

**COMMUNITY MEEETING
SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB DARETON
30TH APRIL 2007
7.00PM**

**PRESENT: 3 - Wentworth Shire Staff
3 – Wentworth Shire Councillors
19 – Local Residents**

Note: Since the consultation meetings the situation with the issue of land and water separation has changed. The State Government has prepared legislation that will allow Council to use last year's values. This will mean the large increases discussed will not eventuate. Council was advised of this last week. The Management Plan has been adjusted accordingly.

Question:	1.	Residential property rate increases?
Answer:		About 3 ½ % + base rate increase of \$25 - \$30, possibly best option. (<i>Note: situation has changed</i>)
Question:	2.	Will levy increase include \$30 for levee banks?
Answer:		Already in rates structure.
Question:	3.	Last valuations 2005 plus supplementary valuations from VG, have owners received these?
Answer:		They should have received them.
Question:	4.	Do we have the right not to accept?
Answer:		One of argument or deferment.
Question:	5.	Variances in residential?
Answer:		Only where land and water separation is relevant.
Question:	6.	Windfall from property sales –Why not use this?
Answer:		One of the options to consider. Budget will be adopted 3 rd Wednesday in June.
Question:	7.	Size of FAGS grant?
Answer:		\$3.58 Million
Question:	8.	Letter writing campaign to State Government / Minister of Local Government?
Answer:		Paul Lynch and ?..... Motion from floor to communicate concerns? Need assistance regarding contents. CAT meeting on Monday night – letter drop.
Question:	9.	6 at Gol Gol, 20 at Dareton – need to broadcast issues better. Next year will be worse. Local Government Minister has poison chalice.
Answer:		Don't disagree
Question:	10.	Has Council already decided to recover the full \$274,000 at a formal meeting?.
Answer:		Discussed, but not decided. Intention is to do so.
Question:	11.	Population decreasing and should help to obtain grants
Answer:		Wentworth Shire better off than some. \$3.58 million not small amount.

Question:	12.	Dareton street cleaning? We want things done here as well as at Gol Gol & Wentworth.
Answer:		Community expectations "Without local representation we won't get anywhere." "Use the phone."
Question:	13.	Why don't letters go to Council meetings?
Answer:		GM's job is to ensure citizens are responded to. Letter to Members of Local Government to request deferral to allow due consideration of principals and effects on communities such as Wentworth. Also collapse of wine and other industries. Lack of water from 1 July on irrigated horticulture. CAT Team meeting 7 May. Moved C.P. Seconded Jan Blair.
Question:	14.	Water trading – Has Wentworth Shire Council sold water?
Answer:		Re: letter faxed to Councillors. Government should purchase all surplus permanent water and put back into reservoirs.
Question:	15.	Why are houses numbers not being provided in urban areas?
Answer:		Towns already have numbers, rural properties don't.
Question:	16.	Dareton sewer plant – what is happening? Does plant comply with Murray Regulations; Environmental Plan No. 2 which requires no effluent discharge to any of flood plains?
Answer:		Work programmed 2009/10 but subject to grant funding.
Question:	17.	Grant Maynard's position, what is happening?
Answer:		All vacancies and new positions under review.
Question:	18.	Is Wentworth Shire Council looking for efficiencies?
Answer:		Yes, process of continuous improvement.
Question:	19.	Overall Shire is a business but land sale \$ were separated. Concerned that revenue is not being used to keep rates down.
Answer:		No fixed position has been determined.
Question:	19.	Shared ways – Bicycle / walkways, make sure these go in right places and maintenance costs are allowed for.
Answer:		Point recognised and well understood.
Question:	20.	Water Restrictions?
Answer:		Will be reviewed again at next Council meeting. Greater restrictions are likely.