommendation:

That Council resolves to enter into a further 20 year lease term with the Coomealla Memorial Club Limited for the Coomealla Golf Course Reserve 88251.

That the lease fee be equal to the amount of the current rental payable by the lessee immediately preceding the expiration of the initial term, the current fee is \$110 plus GST

That the Coomealla Memorial Club Limited is responsible for the costs associated with the drawing up and registration on title of the lease.

That Council publicly advertises its intention to enter into this lease as per the requirements of Clause 102 of the Crown Lands Act.

That the Common Seal of Reserve 88251 Coomealla Golf Course Reserve Trust be affixed to the lease document.

That the Mayor and GM delegated authority to sign lease and any associated documentation.

Committee authorised to complete and formalize all relevant paper work.

Comment:

Nil

2.Request for Hangar Pooncarie Airstrip

Committee Recommendation:

That Committee recommends Council to agree in principle to the terms of the letter attached providing 3 extra clauses to be added to Licence documents.

Clauses to be added

1. No Second Hand Materials to be used unless approved by Council
2. 12 Months to complete construction
3. No unsecured items to be stored outside Hangar.

Comment:

Nil

3.Additional reserve purposes requested

Committee Recommendation:

Recommendation

That the information contained in this report be noted.

Comment:

Nil

Recommendation

That Council resolves the following:

1. That Council resolves to enter into a further 20 year lease term with the Coomealla Memorial Club Limited for the Coomealla Golf Course Reserve 88251.

That the lease fee be equal to the amount of the current rental payable by the lessee immediately preceding the expiration of the initial term, the current fee is \$110 plus GST

That the Coomealla Memorial Club Limited is responsible for the costs associated with the drawing up and registration on title of the lease.

That Council publicly advertises its intention to enter into this lease as per the requirements of Clause 102 of the Crown Lands Act.

That the Common Seal of Reserve 88251 Coomealla Golf Course Reserve Trust be affixed to the lease document.

That the Mayor and GM delegated authority to sign lease and any associated documentation.

Committee authorised to complete and formalize all relevant paper work.

2. That Council agrees in principle to the terms of the letter attached providing 3 extra clauses to be added to Licence documents.

Clauses to be added

1. No Second Hand Materials to be used unless approved by Council
2. 12 Months to complete construction
3. No unsecured items to be stored outside Hangar.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council resolves the following:

1. That Council resolves to enter into a further 20 year lease term with the Coomealla Memorial Club Limited for the Coomealla Golf Course Reserve 88251.

That the lease fee be equal to the amount of the current rental payable by the lessee immediately preceding the expiration of the initial term, the current fee is \$110 plus GST

That the Coomealla Memorial Club Limited is responsible for the costs associated with the drawing up and registration on title of the lease.

That Council publicly advertises its intention to enter into this lease as per the requirements of Clause 102 of the Crown Lands Act.

That the Common Seal of Reserve 88251 Coomealla Golf Course Reserve Trust be affixed to the lease document.

That the Mayor and General Manager be delegated authority to sign lease and any associated documentation.

Committee authorised to complete and formalize all relevant paper work.

Moved Councillor Bob Wheeldon, Seconded Councillor P Cohrs

CARRIED

9.24am Councillor Peter Nunan returned to chambers

Recommendation

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council resolves the following:

2. That Council agrees in principle to the terms of the letter attached providing 3 extra clauses to be added to Licence documents.

Clauses to be added

1. No Second Hand Materials to be used unless approved by Council
2. 12 Months to complete construction
3. No unsecured items to be stored outside Hangar.

Moved Councillor Bob Wheeldon, Seconded Councillor P Cohrs

CARRIED

10.5 REPORT FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM COMMITTEE -21 JANUARY 2014

File Number: RPT/14/52

Responsible Officer: Peter Kozlowski - General Manager
Responsible Directorate: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Christina Ross - Executive Assistant

Summary

The meeting of Wentworth Shire Council's Economic Development & Tourism Committee was held on 21 January 2014 and any recommendations deemed important and urgent are submitted for consideration at this meeting.

Recommendation

That Council admits for consideration a supplementary report from the Economic Development & Tourism Committee meeting held on 21 January 2014, as the recommendations are deemed urgent and it would not be appropriate to report to the February Council meeting.

That Council adopts the Committee recommendations in the supplementary report.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council admits for consideration a supplementary report from the Economic Development & Tourism Committee meeting held on 21 January 2014, as the recommendations are deemed urgent and it would not be appropriate to report to the February Council meeting.

Moved Councillor P Nunan, Seconded Councillor B Clarke

CARRIED

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT FROM ECONOMIC AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

File Number: RPT/14/61

Responsible Officer: Peter Kozlowski - General Manager
Responsible Directorate: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Peter Kozlowski - General Manager

Current References: Report from Economic Development & Tourism Committee -21 January 2014

Summary

This is a report on Wentworth Shire Council's Economic Development & Tourism Committee meeting held on Tuesday 21 January 2014 and any matters recommended to Council.

Report

The meeting of Wentworth Shire Council's Economic Development & Tourism Committee was held on Tuesday 21 January 2014 and the following issues were subject of recommendations from the Committee to Council and, accordingly, require a decision of Council. The recommendations from the Committee are listed with any additional officer comments, if required.

1. WRTI Presentation

Committee Recommendation:

That Council notes that a presentation was made to the Committee by Wentworth Regional Tourism Inc. and approves the expenditure of \$3350 as Council's contribution to the Official Visitors Guide (OVG) and \$2,000 for its contribution to the production of a Wentworth brochure from the Promotions and Marketing budget, subject to a review of the OVG in 12 months in relation to consideration of funding the balance of Council's contribution.

Comment:

Presentation was made by three representatives from Wentworth Regional Tourism Inc. in relation to the production of the latest Visitors Information Guide and a brochure highlighting Wentworth.

2. Junction Island Committee Presentation

Committee Recommendation:

That Council notes that a presentation was made to the Committee by the Junction Island Community Committee.

That Council refers the review of the Development Application submitted by the Community Committee on the Junction Island Walk to the Planning Liaison Committee.

That Council considers a list of minor projects for the Junction Island Walk, to be submitted by the Community Committee, for referral to the 2014/15 budget for consideration.

Comment:

Presentation was made by Brian Grogan from the Junction Island Committee about the status of Junction Walk and associated matters.

3. P.S. Ruby Board - Chair and Community Representative appointments

Committee Recommendation:

That Council resolves to appoint Bill Nicol as Independent Chair of the P.S Ruby Board of Management and Peter Atkinson and Gaye Lamb as Community Representatives, and that the voluntary positions be for a period of not more than 3 years ending 30 June 2017.

Comment:

The Board is a S355 Committee of Council. Council's representative on the Board is Cr Brad Clarke.

4. Report From P S Ruby

Committee Recommendation:

That Council notes that a verbal report was submitted by the Acting Director Roads and Engineering to the Committee.

Comment:

Quarterly progress reports will be submitted to the Committee in relation to the PS Ruby operations.

5. Promotions and Marketing Program Support

Committee Recommendation:

That Council approves the development of a third TV commercial promoting tourism in the Wentworth Shire for the 2013/14 financial year.

That Council approves the investigation of a branding concept for Wentworth Shire Council.

That Council approves the expenditure of \$880 of advertising in the Autumn edition of Mildura Living with the inclusion of a feature article on the Wentworth Shire.

Comment:

Bobbie Pappin from Advertising Development Services was present at the meeting. Discussion occurred on a number of ideas including branding, website design, social media, and media releases.

6. Murray Regional Tourism Partner Councils Funding Agreement

Committee Recommendation:

That Council formally resolves to enter into a three year Partner Councils Funding Agreement (PCFA) with the Murray Regional Tourism Board and delegates to the Mayor and General Manager the authority to sign the PCFA and associated documentation.

Comment:

Mark Francis, CEO Murray Regional Tourism Board, made a presentation at the last Committee meeting in December.

7. Visitors Information Centre Report

Committee Recommendation:

That Council notes that a report from the Visitors Information Centre was presented to the Committee.

That Council approves the upgrade of the Wentworth Shire promotion at the Mildura Information Centre to include a TV screen, new layout and positioned in a more prominent location, and allocates up to \$3000 from the Promotions and Marketing budget.

That Council approves the hosting of a "Tourism Industry Night".

Comment:

Cathryn Dawes from the Visitors Information Centre presented an update from the Visitors Information Centre, including an update on visitor numbers, a favourable accreditation audit in January, progress on TV screens project, and the upcoming campervan rally.

8. Junction Links Project

Committee Recommendation:

That Council advertises for expressions of interest for the development of Junctions Links by private developers.

Comment:

Junctions Links is one of Council's major projects.

Recommendation

That Council resolves the following:

1. That Council notes that a presentation was made to the Committee by Wentworth Regional Tourism Inc. and approves the expenditure of \$3350 as Council's contribution to the Official Visitors Guide (OVG) and \$2,000 for its contribution to the production of a Wentworth brochure from the Promotions and Marketing budget, subject to a review of the OVG in 12 months in relation to consideration of funding the balance of Council's contribution.

2. That Council notes that a presentation was made to the Committee by the Junction Island Community Committee.

That Council refers the review of the Development Application submitted by the Community Committee on the Junction Island Walk to the Planning Liaison Committee.

That Council considers a list of minor projects for the Junction Island Walk, to be submitted by the Community Committee, for referral to the 2014/15 budget for consideration.

3. That Council resolves to appoint Bill Nicol as Independent Chair of the P.S Ruby Board of Management and Peter Atkinson and Gaye Lamb as Community Representatives, and that the voluntary positions be for a period of not more than 3 years ending 30 June 2017.

4. That Council notes that a verbal report was submitted by the Acting Director Roads and Engineering to the Committee.

5. That Council approves the development of a third TV commercial promoting tourism in the Wentworth Shire for the 2013/14 financial year.

That Council approves the investigation of a branding concept for Wentworth Shire Council.

That Council approves the expenditure of \$880 of advertising in the Autumn edition of Mildura Living with the inclusion of a feature article on the Wentworth Shire.

6. That Council formally resolves to enter into a three year Partner Councils Funding Agreement (PCFA) with the Murray Regional Tourism Board and delegates to the

Mayor and General Manager the authority to sign the PCFA and associated documentation.

7. That Council notes that a report from the Visitors Information Centre was presented to the Committee.

That Council approves the upgrade of the Wentworth Shire promotion at the Mildura Information Centre to include a TV screen, new layout and positioned in a more prominent location, and allocates up to \$3000 from the Promotions and Marketing budget.

That Council approves the hosting of a "Tourism Industry Night".

8. That Council advertises for expressions of interest for the development of Junctions Links by private developers.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council resolves the following:

1. That Council notes that a presentation was made to the Committee by Wentworth Regional Tourism Inc. and approves the expenditure of \$3350 as Council's contribution to the Official Visitors Guide (OVG) and \$2,000 for its contribution to the production of a Wentworth brochure from the Promotions and Marketing budget, subject to a review of the OVG in 12 months in relation to consideration of funding the balance of Council's contribution.

2. That Council notes that a presentation was made to the Committee by the Junction Island Community Committee.

That Council refers the review of the Development Application submitted by the Community Committee on the Junction Island Walk to the Economic Development and Tourism Committee.

That Council considers a list of minor projects for the Junction Island Walk, to be submitted by the Community Committee, for referral to the 2014/15 budget for consideration.

Moved Councillor P Cohrs, Seconded Councillor Bob Wheeldon

CARRIED

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council resolves the following:

3. That Council resolves to appoint Bill Nicol as Independent Chair of the P.S Ruby Board of Management and Peter Atkinson and Gaye Lamb as Community Representatives, and that the voluntary positions be for a period of not more than 3 years ending 30 June 2017.
4. That Council notes that a verbal report was submitted by the Acting Director Roads and Engineering to the Committee.
5. That Council approves the development of a third TV commercial promoting tourism in the Wentworth Shire for the 2013/14 financial year.

That Council approves the investigation of a branding concept for Wentworth Shire

Council.

That Council approves the expenditure of \$880 of advertising in the Autumn edition of Mildura Living with the inclusion of a feature article on the Wentworth Shire.

6. That Council formally resolves to enter into a three year Partner Councils Funding Agreement (PCFA) with the Murray Regional Tourism Board and delegates to the Mayor and General Manager the authority to sign the PCFA and associated documentation.

7. That Council notes that a report from the Visitors Information Centre was presented to the Committee.

That Council approves the upgrade of the Wentworth Shire promotion at the Mildura Information Centre to include a TV screen, new layout and positioned in a more prominent location, and allocates up to \$3000 from the Promotions and Marketing budget.

8. That Council approves the hosting of a "Tourism Industry Night".
That Council advertises for expressions of interest for the development of Junctions Links by private developers.

Moved Councillor Bob Wheeldon, Seconded Councillor P Cohrs

CARRIED

10.6 REPORT FROM INTERNAL AUDIT & RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - 17 JANUARY 2014

File Number: RPT/14/53

Responsible Officer: Peter Kozlowski - General Manager
Responsible Directorate: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Christina Ross - Executive Assistant

Summary

The meeting of Wentworth Shire Council's Internal Audit & Risk Management Committee was held on Friday 17 January 2014 and the following issues were subject of recommendations from the Committee to Council and, accordingly, require a decision of Council. The recommendations from the Committee are listed with any additional officer comments, if required.

1. DLG Review

Committee Recommendation:

That Council notes the impending DLG review under the Promoting Better Practice Program.

Comment:

The General Manager has been advised by the DLG that the Department is intending to undertake a review of the Wentworth Shire Council under the Promoting Better Practice Program (PBPP) in 2014.

Recommendation

That Council adopts the Committee recommendations in this report.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That the report be withdrawn as a report will be presented to the February Council meeting.

Moved Councillor P Nunan, Seconded Councillor B Wakefield

CARRIED

11 REPORTS FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER'S OFFICE

11.1 WESTERN DIVISION COUNCILS OF NSW ANNUAL CONFERENCE

File Number: RPT/14/14

Responsible Officer: Peter Kozlowski - General Manager
Responsible Directorate: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Christina Ross - Executive Assistant

Delivery Program Objective: 3. Service Provision
Delivery Program Strategy: 3.2 Improve the service delivery capabilities within Council

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to approve attendance at the 2014 Shires Association of NSW Annual Conference.

To discuss possible motions.

Report

Background

The 2014 Shires Association of NSW Annual Conference will be held from Sunday 2 March 2014 to Tuesday 4 March 2014.

This year's theme is "*Leading the Change*".

It has been practice in recent years for the General Manager, Mayor and one Councillor to attend the Conference.

This annual conference brings together Mayors, General Managers, Councillors and staff from the thirteen Western Division Councils.

The Western Division Councils of NSW represent the 13 local government areas which cover 60 % of NSW. Representatives of these councils meet three times a year to discuss issues, lobby governments and promote the Division.

Recommendation

That Council determines the number of Councillors to attend this annual conference and nominates the names of the Councillors to enable registration by the due date.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council determines the number of Councillors to attend this annual conference and nominates the names of the Councillors to enable registration by the due date (Councillors Don McKinnon, Bill Wheeldon, Peter Nunan and Brad Clarke).

Moved Councillor P Nunan, Seconded Councillor P Cohrs

CARRIED

12 REPORTS FROM FINANCE AND POLICY DIRECTORATE

12.1 ADOPTION OF AMENDED ANNUAL FEES AND CHARGES

File Number: RPT/13/821

Responsible Officer: Joy Hentschke - Director, Finance and Policy
Responsible Directorate: Finance and Policy
Reporting Officer: Paula Mastroppolito - Manager Organisational Support

Delivery Program Objective: 1. Civic Leadership
Delivery Program Strategy: 1.2 Abide by all compliance requirements

Summary

The need to amend the Annual Fees and Charges has arisen as a consequence of the adoption of the new Swimming Pool Safety Policy (CP214). The proposed amendments were placed on public exhibition on 2 November 2013 and no submissions were received.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek the formal adoption of the amended Annual Fees and Charges.

Report

Background

The need to amend the Annual Fees and Charges arose as a consequence of the adoption of the Swimming Pool Safety Policy, as required under the Swimming Pools (Amendment) Act 2012.

Matters under consideration

The proposed changes were to amend page 7 of the Annual Fees and Charges under the heading Public Health Program Inspection Fees as follows:-

Service:- Mandatory inspections of a Swimming Pool attached to rental properties which must be inspected at the time of sale or renewal of lease. GST exclusive price \$150.00

The proposed amendments were publically advertised on 2 November 2013 and were also placed on the website.

No submissions were received during the exhibition period. It is a requirement of the Local Government Act that the full document including the amendments be presented to Council for adoption.

Conclusion

The proposed amendment to the Annual Fees and Charges has been through the required exhibition process. In the absence of any submissions from the public, the Annual Fees and Charges document, including the proposed amendment, is provided to Council for adoption.

Recommendation

That Council adopts the amended Annual Fees and Charges which accommodate the mandatory inspections of a Swimming Pool attached to rental properties.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council adopts the amended Annual Fees and Charges which accommodate the mandatory inspections of a Swimming Pool attached to rental properties.

Moved Councillor P Nunan, Seconded Councillor B Wakefield

CARRIED

12.2 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT

File Number: RPT/14/12

Responsible Officer: Joy Hentschke - Director, Finance and Policy
 Responsible Directorate: Finance and Policy
 Reporting Officer: Simon Rule - Manager Finance

Delivery Program Objective: 1. Civic Leadership
 Delivery Program Strategy: 1.1 Improve Council's financial position

Summary

This report indicates to Council the position in relation to the rate collection and balance of the cash books.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to indicate to Council the position in relation to the rate collection and balance of the cash books.

Report

Collection of Rates and Charges

Collections for the month of December 2013 were \$198,616.47. After allowing for pensioner subsidies, the total Rates and Charges collected are now 63.56% of the levies. A summary of the Rates and Charges situation as at 31 December 2013 is as follows:-

	Rates and Charges		
Levies			
Balance Outstanding at 30 June 2013	4,637,039.86		
Rates and Charges Levied 25 July 2013	7,472,566.96		12,109,606.82
+ Additional Water Charges	0.00		
+ Supplementary Rates and Charges	12,321.66		
+ Additional Charges	28,523.86		
- Credit Adjustments	10,758.87		
- Abandonments	350.96		12,139,342.51
Deductions			
- Payments	7,536,511.99		
- Less Refunds of Payments	1,857.90		7,534,654.09
			4,604,688.42
- Pensioner Subsidy			
Government Subsidy	99,713.36		
Council Subsidy	81,577.68		181,291.04
Total Rates/Water Charges Outstanding			4,423,397.38

Note: For comparison purposes 39.83% of the levy had been collected at the end of December 2012.

Overtime and Travel Allowance

The amounts paid for overtime and travel for the month of December are shown in the following table.

Month	December		Pay Periods	2		
Overtime						
			Time and a Half		Double Time	
Department		Hours	Amount		Hours	Amount
Accredited Visitor Information Centre		12.00	\$ 403.31		8.50	\$ 380.90
Roads		171.50	\$ 6,346.97		118.00	\$ 6,044.13
Water & Waste Water		31.50	\$ 1,203.53		65.00	\$ 3,471.81
Civil Works		15.50	\$ 587.42		22.00	\$ 990.67
Workshop		3.00	\$ 120.90		0.00	\$ -
Rangers		44.00	\$ 1,722.25		28.50	\$ 1,487.69
Total		277.50	\$10,384.38		242.00	\$ 12,375.20
Travel Allowance						
Department		Kms	Amount			
Customer Service		18.00	\$ 13.68			
Civil Works		40.00	\$ 30.40			
Total		58.00	\$ 44.08			

Reconciliation and Balance of Funds Held as at 31 December 2013

The reconciliation has been carried out between the Cash Book of each fund and the Bank Pass Sheet as at 31 December 2013.

					Combined Bank Account
Cash Balance as at 1 December 2013				\$	1,850,346.77
Add: Receipts for the Period Ending 31 December 2013				\$	3,045,176.45
Rates, Debtors, Miscellaneous					
Less: Payments for the Period Ending 31 December 2013				\$	3,652,821.07
Cash Book entries for this Month					
Cash Balance as at 31 December 2013				\$	1,242,702.15
Investments					
Total Investments as at 31 December 2013				\$	23,000,000.00
TOTAL				\$	24,242,702.15

Council Loans Report

The Loans of Council are detailed in the following table.

Name	Institution	Purpose	Interest Rate	Loan Amount	Amount Outstanding	Due Date
				\$	\$	
Loan 180	National Australia Bank	Construction of Sewer Works	6.012%	105,368	19,988.43	23/2/2015
Loan 187	National Australia Bank	Buronga/Gol Gol Sewerage Augmentation	7.230% Variable	669,393.54	183,322.93	31/5/2015
Loan 200	National Australia Bank	Levee Bank	7.170%	615,000.00	468,232.20	29/10/2021
				TOTAL	671,543.56	

Conclusion

The financial report indicates to Council that its finances are in a favorable position.

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the report.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council receives and notes the report.

Moved Councillor B Clarke, Seconded Councillor B Wakefield

CARRIED

12.3 MONTHLY INVESTMENT REPORT

File Number: RPT/14/13

Responsible Officer: Joy Hentschke - Director, Finance and Policy
 Responsible Directorate: Finance and Policy
 Reporting Officer: Simon Rule - Manager Finance

Delivery Program Objective: 1. Civic Leadership
 Delivery Program Strategy: 1.1 Improve Council's financial position

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the current status of its investments

Summary

As at 31 December 2013 Council has \$23,000,000.00 invested in Term Deposits. Council received \$43,657.52 from its investments for the month of December 2013.

In December Council's investments averaged a rate of return of 3.84% and it currently has \$10,248,798 of internal restrictions and \$8,438,895 of external restrictions.

Report

As at 31 December 2013 Council has \$23,000,000 invested with 8 Financial Institutions.

Table 1 lists the details of each investment. The ratings shown within the table are from Moody's and Standard & Poors Rating Agencies.

Table 2 provides a breakdown of the amount of investment held with each financial institution.

Table 3 provides details of unexpended grants.

The graph of total funds invested provides a comparison between investments held in the last financial year compared to this financial year.

Not Confirmed

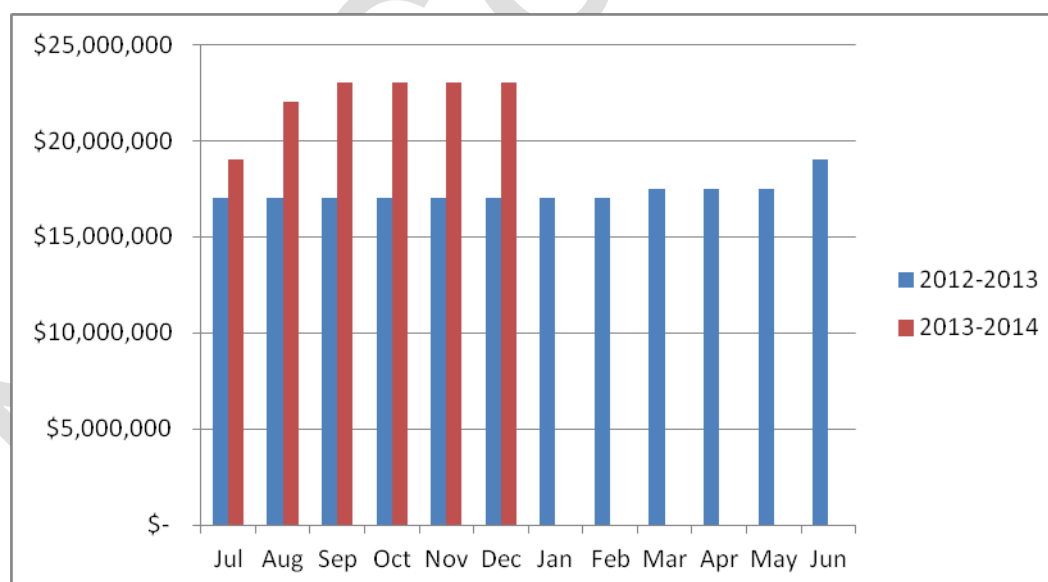
Investments on Hand as at 31 December 2013						
Investee	Date Invested	Date of Maturity	Effective Interest Rate	Investment Type	Amount Invested	Rating
National Australia Bank	2/09/2013	3/03/2014	3.84%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A1+/AA-
Bendigo Bank (3)	8/07/2013	8/01/2014	4.00%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/A-
Bendigo Bank (4)	15/08/2013	11/02/2014	3.85%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/A-
AMP	10/09/2013	11/03/2014	3.80%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A1/A+
National Australia Bank (2)	4/10/2013	4/04/2013	3.70%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A1+/AA-
Bendigo Bank (5)	10/12/2013	10/06/2014	3.85%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/A-
ING Bank (2)	21/10/2013	23/04/2014	3.51%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A1/A
Members Equity Bank (2)	6/11/2013	5/05/2013	3.73%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/A-
ING Bank	4/12/2013	2/06/2014	3.80%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A1/A
ING Bank (3)	15/08/2013	11/02/2014	3.95%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A1/A
ING Bank (4)	22/08/2013	19/05/2014	3.94%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A1/A
Bank of Queensland (3)	21/08/2013	18/02/2014	3.90%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/A-
Bank of Queensland (2)	28/10/2013	28/04/2013	3.78%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/A-
Bank of Queensland (4)	3/12/2013	2/06/2014	3.73%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/A-
Members Equity Bank	2/09/2013	3/01/2014	3.95%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/A-
National Australia Bank (3)	4/07/2013	4/06/2013	4.26%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A1+/AA-
Bank of Queensland	30/10/2013	30/01/2014	3.68%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/A-
Rabo Direct (2)	8/07/2013	8/01/2014	4.25%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	P-1/Aa2
Bendigo Bank	23/07/2013	23/01/2014	4.00%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/A-
Bendigo Bank (2)	18/09/2013	16/01/2014	3.65%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/A-
AMP (2)	18/12/2013	18/06/2014	3.90%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A1/A+
Macquarie Bank	23/09/2013	24/03/2014	3.85%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A1/A
Rabo Direct	4/11/2013	4/03/2014	3.70%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	P-1/Aa2
Total					\$ 23,000,000.00	
Representing:						
- Internal Restrictions						
- Employee Entitlements				\$ 1,719,640.00		
- Doubtful Debts				\$ 17,879.00		
- Tip Remediation				\$ 150,000.00		
- Future Development Reserve				\$ 927,988.00		
- Trust Account				\$ 154,357.00		
- Bemax Rates Payment				\$ 2,411,556.00		
- Capital Projects				\$ 2,325,000.00		
- Plant Replacement Reserve				\$ 2,542,378.00	\$ 10,248,798.00	
- External Restrictions						
- Water Fund				\$ 3,738,602.00		
- Sewer Fund				\$ 1,432,457.00		
- Developer Contributions Reserve				\$ 837,782.00		
- Unexpended Grants				\$ 2,010,827.00		
- Crown Reserves Reserve				\$ 128,173.00		
- Prepayments Cemeteries				\$ 291,054.00	\$ 8,438,895.00	
- Day to Day Liquidity					\$ 4,312,307.00	
					\$ 23,000,000.00	
Operating Account					\$ 1,242,702.15	
Total Funds Available					\$ 24,242,702.15	

Breakdown		
Financial Institution	Amount	Percentage of Available Funds
Bank of Queensland	\$ 4,000,000.00	16.50%
Bendigo Bank	\$ 6,242,702.15	25.75%
ING Bank	\$ 4,000,000.00	16.50%
AMP	\$ 2,000,000.00	8.25%
Macquarie Bank	\$ 1,000,000.00	4.12%
Members Equity Bank	\$ 2,000,000.00	8.25%
National Australia Bank	\$ 3,000,000.00	12.37%
Rabo Direct	\$ 2,000,000.00	8.25%
	\$ 24,242,702.15	100.00%

Summary - Unexpended Grants as at 31 December 2013

RMS Block Grant	\$	507,918
Financial Assistance Grant	\$	1,177,800
Roads to Recovery	\$	97,661
Pooncarie Weir	\$	115,420
RFS R & M Grant 2011-2013	\$	107,567
Home Power Savings Grant	\$	4,461
	\$	2,010,827

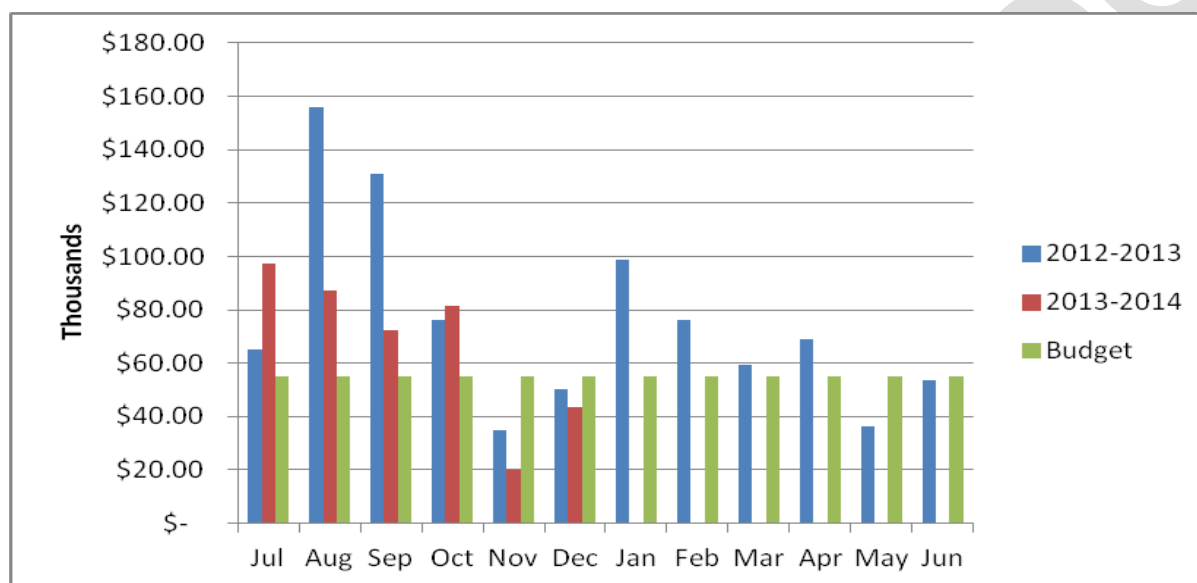
Total Funds Invested



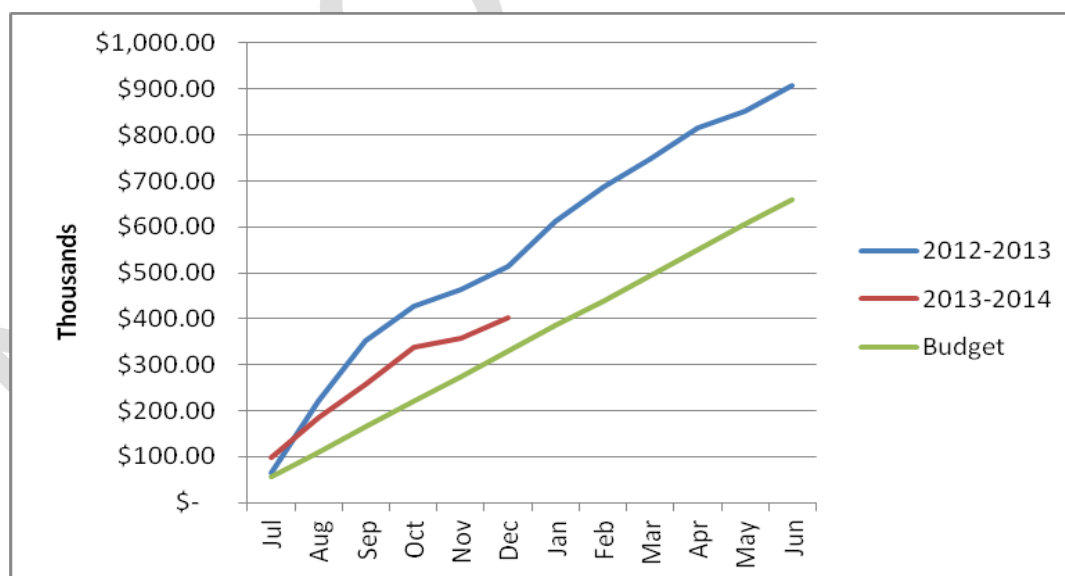
Four (4) Term Deposits matured in December earning Council \$43,657.52 in interest. The budget for November was \$55,000.00. Year to date Council has received \$402,265.55 in interest. The year to date budget is \$330,000.00

Investments Maturing in December 2013						
Investee	Date Invested	Date of Maturity	Effective Interest Rate	Investment Type	Amount Invested	Interest Earned
Bank of Queensland (4)	2/09/2013	3/12/2013	3.95%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 9,956.16
ING Bank	6/08/2013	4/12/2013	3.82%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 12,558.90
Heritage Bank	7/08/2013	6/12/2013	3.70%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 12,265.75
IMB	11/09/2013	10/12/2013	3.60%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 8,876.71
			Total			\$ 43,657.52

Interest Received December 2013

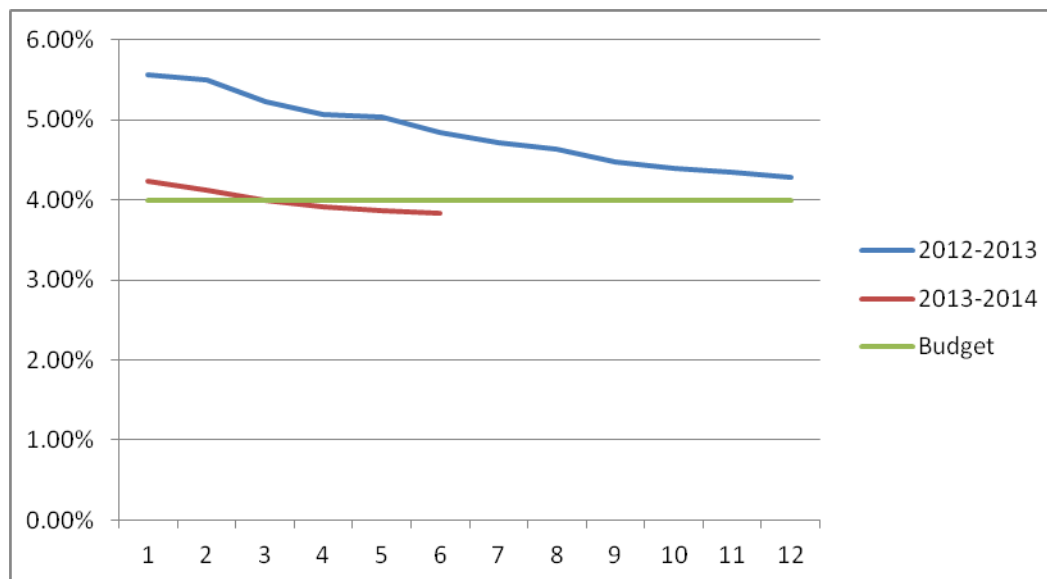


Total Interest Received July – June



For December 2013 Councils investments returned an effective average rate of 3.84%. Year to date the effective average rate has been 4.00%. The budget for 2013-2014 is 4.00%

Effective Average Interest Rate

**Conclusion**

The Director Finance & Policy certifies that all investments have been made in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and Local Government (General) Regulations 2005 and Council's investment policy.

Council is investing its funds prudently to optimize returns and reduce exposure to risk in accordance with legislation and its own investment policy.

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the report.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council receives and notes the report.

Moved Councillor B Wakefield, Seconded Councillor P Cohrs

CARRIED

12.4 RELEASE OF FINAL REPORTS TO STATE GOVERNMENT

File Number: RPT/14/23

Responsible Officer: Peter Kozlowski - General Manager

Responsible Directorate: Office of the General Manager

Reporting Officer: Peter Kozlowski - General Manager

Delivery Program Objective: 1. Civic Leadership

Delivery Program Strategy: 1.4 Facilitate collaborative, fair & equitable decision making

Summary

The final reports of the NSW Independent Local Government Review Panel (the Panel) and the Local Government Act Taskforce (the Taskforce) have been delivered to the State Government. Should Council wish to provide comment to the State Government on the final recommendations there is a limited timeframe in which to do so.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to advise Council that the final reports from the NSW Independent Local Government Review Panel and the Local Government Act Taskforce have been delivered to the State Government, and there is now a limited timeframe in which Council will be able to respond to the final recommendations made by both the Panel and the Taskforce.

Report**Background**

During 2013 Council prepared submissions to both the NSW Independent Local Government Review Panel (the Panel) and the Local Government Act Taskforce (the Taskforce) and both the Panel and the Taskforce have presented final reports to the State Government, and released the reports to the public.

The local government industry is concerned about the short timeframe to respond to the reports. The Mayor has written to the Minister seeking an extension of time to respond and has invited the Member for Murray Darling to meet with Council on this matter. Copies have been provided to the Premier.

The President of Local Government NSW has advised that he is meeting with local government groups throughout the State during March about the reports.

Implications:

The recommendations of the Taskforce focus on legislative reforms within the Local Government Act and therefore the impact of these recommendations will affect all NSW Councils, not just Wentworth. Conversely there are several major implications for the Wentworth Shire Council that stem from the Panel's recommendations. These are:-

- 1) That Wentworth Shire is designated to be a part of the Far West Region (we had argued that our synergies are better aligned along the Murray).
- 2) That a far West Regional Authority be established under its own legislation.
- 3) That Wentworth-Balranald Councils establish full shared administrations, but with elected councils, office facilities and operational staff retained in each location.
- 4) That there is redistribution of Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) and other grants to provide additional financial support.
- 5) That there is the collection of an equivalent of local government rates across all unincorporated areas.
- 6) That a project team and reference group of key stakeholders be established to finalise the proposals.

Volume 3 of the supporting information includes the following information on the proposal for Shared Administration:-

"Each council would remain responsible for respective elements of the Integrated Planning and Reporting requirements of the Local Government Act. Councils could jointly develop and adopt a common Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program, Resourcing Strategy, with council specific Operational Plans and Annual Reports. Council service delivery staff would continue to be employed in administrative centres and depots in much the same way as they currently operate.

Savings would be generated through increased efficiency in the rationalisation of corporate administrative structures and systems, senior management teams and a shared General Manager. This potentially generates significant savings for each council group. These are savings which can be reinvested into existing or new services to the community."

The Independent Local Government Review Panel acknowledges in the report the uniqueness of the Wentworth Shire Council, its opportunities and its proximity to a large regional population (Mildura within the Sunraysia Region).

This Council's position has been to stand alone because of its size and proximity to a large regional centre, and if necessary to adjust boundaries marginally, however, the Panel appears to still focus options relating to this Council northwards rather than to the east and south, resulting in this Council being grouped regionally as far away as Walgett Shire Council on the Queensland border (a group representing approximately 40% of the State).

Media reports since the release of the Panel's reports indicate that Wentworth Shire Council still wishes to standalone and not merge with any neighbouring Council.

There appears to be inconsistencies with how this Council is being treated and a number of questions need to be explored further before this Council makes a submission.

Conclusion

Whilst the Independent Local Government Review Panel acknowledged the uniqueness of the Wentworth Shire Council, its opportunities and its proximity to a large regional population, the report appears to still focus options relating to this Council northwards rather than to the east, resulting in this Council being grouped regionally as far away as Walgett Shire Council on the Queensland border (a regional group representing approximately 40% of the State).

There is no doubt that the final recommendations from the Taskforce to the State Government will impact on the Wentworth Shire Council in some way, shape or form. There is the opportunity to provide feedback to the State Government before any final recommendations are adopted, and once adopted it would seem clear that there will be continuing opportunity to have input into how the shared administration and Regional Authority model will be shaped.

Recommendation

That the General Manager prepares a response to the final reports released by the NSW Independent Local Government Review Panel and the Local Government Act Taskforce.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That the General Manager prepares a response to the final reports released by the NSW Independent Local Government Review Panel and the Local Government Act Taskforce.

Moved Councillor B Wheeldon, Seconded Councillor P Nunan

CARRIED

12.5 ANALYSIS OF EMPLOYEE BENEFITS, CONSULTANTS AND AGENCY EXPENSES TO THE OPERATIONAL PLAN 2013/2014

File Number: RPT/14/28

Responsible Officer: Joy Hentschke - Director, Finance and Policy
Responsible Directorate: Finance and Policy
Reporting Officer: Joy Hentschke - Director, Finance and Policy

Delivery Program Objective: 1. Civic Leadership
Delivery Program Strategy: 1.1 Improve Council's financial position

Summary

The Organisational review has resulted in both financial and operational efficiencies that support the sustainability of Wentworth Shire Council. The estimated cost reduction will be approximately \$ 492,000 with a further \$150,000 for labour hire savings by 30 June 2014.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an analysis comparing the changes in employee benefits, consultant expenses and agency expenses to the Operational Plan 2013/2014 due to the organizational review completed in September 2013.

Report

Background

Council completed an organizational review as per the Local Government Act 1993 post the election of September 2012. The review also considered the NSW Treasury Corporation (TCorp) Report which began in July 2012 and released in March 2013. This report assessed NSW 152 Councils' and their financial viability.

Matters under consideration

The following table illustrates the estimated variances post the organizational restructure.

The 2013/14 Budget column is from the adopted Operational Plan. The data has been collated to reflect the Revised 2013/14 Budget and then in the Revised 2014/15 Budget the anticipated results of the Revised Organisational Structure as adopted by Council 18 December 2013.

	2013/14 Budget	Revised 2013/14 Budget	Revised 2014/15 Budget
Employee Benefits (per Operational Plan 2013/2014)	\$7,374,934	\$7,374,934	\$6,661,470
Less: Employee benefits due to redundancies		914,931	0
Plus: Redundancy payments	0	127,361	0
New positions (from restructure)	0	82,484	0
Revised Budget (Employee Benefits)	\$7,374,934	\$6,669,848	\$6,661,470
Plus: Contractor/consultant estimated Expenditure (Materials & Contracts)	0	345,648	376,756
Revised Budget (inclusive)	\$7,374,934	\$7,015,496	\$7,038,226

NOTE: New positions are being filled, an estimate of remuneration to 30 June 2014 has been calculated. All positions are reflected in the 2014/15 Employee Benefits. The Contractor/consultant estimate is to indicate the outsourced services required to meet council requirements due to the organisational changes.

Further to the Organisational Restructure the requirement for labour hire staffing has been significantly reduced. The table below illustrates the impact for the same time period, last year to this financial year. It is expected that the cost reduction will be further increased in the next six months.

Labour hire Comparison Last Year/ Current Year July to December

July 2012 to December 2012	\$ 297,496.86
July 2013 to December 2013	\$ 164,952.57
Variation Surplus/(deficit)	\$ 132,544.29

The estimated surplus due to the changes is made up of \$ 359,438 from Employee Benefits and \$ 132,544 from labour hire efficiencies, a total of \$ 492,000 (rounded).

Conclusion

The Organisational Restructure has resulted in both financial and operational efficiencies that support the sustainability of Wentworth Shire Council.

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the report.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council receives and notes the report.

Moved Councillor P Nunan, Seconded Councillor P Cohrs

CARRIED

13 REPORTS FROM HEALTH AND PLANNING DIRECTORATE**13.1 ADOPTION OF THE SWIMMING POOL SAFETY POLICY**

File Number: RPT/13/817

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - Director, Health and Planning
Responsible Directorate: Health and Planning
Reporting Officer: Ken Ross - Director, Health and Planning
Paula Mastrippolito - Manager Organisational Support

Delivery Program Objective: 4. Community Life
Delivery Program Strategy: 4.1 Oversee public health & safety

Summary

The draft Swimming Pools Safety Policy (CP214) was presented to Council at the October Council meeting. Following the October Council meeting, the policy was formally drafted and as required under the Local Government Act was placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days. During the public exhibition period there were no public submissions received. Council is now being asked to formally adopt the Swimming Pools Safety Policy.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to formally adopt the Swimming Pool Safety Policy as required under the Swimming Pools (Amendment) Act 2012. The policy specifically requires Council to have an inspection audit program.

Report

The Swimming Pools Amendment Act 2012 commenced on 29 October 2012 amending the Swimming Pools Act 1992. As a consequence of the Amendment Act, Council now requires a policy to capture the impact of these legislative amendments for pool owners and to ensure that Council addresses all of its required legislative requirements.

Following the October Council meeting, the policy was formally drafted and as required under the Local Government Act was placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days. During the public exhibition period there were no public submissions received.

This policy contains the provision for Council to charge a fee for the service inspection regime. The proposed amendments to the Annual Fees and Charges are dealt with by a separate report to Council.

Conclusion

The creation of the new Swimming Pools Safety Policy (CP214) is in response to new legislative requirements. The draft policy has been subjected to the required Public Exhibition and is now ready for final adoption by Council.

Recommendation

That Council adopts CP214 Swimming Pool Safety Policy, which is a new policy as required under the Swimming Pools (Amendment) Act 2012.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council adopts CP214 Swimming Pool Safety Policy, which is a new policy as required under the Swimming Pools (Amendment) Act 2012.

Moved Councillor B Wakefield, Seconded Councillor P Cohrs

CARRIED

10.18am Councillor Bob Wheeldon and Bill Wheeldon left chambers.

13.2 DELEGATED AUTHORITY REPORT AS AT END DECEMBER 2013

File Number: RPT/14/16

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - Director, Health and Planning
Responsible Directorate: Health and Planning
Reporting Officer: Pam Ryan - Administration Officer

Delivery Program Objective: 2. Growth & Development

Delivery Program Strategy: 2.3 Encourage land development and housing construction

Summary

For the month of December 2013 a total of (16) Development Applications, (1) Deferred Commencement and (2) S96 modifications were determined under delegated authority by the Director of Health and Planning. The estimated value of the determined developments is \$1,366,500.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a list of development applications determined under delegated authority by the Director of Health and Planning for the month of December 2013.

Report

Background

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a list of development applications determined under delegated authority by the Director of Health and Planning for the month of December 2013.

Matters under consideration

This report is provided to Council for information to comply with the requirements under section 3.20 of the Division of Local Government Promoting Better Practice Program.

Options

Based on the information contained in this report, the options available to address this matter are to:

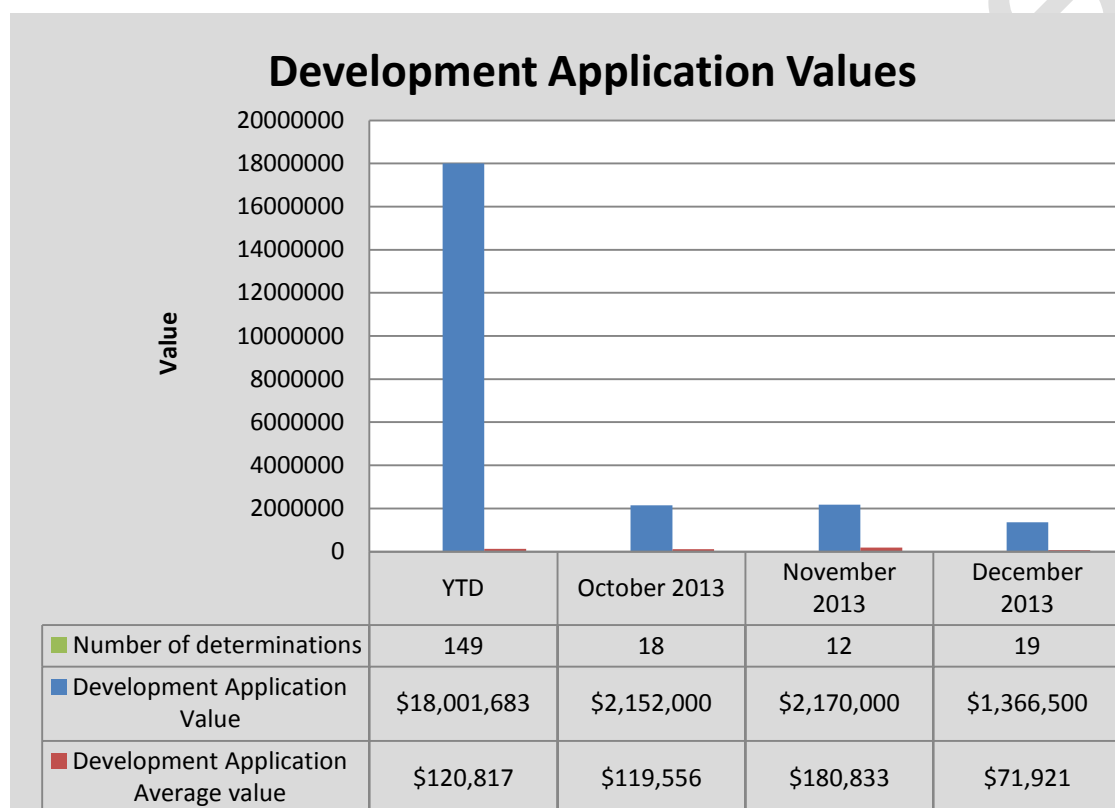
This report is for information only and should be received and noted.

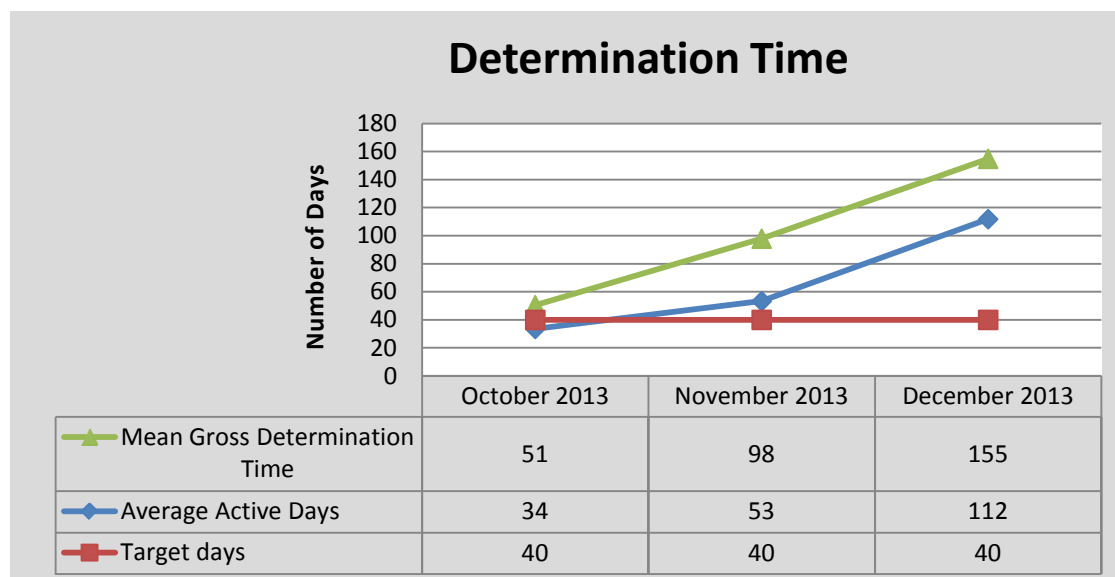
Implications

The decision item has the following implications for Council:

The tabling of this report monthly provides compliance with the Division of Local Government Promoting Better Practice.

Determinations for the current month





Conclusion

The total value of determinations \$1,366,500 for the month of December 2013 is less than the previous month of \$2,170,000. The average determination time for the applications was 112 days being more than the target time of 40 days. The three (3) 2011 applications determined in December 2013 explains the significant increase in average determination times where the average determination time was 447 days. The average determination time for the remaining 16 applications was 49 days which is 9 days higher than the target time of 40 days.

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the report

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council receives and notes the report

Moved Councillor B Wakefield, Seconded Councillor B Clarke

CARRIED

In accordance with Section 375A of the Local Government Act the Mayor called for a division.

For the Motion: Councillors B Clarke, P Cohrs, D McKinnon, P Nunan and B Wakefield.

Against the Motion: Nil.

10.20am Councillor Bob Wheeldon and Bill Wheeldon returned to chambers.

14 REPORTS FROM ENGINEERING AND ROADS DIRECTORATE

14.1 REQUEST FOR INCREASE IN BUDGET FOR BURONGA DEPOT AMENITIES UPGRADE

File Number: RPT/14/10

Responsible Officer: Simon Pradhan - Acting Director Roads & Engineering
 Responsible Directorate: Roads and Engineering
 Reporting Officer: Sue Black - Engineering & Roads Coordinator

Delivery Program Objective: 1. Civic Leadership

Delivery Program Strategy: 1.3 Be the best employer we can be

Summary

Inspections of Buronga Depot and Animal Shelter on 13 October 2009 and again on 5 July 2011 identified non-compliance issues. A report was subsequently produced for MANEX and an allocation of \$50,000.00 was made in this year's operational plan. The allocation is insufficient to complete the works required, and a further \$68,000 is being requested. These funds can be sourced from within other operational budgets which, due to circumstances, are not anticipated to be fully expended this year.

Report

In the report to MANEX dated 5 July, 2011 some of the issues identified were as follows:

Gardeners Lunchroom/Office

- No RCD on electrical power board. An RCD was installed on 14 September 2012.
- Wall and ceiling linings contain asbestos and a section of wall lining (ACM) behind the door is broken (result of a break in) and is still to be repaired.
- No screen door.
- A mouse was sighted in lunch room at the time of inspection and staff report sightings are common.
- Staff report that snakes have entered the building on occasion
- Lunch room has been inundated with water on a number of occasions during rain events.
- Limited shelving and storage facilities.
- No filtered water is connected to depot – drinking water is provided by way of Piccadilly Water
- Lunch room is available to Rangers as an office and reception area for public attending animal shelter.

This room is part of building that includes a storeroom for chemical & other parks & gardens.

\$50,000.00 was allocated in this financial year's budget towards this project however after Quotes have been obtained it is apparent that there is a significant shortfall in monies. It is proposed that a portion of the \$100k budget allocated to the installation of a new transformer at the George Gordon Oval which is no longer required.

Conclusion

It is now evident that the original budget allocation of \$50,000 is insufficient to complete the required works and the Buronga Depot, and an additional \$68,000 is required.

Recommendation

That Council Increase the Budget allocation for the Upgrade of Buronga Depot from \$50,000 to \$118,000 which is an increase of \$68,000. These funds can be sourced from within other operational budgets which, due to circumstances, are not anticipated to be fully expended.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That Council Increase the Budget allocation for the Upgrade of Buronga Depot from \$50,000 to \$118,000 which is an increase of \$68,000. These funds can be sourced from within other operational budgets which, due to circumstances, are not anticipated to be fully expended.

Moved Councillor Bob Wheeldon, Seconded Councillor B Wakefield

CARRIED

15 COUNCIL MATRIX OF OUTSTANDING MATTERS

15.1 COUNCIL MATRIX OF OUTSTANDING MATTERS

File Number: RPT/14/54

Responsible Officer: Peter Kozlowski - General Manager
Responsible Directorate: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Christina Ross - Executive Assistant

Delivery Program Objective: 1. Civic Leadership
Delivery Program Strategy: 1.2 Abide by all compliance requirements

Summary

The report matrix lists the items presented at the last Council meeting and indicates action that is needed to be taken or is to be taken by Senior Staff that the items raised are completed satisfactorily.

Report

The report is attached and is self-explanatory.

As Council's agenda and minute system is being reviewed this report will also be reviewed for formatting and reporting under each directorate rather than as one report.

Recommendation

That the information contained in this report be noted.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That the information contained in this report be noted.

Moved Councillor B Wakefield, Seconded Councillor P Nunan

CARRIED

16 QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

16.1 WENTWORTH SERVICES GOLF CLUB MOU LETTER COMPLAINT

Councillor Brad Clarke advised that he has received a letter of complaint in regards to the MOU with the Wentworth Services Golf Club.

General Manager advised that a letter of acknowledgement had been sent with a view to sending a more detailed response.

16.2 WILGA ROAD MODICA WAY LIGHT POLE

Councillor Brian Wakefield advised that there appears to be a water leak near the pole at the corner of Wilga Road & Modica Way.

Acting DRE advised he would follow this up.

16.3 LIGHT POLES TUCKERS ROAD TO DARLING BRIDGE

Councillor Bob Wheeldon advised that the light poles need to be repainted and maintained as they are all peeling.

Acting DRE will follow up with Country Energy to confirm who is responsible for the maintenance of the light poles

16.4 FLOOD CONFERENCE – ACCOMMODATION

Councillor Bill Wheeldon advised that it would be wise to book accommodation for the conference as Deniliquin has limited accommodation availability.

16.5 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW - UNABLE TO COMPREHEND RATINGS

Councillor Bill Wheeldon advised that it is difficult to understand the Local Government Review as they have rated our position as week.

General Manager advised that our back log of assets has affected our rating.

16.6 LAND AVAILABILITY FOR RVs

Councillor Brad Clarke requested an update in regards to the land available for RVs.

General Manager confirmed that the original parcel of land is not available, and investigations are continuing to see if land near the Goal is available.

16.7 WILLOWBEND CARAVAN PARK LEASE

Councillor Brad Clarke requested an update in regards to the lease for Willowbend Caravan Park.

General Manager advised that we are still awaiting the lease to be signed.

16.8 REGIONAL TRANSPORT PLAN

Councillor Paul Cohrs discussed the Murray Murrumbidgee Transport Plan released 23 December 2013.

16.9 ADAM STREET & ARTHUR STREET

Councillor Peter Nunan has requested an update in regards to the hole.

Acting Director Roads & Engineering advised that he would follow this up

16.10 FISHERS BROKEN PIPE

Councillor Peter Nunan advised that he has received a complaint about a broken pipe at Fishers in Wentworth.

Acting Director Roads & Engineering advised that he would follow this up.

16.11 ADELAIDE STREET

Councillor Peter Nunan advised that there is a lot of rubble and dirt to be cleaned up in Adelaide Street.

Acting Director Roads & Engineering advised that he would follow this up.

16.12 POLICING ISSUES DARETON

Councillor Peter Nunan has requested an update regarding the invitation of the

Police Inspector to discuss issues currently being faced in Dareton.

16.13 RDA AIRPORT UPDATE

Councillor Bob Wheeldon requested an update in regards to the funding for the aerodrome.

General Manager advised that the meeting with Sussan Ley went well and she has received all of the grant information. She is still trying to secure funding.

16.14 ADVERTISEMENT TV - PROJECTS

Councillor Bob Wheeldon requested an update in regards to the projects mentioned in Council's TV advertisement to confirm that they are all proceeding.

General Manager advised that he is currently following this up.

16.15 COMMITTEES

Councillor Brad Clarke has requested further time in regards to supplementary reports being presented on the morning of the Council meeting.

It was agreed that all Councillors should receive a copy of all committee agendas and minutes.

16.16 WASTE MANAGEMENT EVALUATION

Councillor Bill Wheeldon has requested an update in regards to the Waste Management Agreement with Mildura Rural City Council.

General Manager advised that a special meeting will be called after Waste Management tenders have been evaluated. This should be done by the end of February. Further information will follow.

16.17 BOTTLEBEND BOAT RAMP

Councillor Bob Wheeldon has requested an update in regards to the Bottlebend Boat Ramp.

Acting Director Roads & Engineering advised that he is awaiting a review to support the DA. Further information will be supplied at a later stage.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

10.49am That Standing Orders be suspended in order to break for morning tea.

Moved Councillor P Nunan, Seconded Councillor B Wakefield

CARRIED

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

11.12am That Standing Orders be resumed and move into Closed Council.

Moved Councillor P Nunan, Seconded Councillor B Wakefield

CARRIED

Open Council

11.57am Councillor Bill Wheeldon withdraw motion 8.1.

Note: Councillor Nunan left the meeting during closed council.

17 NEXT MEETING

19 February 2014

18 CLOSURE

The meeting was declared closed at 11.58am.

.....
General Manager

.....
Chairperson