



MINUTES

ORDINARY MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING
COMMENCING 2.00PM

20 August 2008

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The Mayor took the opportunity of thanking both Councillors Macri and Ward for their years of service on the Council and wished them well with their future endeavours. The Mayor also wished the nominees success for the Council elections to be held on 13 September.

2. OPENING OF MEETING AND PRAYER

3. PRESENT

COUNCILLORS: Margaret Thomson (*Mayor*), Sue Nichols (*Deputy Mayor*), Mark King, Don McKinnon, Jim Macri, Cherie Ribarits, Brian Wakefield, Warren Ward and Bill Wheeldon.

STAFF: Mr Peter Kozlowski (*General Manager*)
Mr Ken Ross (*Director, Development & Environment*)
Mr Bill Turner (*Director, Infrastructure & Assets*)
Ms Terri Maguire (*Director, Corporate & Community Services*)
Mrs Jill Davidson (*Executive Assistant*)

4. APOLOGIES AND APPLICATION FOR LEAVE

Nil

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Recommendation

That the minutes of the ordinary Council meeting held 16 July 2008 be adopted as circulated.

Moved Crs. Ward and Nichols that the minutes of the ordinary Council meeting held 16 July be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

6. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil declared.

7. PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

Nil

8. MAYORAL REPORTS

8.1 APPOINTMENTS BY THE MAYOR FOR 16 JULY to 20 AUGUST 2008

Responsible Officer: Mayor
Principal Activity: Governance
Author: Executive Assistant
Implications: Nil
File & References: S268
Attachments: Nil

Separately Circ.: Nil
 Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the report.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of meetings / conferences / appointments undertaken by the Mayor for the month of 16 July to 20 August 2008.

Report

Date	Conference/Appointment
19 July	Sunraysia Gang Show
21 July	Regional Development Australia Consultation Forum-(SACC) Mildura Golf Club
23 July	Stakeholder Consultative committee Regional Workshop-Restoring the Balance in the Murray-Darling basin: Water Entitlement Purchasing – Mildura
28 July	1. Timbercorp Tour of the Murray Meeting – Wentworth Race leg 2. Mainstreet Committee & community committees meeting re Cycle Race
29 July	Meeting with Focus Force Kids representative Phillip Williams re Kidz Kardz greeting cards program
30 July	1. Mayoral Meeting 2. Community Consultation meeting re Ambulance Station
31 July	1. Civic Reception State CWA President – Mildura 2. Wentworth Public School “Evening of Eminence”
3 August	Trucking Forum “The Road Ahead” Exhibition Trailer - Buronga
4 August	1. Azai Civic Reception 2. Meeting of AIBG Committee
6 August	MurrayROC & RIVROC meeting Jerilderie
8 August	Farewell assembly for AZAI Children leaving to return to Japan
9 August	Meeting of community committees to discuss Heritage Office visit in September
17 August	Service to commemorate Vietnam Vets Remembrance Day – Ramon Deed Veterans Retreat
19 August	AGM Farmers Market Committee

Moved Crs. King and Macri that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

Moved Crs. Ribarits and Ward that the Council investigates a joint Country Musical Festival Civic Reception with Mildura Rural City Council.

CARRIED

9. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

10. DELEGATES REPORTS

Councillor Ward expressed his appreciation of Council's involvement with the students and parents involved with the Azai Junior High School and Coomealla High School exchange visits. He advised that during his time as Mayor a shield was purchased to commemorate a baseball game that has been ongoing between the two Schools. Last year Azai had their top baseball players included in their team and

they naturally won. Coomealla undertook to get the shield back this year and were successful. The Coomealla High School and students are very appreciative of the continued support from the Wentworth Shire Council and all participants over the years have fond memories. He indicated that he was very pleased to see the ongoing budget commitment to continue Council's involvement.

11. COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

11.1 REPORT ON THE MINUTES OF THE MAINSTREET COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 26 MAY & 28 JULY 2008

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate & Community Services
Author: Tourist Information Officer
Implications: Nil
File & References: S48
Attachments: Nil
Separately Circ.: Minutes of the Mainstreet committee meetings 26 May & 28 July
Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the report.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the outcomes of the committee meeting.

Summary

Items of discussion of the Committee included:-

26 May

- Junction Junk success
- Library Book Sale
- ANZAC Fun Run
- Country Music Mainstreet Event
- Footpaths in the main street, near the River Murray Trading building
- Landscaping near Dip Tin Art
- Landscaping Wharf area and Fotherby Park
- Library Information Week
- Historical Society afternoon tea
- Great Outdoors filming in Wentworth
- John Egge lane sign

28 July

- John Egge lane sign
- Dip Tip Art sign
- Tour of the Murray Stage 13
- General Business (Pooncarie cemetery, NSW Heritage Council visit in September, Crown Hotel footpath, street sign maintenance, Council Offices front entrance, congratulations to Inland NSW Tourism Award winners and finalists)

Report

The minutes are self explanatory.

Moved Crs. Wheeldon and King that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

11.2 LOCAL TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

Responsible Officer: Director Infrastructure & Assets
Author: Director Infrastructure & Assets
Implications: Nil
File Reference: C6/15-2
Attachments: Minutes of Meeting
Separately Circ.: Nil
Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the report

Purpose

The report on the Local Traffic Committee Meeting of 19th June 2008.

Summary

Local Traffic Committee Meeting discussions regarding completed and ongoing works in progress and outcomes.

Report

The Minutes of the Meeting are self-explanatory.

Moved Crs. Macri and Wakefield that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

Moved Crs. Wheeldon and King that the item of the Wentworth Showgrounds Committee meeting be admitted for consideration because of the need to advise Council of the current situation with respect to various programs and actions undertaken by the Showgrounds Committee.

CARRIED

11.3 REPORT ON THE WENTWORTH SHOWGROUNDS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 5 AUGUST 2008

Moved Crs. McKinnon and Wakefield that the report be received and noted.

CARRIED

12. OFFICERS' REPORTS

12.1 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: GOVERNANCE

12.1.1 2008 Union Picnic Day

Responsible Officer: Manager Human Resources
Author: Manager Human Resources
Implications: Operations
File Reference: PR14/7-2
Attachments: Nil
Separately Circ.: Nil
Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

That Council approves Tuesday 4 November 2008 as the Award holiday known as Union Picnic Day for all staff.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to set a date for the 2008 Picnic Day for all staff.

Summary

This report sets out the proposed arrangements for the 2008 Picnic Day, which is set in accordance with Award conditions and the *Workplace Relations Act 1996*.

Report

The Local Government and Shires Association of New South Wales has advised Council that under the conditions prescribed in the Notional Agreement Preserving the Local Government (State) Award 2004 and *Workplace Relations Act 1996* all staff should be granted the award holiday once known as Union Picnic Day.

It is purposed that the 2008 Picnic Day should be held on Tuesday 4 November (Melbourne Cup Day) to fall in line with the Victorian Public Holiday and the Wentworth Races.

Staff required to work on this day due to operational reasons will be able to take this leave at a later date within a three-month period.

This leave will be required to be taken before any other entitlements excluding sick, carers and bereavement leave. Part time staff will only be entitled to this holiday if their normal spread of hours includes the day identified. Casual staff will not be entitled to this award holiday.

Full time and part time staff who do not work on this day due to normal office closures will also be able to take a day in lieu within a three month period.

Policy and Management Plan Implications

The arrangement outlined within this report is similar to previous practices.

Conclusion

The arrangements set out in this report will cause minimal disruption to the community as possible and follows Award and Act requirements and guidelines.

Moved Crs. King and Ribarits that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

12.1.2 Industry Wage Increase

Responsible Officer: General Manager
Author: Manager Human Resources
Implications: Operations
File Reference: PR14/7-2
Attachments: Nil
Separately Circ.: Letter USU and Model Council Agreement
Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

That Council approves a wage increase of 3.2% (with a minimum increase of \$22 per week) and allowances payable under the Local Government (State) Award 2007 from the first full pay period in November 2008.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is for Council to approve a 3.2% salary increase (with a minimum increase of \$22 per week) and allowances payable under the Local Government (State) Award 2007 from the first full pay period in November 2008.

Summary

The Union has requested a pay increase for staff and the signing of the Council Agreement to rollover the Notional Agreement Preserving State Award (NAPSA) for another 12 months. This is consistent with Council's 2008/09 Management Plan considerations.

Report

The Union has recently requested that Council's sign a Council Agreement which will take effect from the first full pay period commencing on or after 1 November 2008 and remain in force for a period of one year.

The Council Agreement will provide employees, industry unions and Councils with certainty of terms and conditions of employment under the Local Government (State) Award 2007 or NAPSA for a further 12 months from 1 November 2008.

Under this Agreement Council agrees to pay a 3.2% increase (with a minimum increase of \$22 per week) and that allowances not be less than the rates prescribed in the Local Government (State) Award 2007.

This Agreement allows any increases in rates of pay set by the Australian Fair Pay Commission prior or during the term of the Agreement to be absorbed. It also states that at no time during the agreement will the Union make any extra claims for general increases in rates of pay or allowances.

Policy and Management Plan Implications

An increase of 3.2% and allowance rates can be accommodated for in the 2008/09 Management Plan.

Conclusion

The recommendation is in line with several Councils in the region.

Moved Crs. King and Nichols that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

Moved Crs. Wheeldon and Wakefield that the supplementary report on Rescheduling of September Ordinary Council meeting be admitted for consideration because of the need to advise Councillors of the pending late notification of the Election results.

CARRIED

12.1.3 SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT – Rescheduling of September Ordinary Council meeting

Responsible Officer:	General Manager
Author:	General Manager
Implications:	Governance
File Reference:	G3/7
Attachments:	Nil
Separately Circ.:	Nil
Tabled:	Nil

Recommendation

1. That Council resolves to consider supplementary report entitled “Rescheduling of September Ordinary Council Meeting” in accordance with Council’s Code of Meeting practice, Section 18(3).
2. That Council resolve to defer its Ordinary Council meeting scheduled for 17 September to Wednesday 24 September 2008, and advertise the new meeting date accordingly.

Purpose

To advise Council of the probability of delayed results of the Local Government elections held 13 September 2008.

Summary

Council’s next Ordinary Council meeting is scheduled to be held on 17 September. The results of the Local Government Elections to be held on Saturday 13 September, will most likely not be known until after this date.

Report

After consultation with Laurie Jaensch, Returning Officer for the Wentworth Shire Council Local Government Elections to be held 13 September, it has become apparent that an official result from the elections would not be possible before Council's scheduled meeting to be held 17 September.

Mr Jaensch has advised that counting of postal votes will be undertaken on Monday 15 September, and that counts will be finalised on Tuesday 16 September. The ballot papers and relevant paperwork are to be then forwarded to the NSW Electoral Office for finalization of the count. This would indicate that an official result from the NSW Electoral Commission would not be possible on or before Wednesday 17 September.

Conclusion

A deferral of the September Ordinary meeting of Council is recommended for the above reasons.

Moved Crs. King and Wheeldon that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

12.2 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: ADMINISTRATION & CORPORATE SERVICES

12.2.1 Financial Report

Responsible Officer:	Director Corporate & Community Services
Author:	Administration Manager
Implications:	Financial
File & References:	S501
Attachments:	Nil
Separately Circ.:	Nil
Tabled:	Nil

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the financial report.

Purpose

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

Summary

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

Report

Collection Of Rates And Charges

Collections for the month of July 2008 were \$540,920.95. After allowing for pensioner subsidies, the total Rates and Charges collected are now 9.42% of the levies. A summary of the Rates and Charges situation as at 31 July, 2008 is as follows:-

<u>Levies</u>		
Balance Outstanding at 30 June 2008	1,252,480.20	
Rates & Charges Levied 16 July 2008	5,685,701.95	6,938,182.15
+ Additional Water Charges	443,658.86	
+ Supplementary Rates & Charges	215.75	
+ Additional Charges	2,106.95	
- Credit Adjustments	13,368.85	
- Farmland 20% capped	1,078.82	
- Abandonments	77.52	431,456.37
		7,369,638.52
<u>Deductions</u>		
- Payments	540,920.95	
- Less Refunds of Payments	1,874.10	539,046.85
- Pensioner Subsidy:- Government Subsidy	85,314.64	
Council Subsidy	69,794.60	155,109.24
Total Rates/Water Charges Outstand		\$6,675,482.43

Note: For comparison purposes 6.90% of the levy had been collected at the end of July 2007.

Reconciliation And Balance Of Funds Held As At 31 July, 2008

The reconciliation has been carried out between the Cash Book of each fund and the Bank Pass Sheet as at 31 July 2008 and the investments have been made in accordance with the Act, the regulations and Council's investment policies.

Combined Bank Acc.

<u>Cash Balance as at 1 July, 2008</u>	\$3,792,592.27 Dr
<u>Add:</u> Receipts for Period Ending 31 July, 2008 Rates, Debtors, Miscellaneous	2,524,473.97
<u>Less:</u> Payments for Period Ending 31 July, 2008 Cash Book entries for this Month	4,107,389.11
<u>Cash Balance As At 31 July 2008</u>	\$2,209,677.13 Dr.

Investments

Bank	TD/C.Bill		
LGFS	FI 60 Days @ 7.86% due 31/7/08	923,855.90	
SGE Credit Union	TD 62 Days @ 8.44% due 8/9/08	1,200,000.00	
Savings & Loan Credit Union	TD 60 Days @ 8.27% due 12/9/08	1,300,000.00	
SGE Credit Union	TD 63 Days @ 8.39% due 5/8/08	1,000,000.00	
Bank West (Sydney) Bank	TD 62 Days @ 7.92% due 11/8/08	1,500,000.00	
SGE Credit Union	TD 60 Days @ 8.54% due 12/8/08	1,300,000.00	
Bendigo Bank	TD 60 Days @ 7.94% due 15/8/08	2,000,000.00	
Bank West	TD 62 Days @ 8.02% due 8/9/08	1,000,000.00	\$10,223,855.90
TOTAL			\$12,433,533.03

Commitments

Details	Amount	
Internal Restrictions	\$	\$
- Employee Entitlements	1,196,089	
- Doubtful Debts	129,946	
- Tip Remediation	125,950	
- Future Development Reserve	298,138	
- Murray Street Acquisition	200,000	
- Plant Replacement Reserve	152,230	
- Water Fund	1,464,304	
- Sewer Fund	632,406	
Total Internal Restrictions		4,199,063
External Restrictions		
- Trust	184,605	
- Developer Contribution Reserve	533,599	
- Unexpended Grants	3,523,558	
Total External Restrictions		4,241,762
Total Commitments as at July 2008		8,440,825

Policy and Management Plan Implications

Indicates the financial position of the Council with respect to income and expenditure, reserves, and investments.

Conclusion

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

Moved Crs. Macri and Ribarits that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

12.2.2 Council Credit Cards

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate & Community Services
 Author: Director Corporate & Community Services
 Implications: Management Plan
 File Reference: F4/2-3
 Attachments: Nil
 Separately Circ.: Nil
 Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

That Council notes the process and conditions associated with Council Credit Cards.

Purpose

To inform Council of the process associated with the use of Council Credit Cards issued to the Mayor, General Manager, Directors and the General Manager's Personal Assistant.

Summary

Council Credit Cards are only operated by the Mayor, General Manager, the General Manager's Personal Assistant and the Directors. All cards are only used for Council business. No private purchases are made with the cards and all expenditure is accompanied by a Tax Invoice and approved by the General Manager prior to payment with the Mayor approving all work related expenditure incurred by the General Manager.

Report

Council receives a monthly statement itemising every transaction on every Credit Card. The Administration Manager checks all transactions with the necessary documentation and allocates the expenditure to appropriate job costing numbers. It is the responsibility of each officer that holds a credit card to produce documentation for each transaction.

All documentation is then given to the General Manager for his approval. All of the General Manager's documentation together with credit card statements are given to the Mayor who will check and approve transactions for the General Manager.

The current process has been checked and verified by Council's Auditors and is considered to meet all audit requirements and works successfully.

Conclusion

The current process works successfully and has been scrutinized by Council's Auditors.

Moved Crs. King and Ribarits that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

12.2.3 Financial Review of Council's 2007/2008 Management Plan as at 30 June 2008

Responsible Officer:	Director Corporate Services & Community Services
Author:	Director Corporate Services & Community Services
Implications:	Management Plan and Adopted Budget
File:	S501
Attachments:	Adopted Budget Summary 2007/2008
Separately Circ.:	Nil
Tabled:	Nil

Recommendation

That Council receives the June Financial Review and adopts the variations to the 2007/2008 Management Plan adopted at the Council Meeting of the 20 June 2007.

Purpose

In accordance with S407 (1) of the Local Government Act 1993, Council's financial performance has been reviewed against the 2007/2008 Management Plan for the period ended 30 June 2008.

Summary

A full review of Council's Income, Operating Expenditure and Capital Expenditure has been made. On review it has been identified that a number of variations are required to be made against the original budget due to unforeseen circumstances, changes in response to Council's requirements, Council's Policies and decisions. Council's revenue and expenditure is reviewed on a monthly basis to identify any areas of concern.

You will note that Council's revenue exceeded expectations by 5.7%.

Revenue favourable variations total \$160,500 as listed. High interest rates and investment growth has resulted in a requirement for a further favourable budget variation however this has been offset by a reduction in grant monies predicted to be received from the Block Grant and will be recognised as revenue in the next reporting period.

96.4% of the overall Expenditure Budget has been spent with variances ranging from 35% to 113% in the functional areas against the original budget. The overall budget has finished mostly on target. Roads & Transport finished slightly below budget due to major sealing programs not being able to be completed. It should be also noted that major environmental works including culverts will not be completed until the 2008/2009 financial year.

The net result including Capital is a favourable variance of \$1,338,547.

Report

A Budget Summary is attached for your information identifying the Adopted Budget, Year to Date Actual Revenue and Actual Expenditure to 30 June 2008, the Adopted budget and the December Review Budget.

All Capital expenditure is being reviewed prior to commencement due to the current situation with water restrictions.

GOVERNANCE

This area includes Mayoral, Members and General Manager expenses as associated with governance duties.

Revenue

- No variations are required for revenue in this area.

Expenditure

- Due to no major unplanned events a favorable variance of \$15,000 will be required for Event Promotion.

CORPORATE SERVICES

Administration Services include the Finance area, Records Management and Information Technology Section.

Revenue

- Extra Charges resulted in increased revenue of \$30,000.
- Due to increasing interest rates an additional variation on bank & investment interest income is required for \$200,000.
- An additional amount of \$16,000 was received from the Statewide Insurance Rebate Scheme.

Expenditure

- The completion of the building revaluation has resulted in a savings of \$15,000 from the original budget.

OPERATIONS ADMINISTRATION

Operations Administration includes Operations Management, the Works Depots, the Workshop and the Store.

Revenue

No variation required.

Expenditure

No variation required.

HEALTH SERVICES

Health Services area includes health inspections, immunizations, food control, inspection & vermin control, noxious plants, health centres and the medical practice.

Revenue

- Council has been unable to secure the services of a medical practitioner and has since closed the practice resulting in a further unfavorable variation of revenue for \$30,000.

Expenditure

- As the Medical Centre has been closed, a favourable variation of \$140,000 is required.

PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

The area includes the Rural Fire Services, SES and Animal control.

Income

- RFS Reimbursable Expenditure has resulted in an increase in RFS reimbursements equally a favourable variation of \$70,000.

Expenditure

- An unfavourable variation is required for RFS Expenditure however additional revenue has been received to offset this expenditure.

COMMUNITY SERVICES EDUCATION

This area includes the Community Services Officer, Youth Support, Pre-schools and Aged Care.

Revenue

No Variation Required.

Expenditure

- The Aboriginal Liaison Officer & Community Services Officer positions were not filled in this financial year resulting in a favourable variance of \$55,230.

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AMENITIES

This area includes Town Planning, Domestic Waste, Drainage, Cemeteries, Public Conveniences, Heritage and Environmental Protection.

Revenue

- Unused grants have been accrued to the following period to offset the required expenditure; these grants include CMA Polluting Traps, Thegoa Lagoon, Pooncarie Weir and CMA Wetlands project.

Expenditure

- The planning vacancy in Town Planning has remained unfilled for this financial year resulting in a favourable variation of \$58,696 for Town Planning Salaries & Wages.
- Work on the LEP commenced late in the reporting period and has consequently been placed in the 2008/2009 Management Plan. This has resulted in a favourable variance of \$75,000.
- Several CMA Culverts have been shifted to the 2008/2009 financial year resulting in a favourable variance of \$208,321.

RECREATION & CULTURE

This area includes Parks & Gardens, Halls, Swimming Pools, Libraries, Arts, Community Centres and Ovals.

Revenue

Variations are required for

- Additional funding received from NSW Sports & Recreation for the Alcheringa renovations has resulted in a favourable variation of \$120,000.
- The rabbit proof fence for the showground has been deferred to the following financial year resulting in an unfavourable variance of \$10,000 for this financial year.
- Regional Arts have taken over the management of the Sweat Box Art competition resulting in an unfavourable variance of \$8,500.

Expenditure

- Due to Regional Arts managing the Sweat Box Art Competition a savings to Council and favourable budget variation of \$9,500 is required.
- Additional works including palm tree maintenance and rose pruning at the Midway Centre has resulted in \$10,000 of additional expenditure for the Midway Centre.
- Water restrictions on the Wentworth Oval have resulted in a \$3,000 favourable variance.
- Additional works at the Dareton Oval have resulted in an unfavourable variance of \$18,000.
- \$50,000 was expended on water initiatives in the period including set up of dripper irrigation and mulching.
- Essential repairs to McClymont House has resulted in additional \$5,500 expenditure.
- Additional Streetscape Tree Maintenance due to the drought has resulted in an unfavourable variance of \$14,500.

BUILDING CONTROL

This area includes development and management of resources through provision of regulatory services for building and construction projects.

Revenue

- No Variations required.

Expenditure

- No Variations required.

ROADS, BRIDGES AND AIRPORTS

This area includes roads, bridges, airports and associated infrastructure.

Revenue

- As a result of inability of contractors and associated materials an unfavourable variance of \$437,000 is required to offset the expected grant money to reimburse this expenditure.

Expenditure

- Uncompleted roads works due to contractor & materials availability has resulted in a favourable variance of \$587,000.

BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS

Business Undertakings includes the Tourist Information Office, Business Developments and Private Works.

Revenue

- Ruby grants paid within this financial year have resulted in a favourable variance of \$60,000 which has been used to offset Ruby Expenditure.

Expenditure

- Minimal works were required on the Caravan Park Trees this year resulting in a favourable variance of \$18,000.
- Ruby Restorations totalled \$20,000 this money was offset by reimbursement from the Ruby Committee and Government grants.

WATER & SEWER

Includes Water & Sewer services.

Revenue

No Variation Required.

Expenditure

- Unplanned but essential maintenance on the sewer pumping stations require an unfavourable variance of \$71,000.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Capital Works projects totaling approximately \$3,234,249 including Principal Loan repayments have been expended for the total financial year 2007/2008.

Major projects such as the Pooncarie Weir, Thegoa Lagoon Inlet & Regulator, Ellerslie Pipe line have been included in the 2008/2009 Management Plan.

SUMMARY OF VARIATIONS**REVENUE**

Extra Charges Raised	Favourable	\$30,000
Interest on Investment	Favourable	\$200,000
Insurance Rebate	Favourable	\$16,000
Medical Income	Unfavourable	\$-30,000
RFS Reimbursable Items	Favourable	\$70,000
CMA Wetlands Project	Favourable	\$166,000
Alcheringa Oval Contributions	Favourable	\$104,000
Showgrounds Rabbit Proof Fence	Unfavourable	\$-10,000
Sweat Box Art	Unfavourable	\$-8,500
RTA Block Grant	Unfavourable	\$-300,000
Block Grant 3 x 3	Unfavourable	\$-137,000
Ruby Grants	Favourable	\$60,000
Total Revenue	Favourable	\$160,500

EXPENDITURE

Event Promotion	Favourable	\$-15,000
Rural Counselling	Favourable	\$-6,000
Revaluation Buildings	Favourable	\$-15,000
Medical Expenses	Favourable	\$-140,000
RFS Reimbursable	Unfavourable	\$70,000
Aboriginal Liaison Officer	Favourable	\$-10,000
Community Services Officer	Favourable	\$-45,230
Town Planning Salaries & Wages	Favourable	\$-58,696
Review of LEP	Favourable	\$-75,000
CMA Culverts	Unfavourable	\$-208,321
Sweat Box Art	Favourable	\$-9,500
Midway Parks & Garden	Unfavourable	\$10,000
Civic Hall Floor	Unfavourable	\$7,500
Wentworth Oval Watering	Favourable	\$-3,000
Water Initiatives Parks & Gardens	Unfavourable	\$50,000
McClymont House Repairs	Unfavourable	\$5,500
Wentworth Streetscape Maintenance	Unfavourable	\$14,500
Regional Roads Sealed	Favourable	\$-150,000
Block Grant Expenditure	Favourable	\$-437,000
Caravan Park Trees	Favourable	\$-18,000
Ruby Restoration	Unfavourable	\$20,000
Sewer Trickle Filter	Unfavourable	\$25,000
Sewer Pumping Stations Maintenance	Unfavourable	\$46,000
Total Expenditure	Favourable	\$-942,247

CAPITAL

Pooncarie Weir	Favourable	\$-510,000
CMA Gross Pollutant Traps	Favourable	\$-93,000
Rural Numbering Scheme	Favourable	\$-30,000
Renovations Dareton Oval Change Rooms	Unfavourable	\$24,500
Alcheringa Pavilion Renovations	Unfavourable	\$104,000
Aerodromes Plan	Unfavourable	\$12,500
Buronga Oil Grease Disposal	Favourable	\$-20,000
Wastewater Treatment Plan Walkways	Favourable	\$-32,800
Filtered Water Standpipes	Favourable	\$-12,000
Total Capital	Favourable	\$-556,800

Conclusion

The net result after variations have been considered for the June Quarter for Revenue, Expenditure and Capital and consists of a favourable variance of \$1,338,547.

It should be noted that this report for the period ended 30th June, 2008 will not be audited until September 2008 and there may be adjustments that need to be made as a result of the audit.

Moved Crs. King and Macri that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

12.2.4 Quarterly Review Of Council's Management Plan 2007/2010

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate & Community Services
Author: Terri Maguire
Implications: Management Plan 2007/2010
File & References: F4/3-2
Attachments: Nil
Separately Circ.: Nil
Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the report.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on Council's performance measured against the Management Plan for the year 2007/2008 in accordance with Section 407 of the Local Government Act 1993 and to provide and maintain effective and efficient management of the Shire according to community needs.

Summary

The Management Plan performance requirements have been reviewed by each Director to the June 2008 quarter and this report summarises actual performance against required performance and reflects the activities of Council and statistical information for the 2007/2008 financial year.

Report

The review is a progress report on the performance and delivery of Council services as compared with the targets and standards set in the Plan.

1. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

FUNCTION

To effectively and efficiently manage a Shire of 26,170 km² with a population of approximately 7,000 according to community needs within the resources available.

OBJECTIVES

To provide and maintain effective and efficient management of the Shire according to community needs.

PERFORMANCE TARGETS

1. To meet all statutory reporting requirements.
2. To provide Council with timely and accurate reports.
3. Manage the resource usage throughout each year to ensure a minimum of a balanced budget.

STATEMENT OF MEANS

1. Provide Councillors and staff with the appropriate training.
2. Provide a minimum of quarterly financial reports to Council in accordance with the Local Government Act
3. Ensure that action is taken to control resource usage in accordance with the approved Management Plan.
4. Improve the public perception of Council through appropriate press releases and newsletters.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

1. The number of timely budget reports to Council
ACTION: Budget review statement to Council (LGGR cl.203(1)) June 2007, September 2007 and June 2008 presented within required legislative timeframes.
2. The frequency of financial and statistical reports to Council and other Government bodies.
ACTION: All reports to Council and other Government bodies within required legislative timeframes. Local Roads & Bridges data return completed and lodged with Grants Commission.
3. The number of press releases and information and newsletters provided.
ACTION: Press releases, information and newsletters released and distributed after Council meetings and as authorised either by the Mayor or General Manager.
4. Meeting of targets within the Management Plan.
ACTION: All targets met as required.

2. ADMINISTRATION AND CORPORATE SERVICESFUNCTION

To provide effective support services for all of Council's operations including accurate and comprehensive financial information. To undertake the functions of creditor processing, debtor (including rates) processing, purchasing goods and services, insurance administration, injured workers rehabilitation, records management, payroll, financial management, ledger maintenance, information systems, and office services.

OBJECTIVES

1. To provide sound financial and administrative support for Council on a timely basis and ensure commitments to external organisations are met.
2. To provide and maintain a range of high quality customer services which ensure that reasonable customer needs are met.

PERFORMANCE TARGETS

1. Meet all statutory accounting requirements

2. Provide council with reports in a simple and understandable format in an accurate and timely manner.

STATEMENT OF MEANS

1. Provide staff with appropriate training.
2. Provide administrative assistance, agendas and reports.
3. Manage a complaints system.
4. Provide quarterly reports to Council in accordance with the Act.
5. Ensure that Annual Statements and Annual Report are completed within target time.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

1. The ability of staff to be able to perform allocated functions.
ACTION: The Financial Services area has an on-going need to train and develop employees due to the frequent changes in legislation and reporting requirements and other needs of Council. On-line training on performing End of Year, End of Year checklist and Map Info was completed in this quarter.
2. The number of timely reports to Council.
ACTION: Council reports have been presented to Council within an acceptable time frame and all Statutory reports have met the requirements as set out in the Local Government Act 1993.
3. The number of complaints acknowledged within 7 days and resolved where possible within 28 days.
ACTION: Council is currently completing Customer Request forms for issues requiring actions or responses. Between July 2007 and June 2008 there were 546 received with 32 outstanding and in the process of being resolved.
4. The frequency of financial and statistical reports to Council and other external bodies.
ACTION: Council's Grants Commission Report, Australian Bureau of Statistics Report, Investment Return and the Comparative Information Report were completed by the due date in November 2007. The Finance area 2007/2010 Budget was prepared and adopted prior to the end of June.
5. Annual Financial Statements are prepared and audited within target time.
ACTION: The Annual Statements were prepared in September and audited in October. They were lodged with the Department of Local Government by the 7th of November, 2007.
6. Annual Report is prepared within target time and is informative of Council overall operations.
ACTION: The Annual Report was completed and lodged with the Department of Local Government by the 30th of November 2007.

3. ENGINEERING ADMINISTRATION

3.1 ROAD WORKS PROGRAM

FUNCTION

To provide an efficient and effective service pertaining to roads, bridges and aerodromes, which meets the needs of internal and external customers of the Council.

3.1.1 PROGRAM - CLASSIFIED ROADS (RTA FUNDED)

The activity involves execution of annual capital works and maintenance programs provided and funded by the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA).

GOAL

To continuously improve the State and Regional road network by forward planning, design and construction as permitted within the RTA funding guidelines.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Improve and maintain the level of service to travelling public on the State and Regional roads within the allocated areas.
2. Undertake RTA routine maintenance and repair programs.
3. Obtain and fully expend/commit funds available from RTA.

PERFORMANCE TARGETS

1. Complete maintenance and heavy patching of SH14 and SH22 in accordance with RTA's Schedule of Works Agreement.
2. Complete rehabilitation works and others as required by individually priced work orders from the RTA.
3. Expend all grant funds as a priority in order to facilitate access to additional funding opportunities, which may arise during the year.
4. No funding opportunities to be overlooked.

STATEMENT OF MEANS

1. Funds from RTA estimated at \$1,591,155 under the Single Invitation Contract. (Including Works Orders)
2. Use Council staff and resources where possible and contractors for the balance of the work
3. Funds from RTA for individually priced Work Orders.
4. Repair Program allocation and Council contribution out of Block Grant from the RTA.
5. Block Grant for Regional Roads and specific works.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

1. Routine maintenance program and other rehabilitation works carried out on time and within budget.
ACTION: All relevant work completed within criteria.
2. All grant funds fully expended.
ACTION: Work program is monitored closely to ensure all grant funds are fully spent.
3. Additional funding opportunities pursued with RTA by way of proposals and submissions.
ACTION: Proposals and/or submissions have been made for additional funding for works outside the single invitation contract and will continue to be made. Examples include a safety rail and shoulder repairs on the Silver City Highway.
4. Sealed and unsealed carriageway maintenance by Council and Contractors.
ACTION: Expenditure on SH14 and SH22 to end June - \$1,345,212 - Expenditure on regional roads to end June 2008 – \$868,849
5. Bituminous seals/reseals carried out by Council and Contractors.
ACTION: The sealing work for 2007/08 was completed in part only because of delays with material supply and the contractor being over committed. This work is covered by contract rates and will be completed with the 2008/09 sealing program.

3.1.2. PROGRAM - URBAN LOCAL ROADS (SEALED AND UNSEALED)

The activity involves provision of annual capital works program and asset management of Council's urban roads, streets and ancillary works to include kerb and gutter and footpaths. The program focuses on adequately catering for flow of

traffic and pedestrian access in order to ensure the safety and well being of the customers of Council.

GOAL

To maintain Council's urban roads in a safe trafficable condition.

OBJECTIVE

1. Maintain Council's urban roads to provide an improving level of services.
2. Keep street and gutters in the urban and commercial areas of the Shire cleaned for a pleasant appearance to visitors and residents.
3. Develop and maintain a high standard urban road and ancillary infrastructure system in all urban areas of Council.

PERFORMANCE TARGET

1. Main street and gutters cleaned at least weekly for Wentworth Shire towns.
2. Trees conditions kept at a minimum hazard and median strips maintained regularly.
3. Road works undertaken for sealed and unsealed urban roads in accordance with Council's Works Program.
4. Prompt rehabilitation of failed sections of pavement.

STATEMENT OF MEANS

1. Funds from Federal Assistance Grants and from general rates.

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

1. Routine maintenance and other rehabilitation works carried out on time and within budget.
ACTION: Necessary work is scheduled and undertaken in a timely manner.
2. Funds only expended where required and necessary.
ACTION: No unnecessary expenditure has been incurred.
3. Sealed and unsealed carriageway maintenance by Council and Contractors.
ACTION: Maintenance has been undertaken as required and conditions allow.
4. Bituminous seals/re-seals carried out by Council and Contractors.
ACTION: Contract for 2007/08 still to be let.

3.1.3. PROGRAM - RURAL LOCAL ROADS (SEALED AND UNSEALED)

The activity involves provision of annual capital works programs and asset management of Council's rural local roads. The program focuses on adequately catering for traffic flow in order to ensure safety and well being of the public and customers of the Council.

GOAL

To maintain Council's rural local roads in a safe and trafficable condition.

OBJECTIVE

Maintain Council's rural local roads to provide an improved level of services.

PERFORMANCE TARGET

1. Road works undertaken for sealed and unsealed rural local roads in accordance with Council's adopted Works Program.
2. Prompt rehabilitation of failed sections of pavement.

STATEMENT OF MEANS

1. Funds from Federal Assistance Grants and from general rates.

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

1. Routine maintenance and other rehabilitation works carried out on time and within budget.
ACTION: Necessary work is scheduled and undertaken in a timely manner.
2. Funds only expended where required and necessary.
ACTION: No unnecessary expenditure has been incurred.
3. Sealed and unsealed carriageways maintenance by Council and Contractors.
ACTION: Work done as required and conditions allow.
4. Bituminous seals/re-seals carried out by Council and Contractors.
ACTION: Sealing was delayed for reasons noted above. Sealing chip is in stockpile and the sealing will be done together with the 2008/09 sealing program.

4. HEALTH SERVICESFUNCTION

To administer health controls that provide a healthy environment, to a level of community expectations, within desirable standards. To provide weed and pest control and buildings for health. To provide a Medical Practice service to the community.

OBJECTIVES

1. To provide high quality water for human consumption
2. To maintain facilities for monitoring children's health and development
3. To reduce the threats posed by noxious weeds
4. To ensure that food premises comply with appropriate standards
5. To provide a Medical service to the community

PERFORMANCE TARGETS

1. Water Quality
2. Provide a consulting venue for Children's Health & Development
3. Control Noxious Weeds
4. Regular Inspections of Food premises
5. Provide a quality Medical Service

STATEMENT OF MEANS

1. Sample results of water
2. Maintain the building standard for Children's Health and Development
3. Provision of adequate noxious weeds services to rate payers
4. Reduction of number of complaints received for Food standards from previous years
5. Maintain an adequate Medical Facility for the residents

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

1. Australian Drinking Water Guideline Standards met.
ACTION: For the reporting period a total of 48 samples had been tested with 98% meeting the required standard.
2. Children's Health & Development Building maintained to acceptable standards
3. Improve the provision of service for noxious weeds
4. To inspect all food premises annually.

ACTION: There are 68 food premises to inspect annually. For the reporting period 17 premises had been inspected.

5. To continue to have an accredited Medical Practice at Wentworth and monitor success by usage and profitability. Monitor the number of complaints.

ACTION: The Medical Practice was accessed for accreditation in 2006 and received favourable reports. The next accreditation is due in June 2009. The Medical Practice at Dareton has been closed and Council is currently in the process of securing a Medical Practitioner to service the community of Wentworth.

5. PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

FUNCTION

To provide services to the community which protects them and promotes confidence that their personal safety and quality of life is assured. To provide control of stock and domestic animals, fire protection services, flood defence and State Emergency Services and Rescue Squad support.

OBJECTIVES

1. To improve the standard of fire protection and equipment
2. To maintain adequate support for emergency services
3. To improve the standard of animal keeping and control in the towns

PERFORMANCE TARGET

1. Train personnel
2. Maintain equipment to Australian Standard
3. Standard Operating Procedures
4. Dog Registrations
5. Dog control

STATEMENT OF MEANS

1. Suitable personnel trained
2. Provide adequate Equipment
3. Standard Operating procedures prepared
4. Suitable registration level
5. Complaints

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

1. Maintain acceptable standard of trained personnel
ACTION: Standard maintained.
2. Maintain equipment to acceptable standard
ACTION: Standard maintained.
3. Standard Operating Procedures maintained to acceptable standard
ACTION: SOPs maintained.
4. Maintain at least current levels.
ACTION: Currently within the Shire there are 2317 dogs and 87 cats registered under the Companion Animals Act.
5. Complaints handled in accordance with procedure
6. Microchipping procedures undertaken.
ACTION: For the period March to June 2008 there were 27 microchips inserted into domestic animals

6. COMMUNITY SERVICES

FUNCTION

To provide community services through support to youth, aged and disabled, young education and the implementation of the Crime Prevention Plan.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To provide support for youth, aged citizens and early education.

PERFORMANCE TARGET:

1. Provide ongoing support. Successful application of grant funding for Stage 1 of the Crime Prevention Plan.

STATEMENT OF MEANS:

1. Maintain equitable levels of support.
2. Grant funding for Crime Prevention Plan and Youth Plan.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT:

1. Review levels of support and ensure that all Community facilities remain equitable and fair.
ACTION: Council reviewed Community support in the 2007/2010 Management Plan process. A Youth Centre has been established in Wentworth and is situated at the Guide Hall and is operating successfully. The Centre is run by part-time co-ordinator and assistant employed by Summit Personnel. Council has been involved with several community based initiatives and projects in recent months including the Kick Start Program, the Junction Rally, the Ruby Centennial, the Country Music Festival and Youth Week. The Skate park application for grant funding was not approved. The position of Community Services Officer has not been filled and the position is currently vacant. Review and assessment of this position indicates that Council's needs would be better met by engaging an Economic Development/Community Officer. This position is under review and will be considered in the 2008/2012 Management Plan. Council in conjunction with Mallee Family Care have been successful in securing a grant for the upgrade of the Dareton Guide Hall and are in the process of developing plans and the scope of works to be carried out. .
2. Stage 1 implementation of Crime Prevention Plan.
ACTION: The Crime Prevention Plan has been lodged with the Attorney General's Department for endorsement. Council has applied for funding for a Youth Officer for the Shire area in conjunction with Mallee Family Care.

7. HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AMENITIES

FUNCTION

To provide Town Planning, Community Centres, street cleaning, commercial waste services, cemeteries, public conveniences and flood mitigation.

OBJECTIVES

1. To maintain tidy streets
2. To provide a commercial refuse collection service
3. To prevent flood damage in the towns
4. To provide facilities for the interment of deceased persons
5. To provide public amenities

PERFORMANCE TARGETS

1. Provide street cleaning
2. Provide refuse collection service
3. Provide levee banks
4. Provide cemeteries
5. Provide public toilets

STATEMENT OF MEANS

1. Suitable service standard maintained for the streets
2. Provide adequate flood protection
3. Maintain suitable facilities for the interment of deceased persons
4. Maintain suitable facilities for public amenities

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

1. Current standard of streets maintained
ACTION: Standard maintained.
2. Provide efficient collection service for the refuse
ACTION: Standard of service maintained by contractor.
3. All maintenance works completed as required to prevent flood damage
ACTION: Inspection of Wentworth levee banks has been done. Minor work only is required to maintain the standard.
4. Provide adequate service as required for interment of deceased persons
ACTION: Level of service maintained.
5. Cemetery maintained in a clean and tidy condition
ACTION: All cemeteries maintained.
6. All maintenance work completed as required on public amenities
ACTION: Level of service achieved.
7. Toilets maintained in a clean and tidy condition.
ACTION: Toilets are serviced daily or as required. Toilets at the rear of Wentworth Hall are now closed for specified periods.

TOWN PLANNINGFUNCTION

To provide statutory and strategic planning functions which administer and enhance the performance of the Local Environmental Plan and operate in context to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

OBJECTIVES

- To undertake development assessment
- To undertake strategic analysis and research.
- To continue monitoring the performance of the LEP
- To undertake amendments to the LEP as appropriate
- Continued review of the financial allocations to the implementation of the Buronga Gol Gol Structure Plan
- Continue building relationships with other authorities to encourage an integrated vision of sustainable development
- Continue to work with Operations Department to achieve best practice in urban design for roads, parks and gardens and other public places.

PERFORMANCE TARGETS

- Promote planning as an integral service of Council
- Promote community consultation to provide a new LEP by the end of 2008

STATEMENT OF MEANS

- Process development applications
- Review the current LEP and effect changes where appropriate
- Assess rezoning requests
- Complete strategic analysis for rural residential opportunities
- Complete strategic analysis for industrial land opportunities
- Monitor the performance of the LEP, taking into account appropriate community inputs.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

1. Undertake statutory work within the legislated time frames.
ACTION: Within the three month reporting period 64 Development Applications were received – 56% of these applications had been completed.
2. Undertake strategic planning projects to ensure orderly and sustainable development.
Action: The implementation of the new LEP will be undertaken by the end of 2008 comprising a number of strategic tasks that will inform the new LEP. The Buronga Gol Gol Structure Plan was the first nominated task and has now been endorsed. Council is now proceeding with further strategic work to support the Buronga Gol Gol Structure Plan, whilst also undertaking a rural residential study.
3. Implement new Local Environment Plan.
ACTION: The Buronga/Gol Gol Structure Plan has been adopted which now provides a framework for the planning guidance necessary to ensure that future development meets the expectations of the local community and the wider regional community. The plan provides a range of guiding principles that are now subject of more detailed examination, such as Section 64 and Section 94 Contributions Plans, and a Development Control Plan. This will ensure the implementation of the plan is successful by achieving social, economic and environmental outcomes.

DOMESTIC WASTE MANAGEMENT

FUNCTION

To provide an efficient and effective collection and disposal service for garbage from domestic premises.

OBJECTIVES

1. To provide an effective competitively priced garbage collection service
2. To provide and maintain effective, safe and health rubbish disposal facilities

PERFORMANCE TARGETS

1. Provide collection Service
2. Provide Landfill facilities

STATEMENT OF MEANS

1. Maintain adequate service standards
2. Suitable facilities maintained

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

1. Provision of effective collection service
2. Provision of effective disposal facilities
It is intended to gradually implement facilities for the recycling of paper, cardboard, aluminium cans, glass bottles and high grade plastics where this can be economically achieved. This will only be possible on a "self help" basis

as the cost of a Council operated service is expected to be prohibitive. Successful implementation of recycling by residents of the municipality has the potential to reduce the future cost of refuse collection and disposal.

8. RECREATION AND CULTURE

FUNCTION

To provide a variety of recreational and cultural facilities on an equitable basis, enabling access by local residents and visitors. To provide public halls, sporting grounds, library services, parks and gardens and swimming pools.

OBJECTIVES

1. To provide an information service
2. To encourage preservative of our heritage
3. To provide facilities for cultural and social events
4. To encourage participation in cultural events and the arts
5. To encourage development of sporting skills
6. To encourage improved health and social interaction through sports participation
7. To provide passive recreation facilities

PERFORMANCE TARGETS

1. Maintain availability of library services
2. Provide adequate facilities for cultural and social events
3. Provision of cultural events through Sweat Box Arts events
4. Provide public swimming pools
5. Provide recreation facilities
6. Parks and gardens

STATEMENT OF MEANS

1. Suitable service standard maintained for the information service
2. Maintain suitable building standard to preserve our heritage
3. Maintain adequate facilities for cultural and social events
4. Maintain financial support level for cultural events
5. Maintain adequate facilities at the swimming pools
6. Maintain service standards for health and social interaction
7. Maintain existing standard of parks and gardens.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

1. Maintain at least 2006/2007 membership level for library services.
ACTION: Library memberships have been maintained at the 2006/2007 levels with the rate of new memberships exceeding expired memberships.
2. All maintenance works completed as required on our heritage sites
ACTION: Work completed as needed.
3. Provide financial contribution for cultural events.
ACTION: Council has supported the Country Music Festival, the Mainstreet Music Market, Sweatbox Art, the 1956 Flood photographic display donated by the Murray Darling Association and on display in the Wentworth Memorial room gallery, the Murray River Cycle Tour, the 122nd Annual Wentworth Show, Mildura & Wentworth Arts Festival and hosted a number of receptions.
4. Provide and maintain safe public swimming pools
ACTION: Swimming pools opened on time. Wentworth pool repainted prior to opening and new shade shelters provided at both pools. The swimming season is now over and both pools have been closed.

5. Maintain appropriate facilities
ACTION: All facilities maintained as required.
6. Provide acceptable standard of recreation facilities
ACTION: Recreation facilities maintained to an appropriate standard within the limitations of water restrictions.

9. BUILDING CONTROL

FUNCTION

To encourage proper development and management of resources through provision of regulatory services for building and construction projects.

OBJECTIVES

1. To ensure safety and amenity in respect of building activities.

PERFORMANCE TARGETS

1. Promote construction certificates.

STATEMENT OF MEANS

1. Assess building applications.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

1. Issue approvals within legislated time frame.
ACTION: For the reporting period 51 construction certificates were received – 64.7% of those applications had been processed.

10. ROADS AND BRIDGES

FUNCTION

To provide safe and efficient access to destinations through maintaining roads, bridges, kerbing, footpaths, and appurtenances.

10.1 PROGRAM – CLASSIFIED ROADS (RTA) FUNDED

The activity involves execution of annual capital works and maintenance programs provided and funded by the RTA.

GOAL

To continuously improve the State and Regional road network by forward planning, design, and construction as permitted within the RTA funding programs.

OBJECTIVES

1. Improve and maintain the level of service to travelling public on the State and Regional roads within the allocated areas.
2. Undertake RTA Routine Maintenance and Repair Programs
3. Obtain and fully expend/commit funds available from the RTA

PERFORMANCE TARGETS

1. Complete maintenance and heavy patching of State Highways in accordance with RTA's Schedule of Works/Agreement with the RTA
2. Completed rehabilitation works and others as required by Individually Priced Work Orders from RTA
3. Expend all grant funds as a priority in order to facilitate access to additional funding opportunities, which may arise during the year
4. No funding opportunities overlooked.

STATEMENT OF MEANS

1. Funds from RTA under Single Invitation Contract
2. Use Council Staff and resources where possible and contractors for balance of work
3. Funds from RTA for Individually Priced Work Order
4. Repair Program allocation and Council contribution out of Block Grant from the RTA
5. Block Grant for regional roads and specified works

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

1. Routine Maintenance Program and other rehabilitation works carried out on time and within budget
ACTION: Work is completed as required.
2. All grant funds fully expended.
ACTION: Work program is closely monitored to ensure all grant funds are fully spent.
3. Additional funding opportunities pursued with RTA by way of proposals and submissions.
ACTION: Proposals for footpath work were submitted and approved.
4. Sealed and unsealed carriageways maintenance by Council
ACTION: Carriageway maintenance is ongoing.
5. Bituminous seals/re-seals, and gravel resheeting carried out by contractors
The provision of an accessible and well maintained roading network is critical to the sustainability of the local community. Funding is however extremely tight and will not be expended when conditions, such as weather are unsuitable for work to be done effectively. This will mean that during sustained drought conditions (for example) road surfaces will become rougher than is desirable. It is important at such times for road users to drive to the prevailing conditions.

10.2 PROGRAM – URBAN LOCAL ROADS (SEALED AND UNSEALED)

The activity involves provision of annual capital works program and asset management of Council's urban roads, streets and ancillary works to include kerb and gutter and footpaths. The program focuses on adequately catering for flow of traffic and pedestrian access in order to ensure safety and well being of the customers of Council.

GOAL

To maintain Council's urban roads in a safe trafficable condition within the confines of the funding available.

OBJECTIVE

1. Maintain Council's urban roads to provide an improved level of service
2. Keep the street and gutters in all the areas of the towns cleaned for pleasant appearance to visitors and residents.
3. Develop and maintain a high standard urban road and ancillary infrastructure system in all urban areas of Council.

PERFORMANCE TARGET

1. Main street and gutters cleaned at least weekly.
ACTION: Streets and gutters cleaned regularly or as required.
2. Trees conditions kept at a minimum hazard and median strips maintained regularly.
ACTION: Trees are inspected and trimmed regularly. Median strips are maintained within limitations caused by the drought.

3. Road works undertaken for sealed and unsealed urban roads in accordance with Council's Works Program.
ACTION: All work is scheduled and completed in a timely manner.
4. Prompt rehabilitation of failed sections of pavement.
ACTION: Necessary work is undertaken promptly.

11. BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS

FUNCTION

To provide efficient, cost effective business undertakings which facilitate the economic development of the area.

OBJECTIVES

1. To increase the number of visitors to the Shire of Wentworth
2. To maximise investment opportunities for the development of industry and other employment generating proposals within the Shire.
3. To provide and develop tourism services.
4. To provide facilities for tourist information.

PERFORMANCE TARGETS

1. To pursue funding opportunities to drive the tourism and economic development process.
2. Investigate opportunities for economic expansion within the Shire.
3. Provide accredited tourist information centre.

STATEMENT OF MEANS

1. Investigate opportunities to entice business to relocate to the Shire and enhance the expansion of existing business.
2. Act as a facilitator to assist existing and potential industry and business by further developing co-operation with the relevant organisations.
3. Investigate methods of promoting the Shire including establishment and continued development of the web site

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

1. Working relationships established with Development Organisations with relevant Government Departments
ACTION: Council has established good working relationships with Mildura Tourism, NSW Council of Tourism Association, Mildura/Wentworth Arts Festival with Music under the Stars, Wentworth Regional Tourism, Tourism NSW, Outback Regional Tourism Organisation, Australian Inland Botanic Gardens, AURORA Practical Solutions (Accreditation and running of Visitor Information Centre), AAA Tourism (Updates on accommodation and tourist attractions) and Murray Darling Basin as a Link Partner.
2. Web Site and promotional material developed and maintained.
ACTION: The Web Site is continuously improved and updated internally. Council Minutes, Council Newsletters, Media Releases, Ruby information, Council's Heritage conservation efforts, information for Planning and Development, Hall Hire and Charges, Position descriptions for vacant positions, Tenders, Water Rates and Charges, Tip Charges and other relevant information is updated on a regular basis.

12. WATER SUPPLIES

FUNCTION

To provide economical, reliable and safe water supply systems to the townships of Wentworth, Dareton, Buronga, Gol Gol and Pooncarie.

To ensure that the Water Supply Utility operates as a stand alone business unit within Council.

OBJECTIVES

To provide and maintain a safe, healthy and high quality potable water supply and an attractive living environment.

PERFORMANCE TARGETS

1. Provide adequate service as required from ratepayers
2. Provision of water to maintain aesthetics of towns.
3. Ensure that the user pays principle applies to all water consumers.

STATEMENT OF MEANS

1. Provide adequate service
2. Maintain aesthetic appearance of towns
3. Provide unfiltered and filtered water supplies for the townships of Wentworth, Dareton, Buronga, Gol Gol and Pooncarie

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

1. Suitable standard maintained
ACTION: Water services maintained to required standard.
2. Effective resource utilization
ACTION: Effective utilization achieved. Additional opportunities being pursued. Manual handling problems were investigated and are being rectified.
3. Ensure utility operates within budget.
ACTION: Costs are within budget. Revenue is expected to be affected by water restrictions.

STORMWATER SYSTEMS

There is a definite need to plan for and implement improved stormwater systems so that the quality of water discharged to the streams and rivers is significantly better than at present. The Council has received grant money from the CMA for the installation of Gross Pollutant Traps which will intercept floatable debris and suspended solids thereby preventing discharge to the watercourses. The funding is expected to enable at least 11 GPTs to be installed. A contract for the installation of up to 14 GPTs has been let. Council's Stormwater Management Plan has been reviewed and will apply for the period 2007 – 2012.

13. SEWERAGE SCHEMES

FUNCTION

To provide an economical, reliable and environmentally safe sewerage system for the townships of Wentworth, Dareton, Buronga, Gol Gol.

OBJECTIVES

1. To provide and maintain effective, efficient and competitively priced sewerage services
2. To provide and maintain a healthy and safe living environment

3. To ensure that the Sewer Supply Utility operates as a stand alone business unit within Council.

PERFORMANCE TARGETS

1. Provide adequate service as required by ratepayers
2. Provide sewerage disposal facilities at Wentworth, Dareton, Buronga, Gol Gol

STATEMENT OF MEANS

1. Provide adequate service

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

1. Suitable standard maintained
ACTION: Standards are being maintained although there sometimes odour problems near pump stations.
2. Effective resource utilization
ACTION: Resources are effectively utilized. Efficiencies are being pursued.
3. Ensure utility operates within budget.
ACTION: Activity is within budget.

A major priority for the Council is the upgrading and rationalization of sewage treatment plants. This need exists for two reasons:-

- *The treatment plants were designed for significantly larger populations than they are servicing and as a result do not always operate effectively.*
- *The major deterioration of both concrete and steel structures as a result of excessive levels of hydrogen sulphide due in part to the disparity between actual population and design population. A number of options have been identified and will be investigated in more detail before reporting to Council.*

A reduced number of treatment plants based on Wentworth East (for Wentworth East, Dareton and Namatjira) and Buronga/Gol Gol is a possibility.

The Wentworth plant flow may also be diverted to Wentworth East if an effective and affordable means of transferring wastewater across the Darling River can be identified.

Although the Buronga/Gol Gol system is relatively new there may be a need for modification to improve the operational efficiency until population numbers increase to an appropriate level.

The major works described will be expensive and will only proceed if substantial external funding grants are available. The 1998 report is being reviewed and will be updated to identify any new technology that may be appropriate and to also identify the current cost for the various options. Initial advice is that costs have increased significantly.

Moved Crs. King and Wakefield that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

12.3 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

Nil

12.4 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: HEALTH SERVICES

Nil

12.5 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: COMMUNITY SERVICES

Nil

12.6 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AMENITIES**12.6.1 Development Applications Determined Under Delegated Authority**

Responsible Officer: Director - Development & Environment
 Author: Director - Development & Environment
 Implications: Local Government Reform - Promoting Better Practice - Item 2.18
 File & References: L1-8
 Attachments: Nil
 Separately Circ.: Nil
 Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the report.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a list of development applications approved under delegated authority by the Director - Development & Environment for the month of July 2008.

Report

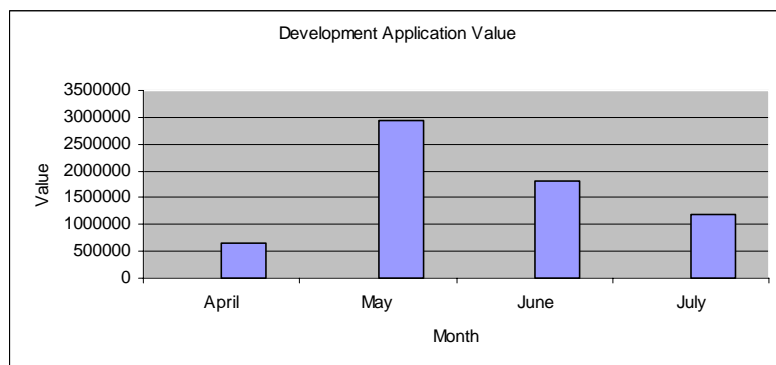
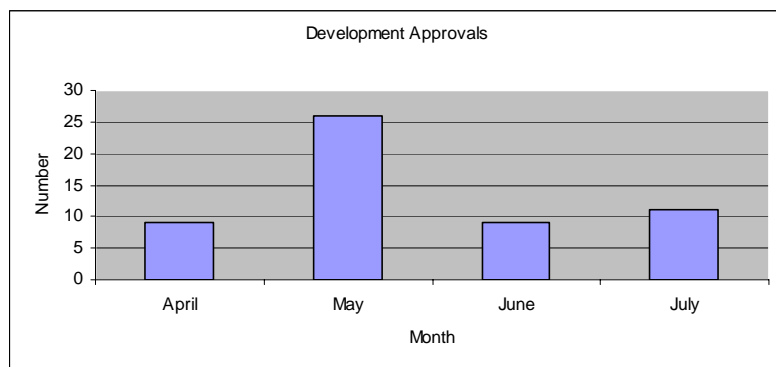
DA No	OWNER / APPLICANT	LOCATION	DEVELOPMENT TYPE & VALUE	NO. DAYS	DATE APPROVED
08/049	GMC Grover	Lot 2 DP 811724 West Road Buronga	Two (2) Lot Subdivision	10	Approved STC 4/7/08
08/089	Bysouth	Lot 2 DP 1056793 Darling Street Wentworth	Storage Shed \$10,000	22	Approved STC 23/07/08
08/099	D Whitelaw	Lot 2 DP 756994 Adams Street Wentworth	Machinery Shed \$650	19	Approved STC 23/07/08
08/050	BD & CL Wuttke Brent Williams & Associates	Lot 4 DP 263657 Carramar Drive Gol Gol	Outdoor Steps (floodplain) \$5000	80	Approved STC 28/07/08
08/081	M, S & G Collett	Murray River South Side Approx 963 River Kms	Pipeline \$60,000	37	Approved STC 28/07/08
08/069	A Clarke James Goldsworthy Consulting	Lot 229 DP 756961 Channel Road Dareton	Dwelling \$135,000	24	Approved STC 29/07/08
08/091	AA Smythe Brent Williams & Associates	Lot 1588 DP 763295 Murray Road Curlwaa	Dwelling & Shed \$450,000	18	Approved STC 28/07/08

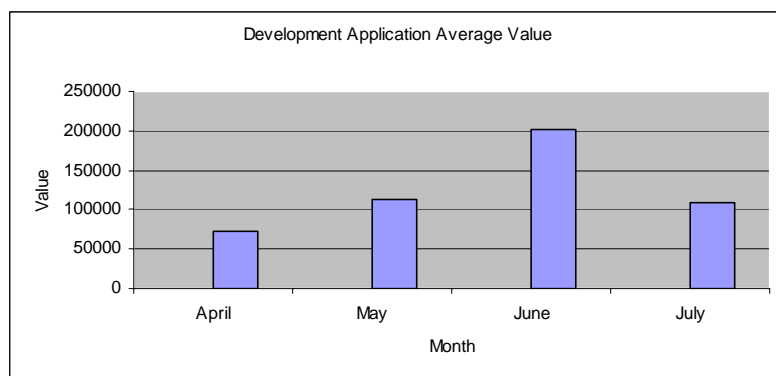
08/088	Wentworth Shire Council Shire of Wentworth (Trustees)	Lot 1 DP 758338 39-41 Tapio Avenue Dareton	Verandah \$10,000	30	Approved STC 29/07/08
08/076	T Leighton	Lot 9 DP 240719 (29) Carramar Drive Gol Gol	Dwelling Extension \$42,250	26	Approved STC 30/07/08
08/082	B.W. & M.A Mills R & S Doyle	Lot 7 DP 1004939 (6) Allen Court Gol Gol	Shed Extension \$7200	23	Approved STC 30/07/08
08/036	DA Woodhart (C & O Taylor)	Lot 48 DP 756994 Wentworth Street Wentworth	Two Storey Dwelling (\$473,000)	66	Approved STC 31/7/08

Summary

For the month of July there were eleven Development Applications approved under delegated authority by the Director - Development & Environment. The estimated cost of the approved developments is \$1,193,100.00. The following data and graphs indicate comparison of value for previous months of this financial year.

Month	DA's Approved	Value	Average
April	9	\$659,500	\$73,278
May	26	\$2,937,086	\$112,965
June	9	\$1,822,600	\$202,511
July	11	\$1,193,100	\$108,464
Total	55	\$6,612,286	\$497,218





Moved Crs. Macri and King that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

12.6.2 Classification of Land Murray Street

Responsible Officer: Acting General Manager
Author: Reserves and Acquisitions Officer
Implications: Management Plan
File Reference: S86-4
Attachments: Map of area to be reclassified
Separately Circ.: Sections 31 and 34 Local Government Act.
Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

That Lots 1 2 & 3 DP 1084410 acquired for the purpose of residential sub division and resale be classified as "Operational" land in accordance with Section 31 of the Local Government Act 1993.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to ensure the requirements of Sections 31 and 34 of the Local Government Act are met regarding the Murray Street acquisition.

Report

On 4 July 2008 gazettal of the compulsory acquisition of the land in Murray Street occurred. At the Council meeting held 20 June 2007 Council reaffirmed its intention to compulsorily acquire this land for the purpose of residential sub division and resale.

The Local Government Act now requires that at the time of acquisition (or within 3 months) the land be designated either for "Community" or "Operational" purposes.

It is suggested that the land be designated for "Operational" purposes which in effect permits Council to deal with the land without having to change the purpose.

Policy and Management Plan Implications

Management Plan

Conclusion

As the requirement to re-classify the land has a three month time restriction Council publicly advertised its intention to re-classify this land 8 August 2008 with submissions to be received by 8 September 2008. Should any submissions be received a further report will be submitted to the September Council Meeting.

Moved Crs. Wheeldon and Nichols that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

12.6.3 Proposed Twelve (12) Lot Residential Subdivision - Part Lot 70 & Lot 71 DP 756994 Wentworth Street, Wentworth

Responsible Officer: Director Development and Environment
Author: Planning Officer
Implications: Policy, Management Plan
File & References: DA08/090
Attachments: Conditions, Locality Plan and Site Plan
Separately Circ.: Submissions (Three).
Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

That Council approve the twelve (12) Lot Subdivision on part Lot 70 and Lot 71 Wentworth Street Wentworth for Synergy Reserves Unit Trust subject to the attached conditions.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to determine the application lodged by Synergy Reserves Trust Unit for a Twelve Lot Subdivision.

As a result of the public notification period three (3) submissions have been made and accordingly the application cannot be dealt with under delegation.

Summary

An application for a twelve (12) lot residential subdivision on part Lot 70 and Lot 71 DP 756994 Wentworth Street Wentworth was lodged with Council on 16 June 2008. The assessment included internal referrals, external referrals and public notification which consisted of an advertisement in the Mildura Weekly on 4 July 2008, signposting of the site for a period of fourteen (14) days and letters to seven surrounding neighbours.

Matters for consideration include:

- servicing of the proposed allotments
- content of submissions
- access
- civil works – road design, drainage design, stormwater drainage, site levels, kerb and gutter, road sealing
- Country Energy requirements

- amenity
- environmental Impacts
- zoning

With all matters satisfactorily assessed, and the approval conditioned to reflect the above considerations, it is recommended that Council give their favourable consideration to this proposal.

Report

The Site

Lots 70 and 71 DP 756994 are located in East Wentworth on the western side of Wentworth Street and the corner of Wentworth Street and Armstrong Avenue (Silver City Highway) with Darling River frontage on the western boundary. (Locality plan attached). A portion of Lot 70 (2390.61m²) does not form part of this proposal. The site has until recently had a small corrugated iron dwelling on Lot 70. A two storey dwelling on Lot 70 is nearing completion. The remainder of the site is vacant and there are no details of previous land use prior to 1995.

The area is zoned 2(v) village/residential and as such the proposal is permitted with consent pursuant to the Wentworth Local Environmental Plan 1993. The area of the site is approximately 1.600ha.

The proposed subdivision layout consists of:

Four (4) lots with river frontage with areas ranging from 1841.02 m² to 1971.30m². Eight (8) lots ranging from 699m² to 1047.78m². An access road contained within carriageway easements on proposed Lots 2,3,4,5,6,10 & 11 will be required and the permit has been conditioned accordingly.

History

Council approved a Development Application for a market garden in 1995. Removal of willow trees in 2000 and more recently a boundary realignment (DA08/046) has been approved but at the date of writing, had not been registered with the Land Titles Office. An application for a new dwelling was approved by Council on the 14 April 2008 (file ref: DA08/031).

Submissions

As a result of the public notification from 7 July 2008 to the 21 July 2008 three submissions were received. They are separately circulated for the information of Councillors and are summarised herein.

- no recreational areas for occupants.
- is not aesthetically pleasing to the eye
- type of housing proposed
- proximity to levee bank.

The proposal is close to existing reserves, amenities and shopping precinct. Recreational areas include Fotherby Park immediately to the south of the proposal and Apex Park located approximately 400 metres east of the proposal on the corner of William and Emily Streets.

No information has been received in regard to the type of housing proposed, however the variation of allotment sizes will provide a variety of design opportunities and more affordable types of dwellings. Council has a duty to ensure dwellings have adequate private recreational space, garden areas, on-site parking and clothes drying areas, these matters will be dealt with upon the lodgement of applications for dwellings.

Council has adopted a minimum 4-5 metres setback from the toe of the levee and all future applications for developments on proposed lots 9,10,11 and 12 will be required to comply.

Referrals

Internally the proposal has been referred to Assets & Infrastructure and Health & Building.

Health & Building have no requirements, Assets & Infrastructure have provided a number of conditions which form part of the conditions of consent.

Externally the proposal was referred to Country Energy, and they have requested conditions be placed on the proposal.

Policy and Management Plan Implications

Assessed pursuant to Section 79C (1) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and the provisions of any Environmental Planning Instrument, Wentworth Shire Council Local Environmental Plan 1993.

Conclusion

The application for a twelve (12) lot residential subdivision on part Lot 70 and Lot 71 in DP 756994 Wentworth Street Wentworth has been assessed in accordance with all statutory requirements with consideration to the submissions received. It is recommended that the application lodged by Synergy Reserves Unit Trust for a twelve (12) lot residential subdivision on Part Lot 70 and Lot 71 in Deposited Plan 756994 be approved subject to the conditions attached to this report.

Moved Crs. Macri and Wheeldon that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

12.7 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: RECREATION AND CULTURE

12.7.1 Dareton Sandbar Future Use

Responsible Officer:	Director Infrastructure and Assets
Author:	Reserves and Acquisitions Officer
Implications:	Variable according to recommendation adopted
File Reference:	R9/2, Council report March 2007
Attachments:	Nil
Separately Circ.:	Nil
Tabled:	Nil

Recommendation

1. That Council considers the options for the future use of Dareton Sandbar and resolves to enter into a licence agreement with the Department of Lands.
2. That Council affixes the Council Seal on the licence document.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide updated information from the Department of Lands regarding camping at Dareton Sandbar.

Report

At the March 2007 Council meeting after written advice from the Department of Lands, Council resolved to reserve the land at Dareton Sandbar for primitive camping and advised that the reserve be named "The Dareton Sandbar Reserve". Further advice from the Department of Lands now indicates that the basis for the reservation was incorrect and that the Native Title Branch of the Department of Lands advised that utilisation of the sandbar for camping could only be authorised by compulsory acquisition or the granting of a licence issued under the low impact future acts provision of the Native Title Act 1992 (Commonwealth). The advice further stated that the Barkindji claim has been registered. This means that Council may now be in a position to negotiate an Indigenous Land Use Agreement with the claimants.

Should Council take no action the responsibility for the sandbar would revert to Department of Lands who would not allow camping.

It is noted that the same restrictions on usage would apply to a licence agreement as were applicable to the reservation, being no exclusive right of possession, no clearing, mining or construction (including rubbish bins and picnic tables) and no disposal of any materials.

Policy and Management Plan Implications

The following are the options with appropriate associated costs.

- 1/. *Licence to occupy the reserve* - \$383.60 licence application fee plus annual fee which is usually less than \$400 per annum.
- 2/. *Compulsory acquisition* - a costly exercise with no financial benefit to Council.
- 3/. *Indigenous Land Use Agreement with the claimants* - costs unknown to negotiate and draw up a legal agreement.
- 4/. *No action* - no cost but the sandbar could no longer be used for camping.

Conclusion

During holiday periods campers at the sandbar bring valuable revenue to the Dareton area. Should camping be prohibited these people would seek riverfront camping elsewhere. Should Council enter into a licence agreement the status quo can be maintained.

Moved Crs. Nichols and Wheeldon that this item lay on the table until the September Council meeting.

CARRIED

12.7.2 Report on the Wentworth Regional Tourism Inc. Meeting Held 7 July 2008

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate and Community Services
Author: Tourist Officer
Implications: Nil
File Reference: E1/12-7
Attachments: Nil
Separately Circ.: Minutes of WRTI 7 July 2008
Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the minutes of Wentworth Regional Tourism Inc. meeting held 7 July 2008.

Purpose

To advise Council of the business undertakings of Wentworth Regional Tourism Incorporated.

Summary

The minutes of the WRTI Committee meeting which were held on 7 July 2008 at the Wentworth Visitor Information Centre are submitted for the information of Council and include the following:-

- Correspondence In
- Correspondence Out
- Financial Report
- General Business
- Items for Discussion – Black Tie Ball for Race Meeting, Event for 150th Celebrations, Outback NSW Tourism, Developing a Policy for obtaining quotes (Wentworth Booklet), Advertisement with Sunraysia Daily, AGM, Tour of the Murray, DRR Update, NSW Rural Women's Gathering.

Report

The minutes are self explanatory.

Moved Crs. King and Wakefield that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

12.7.3 McLeod Oval Pavilion Youth Centre

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate & Community Services
Author: Director Corporate & Community Services
Implications: Council Assets
File & References: C7/23-3
Attachments: Proposed plan for Youth facility
Separately Circ.: Nil
Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

1. Council approve the proposed works to the McLeod Oval Pavilion Change Rooms for conversion to a functional Youth facility.
2. Council approve the concept of providing a basketball half court, BMX mini track and the possibility of a skate park area located within the grounds of McLeod Oval and proceed with obtaining owner's consent from the Department of Lands for these facilities, as Council is trustee of the Reserve.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to request Council consent to improve the McLeod Oval Pavilion change rooms for the purpose of utilising the area as a youth facility for Wentworth and to seek owner's consent to provide sporting facilities at McLeod Oval by the Department of Lands.

Summary

Council has received a request from Leigh Pyke, Programs Coordinator from Summit Personnel to revisit the concept of a Youth Centre at McLeod Oval. Summit Personnel have a grant of \$50,000 to be spent on this facility and have drawn up a plan for the proposed works.

The project proposes a partnership between Council, Summit Personnel, Griffith Skills Training and Wentworth Youth to make the change rooms a suitable area to accommodate youth programs and to develop the grounds to cater for suitable sporting activities.

The Wentworth Youth Partnership needs to build and improve facilities to help educate and engage young people within the community. This will address some issues raised in recent months regarding youth behaviour in Wentworth with incidents such as loitering, stealing, being a public nuisance and drug and alcohol abuse.

Summit Personnel are currently renting the Guide Hall as a youth facility and has been successfully operating and engaging 115 youth participants in sporting and educational activities. There has been extremely positive feedback from the community regarding the programs including youth week activities and current youth centre operations and the youth program can continue to grow in Wentworth with suitable facilities.

The proposed changes will enable the youth facility to be relocated to McLeod Oval where sporting activities such as football, cricket and baseball can be incorporated into this program. The close proximity of the pool is also advantageous. The Guide Hall has been outgrown and the location and space available would be ideal for this group to operate from.

Summit have also requested the approval for development of a basketball half court, BMX mini track and the possibility of a skate park area located within the oval grounds. If Council agrees to this development, a development application and the approval of the Department of Lands will be required.

Report

The concept of a Youth Centre at McLeod Oval was approved by Council for a trial period in 2005.

This was not successful at that time and even though the facility was painted at no cost to Council, it was not considered as a suitable venue to run this program.

The current Youth Officer has run a successful program from the Guide Hall and has outgrown this facility. There are no user groups using this facility at present and the proposal and grant of \$50,000 funded by the Department of Employment, Education and Work Place Relations could be spent on upgrading a Council facility.

The Change Rooms proposed plan includes the removal of walls as per the attached plan, painting and tidying areas of where walls have been removed, the installation of lockable benches, the installation of a stove, the fitting of a gate to existing showers and fitting security gates to the outside of the building.

Other possibilities would be to fit a false ceiling and install floor tiles, fitting heating and air conditioning. Outside facilities could include the consideration of fitting a basketball half court beside the building and the relocation of BMX jumps from Murray street Tennis court.

The aim of the project is to engage local community members to participate in upgrading local facilities, therefore giving the community a sense of ownership and ultimately a safe place for community and youth activities.

Summit Personnel will be more than happy to supervise this project in conjunction with Council and will encourage other community parties to take on this new challenge.

The concept of a Youth Centre is in line with Council aspirations identified in the Crime Prevention Plan, the Youth Strategy and the Social Plan. The need to establish a Youth Facility has also been identified by the Wentworth Community Action Team.

Budget, Policy and Management Plan Implications

There are no Management Plan implications for this financial year but could possibly have an impact for future years.

Conclusion

The upgrade of the McLeod Oval Pavilion change rooms will improve a Council asset significantly and will benefit the community of Wentworth and address some of the current issues concerning youth that are evident in Wentworth.

The project will engage the community and will enhance an already successful youth program that is currently operating in the Guide Hall.

Moved Crs. Ward and Ribarits that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

12.7.4 PS Ruby Board of Management Constitution

Responsible Officer:	Director Corporate & Community Services
Author:	Director Corporate & Community Services
Implications:	Section 355 Committee
File & References:	C14/2-5
Attachments:	PS Ruby Constitution
Separately Circ.:	Nil
Tabled:	Nil

Recommendation

That Council approves the PS Ruby Constitution for a period of three years as reviewed and amended in April 2008.

Purpose

To formally approve the Constitution of the PS Ruby Board of Management as reviewed and amended for a further three year period.

Summary

A Section 355 committee of Council was formed under the Local Government Act 1993 to delegate some responsibilities of the functions of managing the PS Ruby facilities through the appointed community members of the Board approved by Council.

The Constitution states that a review is required of the whole document every three years. The review was carried out with minor amendments made in April 2008.

The Constitution is attached for the approval of Council.

Report

In November 2004, the PS Ruby Board of Management was formed as a Section 355 Committee of Council and ratified by Council in February 2005.

The establishment of the committee was formed for the purpose of:-

- the management and administering of the business and affairs of the PS Ruby.
- to set out the composition, function, responsibilities and authority of the PS Ruby Board of Management.
- to comply with duties and responsibilities of Section 355 Management Committees of Council, and
- to implement the PS Ruby Business Plan, the PS Ruby Safety Management Systems Plan and the PS Ruby Operational Manual.

The Committee have met on a monthly basis at a formal meeting based on the rules and regulations set out in the PS Ruby Constitution.

The Constitution is required to be reviewed on a three yearly basis or as amendments are necessary and must be approved by Council.

The Board of Management have reviewed the Constitution and require Council approval to validate the Constitution.

Conclusion

The Constitution is attached for the approval of Council.

Moved Crs. Nichols and Ribarits that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

12.8 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: BUILDING CONTROL

Nil

12.9 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: ROADS AND BRIDGES

12.9.1 Request for Budget Variation for PAMP work

Responsible Officer: Director Infrastructure & Assets
Author: Director Infrastructure & Assets
Implications: Management Plan
File Reference: G4/22
Attachments: Nil
Separately Circ.: Nil
Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

That Council approves a budget variation of \$30,000 to match a similar contribution from the RTA to enable work under the PAMP scheme to be completed with the funding to come from Section 94 contributions.

Purpose

To seek approval for a budget variation.

Summary

The RTA has offered funding of \$30,000 provided the Council contributes a similar amount.

Report

During 2006/2007 the Council prepared a submission seeking funding for PAMP (Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plans) works over a ten-year timeframe. At that time no funding was approved but the RTA has now advised that funding of \$30,000 is available for 2008/2009 provided the Council also contributes \$30,000. The Council does have funding available from S94 Reserve contributions, which are provided specifically for this type of work.

The location of the work to be done will be at crossing points of both the Sturt Highway in Gol Gol and the Silver City Highway in Dareton together with crossing points in side streets to these highways.

It is unfortunate that the RTA funding process does not fit with Council's budgetary timeline hence it would be useful to include a preliminary figure in future budgets to be able to accommodate RTA funding when it becomes available. The RTA has also advised "...throughout the financial year additional funding under the Road Safety and Traffic Program may become available..." It is however considered that these funding opportunities should be accepted because facilities for local communities are provided on a 50/50 cost share basis.

Policy and Management Plan Implications

If adopted by Council the recommendation will mean a budget variation of \$30,000 to be funded from S94 Reserves. There will be no impact on rates.

Conclusion

The RTA has advised that funding of \$30,000 is available for PAMP work provided the Council also contributes an equal amount.

Moved Crs. Wakefield and King that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

12.10 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS

Nil

12.11 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: DOMESTIC WASTE MANAGEMENT

Nil

12.12 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: WATER SUPPLIES

12.12.1 Affixing of Council Seal

Responsible Officer:	Director Infrastructure and Assets
Author:	Reserves and Acquisitions Officer
Implications:	Management Plan
File Reference:	P926/13
Attachments:	Nil
Separately Circ.:	Nil
Tabled:	Nil

Recommendation

That the Council Seal be affixed to the licence agreement for Lot 1 DP 803205 for the occupation of the Namatjira Water Tower and that the agreement remains in place until the acquisition of this site is completed.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for the affixing of the Council Seal on the licence to occupy Lot 1 DP 803205.

Report

Council has committed to the acquisition of the site where the Namatjira Water Tower is located. Council currently does not have the authorization of the owner, being the Department of Lands, to occupy the site. The Department of Lands has offered a licence to occupy at an annual rental of \$275.00 with provision for a rental review in 5 years. A special condition has been added to the licence being "This licence has been granted as a means of authorising occupation of the licence area until such time as acquisition of the subject area by Wentworth Shire Council is finalized. At this time the licence will be terminated."

Policy and Management Plan Implications

The acquisition of the site for the Namatjira Water Tower is budgetted in the current Management Plan.

Conclusion

This licence is required to formalise the occupation of the site until the acquisition is completed.

The Director Development & Environment left the chambers at 3.06pm
The Director Development & Environment resumed his chair at 3.09pm

Moved Crs. Nichols and King that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

12.12.2 Analysis of Lawn Watering Trial

Responsible Officer:	Director Infrastructure & Assets
Author:	Director Infrastructure & Assets
Implications:	Nil
File Reference:	W2/11-6
Attachments:	Nil
Separately Circ.:	Nil
Tabled:	Nil

Recommendation

That Council notes that the lawn watering trial showed no noticeable increase in usage.

Purpose

To report on the one month lawn watering trial carried out after approval from the NSW Minister for Water.

Summary

The trial for Wentworth and Dareton was carried out from Sunday 29 June 2008 to Sunday 20 July 2008 inclusive and the trial in Buronga and Gol Gol from Sunday 6 July 2008 to Sunday 27 July 2008 inclusive. The results of the trial were inconclusive for a number of reasons as covered in the report.

Report

The lawn watering trial was carried out over one month (on Sundays) between the hours of 6pm and 7pm.

Readings taken before and during the trial have proved to be inconclusive. In all townships where the trial was undertaken the water consumption for July (during the trial) was less than for June. Less usage for July compared to June is the normal pattern but there is no means of knowing exactly whether or not the trial influenced this pattern.

There are a number of reasons why the trial was inconclusive, including:-

- There was some rain (albeit light) during the period of the trial which put some moisture into the ground,
- Considerable periods of cloud together with cool daytime temperatures resulted in virtually no evaporation hence the ground remained damp,
- Cold ground temperatures precluded any lawn growth hence there was very little incentive to water lawns.

One positive outcome of the trial is that residents did not make use of water simply because "it was there". In fact there was very little evidence of lawns being watered during the trial.

Details of the water usage figures during the trial, which showed no noticeable increase have been reported to the Minister with a request that lawn watering for one hour per week from 6pm to 7pm on Sundays be allowed to continue.

Policy and Management Plan Implications

This report will result in no policy or Management Plan implications.

Conclusion

The lawn watering trial conducted during July was generally inconclusive.

Moved Crs. Wakefield and King that the watering trial report be received and noted and that the lawn watering trial outcome be reported to the Minister.

CARRIED

12.12.3 Water Usage for the Year 1 July 2007 – 30 June 2008

Responsible Officer:	Director; Infrastructure & Assets
Author:	Director Infrastructure & Assets
Implications:	Nil
File Reference:	W2/11-6
Attachments:	Nil

Separately Circ.: Nil
Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

That Council notes the water usage figures for the 2007/2008 financial year.

Purpose

This report provides details of water usage for the full year 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008.

Summary

Based on water meter readings done monthly the total water usage (extracted from source) for the 2007/08 year was 1173ML. Restrictions were first imposed on 1 July 2007 hence any comparison with usage in previous years has little meaning. The allocation for the Shire is 50% of the licensed volume, which is 2165ML hence usage is well within the allocated limit.

Restrictions have varied through the year including levels 4, 3a and 3.

Report

As noted water usage for the year was 1173ML, which is well within the 50% allocation of 2165ML.

There were however a number of examples of significant usage of raw water on domestic properties. Looking at each of the supply areas these include;

Wentworth

The average raw water consumption per property was around 215KL. There were six (6) properties which each used more than 1ML during the year with two using more than 2ML. The highest usage by one property was 2.480ML. The six properties, representing only 1% of total users accounted for 7.7% of the water used.

Dareton

Average raw water consumption was around 265KL per property with four (4) properties using more than 1ML each. Two of these exceeded 2ML with the highest being 2.835ML. The four properties concerned represent 1.7% of Dareton users and used 12.9% of the water.

Buronga

Average raw water consumption was around 220KL per property but there were nine (9) that used exceeded 1ML with two these exceeding 2ML. The highest usage for the year by one property was 2.989ML. The nine properties amount to 2.3% of users but used 16.8% of the water.

Gol Gol

The average consumption of around 310KL per property is higher than for Wentworth, Dareton or Buronga. The number of properties with usage above 1ML was eight (8), which is similar to the other towns. There were two (2) properties above 2ML for the year with the highest being 3.480ML. The eight (8) properties (2.1% of users) used 12.8% of the water.

East Gol Go

This area is located east of the Gol Gol Creek and between the Sturt Highway and the Murray River. The average consumption per property is very high at 535KL, which seems to indicate a general disregard for the water restrictions in this area. Of the 51 connections nine used more than 1ML with three being over 2ML. The highest usage was 2.872ML. The nine properties (17.7% of users) used 57.9% of the water.

Although overall consumption can be considered as reasonable there are clearly a small number of properties (about 40) where there is an apparent choice to completely ignore the need for restricted use of water. It should be noted that the 1ML figure used in the examples above is extremely conservative and represents the use of 40 litres per minute for every one of the eight hours per week that is allowed under the present Level 3a restrictions. The actual flow rate possible through a domestic connection is considerably less than 40 litres per minute.

Given that restrictions of some sort can be expected to remain in place for a number of years it may be appropriate to consider how the relatively small number of residents who use an excessive amount of water could be managed.

Policy and Management Plan Implications

There are no implications.

Conclusion

Overall water usage for 2007/08 is well within the Council's allocation. There are however a small number of properties where water usage could be considered as excessive.

Moved Crs. King and Ribarits that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

Cr. King left the chambers at 3.21pm

12.13 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: SEWERAGE SCHEMES

Nil

13. REPORT MATRIX**13.1 REPORT MATRIX FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING**

Responsible Officer:	General Manager
Author:	Executive Assistant
Implications:	Nil
File & References:	S268
Attachments:	Nil
Separately Circ.:	Nil
Tabled:	Matrix Report

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the report matrix.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to advise Councillors of the action from reports that were to be undertaken by Senior Staff.

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.

Policy and Management Plan Implications

Implications to policies or the Management Plan are detailed in the matrix.

Conclusion

The matrix is submitted for the Councillors' information to ensure actions required are completed satisfactorily.

Moved Crs. Nichols and Wakefield that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

Councillor Nichols moved a motion on a "point of order" against Councillor Macri but due to no seconder the "point of order" was discounted.

Councillor King resumed his chair at 3.23pm.

The Director Corporate & Community Services left the chambers at 3.35pm

Councillor Ward left the chambers at 3.37pm

The Director Corporate & Community Services resumed her chair at 3.39pm

Councillor Ward resumed his chair at 3.39pm

14. QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Cr. Wheeldon

1. Enquired as to whether surplus water from the council sewerage works could be recycled and used to water the Golf Club links. He advised that this system is undertaken at the Red Cliffs Golf Club. He indicated that the Government has funding of \$30,000 available for water saving initiatives.

(The Director Infrastructure & Assets advised that the water currently coming out of the sewerage works is treated to a minimum standard and would not be allowed to be used for watering purposes. He also indicated that it would be a costly exercise to install equipment to be able to undertake the recycling of surplus water from the sewerage works).

2. Advised that he had received notice that the rental of the old Gaol had risen and that the caretakers are undergoing financial difficulties in keeping up with the payments.

(The Mayor indicated to Councillor Wheeldon that this matter was dealt with at the last Council meeting).

3. Advised that a developer proposing to undertake a four block subdivision in East Wentworth has been advised that part of his subdivision application requires the need to supply the Council with 40megalitres of water and has asked the question where is he going to get this amount of water to satisfy the application.

(The Mayor advised that it is a Council policy that all developers are required to supply the Council with the relevant amount of megalitres of water for each lot in a new subdivision).

The Director Corporate & Community Services left the chambers at 3.50pm.

Cr. Ribarits

1. Enquired as to whether a letter of thanks had been sent to the Lions Club for undertaking works at the playground at Gol Go.

(The Director Infrastructure & Assets advised that only a verbal communication had been undertaken).

Moved Crs. Nichols and McKinnon that a letter of thanks be sent to the Lions Club.

CARRIED

2. Advised that she was aware that a changeover of one of Council's vehicles, namely the Director Corporate & Community Services, was undertaken at 70,000kms and asked how far does a vehicle travel before it is traded, whether Council got a good deal for the vehicle and whether the changeover was undertaken at a good time.

(The Director Infrastructure & Assets advised that vehicles are normally changed over at a maximum of 60,000kms. Both the distance and age at changeover depends on the market, operational requirements and future values. Some vehicles are moved around within the fleet from time to time to improve fleet efficiency).

Cr. McKinnon

1. Advised that identification of Council's vehicles needs to be progressed with stickers on the sides of vehicles. He advised that residents and ratepayers need to know where staff are going and it would also identify if some vehicles are not being kept in a clean and tidy condition. He indicated that there needs to be a professional and distinctive presence in the community.

(The Director Infrastructure & Assets advised that the vehicle stickers are being produced).

(The Mayor enquired as to whether Councillor McKinnon required the WSC number plates plus the magnetic logo).

Councillor McKinnon agreed that both should be undertaken and indicated that this would identify the ranger in the area, commercial type vehicles out in the community etc.

(The General Manager advised that the whole issue of car changeovers will be pursued using professional advice and take into consideration benchmarking against other like Councils).

The Director Corporate & Community Services resumed her chair at 4.08pm.

Cr. Ribarits

1. Indicated that the Mildura Rural City Council have a Fleet Manager and that this would be beneficial for this Council.
(The General Manager advised that Council has been pursuing an in-house Fleet Manager's position for some time. He indicated that private firms also provided this service and their services will be considered by Council).
2. Enquired as to whether the current Financial Accountant is leaving the Council and whether the position will be re-advertised.
(The Director Corporate & Community Services advised that this is true and that she had been offered a better position at the Mildura Rural City Council.)
(The General Manager indicated that Council will be advertising this position).
Councillor Ribarits also questioned whether the Financial Accountant had been the first in this position and how long had she been working for the Council.
(The Director Corporate & Community Services advised that this was the second staff member to undertake the duties of the Financial Accountant and that the current staff member had been working for the Council for approximately 2 years).

Cr. King

1. Regarding the matter of the motor vehicle policy and packages to Senior Staff, if there is X amount of dollars that Council has approved for employment of staff, why can't the General Manager use that money to deliver X amount of staff and why can't the General Manager make the deals within the budget amount including vehicles.

Cr. Nichols

1. With the current down turn in economy, the caretakers at Fort Courage are suffering with the lack of tourists and it does not make it easier when there are no signs indicating where Fort Courage is situated. Could there be a sign erected within the Wentworth aerodrome fenceline to indicate the direction of Fort Courage.
(The Director Infrastructure & Assets advised that a sign will be erected in the near future).
2. Requested a report on vacant undeveloped land in the Dareton township. She had been advised that certain building groups were interested in housing provision in Dareton.
(The Director Development & Environment indicated that there was vacant land in Devenport Street).
3. Requested a report on the variations in last year's budget with respect to petrol and diesel fuels and whether the variation has been taken into consideration.
4. With the new peaking power plant at Buronga a lot of articles have appeared in the press with concerns that the plant will be using 1,000,000 litres of diesolene and that Council should be pursuing solar power as it is cleaner and greener.
(The Mayor advised that presentations had been made at a Council meeting).
(The Director Development & Environment advised that the State Government is the consent authority with Council being a referral authority only. The project documents are available at the Council's front counter for perusal).

Cr. Ward

1. Requested that a “wish list” be created for footpaths to be constructed along Tapio and Hume Streets Dareton to assist the children walking to school and that at least one side could be included in next year’s budget for completion.
2. Enquired as to whether there is any information on granny flats able to be built in backyards and if there is a size requirement.

(The Director Development & Environment advised that Baulkham Hills Council has developed their own Development Control Plan for dual occupancy, but as yet their proposal for changes to their LEP have not been consented to by the Minister).

Cr. McKinnon

1. Advised that a cement pillar on the corner of Adams and Sandwych Street Wentworth was leaning over at a dangerous angle and could fall over at any time. The pillar weighs at least half a tonne and Council needs to advise the owners of the dangers to public safety.

(The Director Infrastructure & Assets advised that the owners had been spoken to and have also been written to regarding the leaning cement pillar).

Cr. King

1. Indicated that he was aware that the fence height requirement within the Shire was 1.2m and that approval was needed for fences to be erected that are to be higher than 1.2m, and advised that a new fence two houses down from the Two Rivers Motel was at least 2 metres high and enquired as to whether approval had been sought from the Council for its erection.

(The Director Development & Environment advised that he will investigate this matter).

The General Manager replied to an earlier question that Councillor King raised in regard to the motor vehicle policy. He indicated that the motor vehicle policy was under review and as it currently stood, there was little flexibility in the policy to allow the General Manager to make any counter offers to retain staff.

Cr. Ribarits

1. Requested that a special meeting be called or an urgent item raised in Closed Council, to discuss the matter of staff possibly leaving the organisation because of Council’s current car policy.

(The General Manager advised that a discussion in Closed Council would be beneficial).

Cr. Nichols

1. Indicated that the current policy cannot be changed as the Council is in “caretaker mode”.

Cr. McKinnon

1. Enquired what is the different between Local Government and the private sector with regards to motor vehicles. He indicated that staff are blackmailing the Council when they indicate they need a motor vehicle.

(Councillor King indicated there is a vast different between the two sectors and Wentworth Shire cannot get good employees on the salary they are offering unless they include a motor vehicle).

Cr Macri

1. Some 5 years ago he raised the matter of the Gabion cages near the wharf had star pickets protruding and had punctured a boat when it moored at the wharf. He indicated that the star pickets need to be removed or a tilt slab put in front of them.

(The Mayor advised that money had been put aside in this year's budget for the repairs to the gabion cages).

(The Director Infrastructure & Assets advised that grant funding had been requested for the new work from NSW Maritime).

2. Advised that the gutters at Alcheringa Pavilion were full of dirt and that some of the hangers needed to be replaced.

Mayor

1. Advised that the public toilets near the Rowing Club had a large amount of graffiti on the walls and ceilings and that painting needed to be undertaken immediately and that consideration be given to locking the toilets after 5pm.

(The Director Infrastructure & Assets advised that when a building or property had been defaced with graffiti, the property is painted with anti-graffiti paint.

(Councillor McKinnon indicated that it is Council's policy that graffiti is to be removed immediately)

(Councillor Wheeldon indicated that the matter should be reported to the Police).

(Councillor Macri indicated that stainless steel should be mounted on the walls to refrain would-be graffiti artists from defacing Council's property and would also allow easier removal of graffiti).

Councillor Ward gave a verbal reflection on his years as a Councillor due to the fact that he will not be standing for Council at the 13 September elections.

15. NEXT MEETING

- 24 September 2008

16. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

16.1 WILLOWBEND CARAVAN PARK LEASE

Responsible Officer: General Manager
Author: Acting General Manager
Implications: Governance
File Reference: P1382/0-04
Attachments: Nil
Separately Circ.: Confidential Report
Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

- a) That Council resolves to go into closed council to consider this item together with any later reports tabled at the meeting.

- b) That pursuant to section 10A (1)-(3) 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)(c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.
- c) That the correspondence and reports relevant to the subject businesses be withheld from access to the media and public as required by section 11(2) of the Local Government Act 1993.

Purpose

To consider the recommended resolution detailed above, concerning possible future termination of the lease of the Willow Bend caravan park for non compliance.

Summary

Council as trustee of the Reserve needs to ensure the compliance with the terms of the lease approved by the Minister administering the Crown Lands Act, 1989 for the Willow Bend caravan park. In the event that the Lessee is in default of the Lease and termination of the Lease should become necessary, Council as Reserve Trustee, needs to be able to act expeditiously and effectively to ensure the ongoing operation of the caravan park.

Report

The previous report in relation to the termination of the lease of the Willow Bend Caravan park has been separately circulated.

The matter and information relates to the following:

- (c) *Information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.*

This matter is classified confidential because it is not in the public interest to reveal the details of matters relating to the hardship of a ratepayer.

Moved Crs. Ward and Macri that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

16.2 Council's Motor Vehicle Policy

Moved Councillors King and Wakefield:-

- a) That Council's motor vehicle policy and how it applies to the retention of a particular staff member be admitted for urgent consideration and referred to Closed Council in accordance with Section 10A(2)(a) "Personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than Councillors)".***

Note: the Mayor invited the gallery to make representations as to whether the meeting should be closed in relation to items 16.1 and 16.2. No representations made.

Closed Council

Council closed its meeting to consider items 16.1 and 16.2 at 4.58pm. The public and media left the chamber.

Moved Crs. King and Wheeldon that Council move out of Closed council and move into Open Council.

CARRIED

Open Council

Council went into open Council at 5.50pm.

The Mayor read out the following resolutions from Closed Council:-

16.1. Willowbend Caravan Park Lease

That in the event that Bundeena Pty. Limited as the Lessee should be in default of payment of monies payable under the Lease dated 12th December, 2003 or not in compliance with the Lease terms, once a notice has been served upon the Lessee, for more than 14 days, that the Mayor and the General Manger, shall have the authority to terminate the Lease and to take such action as permitted by the Lease and at law.

16.2 Motor Vehicle Policy

That Council resolve to authorise the General Manager to negotiate packaging arrangements with a staff member, pursuing the option of increased salary in the first instance as well as possible full private use of motor vehicle for the purpose of retaining that staff member.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 5.51pm.