



MINUTES

ORDINARY MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING
COMMENCING 2.00PM

21 MAY 2008

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2. OPENING OF MEETING AND PRAYER**3. PRESENT**

COUNCILLORS: Margaret Thomson (*Mayor*), Sue Nichols (*Deputy Mayor*), Mark King, 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**Recommendation**

That the applications for leave as submitted below be approved:-

- Councillor Macri
- Councillor McKinnon

Moved Crs. Wheeldon and King that the applications be received and noted.

CARRIED

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**Recommendation**

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

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

CARRIED

Recommendation

That the minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held 13 May 2008 be adopted as circulated.

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

CARRIED

6. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr. Wakefield advised that he may have a conflict of interest with Item 12.6.3 as an Uncle (family member) is undertaking the business.

7. PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS**7.1 Petition – Request to Seal Approach and Standing Area at Wentworth Aerodrome**

Author: General Manager
Implications: Management Plan
File Reference: C14/13-4
Attachments: Petition
Separately Circ.: Nil
Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

- a. That the petition be received and noted.
- b. That the principal signatory be informed of Council's deliberations in relation to the Management Plan 2008/09 and current work being undertaken by the Council's Wentworth Aerodrome Committee in relation to future planning.

Purpose

To advise Council of a petition received by the General Manager on 9 May 2008.

Summary

If the petition for sealing of the approach and standing area at the Wentworth Aerodrome fuel facility was accepted, there would need to be a budgetary consideration of approximately \$100,000, depending on the area involved.

Report

Council has received a petition from the users of the Wentworth Aerodrome requesting that sealing of the approach and the standing area at the fuel facility be undertaken. As indicated in the petition, the unsealed surface is deemed to be dangerous thus necessitating aircraft to be manhandled into position for refuelling to avoid damage to propellers and equipment/persons in the vicinity.

Director Infrastructure & Assets Comments

This area could be sealed as part of the proposed sealing of the runway, parking and taxiways etc. Alternatively, it could be done as a separate project. Ground levels have been done and preliminary designs arranged. Details will be reported back to Council once completed.

Policy and Management Plan Implications

There is no budget item for sealing of the approach or standing area at the Wentworth Aerodrome. However, an evaluation on future planning is being carried out through the Wentworth Aerodrome Committee.

Conclusion

It is appropriate to receive the petition and advise that future planning of the Wentworth Aerodrome will be evaluated during 2008/2009.

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

CARRIED

8. MAYORAL REPORTS**8.1 APPOINTMENTS BY THE MAYOR FROM 17 APRIL TO 21 MAY 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 receive and note the report.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of meetings / conferences / appointments undertaken by the Mayor for the period 17 April to 21 May 2008.

Report

Date	Conference/Appointment
17 Apr	Launch of ABC NewsRadio in Mildura Lunch with Country Energy at Depot
18 Apr	First Anniversary Celebrations of Sunraysia Cancer Resources
22 Apr	Mayoral Meeting Close the Gap Fundraiser, Coomealla Health Aboriginal Corporation
25 Apr	ANZAC Day services Curlwaa & Wentworth
28 Apr	Resilient Agribusiness Workshop Trinity Lutheran School program launch
29 Apr	Regional Development Board meeting, Deniliquin Access Mildura Fundraising Launch
1 May	Community Consultation meeting Pooncarie
4 May	AIBG Fundraising Lunch
6 May	Budget Workshop for Councillors - budget
8 May	West Darling Arts meeting Broken Hill
12 May	Resilient Agribusiness meeting Meeting to discuss Timbercorp Tour of the Murray
13 May	Extraordinary Council meeting budget & Management Plan
14 May	RAMROC meeting Jerilderie
16 May	Meeting with Mallee Family Care
19 May	Resilient Agribusiness meeting

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

CARRIED

8.2 POSSIBLE CONFLICT OF INTEREST OR PECUNIARY INTEREST

Responsible Officer: Mayor
Author: Mayor
Implications: Nil
File Reference: G3/13
Attachments: Nil
Separately Circ.: Nil
Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the report.

Purpose

To advise Council of legal advice received in relation to a possible conflict of interest or pecuniary interest.

Report

As a result of questions raised over a number of months by Councillors in relation to my possible conflict of interest concerning Council decisions on water restrictions I sought legal advice.

On 20 February 2008 I informed Council that I would pursue legal advice and sought comment as to any particular issues that needed to be considered. I can now report that I have obtained independent legal advice, at my own expense, from Maddocks Lawyers who are well renowned Local Government specialists.

Maddocks has concluded that I do not have a pecuniary interest in regard to Western Murray Irrigation as follows:

1. Council water services and Western Murray Irrigation water are not interchangeable.
2. Council has no control nor influence over use or allocation of Western Murray Irrigation water.
3. Both Western Murray Irrigation and Council water are subject to NSW State Government controls which therefore prohibits Council's intervention.

Maddocks also advised me that the Pecuniary Interest Tribunal made a determination in the case Roberts/Hastings Council (1/995) that it is the person in question (namely myself) who is to decide whether a conflict exists, not the other Councillors nor the General Manager.

I was also advised that they are unable to find that I hold a non pecuniary conflict of interest in this matter, that my annual Pecuniary Interest Return was completed properly, and they noted the inclusion of my husband's interest in WMI on the return.

I believe that this legal advice will end this matter.

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

CARRIED

8.3 PROPOSED PLANNING REFORMS

Responsible Officer: Mayor
Implications: Nil
File Reference: L1/8-4
Attachments: Nil
Separately Circ.: Nil
Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

That Council considers the motion contained in this report.

Purpose

To inform Council of a request from the Local Government Shires Association (LGSA) to pass a motion in relation to the implementation of the State Government's Draft Exposure Bills (Planning Changes).

Summary

That Council has been asked to consider the following motion in light of proposed planning changes being made by the State Government:

"That given that many of the State Government's proposed changes to planning, outlined in the Draft Exposure Bills released on 3 April, will have far reaching implications for local communities; the views of relevant stakeholders have been ignored; and that private companies and developers stand to significantly benefit from the new laws, Wentworth Shire Council calls for:

- *A freeze on the implementation of The State Government's Draft Exposure Bills (Planning Changes); and*
- *A Parliamentary Inquiry into the NSW State Government's Draft Exposure Bills (planning changes). "*

Report

Background from the LGSA:

In October last year the NSW State Government announced its intention to implement a revised Development (Infrastructure) Contributions Framework, which would reduce the amount of funds councils could collect from developers to help build essential local facilities such as playgrounds, childcare facilities and community centres. The revised framework would also see the State Government:-

- limit the types of infrastructure councils could collect levies for, and;
- take control of the developer levies from growth centre councils, and other Councils on a case by case basis.

In response to strong objections from the LGSA, councils and the community, the government has made some concessions in relation to the funding of community

infrastructure and has advised that it would only take control of the funds from the six growth centre councils.

Despite this, the amount that can be collected from development levies will still be reduced and the range of facilities to which the funds will be applied will be more restricted. Further, councils will no longer have the option to levy s94 contributions in established areas but will have to resort to the more limited contributions under 94A.

Developers have been lobbying for the revised framework for some time, which if implemented will significantly benefit them through the opportunity for increased profit.

Separately to this, in November last year the Government released its *Discussion Paper on the Planning Reform Agenda*, which outlined 90 recommended changes to the NSW Planning system.

The paper was put on exhibition over the Christmas/New Year break, which limited the opportunity for response.

Even though 538 submissions were received, Department of Planning officials were given just a week to consider them before the draft legislation was finalised.

Local Government, in its submission, raised a number of concerns with the changes, including:

An expanded role for private companies (private certifiers);

- The implementation of various Panels and arbitrators, controlled by the Minister for Planning, to make local planning decisions; and
- The expansion of exempt and complying development, which would remove the communities' right to have a say over much of the development in their neighbourhood.

These views were shared by many other industry and community bodies.

The Draft Exposure Bills were released on 3 April 2008, and despite the wide ranging concerns expressed by councils, the community and other stakeholders, were not amended to reflect the concerns of relevant stakeholders. The strongly opposed revised developer levies framework was also included in the bills.

The laws will:

- add more layers of red tape and cost ratepayer's millions of dollars to implement;
- take decisions away from local communities; and
- impact on councils' ability to provide crucial services.

Yet the Government has only exhibited the draft laws for 3 weeks before it intends to pass them.

Many of the laws will benefit private companies and developers.

As a result there are questions over the motivation for the Government's changes to the NSW planning system, which are being rushed through and with disregard to the views of communities, councils and other stakeholders - who will have to live with the implications of the changes.

Moved Crs. Ward and Ribarits:-

That given that many of the State Government's proposed changes to planning, outlined in the Draft Exposure Bills released on 3 April, will have far reaching implications for local communities; the views of relevant stakeholders have been ignored; and that private companies and developers stand to significantly benefit from the new laws, Wentworth Shire Council calls for:

- *A freeze on the implementation of The State Government's Draft Exposure Bills (Planning Changes); and*
- *A Parliamentary Inquiry into the NSW State Government's Draft Exposure Bills (planning changes).*

CARRIED

9. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

10. DELEGATES REPORTS

Nil

11. COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS**11.1 REPORT OF THE AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING – WEDNESDAY 16 APRIL 2008**

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate & Community Services
Author: Director Corporate & Community Services
Implications: Management Plan
File Reference: F4/1-3
Attachments: Nil
Separately Circ.: Nil
Tabled: Minutes of the Audit & Risk Management committee meeting
16/4/08

Recommendation

1. That Council notes the minutes of Audit and Risk Management Committee Meeting held on 16 April 2008.
2. That Council resolves that the General Manager prepares a report on Outstanding Leave commitments, including options to address the situation.

Purpose

To advise Council of recommendations from the Audit & Risk Management Committee meeting held on 16 April 2008.

Summary

The minutes are self explanatory.

Report

The Audit & Risk Management Committee dealt with the interim report from Council's external auditors. The Committee raised concerns about outstanding leave entitlements for a number of staff as a result of an accumulation over the last decade.

A report to address outstanding leave has been reported to this meeting.

Policy and Management Plan Implications

The issue of outstanding leave will require careful managing over the next few years and is subject to a separate report to this meeting.

Conclusion

Nil.

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

CARRIED

11.2 REPORT OF THE TRAFFIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 11 FEBRUARY 2008

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

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the minutes of the Local Traffic Meeting held 11 February 2008, and approves any actions contained in the report.

Purpose

To advise Council of the business raised in the Traffic Facilities Committee meeting.

Repo

**LOCAL TRAFFIC MEETING - MINUTES
OPERATIONS MEETING ROOM
WENTWORTH COUNCIL OFFICES
11th February 2008**

PRESENT: J. Foster RTA, P Hastie RTA, G Carthew RTA, Cr. Jim Macri Ministers Representative, Cr. Warren Ward, Inspector Mark Rowney, Police, Bill Turner Wentworth Shire Council, Roy Harvey Wentworth Shire Council

APOLOGIES: G. Flynn, Police

No.	ITEM	OUTCOME
Moved Seconded	Previous Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr. Jim Macri • Inspector Mark Rowney
00:91	Highway Access to Silver City Hwy, Mourquong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R.T.A. to notify developer of any extra conditions for final approval.
00:98	Hollands Lake Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold Over – Minor alteration made to signs and guidepost.
00:102	Intersection Signage Upgrade on Highway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On going R.T.A. to assist with design
00:103	Reassurance Sign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council to assist with the update
07:02	Public Transport Bus Route, Buronga Gol Gol, Mildura	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council and Sunraysia Bus Lines develop signage system for Buronga & Gol Gol commuter bus route • Bus company to assist with • Funding of signage
07:07	Tourism Signage	Report be reviewed when completed
07:11	Digital Speed Display Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey conducted in conjunction with Ellerslie School. Report on result to next meeting
08:01	Midway Drive, Midway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linemark Midway Drive, place raised pavement on centreline mark Install concrete median between Broadstock Court and entrance to carpark to Midway
08:02	<p>A.B. Triple Trial, Broken Hill to Gingko Mine A request has been made by BASIN Sands Logistics to operate A.B. Triple transport between Broken Hill and the Gingko Mine, west of Pooncarie. The Silver City Hwy has been gazetted for B Triple combination, a separate application is required for A.B. Triples. To operate a A.B. Triple on either Councils Road or the Silver City Hwy the operator will need to meet the requirements of the "Intelligent Access Program. This will include the R.T.A.'s approval of the vehicle configuration and consent of the road authorities (R.T.A . & Council).</p> <p>The routes these vehicles are to operate need to have a pavement design to suit the vehicle combination. An on site evaluation will need to be undertaken prior to any approval be given. (Ref to Photo's)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The application and trial meet with the R.T.A. guideline (Intelligent Access Program) • Council to support the application • Mr. Radford to supply Council with a bi-monthly road condition report.

No.	ITEM	OUTCOME
08:03	Tour of the Murray, Cycle Race	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A preliminary events program to be obtained for Mr. J. Craven, Caribou Publication. • Mr. Craven to be notified of Council of his intention. • Traffic requirements and Management to be discussed at the next meeting.
08:04	Mildura – Coomealla Cycling Club Mildura / Coomealla Cycling Club have requested permission to run their cycling event on the Fletchers Lake circuit, Arumpo Road circuit and Coomealla circuit.	The cycle club will need to develop a set of guidelines in conjunction with the R.T.A'S Guideline for "Bicycle Road Race". Once the guidelines have been approved, the Mildura / Coomealla Cycling Club have permission to run these events for the following 12 month period
08:05	Kerbing, Silver City Hwy, between Turner and Oram Crescent Buronga.	On site inspection – provide parking lane.
08:06	Subdivision – Sturt Hwy Buronga (B. Watson)	On site inspection – Plan of kerb and median location be prepared for concurrency between Council & R.T.A..
08:07	Road Freight Forum	Council RTA & Police to arrange an "information Forum" to be held at Wentworth. R.T.A. will provide staff to inform trucking industry of changing regulation & Freight Management.
	Mourquong Road, Silver City Highway, Intersection access arrangement.	Improve sight and distance.
	Next Meeting Date	5th May 2008

Moved Crs. Wakefield and Ward that the recommendation be adopted and that an audit be undertaken of problematic intersections particularly Mourquong Road/Silver City Highway.

CARRIED

11.3 REPORT ON THE WENTWORTH REGIONAL TOURISM INC. MEETING HELD 7 APRIL 2008

Author: Wentworth Regional Tourism Inc.
 Implications: Nil
 File Reference: E1/12-7
 Attachments: Nil
 Separately Circ.: Minutes of WRTI 7 April 2008
 Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

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

Purpose

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

Report

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

- Correspondence In
- General Business
- Items for Discussion – Wentworth Grande restaurant opening, Cr. Nichols re bus transport, Courtesy Bus, moteliers tariffs, the Great Outdoors visit, Ruby information, Wentworth tourism Booklet, 150 years logo by Wentworth Primary School, Inland NSW Tourism Awards 2008, Australian Traveller, Broken Hill Brochure, Country Music Festival, Navigational Proposal, Melbourne Caravan & Camping Show, LGSA Tourism Conference NSW.

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

CARRIED

11.4 REPORT ON THE AUSTRALIAN INLAND BOTANIC GARDENS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 7 APRIL 2008

Author: Mayor
Implications: Nil
File Reference: R9/5-2
Attachments: Nil
Separately Circ.: Minutes of the AIBG 7 April 2008
Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the minutes of the Australian Inland Botanic Gardens Committee meeting held 7 April 2008.

Purpose

To advise Council of the business undertakings of the Australian Inland Botanic Gardens.

Report

The minutes of the AIBG Committee meeting which were held on Monday 7 April 2008 at MADEC's Wesley Complex Mildura are submitted for the information of Council and include the following:-

- Eco Learning Centre
- Long Lunch
- Heritage Trees
- Correspondence Inwards
- Correspondence Outwards
- President's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Director's report
- Sub-Committees Report
- Friends of the Garden Report
- General Business including:-
 1. Acknowledgement of Major Sponsors – Coomealla Club & Bendigo Bank Board
 2. Men in a Shed Application
 3. Biosphere Funds

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

CARRIED

11.5 REPORT ON THE CEMETERIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 13 MAY 2008

Responsible Officer: Director Infrastructure & Assets
Author: Director Infrastructure & Assets
Implications: Management Plan
File Reference: L1/1
Attachments: Nil
Separately Circ.: Nil
Tabled: Minutes of the Cemeteries Committee meeting held 13 May 2008

Recommendation

That the report be received and noted.

Purpose

To advise of the recommendations made by the Cemeteries Committee meeting held 13 May 2008. A supplementary report will be tabled.

11.5 SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT - CEMETERIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 13 MAY 2008

Responsible Officer: Director Infrastructure & Assets
Author: Director Infrastructure & Assets
File Reference: L1/1
Attachments: Nil
Separately Circ.: Nil
Tabled: Minutes of the Cemeteries Committee meeting held 13 May 2008

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the minutes of the Cemeteries Committee meeting held 13 May 2008, and adopts the following recommendations:-

1. That Mr Carrazza be advised that as a result of information from the Department of Lands, the potential impact of the proposed mausoleum, and the need for public consultation, his proposal cannot be implemented.
2. That further information be provided to the Department of Lands to contest the classification of the proposed extension to land at the Coomealla Memorial Gardens as High Value Agricultural.
3. That Council refunds the actual amount paid for cemetery reservations in circumstances where genuine reasons exist.

Purpose

To advise of the recommendations made by the Cemeteries Committee meeting held 13 May 2008

Report

Mausoleum at Gol Gol Cemetery

The Department of Lands advised that a mausoleum as originally proposed by Mr Tony Carrazza has significant difficulties and as such the proposal cannot be implemented.

Land Acquisition – Coomealla Memorial Gardens

The Department of Natural Resources was not in favour of the Council acquiring additional land for an extension of the Coomealla Memorial Gardens, the main reason being the considerable area still to be developed on the land already owned by the Council.

Consideration of Policy for Refunds for Cemetery Reservations

A recent enquiry from a person who has a burial plot and now wishes to be cremated has identified that Council does not have a policy on refunds where there is a change of circumstances. It is clearly unreasonable not to provide a refund in circumstances where the reservation is no longer required and the reasons are clearly genuine

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

CARRIED

12. OFFICERS' REPORTS

12.1 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: GOVERNANCE

12.1.1 Reduction Of Councillor Numbers

Responsible Officer: General Manager
Author: General Manager
Implications: Policy and Management Plan
File Reference: G3/4-3
Attachments: Nil
Separately Circ.: Nil
Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

That Council considers the Minister for Local Government's offer to apply for reduction in the number of Councillors by 30 June 2008.

Purpose

To consider advice from the Minister for Local Government, Paul Lynch MP, in relation to the application for reduction in Councillor numbers.

Summary

An offer has been made by the Minister for Local Government to allow councils to reduce their councilor numbers without having to go to a referendum.

Report

Councils in New South Wales have been given the opportunity to reduce the number of Councillors elected at this year's Local Government elections. These elections will be held in September of this year.

Under an Amendment to the Local Government Act 1993, Councils have the opportunity to drop the number of Councillors without having to resort to holding a Constitutional Referendum.

The Minister for Local Government, in a recent press released, stated that "having a smaller number of Councillors allows Councils and ratepayers to save money with Councillor fees and the cost of administrative support."

The Minister went on to say that a similar opportunity in 2005 resulted in 21 Councils deciding to reduce 46 Councillor positions.

The opportunity to reduce the Councillor numbers would be qualified by the following restrictions:-

- Councils undertake consultation
- Councils must not have less than 5 Councillors

Councils have until 30 June 2008 to apply for a reduction in Councillor numbers.

Policy and Management Plan Implications

A reduction of Councillor numbers would require an adjustment to the Management Plan.

Conclusion

The offer from the Minister in relation to reduction of Councillor numbers is a matter for Council's consideration. Council may conclude to advise the Minister that it has decided as follows:

"That Council advises the Minister for Local Government that it has considered his offer to reduce councilor numbers and decided to maintain the current number of nine councilors."

Moved Crs. Nichols and King that the report be received and noted.

CARRIED

12.1.2 Continuation of Funding for the Local Government NRM Facilitator Program

Responsible Officer: General Manager
Author: General Manager
Implications: Nil
File Reference: E6/2-2
Attachments: Nil
Separately Circ.: Achievements of NSW Local Govt NRM Facilitator position
Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

That Council writes to the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment the Hon. Peter Garrett MP and the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries the Hon. Tony Burke MP seeking the reinstatement of the NRM Facilitator position.

Purpose

To advise Council of the announced withdrawal of funding by the Commonwealth Government for the position of NRM Facilitator.

Summary

The LGSA are seeking Council's support in reinstating the NRM Facilitator position and writing to the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment the Hon. Peter Garrett MP and the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries the Hon. Tony Burke M.

Report

The commonwealth funded Local government Natural Resource Management (NRM) Facilitator program provides funding to each State Association and the ALGA to employ an NRM Facilitator. The program has been successfully running for 5 years, however the Commonwealth Government has announced that program funding will cease on 30 June 2008.

Apart from the LGSA making representations to various Ministers, the ALGA has also made representations on behalf of all State Associations.

The current activities of the NRM Facilitator includes working with all 152 Councils across New South Wales on a range of Natural Resource Management issues, including biodiversity, native vegetation, weeds, and catchment management across all levels of Government.

Some specific roles of the position include:-

- Co-ordination of an NRM email group which includes over 500 members, and preparation of a regular e-newsletter (NRM Update for Local Government) sent to this group; (Wentworth Shire Council is not included in the email group)
- Pursuing grant opportunities for projects to assist NSW Local Government;
- Liaising between the commonwealth, State and Local Government on environmental issues;
- Organising information and training sessions for Councils, including workshops on relevant State & Federal NRM legislation, such as *Threatened*

Species Conservation Act, Native Vegetation Act, Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, Noxious Weeds Act and Fisheries Management Act.

- Providing opportunities for Councils to raise NRM issues, including organising regular Local Government NRM Forums (2003, 2006 & 2007) to identify opportunities for CMAs, Local Government, NSW & Australian Government's to work collaboratively.

Specific projects which the NRM Facilitator has initiated and secured funding to deliver include:-

- *Local Government Capacity Building in NRM project* – Focussing on small, less resourced Councils in rural and regional areas of inland New South Wales (\$250,000)
- *Integrating NRM into Local Government Land-use Planning Project* – Focussing on improving the link between regional NRM plans and local Council statutory land use planning (\$400,000)

Policy and Management Plan Implications

Nil

Conclusion

The loss of funding for the NRM facilitator position will result in the stopping or slowing of many natural resource management initiatives.

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

CARRIED

12.1.3 Review Of NSW Local Government Investments

Responsible Officer:	Director Corporate & Community Services
Author:	Director Corporate & Community Services
Implications:	Investment Policy - Management Plan
File Reference:	F4/8-3
Attachments:	Nil
Separately Circ.:	Review of NSW Local Government Investments – Final Report Investment Policy
Tabled:	Nil

Recommendation

That Council notes the recommendations contained in the Cole Inquiry Report and the positioning of Council in respect to each recommendation.

Purpose

To inform Council of the Recommendations in the Cole Report.

Summary

The NSW Treasurer commissioned a review of NSW Local Government Investments following the significant write downs of a number of NSW Council's investment portfolios resulting from exposure to structured financial products.

The NSW Government will adopt all eight recommendations in the Cole Report.

The Wentworth Shire Council investments were not exposed to structured financial products and the impact of the sub-prime crisis.

Report

The NSW Treasurer commissioned a Review of NSW Local Government Investments in response to concerns that a number of Council's had experienced significant write downs to their investment portfolio resulting from exposure to structured financial products including collateralized debt obligations (CDO's) and the impact of the sub-prime crisis. The Inquiry was undertaken by Michael Cole.

The Terms of Reference for the inquiry were:

Confirm the total exposure of Councils who had invested in structured financial products such as CDO's and the nature of these (such as frequency of trading, specific structured product holdings and terms to maturity);

Assess the extent to which restricted and unrestricted council funds are being invested in structured products and

Assess, in the context of total investment practices of NSW Councils, the extent that unrealized losses from structured investments are threatening the financial position of individual Councils and consider options.

The final report on the Review was issued on 2 April 2008 and is attached for information. The NSW Government has adopted all the recommendations from the Cole Report.

Recommendation 1

All investment instruments (debentures, securities, stocks and deposits, but excluding discount instruments such as bills of exchange) in the Investment Order be defined to include both principal and investment income.

Comment:

The form of investments currently permitted by Councils in NSW is set out in the Investment Order under s625 of the Local Government Act 1993. In certain categories of investments it is common for only the principal investment amount to be credit rated or bank guaranteed. It is quite common for the returns on these products to be linked to the share market.

Council does not have investments in these products.

Recommendation 2

All existing investments by NSW Councils that may be excluded by any proposed changes to the Investment Order are to be grandfathered. For the avoidance of

doubt, existing securities that became ultra virus under the proposed amendments to the Investment Order can continue to be held to maturity, redeemed or sold, but new investments must comply with the amended Investment Order.

Comment:

The Investment Order amendments will limit any new investments to Bank Term Deposits, Credit Union or Building Society Deposits, and Treasury Corporation Hour Glass Investment Facilities (T-Corp).

Council's current investments are with Banks, Credit Unions and Local Government Financial Services in rolling short term investments.

Recommendation 3

Product manufacturers /distributors should be excluded from being appointed investment advisors to Councils.

Comment:

Council receives current available interest rates from a range of Credit Unions and Banks on a daily basis. We do not use external advisers for our investments.

Recommendation 4

Investments specified in k) and l) of the Investment Order be suspended for the period to 31/12/2009 and be subject to a further review after this period to determine the relevance of using a credit ratings based to determine authorized investments, particularly in light of the current CDO credit experience

Comment

The impact of this recommendation is to prohibit investments in any new security products regardless of the rating. This will include managed funds type investments.

Council does not have any of these investments.

The Cole report specifically references Managed Funds in section 4.32. "...NSW Councils have over \$2.42 billion invested in Managed Funds rated A or higher. This is considered a responsible investment strategy and the diminution in market value has been around 3%. This investment option for new funds will no longer be available but a number of the same managers maybe used by TCorp as external managers of their Hour Glass products.

Recommendation 5

It is recommended that the partial deregulation model operating in NSW be retained with the modifications suggested in recommendations 1-7.

Comment

Queensland Local Government operates under a centralized and prescriptive model. Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia operate under a de-centralised and non-prescriptive model.

Recommendation 5 represents a continuation of the status quo.

Recommendation 6

It is most important that the Council's fiduciary responsibility in relation to investment activities under the Local Government Act 1993 should be reinforced strongly. All participants should be made explicitly aware of the obligations under the NSW Trustee Act 1925, and are requested to sign to acknowledge the same. Inclusion of the relevant sections of the Trustee Act in the Investment Order may also assist in this regard. In particular, it is important that long term assets including Section 94 funds are invested in a manner consistent with meeting future liabilities, on the basis that the nominal return sought is consistent with an acceptable level of investment risk.

Comment

The obligation for finance professionals to comply with the NSW Trustee Act is not a new requirement. This will be included in Council's Investment Policy when reviewed. Council's investments are considered short term to take advantage of the upward spiral of interest rates in the current economy.

Recommendation 7

With regards to the Investment Order section (m), permitted investments in securities should explicitly exclude subordinated obligations. The permitted investments under (m) must rank pari passu (hand in hand) with deposits of the same group entities; under (f) mortgages over land should be restricted to first mortgages with a Loan to Value ratio of no greater than 60% and under (g), permitted land investments are to explicitly exclude ASX listed property trust investments.

Comment

Council's investment portfolio does not contain any securities with subordinated obligations.

Recommendation 8

The NSW Department of Local Government should give consideration to releasing a document, similar in content to the Western Australian Department of Local Government and Regional Development, Investment Policy – Local Government Operational Guidelines – Number 19, February (refer Appendix C). Further as noted in this document, there are deemed to be significant benefits from external monitoring: "a well constructed investment policy with clear objectives will facilitate an external review. The review should act as an intermediary to confirm that the investments explicitly align with the investment policy."

Comment

This is a matter for the Department of Local Government to consider. The NSW Local Government Managers Association – Finance Professionals Special Interest Group has prepared a best practice guide for investments but it appears from the Cole Inquire report that a number of Councils have not followed this guide.

Conclusion

The recommendations contained in the Cole Inquiry report represent a significant restriction in the investment choices available to Councils. This result is not surprising given the potential losses that a number of Councils have incurred resulting primarily from investments in CDO structured products.

Council has not invested in CDO type products with all current investments in Banks, Credit Unions and Local Government Financial Services with all investments not at risk.

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

CARRIED

12.1.4 Shires Association Annual Conference June 2008

Responsible Officer: General Manager
Author: General Manager
Implications: Nil
File Reference: C9/5-2
Attachments: Nil
Separately Circ.: Nil
Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

That Council considers and approves the attendees at the Shires Association Annual Conference in June 2008.

Purpose

To approve the attendees for the Conference.

Summary

Self explanatory.

Report

The Shires Association Annual Conference will be held on 2-4 June 2008 in Sydney and will be preceded by a Mini-Conference held by the Western Division Group of Shires Association on 2 June 2008.

The Shires Association Annual Conference is the main decision making forum for Councils collectively in New South Wales. The Wentworth Shire Council will have a number of motions to be considered at the Conference.

A Mini-Conference of the Western Division Group of the Shires Association will also be held on Monday 2 June in conjunction with a dinner that will be attended by New South Wales State Ministers and Officials. The Mini-Conference will deal with a strategy for the future directions of the Western Division Group of the Shires Association. The consideration of this strategy was initiated by the Wentworth Shire Council.

It is the practice for this Council to be represented at this Conference by the Mayor, General Manager and at least one Councillor.

Policy and Management Plan Implications

Attendance at the Conference has been budgeted for.

Conclusion

The Shires Annual Conference is an important decision making forum and it is important that this Council is represented to deal with a number of motions initiated by the Council.

Moved Crs. King and Ward that the attendance of the Mayor, General Manager, and Councillors Ward and Ribarits be approved.

CARRIED

12.1.5 Councillor Development Strategy

Responsible Officer: General Manager
Author: General Manager
Implications: Nil
File Reference: G3/4-3
Attachments: DLG Circular 08/22
Separately Circ.: Nil
Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

That Council notes the report.

Purpose

To advise of the Councillor Development Strategy prepared by the Department of Local Government.

Summary

The Councillor Development Strategy has been prepared to assist Councillors elected on 13 September 2008 to undertake their role. The strategy is a joint initiative of the Department and the Local Government & Shires Association of New South Wales (the Associations).

Report

The Councillor Development Strategy comprises:-

- A publication for prospective Councillors that includes basic information on the role and responsibilities of being a Councillor and support available;
 - A one-day seminar for Councillors and their General Managers, following the election in September 2008;
 - A publication for newly elected Councillors outlining in more detail their roles and responsibilities, support available to assist them to undertake their role and where to find additional resources;
 - A web-based information directory for Councils and Councillors;
-

- A Practice Note to guide the development of Council-based Councillor induction and on-going Councillor professional development programs.

Department of Local Government Circular 08/22 is attached. In relation to the hosting of the post-Election one day seminar, every chance will be made to have one of the seminars held close to Wentworth. In relation to the Practice Note, Council will make comments to the Department in relation to Council's current Induction Policy.

Policy and Management Plan Implications

The Management Plan 2008/2009 has an increased budget allocation for Councillor Development.

Conclusion

Council currently has a Councillor Induction Policy and the Councillor Development Strategy will be reviewed in conjunction with the policy.

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

CARRIED

12.1.6 Pre-Election Seminars for the Local Government Elections

Responsible Officer: General Manager
Author: General Manager
Implications: Nil
File Reference: G3/6-3
Attachments: Nil
Separately Circ.: Nil
Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

That a Pre-Election Seminar be held in Wentworth at the Memorial Rooms on Thursday, 26 June 2008 commencing at 6.30pm.

Purpose

To advise of a Pre-Election Seminar to be held on 26 June 2008 and conducted by the Wentworth Shire Council.

Summary

Self explanatory.

Report

A Pre-Election Seminar for the forthcoming Local Government Elections in September is to be conducted by the Wentworth Shire Council on Thursday 26 June 2008. Topics to be included will be as follows:-

- Why do I want to become a Councillor?
- What is Local Government?
- What is expected of a Councillor?
- What support is provided to Councillors?
- How do I get elected?

This Seminar will be different from those conducted by the NSW Electoral Commission (which runs the electoral process). The Electoral Commission focuses on the electoral process and this Seminar will focus on the above topics.

The duration of the Seminar will be in the order of 2 hours.

Policy and Management Plan Implications

The Seminar will be conducted by the General Manager and the addresses provided will be generated in-house.

Conclusion

The Pre-Election Seminar conducted by Wentworth Shire Council is in addition to information and election seminars held by the NSW Electoral Commission.

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

CARRIED

12.1.7 Details of Leave Entitlements

Responsible Officer: General Manager
Author: General Manager
Implications: Management Plan, Service Delivery
File Reference: F4/1-3
Attachments: Nil
Separately Circ.: Nil
Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

That Council notes the report and endorses the strategy to reduce outstanding leave entitlements over the next three years by using a combination of additional external contractors or casuals, developing internal staff capacity where feasible and necessary, pursuing a traineeship program and utilizing temporary staffing arrangements.

Purpose

To consider a report on options to deal with the problem of excessive outstanding Annual Leave and Long Service Leave entitlements.

Summary

This report provides a way forward to manage outstanding leave over a three year period.

Report

Council's Audit & Risk Management Committee met on 16 April 2008 and recommended to Council that the issue of excessive leave accumulation, as a result of outstanding Long Service Leave and Annual Leave Entitlement for a number of employees, as raised by Council's Auditors, WHK Thomson Audit Services, be reported to the May Council meeting.

A significant number of employees were identified with leave entitlements greater than 20 days. This was considered excessive by Council's Auditors.

The Auditors recommended that the taking of leave be actively encouraged when there were periods of lesser activity. All Managers are aware of their employee leave entitlements and are managing the process where possible. Employee shortages and workloads have prevented full implementation of this recommendation in some cases.

This is an issue that has concerned Council for many years and the management solution presented looks at tackling the issues over the next three years by using additional external contractors, developing internal staff capacity where feasible and necessary, and pursuing a traineeship program.

Because the three year strategy involves many experienced staff needing to take up to double their normal allocated leave entitlements and the probability that replacement staff or other strategies may not deliver all the results desired, it may be necessary to appoint additional staff on a temporary basis. This will only be considered if the aforementioned strategies do not result in meeting the set leave reduction targets.

The three year strategy is a cheaper option than using more experienced and more highly paid staff. However, it must be acknowledged that the organisation's capacity may be reduced for brief periods when key staff are on extended leave.

To understand the issue at hand the following scenarios are provided:

- A director goes on leave for 8 weeks for the next three years and the strategy to be used is some replacement staff and look for supporting managers to step up.
- An experienced middle manager takes leave for 10 weeks for the next three years and the strategy to be used is to use replacement staff for about 80% of the time with some restructuring of duties within the relevant team.
- A staff member who has occupied an administrative position for many years takes 6 weeks for the next 3 years and the strategy to be used is to replace possibly up to 50% of the time and absorb the balance within existing resources.
- An experienced plant operator takes 10 weeks for the next 3 years and the strategy to be used is to employ a contractor with relevant skills.
- A significant number of staff who are close to the acceptable level must adjust recent trends and take their minimum leave entitlements per annum from now on.

The number of staff who are beyond acceptable levels is 30 which represents approximately 30% of the total staff employed with the Wentworth Shire Council.

The probability of a successful transition over the three year period relies heavily on the following factors:

- All staff, other than those targeted, remain within set acceptable outstanding leave limits, and do not accrue excessive leave
- The capacity and willingness for some staff to step up in terms of responsibility (some teams will be affected more than others)

- The ability of trainees to provide partial support in key areas
- A slowing of staff turnover and less than current industry levels. More staff turnover at any level will have a multiplying effect on some part of the solution being put in place
- The ability of the organisation to attract quality replacements for specific periods of extended leave (this may prove to be very difficult)
- The cost of short term project work being contracted for a reasonable price (can be excessive for return achieved)
- The replacement of existing vacancies in the next few months – currently four key positions are vacant and have been so for an extended period
- The ability of the organisation to respond to the changing demands associated with the recruitment process

Policy and Management Plan Implications

The solution presented may have impacts on service delivery and the Management Plan over the next three years.

Conclusion

The issue of excessive leave must be addressed and managed within a reasonable timeframe in order to conform with industry standards and external audit requirements. The three year option will commence from 1 July 2008.

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

CARRIED

12.1.8 Pooncarie Community Consultation Meeting

Responsible Officer: General Manager
Author: General Manager
Implications: Policy and operational issues
File Reference: C3/19-2
Attachments: Nil
Separately Circ.: Nil
Tabled: Notes from the meeting

Recommendation

That the report be noted.

Purpose

To report on the meeting.

Summary

Self-explanatory.

Report

A community consultation meeting was held on 1 May 2008 in Pooncarie.

The Mayor, Councillors Ribarits and Wheeldon, the General Manager and the Director Infrastructure and Assets attended the meeting. Six residents attended.

The following issues were raised:-

- Condition of Pooncarie-Menindee Road;
- State of the Pooncarie Weir;
- Procedures in relation to road closures;
- Investigation of a sign at the 28 kilometre junction outside of Pooncarie;
- Use of the Pooncarie Hall;
- Consideration of playground equipment for Pooncarie;
- Request for lights in the main street; and
- Investigation of heating for the Pooncarie Hall.

Policy and Management Plan Implications

Some of the issues raised can be dealt with in the current financial year. Other issues will be investigated and reported to Council where appropriate.

Conclusion

Notes from the consultation meeting will be tabled at the meeting.

Moved Crs. Wakefield and King 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 April 2008 were \$90265.50. After allowing for pensioner subsidies, the total Rates and Charges collected are now 69.85% of the levies. A summary of the Rates and Charges situation as at 30 April, 2008 is as follows:-

<u>Levies</u>		
Balance Outstanding at 30 June 2007	853,771.75	
Rates & Charges Levied 14 July 2007	5,332,181.23	6,185,952.98
+ Additional Water Charges	806,981.35	
+ Supplementary Rates & Charges	143,705.82	
+ Additional Charges	52,371.03	
- Credit Adjustments	37,117.46	
- Farmland 20% capped	2,556.72	
- Abandonments	529.70	962,854.32
		7,148,807.30
<u>Deductions</u>		
- Payments	4,839,840.92	
- Less Refunds of Payments	4,157.35	4,835,683.57
- Pensioner Subsidy:-		
Government Subsidy	86,638.74	
Council Subsidy	70,878.24	157,516.98
Total Rates/Water Charges Outstand		\$2,155,606.75

Note: For comparison purposes 73.80% of the levy had been collected at the end of April 2007.

Reconciliation And Balance Of Funds Held As At 30 April, 2008

The reconciliation has been carried out between the Cash Book of each fund and the Bank Pass Sheet as at 30 April 2008 and the investments have been made in accordance with the Act, the regulations and Council's investment policies.

Combined Bank Acc.

Cash Balance as at 1 April, 2008 \$1,858,660.63 Dr

Add: Receipts for Period Ending 30 April, 2008
Rates, Debtors, Miscellaneous 694,416.40

Less: Payments for Period Ending 30 April, 2008
Cash Book entries for this Month 806,259.29

Cash Balance As At 30 April, 2008 \$1,746,817.74 Dr.

Investments

Bank	TD/C.Bill		
LGFS	FI 60 days @ 7.76% due 30/05/2008	968,625.33	
SGE Credit Union	TD 60 days @ 8.20% due 09/05/2008	1,200,000.00	
Savings & Loan Credit Union	TD 30 days @ 7.99% due 14/05/2008	1,300,000.00	

SGE Credit Union	TD 60 days @ 8.11% due 03/06/2008	1,000,000.00	
Bank West (Sydney) Bank	TD 64 days @ 7.81% due 10/06/2008	1,500,000.00	
SGE Credit Union	TD 60 days @ 8.21% due 13/06/2008	1,300,000.00	
Bendigo Bank	TD 60 days @ 7.85% due 16/06/2008	2,000,000.00	9,268,625.33
TOTAL			\$11,015,443.07

Commitments

Details	Amount	
Internal Restrictions	\$	\$
- Employee Entitlements	1,184,079	
- Doubtful Debts	129,946	
- Tip Remediation	125,950	
- Future Development Reserve	298,138	
- Murray Street Acquisition	200,000	
- Plant Replacement Reserve	348,230	
- Water Fund	1,551,934	
- Sewer Fund	614,592	
Total Internal Restrictions		4,452,869
External Restrictions		
- Trust	271,707	
- Developer Contribution Reserve	598,599	
- Unexpended Grants	2,738,453	
Total External Restrictions		3,608,759
Total Commitments as at March 2008		8,061,628

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. Wheeldon and Wakefield that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

12.2.2 Good and Services Tax Certificates

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate & Community Services
 Author: Administration Manager
 Implications: Legislation, Management Plan
 File & References: File F4/12
 Attachments: Nil
 Separately Circ.: Nil
 Tabled: Copies of Business Activity Statements – May 2007-April 2008

Recommendation

That Council approves the signing of the Goods and Services Tax Certificates by the Mayor, a Councillor, the General Manager and the Responsible Accounting Officer.

Purpose

To ensure statutory GST compliance requirements are met by approving and submitting the Goods and Services Tax Certificate with the Department of Local Government by 1 June 2008.

Summary

The Goods and Services Tax Certificate is no longer required to be audited by an Auditor. It is at Council's discretion to sign the Certificate by the Mayor, a Councillor, the General Manager and the Responsible Accounting Officer.

The Business Activity Statements for the period between May 2007 to April 2008 are tabled for your information

Report

It is no longer mandatory for Councils to have their Auditors undertake a review of the GST systems. It is at Council's discretion as to whether an audit review is undertaken to support the sign-off of the Certificate of Confirmation.

By 8 June each year, the Commonwealth seeks from members of the GST Administration Sub-Committee (GSTAS) advice on voluntary GST payments by Local Government bodies. Accordingly, Local Government bodies are required to provide the Department of Local Government with this advice before 1 June each year so that they can forward this information onto NSW Treasury for confirmation with the Commonwealth Commissioner of Taxation.

All GST Business Activity Statements have been completed and submitted within the required time frame. Council has made payments of \$626,380 from Revenue and Grants received, and received an amount of \$715,095 for purchases made during the period 1 May 2007 and 30 April 2008.

Council has not received any GST correspondence from the Australian Taxation Office and there are no outstanding matters regarding GST.

There have been no fines or penalties raised by the Australian Taxation Office against Council in relation to Council's BAS Statements and compliance with GST.

A Copy of the Business Activity Statements for the period 1 May 2007 to 30 April 2008 is available for perusal.

Policy and Management Plan Implications

Non compliance would have Management Plan implications but Council is compliant.

Conclusion

There are no outstanding GST issues and request that the Goods and Services Tax Certificate be approved for signing and to be forwarded to the Department of Local Government by the due date.

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

CARRIED

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

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate & Community Services
Author: Director Corporate & Community Services
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 March 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 March 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 SERVICES

FUNCTION

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 and March there were 405 received with 22 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 \$740,000 under the Single Invitation Contract.
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.
4. Sealed and unsealed carriageway maintenance by Council and Contractors.
ACTION: Expenditure on SH14 and SH22 to end March- \$405,457 - Expenditure on regional roads to end March 2008 – \$655,426
5. Bituminous seals/reseals carried out by Council and Contractors.
ACTION: The sealing contract for 2007/08 is still to be let.

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: Contract for 2007/08 still to be let.

4. HEALTH SERVICES

FUNCTION

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 50 samples had been tested with 96% 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 66 food premises to inspect annually. For the reporting period 12 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 March 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 2186 dogs and 65 cats registered under the Companion Animals Act.
5. Complaints handled in accordance with procedure
6. Microchipping procedures undertaken.
ACTION: For the period July to March 2008 there were 42 microchips inserted into domestic animals

6. COMMUNITY SERVICESFUNCTION

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 AMENITIESFUNCTION

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 PLANNING**FUNCTION**

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.

- Review and adjust the financial allocations to the Buronga Gol Gol Structure Plan, as appropriate.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

1. Undertake statutory work within the legislated time frames.
ACTION: Within the reporting period 38 Development Applications were received – 47% 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 over a three year period, 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 42 construction certificates were received – 57% 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 traveling 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 and/or submissions for additional works have been made and several have been accepted.
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 road 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 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.
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 Water 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.
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 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 work 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.

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

CARRIED

12.2.4 Financial Review of Council's 2007/2008 Management Plan as at 31 March 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 March 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 31 March 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 79.8% of the full year's Revenue Budget has been recognised as revenue. Rate revenue is recognised as income when rate notices and debtor invoices are raised, with all unpaid rates appearing in the Balance Sheet as Rate Debtors until payment is made.

61.7% of the overall Expenditure Budget has been spent with variances ranging from 21.48% to 84.23% in the functional areas against the original budget. The overall budget is slightly under target due to unfilled positions and major payments such as the bitumen contract and plant replacement not completed, creating timing issues on commitments made but not invoiced until works are finalized.

Revenue unfavorable variations total \$160,240 as listed. The major reduction in revenue is due to Council's inability to secure a medical practitioner but is partly offset by savings in the same area as the Practice has been run with minimal staff. There is a favourable variation in projected expenditure totaling \$154,750.

The net result including Capital is a favourable variance of \$334,510.

Report

A Budget Summary is attached for your information identifying the Adopted Budget, Year to Date Actual Revenue and Actual Expenditure to 31 March 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. 52.74% of the total Capital Budget was spent up to the third quarter.

A number of Capital projects will not be commencing this financial year as listed below:

Telecommunications Upgrade	\$50,000
Asbestos Audit	\$10,000
Wentworth Levee Bank Easements	\$40,000
River Boat Pump Station Upgrade	\$10,000
Rural Property Numbering	\$30,000

Pitman Ave/Midway Drainage Program	\$10,000
Land Management Program - Murray Street	\$150,000
Namatjira Water Tower	\$10,000
Channel Road Realignment	\$10,000
East Wentworth Sewerage Treatment Plant	\$20,000
Total	\$340,000

The Pooncarie Weir project has been reviewed and will be commencing in 2008/2009.

A list of Proposed Variation to the Original Budget is attached for your approval.

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

- Favourable variations in this area are required for Presentations General (\$4,000) and the Shire Newsletter (\$3,000). The Shire Newsletter is being completed in house.
- A contribution towards the North South Rail Link for the amount of \$10,000 will be a variation to the budget.
- A positive variation is required for the Western Shires Division conference (\$2,000).
- A positive variation Event Promotion for is required for the amount of \$15,000 as this will not be spent in this financial year.

CORPORATE SERVICES

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

Revenue

- No variations are required in this area.

Expenditure

- No variations are required in this area.

OPERATIONS ADMINISTRATION

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

Revenue

A positive variation of \$3,000 is required for sale of plant – other revenue.

Expenditure

- Engineering operations budget is on target as salaries budgeted for unfilled positions are offset by contractor costs. No variations required.

HEALTH SERVICES

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

Revenue

- A positive variation is required for Shop inspections for \$1,560.
- Council has been unable to secure the services of a medical practitioner. This results in an unfavorable variation of revenue for \$233,500.

Expenditure

- The Medical Practice is currently running on skeleton staff. Favourable variations for this area total \$171,500 as attempts to secure a medical practitioner have been unsuccessful.

PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

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

Income

- No variations are required.

Expenditure

An unfavorable variation is required for \$5,750 for the Emergency Risk Management Project that was outsourced.

COMMUNITY SERVICES EDUCATION

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

Revenue

A positive variation is required for \$70,000 for the Dareton Guide Hall grant.

Expenditure

A corresponding variation is required for the Dareton Guide Hall upgrade. The total cost of this project will be grant funded.

Further variations are required for the Aboriginal Liaison Officer and Community Services Officer for a total of \$45,000 as these positions will not be filled in this financial year.

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AMENITIES

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

Revenue

No variations are required in this area.

Expenditure

No variations are required for this area.

RECREATION & CULTURE

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

Revenue

Variations are required for

- A positive variation is required for the receipt of a \$2,000 Library Grant.
- A positive variation is required for the Sale of Books for \$1,700.
- An unfavorable variation is required for Hall Hire for the Midway Centre for an amount of \$5,000. The decrease in charges for use of this facility has not had a positive effect as the usage has not increased as predicted.

Expenditure

- Parks and Gardens expenditure varies from year to year but is expected to finish within budget overall

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

- No variation required in this area.

Expenditure

- Expenses in this area are under budget to date but the bitumen program will be carried out in the last quarter as programmed. No variation required in this area.

BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS

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

Revenue

- No variations are required in this area.

Expenditure

- No variations are required in this area.

WATER & SEWER

Includes Water & Sewer services.

Revenue

- The final reading for water user charges will occur in May/June and the effect of water restrictions will not be known until a full analysis is carried out at that stage.

Expenditure

- No variations required

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Capital Works projects totaling approximately \$1,562,200 including Principal Loan repayments have been expended to the end of March. There are significant budgetted Capital works that will not commence in this financial year as listed above.

Some Capital projects have been intentionally reviewed before commencement due to the anticipated loss in Councils revenue due to the current water restrictions. The inability to attract professional staff as a result of skill shortages has also contributed to projects not at a stage that was originally anticipated.

Capital works that have not commenced or completed will be considered in the Management Plan process for 2008/2009.

SUMMARY OF VARIATIONS**Revenue**

Sale of Plant – Engineering Admin	Favourable	\$3,000
Shop Inspections	Favourable	\$1,560
Medical Practice	Unfavorable	-\$233,500
Dareton Guide Hall	Favourable	\$70,000
Library Grant	Favourable	\$2,000
Library – sale of books	Favourable	\$1,700
Midway Hall Hire	Unfavorable	-\$5000
TOTAL REVENUE	Unfavorable	\$160,240

Expenditure

Presentations General	Favourable	-\$4,000
Shire Newsletter	Favourable	-\$3,000
North South Rail Link	Unfavorable	\$10,000
Western Shires Division conference	Favourable	-\$2,000
Event Promotion	Favourable	-\$15,000
Medical Practice Expenses	Favourable	-\$171,500
Emergency Risk Management Project	Unfavorable	\$5,750
Dareton Guide Hall	Unfavorable	\$70,000
Aboriginal Liaison Officer	Favourable	-\$10,000
Community Services Officer	Favourable	-\$35,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	Favourable	-\$154,750

Capital**TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE**

Telecommunications Upgrade	Favourable	-\$50,000
Asbestos Audit	Favourable	-\$10,000
Wentworth Levee Bank Easements	Favourable	-\$40,000
River Boat Pump Station Upgrade	Favourable	-\$10,000

Alcheringa Project	Unfavorable	\$65,000
Transfer from Developer Contributions Open Space	Favourable	-\$65,000
Rural Property Numbering	Favourable	-\$30,000
Pitman Ave/Midway Drainage Program	Favourable	-\$10,000
Land Management Program - Murray Street	Favourable	-\$150,000
Namatjira Water Tower	Favourable	-\$10,000
Channel Road Realignment	Favourable	-\$10,000
East Wentworth Sewerage Treatment Plant	Favourable	-\$20,000
Total Capital Works	Favourable	-\$340,000
Total Movement	Favourable	\$334,510

Conclusion

The net result after variations have been considered to the March Quarter for Revenue, Expenditure and Capital and consists of a favourable variance of \$334,510.

However, Capital Works totaling \$340,000 will not commence this financial year and will be reviewed in conjunction with the 2008/2012 Management Plan.

The lack of adequate resource levels to commence proposed works and unfilled positions have contributed to a positive result for Council and it is expected that overall a surplus budget will be achieved.

Moved Crs. King and Wakefield that the report be received and noted with the following variations to be withdrawn:-

Telecommunications Upgrade	Favourable	-\$50,000
Event Promotion	Favourable	-\$15,000

CARRIED

12.3 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

12.3.1 Dareton – Alcohol Free Zone Amendment

Responsible Officer:	Director - Development & Environment
Author:	Director - Development & Environment
Implications:	Policy
File & References:	L2/6
Attachments:	Map of Dareton
Separately Circ.:	Nil
Tabled:	Nil

Recommendation

That Council undertakes the level of public consultation identified in the body of this report to determine community input into the amendment of the Dareton alcohol free zone identified by the attached map.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is for Council to endorse the amendment of the alcohol free zone currently in place in the town of Dareton for a period of three years with the additional areas of Belar Street, Matong Street, Mitchell Avenue, Neilpo Street and the Lions Park to be included.

Summary

Currently the Dareton Alcohol Free Zone is in force, due to expire on 17 April 2011. This was adopted at the March Council meeting. Since that date Council has received submissions requesting that the additional areas as identified in the paragraph above and as identified in the attached map be included.

Report

The establishment of alcohol free zones is required in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993. In this instance the re-establishment of the zone is a requirement of section 644B (4). In addition to the Act there are ministerial guidelines that supplement the provisions of the Act.

An alcohol free zone may comprise a public road or part of a public road. The attached map indicates the area in which this report seeks to re-establish the zone in Dareton.

In the process of this amendment of the alcohol free zone Council must undertake public consultation in the following form:-

- By notice published in a newspaper circulating in the area that includes the zone declare the proposal to re-establish the zone indicating the location of the zone and the proposed period for which it will operate,
- Invite representations and objections from persons and groups within the area,
- Provide a copy of the proposal to:
 - The officer in charge of the police station within the zone
 - Each holder of a license in force under the Liquor Act 1982 for premise that border on, or adjoin or are adjacent to the alcohol free zone
 - Each secretary of a registered club under the Registered Clubs Act 1976 that borders on, or adjoins or is adjacent to the alcohol free zone

Conclusion

The Dareton alcohol free zone in Dareton is due to expire on 17 April 2011. This amendment of the zone is permissible under the provisions of the Local Government Act. Prior to the Council resolving to do so a level of public consultation is required in accordance with that listed in the body of this report.

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

CARRIED

12.4 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: HEALTH SERVICES

12.4.1 Options for the Wentworth Medical Practice

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate and Community Services
Author: Director Corporate and Community Services & General Manager

Implications: Management Plan
File & References: H2/17-5
Attachments: Nil
Separately Circ.: Nil
Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

That Council resolves its position in relation to the Wentworth Medical Practice.

Purpose

To provide current information regarding the Wentworth Medical Practice.

Summary

Self explanatory.

Report

A report was presented at the Council Meeting on 20 February regarding all negotiations and options that were ongoing in an attempt to secure a Medical Practitioner for Wentworth.

The resolution of Council stated that “the General Manager be given delegated authority to undertake negotiations in seeking a doctor or other arrangements for the Medical Practice within 3 months and if in that time no doctor or arrangements can be made that the Medical Practice be closed”.

Council is still pursuing the possibility of sourcing a doctor for Wentworth and will be until the Council Meeting on 21 May. It is now unlikely that a doctor can be appointed and operational by the end of the three month period.

Councillors will be briefed on any outstanding negotiations.

Conclusion

21 May is the end of the three month period set by Council. If an appointment cannot be made the practice will close and redundancies will be offered to relevant staff.

Moved Crs. Nichols and Ribarits that Council close the medical practice, maintain the lease of the facility for 3 months, and that thanks to staff be conveyed for maintaining the service and their commitment and dedication to the medical practice.

CARRIED

12.5 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: COMMUNITY SERVICES

12.5.1 Approval of the Wentworth Crime Prevention Plan

Responsible Officer: General Manager
Author: General Manager
Implications: Nil
File Reference: G4/13
Attachments: Nil

Separately Circ.: Nil
Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

That Council notes the Order approving the Wentworth Crime Prevention Plan as a Safer Community Pact under the *Children (Protection and Parental Responsibility) Act 1997*.

Purpose

To report on the Order.

Summary

Self explanatory.

Report

The NSW Attorney General has advised that he has made an Order approving the Wentworth Crime Prevention Plan as a Safer Community Compact under Part 4 of the *Children (Protection and Parental Responsibility) Act 1997*, effective 30 April 2008 remaining in force until 29 April 2011.

The approval of a Crime Prevention Plan by the Attorney General is a combination of many years of work by the Wentworth Shire community representatives and State Agencies.

Council has already been informed that it is likely to receive funding for a Youth Officer as a part of the Crime Prevention Plan.

Policy and Management Plan Implications

Funding alluded to in this report has already been included in the Management Plan 2008/2009.

Conclusion

The Order made for the Wentworth Crime Prevention Plan will now allow its strategies to be implemented.

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

CARRIED

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: L1/8-2
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 a list of development applications approved under delegated authority by the Director - Development & Environment for the month of April 2008.

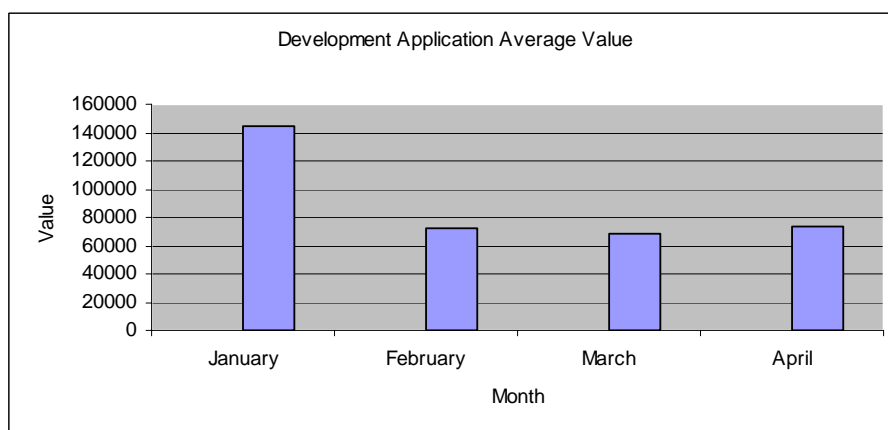
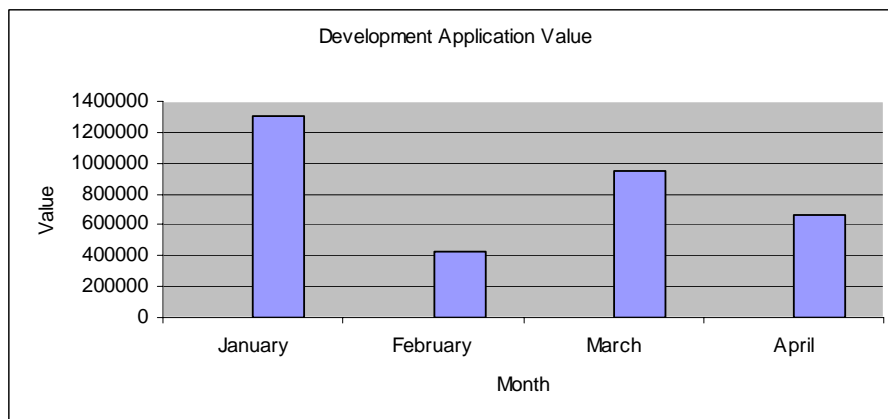
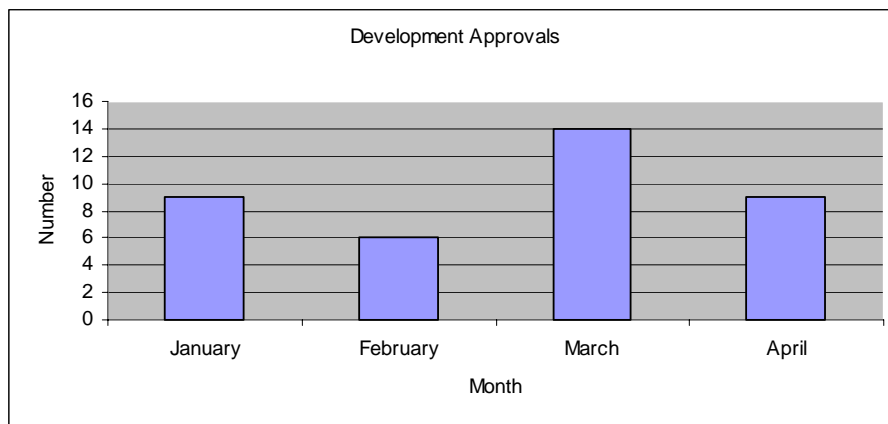
Report

DA No	OWNER / APPLICANT	LOCATION	DEVELOPMENT TYPE & VALUE	NO. DAYS	DATE APPROVED
153/07	Freeman & Freeman (Wentworth Shire Council-Buronga Property Pty Ltd)	Lot 1 DP 1102419 Silver City Highway Buronga	Forty One (41) Lot Industrial Subdivision	106	Approved STC
08/008	South Australian Water Corporation	Lot 1 DP 108407 Lock Eight Lake Victoria	Demolish existing dwelling and construct new dwelling (\$10,000)	15	Approved STC 3/4/08
08/023	Roy Costa & Associates PO Box 2925 Mildura 3502	Lot 19 DP 1118464 Modica Crescent Buronga	Industrial Development (\$150,000)	32	Approved STC 7/4/08
08/031	Synergy Reserves Pty Ltd PO Box 817 Irymple	Lot 70 DP 756994 Wentworth Street Wentworth	Relocate existing dwelling and move new dwelling onto site plus construction works. (\$65,000)	26	Approved STC 14/4/08
08/009	Simone Lisa Anderson 80 Adelaide St Gol Gol	Lot 1 DP 914335 Adelaide Street Gol Gol Gol	Two Lot subdivision and demolition of existing dwelling and shed	48	Approved STC 10/4/08
08/016	G W Chambers 119 Swan Terrace Semaphore	Lot 11 DP 776830 Francis Street Wentworth	Dwelling Extension (\$45000)	40	Approved STC 17/4/08
08/033	Michael Johns PO Box 285 Buronga	Lot 3 DP 285034	Storage Shed (\$11,500)	36	Approved STC 18/4/08
08/051	Regional Building Consultants (Weaver)	Lot 1 DP859915 Boeill Creek Road Boeill Creek	Additions & Alterations to existing dwelling(\$48,000)	17	Approved STC 28/04/08
08/020	Jason Lawler PO Box 205 Gol Gol	Lot 14 DP 758456 Adelaide Street Gol Gol	Dwelling (\$330,000)	56	Approved STC 22/4/08

Summary

For the month of April there were nine Development Applications approved under delegated authority by the Director - Development & Environment. The estimated cost of the approved developments is \$659,500.00. The following data and graphs indicate comparison of value for previous months of this financial year.

Month	DA's Approved	Value	Average
January	9	\$1,302,116	\$144,680
February	6	\$432,000	\$72,000
March	14	\$950,040	\$67,860
April	9	\$659,500	\$73,278
Total	38	\$3,343,656	\$357,818



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

CARRIED

12.6.2 Lease Crematorium Coomealla Memorial Gardens

Responsible Officer: Director Infrastructure and Assets
Author: Acquisitions and Reserves Officer
Implications: Nil
File Reference: L1/2-2, Council Report 16 April 2008
Attachments: Nil
Separately Circ.: Nil
Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

That the renewal of the Lease for the Crematorium at Coomealla Memorial Gardens (CMG) with North West Funerals be approved for a further ten years with an annual fee commencing at \$5,000 GST inclusive with CPI increases until 30 June 2013, at which time a review of the fee should be undertaken, and that the General Manager be authorised to sign any relevant documentation to give effect to this decision.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide sufficient background information for Council to make a considered decision regarding the fee for renewal of the lease.

Summary

Self explanatory.

Report

The initial ten-year term for the lease with North West Funerals for the Crematorium expires 30 June 2008 with an option to renew for a further ten-year term. Council needs to consider the extension.

The proposed fee is acceptable to the lessee.

Policy and Management Plan Implications

Commercial lease fees do not appear in the Management Plan, however income generated from the reserve must be spent on the reserve, lease fees can be utilised for maintenance of the CMG.

Conclusion

To ensure continued occupation of the Crematorium a decision regarding the new annual fee for extension of the lease is required.

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

CARRIED

Councillor Wakefield declared a conflict of interest in item 12.6.3 and vacated the Council chambers at 3.26pm.

12.6.3 DA08/04 Proposed Retail Steel Sales

Responsible Officer: Director Development & Environment
Author: Town Planning Officer
Implications: Policy, Management Plan
File & References: DA08/045
Attachments: Locality Plan, Site Plan, Photos of building
Separately Circ.: Conditions, Submissions
Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

That Council approves the application for the sale of steel on the site described as Lots 585,586,587,588,589 and 590 in Deposited Plan Number 756961 subject to the following conditions and any conditions applied by the Road Traffic Authority of New South Wales.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to determine development application number 08/045 for a retail steel outlet.

Summary

An application has been received at Council for a proposed retail steel and sales outlet, situated on Lots 585,586,587,588,589 and 590 in Deposited Plan 756961 (15-19) Silver City Highway Buronga.

Report

The proposal is to utilise an existing building for the sale of steel products. The building has most recently been used as a bus depot. There is no change to the actual site or buildings for the proposed change of use. Hours of operation will be from 7.00am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday and 8.00am to 12 noon on Saturdays. Plant and machinery used are listed in the proposal as:

- One hydraulic steel cutter
- Two bandsaws
- Two forklifts
- Two delivery trucks

The goods to be stored and sold are all types of steel ranging from 6 metres to 12metres in length.

There will be four staff and there is adequate on-site parking and adequate loading areas.

Access and egress will be from Short Street.

The zoning of the land is 2 (v) Village Residential.

The proposal was notified in accordance with Council's policy and four submissions have been received.

The proposal has been assessed in accordance with relevant Council policy and statutory requirements.

The site has an area of 6,103 m² with a frontage to the Silver City Highway of approximately of 59.8 metres and a depth of 99 metres. The site is irregular in shape.

Currently the site comprises a single storey brick office building, and a storage shed located directly behind the office, another storage shed located adjacent to the office with frontage to the Silver City Highway and a larger shed at the rear of the property. The floor plan accompanying the application shows six office areas, a reception area, staff facilities, toilets and a main sales area.

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

Section 79C – Matters for consideration require the following matters to be assessed in respect of all development applications.

The Provisions of any EPI, DCP or prescribed matter:

Wentworth Shire Council Local Environmental Plan 1993 – The subject site is zoned 2 (v) Village residential and the proposed developments definition requires interpretation to ensure the proposed use is not prohibited. The following is a list of developments prohibited within this zone:

- Extractive industries
- Forestry
- Intensive livestock keeping establishments
- Junkyards within 300 metres of an arterial road
- Liquid fuel depots
- Offensive and hazardous industries
- Sawmills
- Stock and sale yards

Of the above the “offensive and hazardous industries” category requires robust evaluation. The proposed use may be considered a mix of commercial and light industrial use.

Council has adopted the definitions in the Environmental Planning and Assessment Model Provisions 1980. Offensive or hazardous industry means an industry which, by reason of the processes involved or the method of manufacture of the nature of the materials used or produced, requires isolation from other buildings.

State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) No 33 – Hazardous and Offensive Development

In this policy potentially hazardous industry means a development for the purposes of an industry which, if the development were to operate without employing any measures (including, for example, isolation from existing or likely future development on other land) to reduce or minimise its impact in the locality or on the existing or likely future development on other land, would pose a significant risk in relation to the locality”

(a) to human health, life or property; or

(b) to the biophysical environment,

and includes a hazardous industry and a hazardous storage establishment.

The proposal is not considered “hazardous”

In this policy offensive industry means a development for the purposes of an industry which, when the development is in operation and when all measures proposed to reduce or minimize its impact on the locality have been employed (including, for example, measures to isolate the development from existing or likely future development on other land in the locality), would emit a polluting discharge (including, for example, noise) in a manner which would have a significant adverse impact in the locality or on the existing or likely future development on other land in the locality.

This proposal maybe deemed offensive in relation to noise generation and submissions received have concerns of excess noise.

Buronga Gol Gol Development Control Plan-Draft

The plan identifies staged release of residential land, not applicable to this proposal. The draft DCP also details design controls for commercial and industrial development. This site has previously been used as a bus depot. The design guidelines are not applicable, as no new infrastructure is proposed. The proposed use of retail steel sales and the storage of same is a combination of both commercial and light industrial use.

Likely Impacts of the Development

The site is adjacent a residential unit development, known as Leonda Village. The three submissions (objections) received are from residents of this village, two have concerns regarding the impacts of noise on their amenity and the third submission author has not nominated a reason for their objection.

The noise level has not been identified within the proposal but noise mitigation measures are a condition of the approval and any breaches will be dealt with pursuant to The Protection of the Environmental Operations Act 1997(Noise Regulation) 2000.

The applicant could also mitigate noise conflicts by adopting Best Management Practices, some of these include:

- Choosing a suitable time-scheduling a noisy activity to a less sensitive time of the day. Where several noisy pieces of equipment are used, their operation can be scheduled to minimise impacts.
- Relocating the noise source away from receivers or behind existing structures that can act as a barrier.
- Conducting regular maintenance of equipment-poorly maintained equipment can be very noisy.
- Changing the orientation of equipment away from receivers.
- Keep neighbours informed of a planned noisy activity, its duration and the reasons for the activity.

The suitability of the site for the development

The site is considered suitable for the proposed development, in that the change of use from bus depot to steel sales will not have any detrimental impact on the existing amenity specifically in relation to the adjacent Leonda Village.

Submissions to advertised development

The proposal was advertised in accordance with Council's "Advertising of Development Applications and Neighbour Notification" policy. It was advertised for a period of fourteen days by way of signposting of the site, an advertisement in a local newspaper and letters to adjacent residents. As a result of the notification, four

submissions have been received. One submission was an endorsement of the proposal. One has not stated reasons, and the other two are opposed to the proposal due to the expectation of noise pollution and the loss of valuation of their units due to the proximity of the proposal.

The issue of noise pollution can be minimised by the previous mentioned mitigation measures, such as the implementation of best management practices.

The issue of the perceived loss of value of the units has not been evidenced i.e. no supporting information supplied and therefore Council is not in a position to appraise the effect the proposal will have on the value of the units.

Referrals

The proposal has been referred internally to the Health and Building Department and the Department of Infrastructure and Assets. Externally it has been referred to the Road Traffic Authority as the site is located adjacent the Silver City Highway. To date no reply has been received by the RTA (any conditions received after the time of this report should be added to the permit).

The Department of Assets and Infrastructure require conditions in relation to access and road opening permits.

The Health and Building Department require conditions relating to noise levels, directional signage, disabled access and fire safety requirements.

Traffic Management

The documentation does not include anticipated traffic volumes.

Conclusion

The proposal for a retail sales outlet for steel has been assessed and has been determined that the change of use from a bus depot to steel sales will not adversely affect the surrounding amenity.

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

CARRIED

***The General Manager left the Council Chambers at 3.28pm.
The General Manager resumed his chair at 3.30pm.***

Councillor Nichols requested that her vote be recorded against this item.

Councillor Wakefield resumed his chair at 3.31pm.

12.7 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: RECREATION AND CULTURE

12.7.1 Report of the Review of Public Library Funding

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate & Community Services
Author: Library Manager
Implications: Funding
File Reference: G4/17-2
Attachments: Nil
Separately Circ.: Nil

Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

That Council accepts the report on the review of library funding

Purpose

To inform Council of the implications of the recently released Report of the Review of Public Library Funding.

Summary

The report proposes a new funding formula that includes retention of the per capita subsidy.

Report

The independent review of the NSW public library funding formula was conducted between August and November 2007, by Thomas G. Parry. The report of this review has now been published.

The terms of reference of the review focused not on the level of funding for public libraries by the different levels of government (State and local), but on the most appropriate way to allocate funding by the State Government to ensure the most effective delivery of public library services throughout NSW.

The following key questions were used to focus submissions from and discussion with stakeholders:-

- What should be the objective/s of State Government funding assuming that the total level will continue at current levels?
- What are the pros and cons of the per capita funding?
- What disadvantage/disability factors are the most relevant to public library funding?
- What is the scope for more effective delivery of library services from networking?
- What should library development grants be focused on (if indeed they should be part of State Government funding)?

There were 22 submissions to the review (Wentworth's opinions were included in the South West Zone submission to the review). Stakeholder views focused on the following points:

- Libraries are vital cultural communication hubs that provide a range of services to a diverse clientele across metropolitan, regional and rural communities.
- Libraries are delivering services and outcomes for the State Government, including areas of State Plan priorities, for which they do not receive specific funding.
- NSW public libraries operate in the context of a cohesive and very successful network which provides substantial service benefits to the public.
- Stakeholders are satisfied with existing arrangements for the distribution of State Government funding but expressed their strong view that funding should be increased.
- There is support for the retention of a universal per capita subsidy, a 'disability' payment to provide support across the public library network where it is most needed, and a strategic grants program.

- The existing process for libraries to receive State Government funding appears to be overly complex.

The following are the main recommendations arising from the review:

- Introduce a funding model that:
 - retains a per capita subsidy amount,
 - contains a meaningful component that ensures an acceptable minimum level of access to library services across the State, with transparent allocation criteria, the determination of which has input by key stakeholders, and
 - retains a grant component that is targeted to strategic outcomes, including the reinforcement of co-operation between Councils to deliver regional and State wide development outcomes.
- Review existing administrative processes to reduce unnecessary complexity and red tape in respect of the application and reporting processes for Councils to receive State Government funding for library services.

The reviewer also said that there is good reason to believe that library services provide benefits across a broad range of government portfolios such as health, aged care, education and e-commerce. It is recommended that consideration be given to a comprehensive review which explores the broader benefits of public libraries to the community.

The report acknowledges the strengths of public libraries, and it is satisfying to see that an independent authority recognises what the value-adding public libraries achieve for regional and rural areas.

Policy and Management Plan Implications

The findings of this review will have an impact on the subsidy received from the State Government for library services.

Conclusion

While the report does not change the funding pool available, it does propose a new funding formula that includes the retention of the per capita subsidy. Basically, we should expect the total funding level to remain much the same as in the previous year.

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

CARRIED

Adjournment

At 3.30pm moved Crs. Wakefield and King that Council adjourn the meeting for a presentation by Country Energy.

CARRIED

Resumption

At 4.20pm moved Crs. Wakefield and King that Council resumes the Council meeting, with Councillors Wakefield, King, Ward, Nichols, Ribarits, Thomson and Wheeldon present.

CARRIED

12.7.2 PS Ruby Committee Financial Status

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate & Community Services
Author: Terri Maguire
Implications: Management Plan
File & References: C14/2
Attachments: Paddle Steamer Ruby Wentworth Inc. Profit and Loss Statement, Balance Sheet, Ruby Restoration Council transactions
Separately Circ.: Nil
Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

That Council notes the current financial status of the Paddle Steamer Ruby.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to report on the financial status of the Paddle Steamer Ruby Wentworth – a Section 355 Committee of Council.

Summary

The Ruby Board of Management receive financial statements relating the their bank account set up as the Paddle Steamer Ruby Wentworth Inc. and a copy of the debt owed to Council at their monthly Board meetings.

A copy of the latest financial statements are attached for your information.

Report

The financials relating to the Paddle Steamer Ruby are presented to the Board of Management on a monthly basis.

All expenditure is approved by the Board and all revenue received, including donations are banked on a regular basis.

The PS Ruby Wentworth Inc. was successful in receiving a grant from the Department of Transport & Regional Services Regional Partnership Program for a 'Forging Partnerships Program' to establish the first round of environmental education and leadership training programs.

Part of the grant has been received and has been banked in the Incorporated account.

Other income includes generous donations totaling several thousands, several successful fund raisers such as the Austin 7 Function, the Annual Skippers dinner and annual general meeting, hosted dinners for organizations by volunteers as well as other successful grants from the Bendigo Bank and the Wentworth Services Club.

Income received from July 2007 to April 2008 totals \$72,449.81.

Expenses from July 2007 to April 2008 totals \$55,385.98.

The outstanding debt to Council is \$63,346 as at 30 April 2008.

Conclusion

The PS Ruby is in a reasonable financial position. The volunteers that have worked on this Project should be congratulated for all the effort and hard work that has gone into this outstanding Community project.

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

CARRIED

12.8 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: BUILDING CONTROL

Nil

12.9 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: ROADS AND BRIDGES**12.9.1 Tender for Buronga Roundabout Pavement Rehabilitation**

Responsible Officer: Director Infrastructure & Assets
Author: Director infrastructure & Assets
Implications: Nil
File Reference: R4/9
Attachments: Nil
Separately Circ.: Nil
Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

That Council awards the tender for this work in accordance with the tender documents and subject to conforming tender(s) being received.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to award the contract for the rehabilitation of part of the Buronga roundabout. This project is one that the Council is doing on behalf of the RTA.

Summary

The value of the work is such that tenders must be called in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005. The process requires that all tenders be decided by the Council.

Report

The Council is undertaking stage 3 of the Buronga roundabout pavement rehabilitation on behalf of the RTA. The work involves the removal of the existing pavement, preparation of a strengthened foundation, placement of a new asphalt layer together with associated traffic management.

Although the value of the overall project is in excess of \$400,000 it is, in terms of volume, a relatively small job and will be completed within 2-3 weeks of commencement. There are two local tenders that can be expected together with a possibility of tenders from further away.

For a number of reasons, including a lack of engineering resources, the unexpected requirement to first obtain renewal of our RTA Traffic Management certification and the input of the RTA and consultants to the asphalt specification there have been delays to the project.

In accordance with documented tender procedures the contract has been advertised as an open tender with a tender closing date of Tuesday 20 May. The tender period is shorter than usual but still provides an adequate period for tenders to be prepared.

It is expected that details of tenders will be available to councilors on the day of the meeting to enable a decision on the contract to be made.

Policy and Management Plan Implications

There are no specific implications.

Conclusion

The awarding of contracts must be done in accordance with defined procedures including contracts on behalf of agencies such as the RTA.

12.9.1 SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT - Tender for Buronga Roundabout Pavement Rehabilitation

Responsible Officer:	Director Infrastructure & Assets
Author:	Director Infrastructure & Assets
Implications:	Nil
File Reference:	R4/9
Attachments:	Nil
Separately Circ.:	Nil
Tabled:	Drawing of Buronga Roundabout Pavement Rehabilitation area

Recommendation

That Council accepts the tender from Northwest asphalt Paving Pty Ltd for the sum of \$429,557.90 including GST for the Buronga Roundabout Pavement Rehabilitation Stage 3.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to award the tender for the work described above.

Summary

This project is being carried out by the Council for the RTA and the tender is required to be handled in accordance with the relevant legislation.

Report

Tenders for the work closed on Tuesday 20 May at 12pm and two conforming tenders were received.

The work involves the rehabilitation of part of the Buronga roundabout, being the section from the Sturt Highway out of Mildura to the Silver City Highway to Dareton

and Wentworth. The existing pavement will be removed by milling, the existing subgrade stabilized and an asphalt pavement constructed.

Shire employees in accordance with an approved Traffic Management Plan will provide traffic control throughout the job. There will be unavoidable short delays to motorists with advertising to indicate this being displayed prior to work commencing. The work once started is expected to take between two and three weeks.

Details of the two tenders received are:-

- North West Asphalt Paving Pty Ltd, \$429,557.90
- Pioneer Road Services Pty Ltd, \$444,394.79.

Both prices are GST inclusive.

Tenders were evaluated as described in the tender documents and as a result the lowest tender of North West Asphalt Paving Pty Ltd is recommended. The cost of this project is fully funded by the RTA.

Policy and Management Plan Implications

There are no implications.

Conclusion

The report is self-explanatory.

Moved Crs. King and Wakefield that the recommendation in the supplementary report 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 Fluoridation of Water Supplies

Responsible Officer:	Director Infrastructure & Assets
Author:	Director Infrastructure & Assets
Implications:	Policy and Management Plan
File Reference:	G3/6-3, L2/2-4
Attachments:	Report to September 2007 Meeting (Item 12.1.1)
Separately Circ.:	Nil
Tabled:	Nil

Recommendation

That Council determines whether or not to further consider the fluoridation of Wentworth Shire water supplies.

Purpose

The purpose of the report is to further consider the matter of fluoridation of water supplies.

Summary

The Council asked, in September 2007, for a report detailing the costs of installation of fluoridation equipment and the ongoing costs involved.

NSW Health will provide subsidies from 50% to 100% for approved works. The level of subsidy depends on the population involved and is based on a calculated "least capital cost".

Report

Council considered the issue of fluoridation at its meeting in September 2007 and resolved "that a report be submitted back to the Council detailing costs for installation of fluoridation equipment and ongoing costs which would be incurred by Council".

Without calling of tenders the identification of installation costs is extremely difficult to identify. Based on the capacity of Council's three water treatment plants the "least capital cost" can be determined. Actual constructions costs will probably be greater than the calculated figure because of the small size of the treatment plants and the remoteness of the Shire. In addition to the capital cost the Shire is required to fund the majority of costs leading up to the award of a contract plus the ongoing operational costs and repairs and maintenance.

The *Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Regulation 2007* requires a water supply authority to collect regular samples from water fluoridated by it, analyse for fluoride content and provide monthly returns together with a sample of water from the reticulation system. There are also security requirements to be met.

The compounds generally used for fluoridating water are sodium fluoride and fluorosilicic acid, which have to be handled with considerable care. Once dissolved in water they are easily handled.

The 100% subsidy for a new plant is limited to the least capital cost option meeting the requirements of the Code of Practice. Higher cost options will be considered if detailed justifications can be provided to clearly validate the cost based on unusual site-specific circumstances.

It should be noted that the subsidy is in the form of a fixed grant based on an approved **estimate** as opposed to the actual construction cost. This means that the preparatory work to develop the specification and estimate and get approval would potentially have a significant cost, of which only 15% is subsidised. Project management and contingency costs attract a 10% subsidy.

For the three water treatment plants in the Shire the least capital cost for fluoridation plants are calculated as:-

- Wentworth \$41,600
- Pooncarie \$41,600
- Gol Gol \$55,000

The figures for Wentworth and Pooncarie have been set by NSW Health because both plants have a capacity of less than 2.8 megalitres per day.

In addition to the capital costs the operational costs of chemicals, regular sampling, analysis of samples and monthly reporting can be expected to be at least \$30,000 per year provided no additional staff are required. This additional cost is not able to be subsidised.

This report does not attempt to explain or promote the benefits or otherwise of fluoridating water supplies as that can only be done by experts in the public health sector or opponents of fluoridation.

Policy and Management Plan Implications

If Council proceeds with fluoridation there will be Management Plan implications involving both capital and operational costs.

Conclusion

Subsidy is available for the capital cost of fluoridation plant. The annual operating costs have to be met by the ratepayers of the Shire. Council may make the decision or decide to further consult with the community. In the report in September 2007 Council were given details of the four options available to it.

Moved Crs. Nichols and Ribarits that Council does not proceed with the installation of a fluoridation plant.

CARRIED

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:	Report Matrix

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. Wakefield and King that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

14. QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**Cr. Ward**

1. Advised that the Wentworth/Balranald Counselling Service will not be merging with Sunraysia Rural counseling Service and that the horticultural/citrus industries will be represented by Sunraysia Rural Counselling with the dryland grazing farmers addressed by the Dubbo based Service.
2. Enquired as to whether an incident which occurred in March at the Willowbend Caravan park had been resolved as he had reason to believe that no communication had been received by the complainant.
(The Director Infrastructure & Assets advised that the issued has been discussed with both the proprietors of the Willowbend Caravan Park and the complainant. The General Manager also advised that formal communication had been undertaken.
3. *Wished to extend his congratulations to the General Manager's Executive Assistant for a well presented ANZAC Day service and indicated that a helicopter could be included in the service with the fly-bys. He also questioned whether the white Vale crosses could be erected on the wall in the Wentworth Memorial Restrooms.*
4. *Indicated that there is rust on the cooling room at the Wentworth Swimming Pool and advised that this needs attention before the next swimming season.*

Cr. King

1. Due to the current wet weather conditions, requested that more bluestone be laid on the Pomona bicycle track.

Cr. Nichols

1. Enquired as to what are the conditions of the Modica Development Application as she was under the impression that landscaping had not been completed with the blocks looking as if they had been abandoned and also asked what has been the response from Planning re Council's LEP.
(The Director Development & Environment advised that the maintenance period of the DA had expired and that there was little landscaping required.

He advised that if the blocks are overgrown a notice can be served. In relation to the LEP he advised that the Planning Department and Council's consultants are working through flooding and heritage issues.

2. Indicated that the Library Walkers had been walking for some 12 months and had requested that due to the wet weather consideration be given to putting a layer of blue metal on the levee bank surface.
(The Director Infrastructure & Assets advised that this could be done but that this is not a cheap solution and may encourage vehicles to drive on the levee bank which is prohibited).
3. Advised that the Golf Club vehicle is still driving on the levee and requested that a letter be written to the Golf Club and Wentworth Services Club to advise accordingly.

Cr. Ribarits

1. Enquired as to why the names of objectors to Development Applications are no longer being blanked out.
(The General Manager advised that on previous occasions the names were blanked out with copies being circulated with the business paper to the public, but a decision has been made to separately circulate the objections with only the Councillors and Senior Staff having the ability to see the objectors names).

Cr. Wheeldon

1. There are a few footpaths in Wentworth particularly on the corner of Cadell Street and near the Museum that need maintenance to make it safer for pedestrians.
(The Director Infrastructure & Assets advised that a footpath audit is being undertaken at the current time).
2. Indicated that the birds on the trees at the Wharf need to be removed before they decimate the trees.
3. Indicated that investigations should be made to obtain a price for installing a sewer line under the Darling River and could be undertaken in conjunction with Country Energy who are installing underground electricity cabling from the Wharf Reserve.
4. Indicated that an approach by the Cancer Council at the Western Division Group of the Shires Association Conference for Councils to become more active with the Cancer Council.

Mayor

1. Indicated that on a recent visit to the Perry Sand Hills, it was evident that motor bikes and 4 wheel drives are being driven illegally over the hills and enquired as to whether the ByLaws officers could assist in some way.
(The General manager indicated that local laws officers could assist with a weekend surveillance and enquired as to whether Council would pursue fines for infringements).

15. NEXT MEETING

- 18 June 2008

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.47pm.