



WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL

MINUTES

ORDINARY MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING
COMMENCING 9.00AM

18 February 2009

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2. OPENING OF MEETING AND PRAYER

The Mayor head the meeting with the Council prayer and also conducted a minute's silence for the Queensland flood victims and the Victorian Bushfire victims.

3. PRESENT

COUNCILLORS: Margaret Thomson (*Mayor*), Brian Wakefield (*Deputy Mayor*), Melisa Hederics, Mark King, Don McKinnon, Susan Nichols, Peter Thompson, Bill Wheeldon and Ian Whitfield.

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

4. APOLOGIES AND APPLICATION FOR LEAVE

Nil apologies – nil applications for leave

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**Recommendation**

That the minutes of the ordinary Council meeting held 21 January 2009 be adopted as circulated.

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

CARRIED

6. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil.

7. PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

Nil

8. MAYORAL REPORTS**8.1 APPOINTMENTS BY THE MAYOR FOR THE PERIOD 21 JANUARY to 18 FEBRUARY 2008**

Responsible Officer: Mayor
Principal Activity: Governance
Author: Executive Assistant
Implications: Nil
File & References: G3/3-3
Attachments: Nil
Separately Circ.: Nil

Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the report.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of meetings / conferences / appointments undertaken by the Mayor for the period 21 January 2009 to 18 February 2009.

Report

Date	Conference/Appointment
Tue 27/1	Meeting with Dareton Health – Trish Aldgate
Thu 29/1	Meeting in Mildura with Senator Stephen Conroy
Thu 29/1	Volunteers night at Australian Inland Botanical Gardens
Fri 30/1	Opening of Alcheringa Tennis Club Lights
Mon 2/2	Wentworth Regional Tourism Inc meeting
Mon 2/2	Australian Inland Botanical Gardens meeting
Tue 3/2	Country Energy Executive Dinner
Wed 4/2/	Councillors Workshop
Wed 4/2	Mainstreet Events Committee meeting
Wed 4/2	150 years Committee meeting
Fri 6/2	Electric Light Theatre Gala Opening night
Thu 12/2	Rotary Dinner with US Consul General
Fri 13/2	US Consul General meeting and morning tea

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

CARRIED

9. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil.

10. DELEGATES REPORTS

10.1 MINUTES OF WILLANDRA LAKES WHA TECHNICAL SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE & COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Author: Willandra Lakes WHA Technical Scientific Advisory Committee & Community Management Council

Implications: Nil

File Reference: C6/14

Attachments: Nil

Separately Circ.: Minutes of Willandra Lakes WHA Technical Scientific Advisory Committee & Community Management Council 5 December 2008

Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the minutes of Willandra Lakes WHA Technical Scientific Advisory Committee & Community Management Council 5 December 2008.

Purpose

To advise Council of the business undertakings of the Willandra Lakes WHA Technical Scientific Advisory Committee & Community Management Council.

Summary

Self explanatory.

Report

- Business Arising
- Correspondence
- Reports
- Governance
 1. WHA committee changes and EPBC review
 2. Australian World Heritage Indigenous Network conference report
 3. Joulni Management Arrangements
 4. Elders Council Feedback
- Research
- Other Business

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

CARRIED

11. COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS**11.1 FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 18 FEBRUARY 2009****Recommendation**

That the recommendations from the minutes of the Floodplain Management Committee meeting held Wednesday 18 February 2009 be taken as read and adopted.

In accordance with Section 375A of the Local Government Act the Mayor called for a division with a unanimous vote for the recommendations being recorded.

For the decision : All Councillors

Against the decision: Nil

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

CARRIED

12. OFFICERS' REPORTS

12.1 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE & STRATEGIC PLANNING**12.1.1 Performance Report Second Quarterly Review Of Council's Management Plan 2008/2009 (year ending 31 December 2008)**

Responsible Officer: General Manager
Author: General Manager
Implications: Performance
File & References: F4/3-2
Attachments: Summary of Performance
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 2008/09 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 December 2008 quarter and this report summarises actual performance against required performance and reflects the activities of Council and statistical information for the 2008/09 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.

The 08/09 financial year is shaping up to be one of dealing with significant challenges. Council has had to deal with new funding opportunities presented by the Federal Government in November 2008 as part of its strategy to address the economic crisis currently affecting the global economy and in February a second round of funds has been made available.

Staff movements in relation to key positions have also had an influence on the organisation's ability to achieve certain objectives set in the Management Plan.

Financial variations and performance have been separately reported under item 12.2.3.

The attachment summarises performance based on Council's goals, objectives and actions for year ending 31 December 2008. Therefore, this report is a summary at that time notwithstanding that a number of actions will have progressed markedly since that time.

As with the first quarterly report the style of the report has been changed to meet likely changes to integrated reporting to be introduced by the Department of local Government in the near future and also to develop further the measuring of performance as required by the Organisational Review.

The objectives and actions listed in the attachment come directly from Council's 10 Year Plan (4 Year Focus) Management Plan 2008-12 adopted in June 2008. Only those objectives and actions that relate to the operational year ending 30 June 2009 are being reported on. Therefore, if a reference number is missing from a sequence of objectives or actions it is likely that this relates to an action for future years.

The performance report has a hierarchy of Codes under Council's five main themes as follows:-

- G represents a goal
- O represents an objective
- A represents an action

The report identifies officers responsible for actions, the current status of the actions and target to be met in the second quarter (QT) and the assessed actual progress (QAct). A number represents the percentage completed and where there is no number that means that the action is to be commenced later in the year.

The organisation, as at 31 December 2008, was well on track in terms of delivering on the actions identified in the Management Plan. However, staff turnover in the areas of engineering and finance, namely the key departures of manager Finance and Director Infrastructure and Assets, and the difficulty in recruiting a planner and engineering staff, will have impacted on the overall results attained so far.

Policy and Management Plan Implications

Progress on Management Plan 2008/09.

Conclusion

Council's performance in relation to delivering on its objectives and actions for the quarter ending 31 December 2008 was well on track.

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

CARRIED

12.2 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: FINANCIAL PLANNING & ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

12.2.1 Financial Report

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate & Community Services
Author: Administration Manager
Implications: Financial
File & References: F4/2-4
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 January 2009 were \$238,891.63 After allowing for pensioner subsidies, the total Rates and Charges collected are now 54.10.% of the levies. A summary of the Rates and Charges situation as at 31 January, 2009 is as follows:-

<u>Levies</u>		
Balance Outstanding at 30 June 2008	1,252,480.20	
Rates & Charges Levied 16 July 2008	5,685,701.95	6,938,182.15
+ Additional Water Charges	683,517.25	
+ Supplementary Rates & Charges	24,784.56	
+ Additional Charges	37,757.19	
- Credit Adjustments	25,001.56	
- Farmland 20% capped	1,078.82	
- Abandonments	962.65	719,015.97
		7,657,198.12
<u>Deductions</u>		
- Payments	3,990,513.30	
- Less Refunds of Payments	3,371.41	3,987,141.89
- Pensioner Subsidy:-		
Government Subsidy	85,296.19	
Council Subsidy	69,779.60	155,075.79
Total Rates/Water Charges Outstand		\$3,514,980.44

Note: For comparison purposes 53.60% of the levy had been collected at the end of January 2008.

Reconciliation And Balance Of Funds Held As At 31 January 2009

The reconciliation has been carried out between the Cash Book of each fund and the Bank Pass Sheet as at 1 January, 2009 and the investments have been made in accordance with the Act, the regulations and Council's investment policies.

	<u>Combined Bank Acc.</u>
<u>Cash Balance as at 1 January 2009</u>	\$ 333,074.74Dr
<u>Add:</u> Receipts for Period Ending 31 January 2009 Rates, Debtors, Miscellaneous	1,529,200.20Dr
<u>Less:</u> Payments for Period Ending 31 January 2009 Cash Book entries for this Month	1,029,945.89Dr

Cash Balance As At 31 January 2009

\$ 832,329.05Dr

Investments

Bank	TD/C.Bill		
LGFS	FI 31 days @ 4.61% due 30/1/09	926,898.41	
Community CPS Australia Ltd	TD 89 days @ 7.35% due 9/2/2009	1,500,000.00	
Savings & Loans Credit Union	TD 92 days @ 5.5% due 12/1/2009	1,000,000.00	
SGE Credit Union	TD 91 days @ 5.59% due 9/3/2009	1,000,000.00	
Bank West (Sydney) Bank	TD 91 days @ 6.3% due 9/2/2009	1,500,000.00	
Macquarie Bank Ltd	TD 90 days @ 6.0% due 9/3/2009	4,000,000.00	
Aust. Central Credit Union	TD 90 days @ 5.7% due 16/3/2009	1,000,000.00	
Bank West	TD 94 days @ 6.4% due 9/2/2009	1,000,000.00	
Aust. Defence Credit Union	TD 90 days @ 5.81% due 16/3/2009	1,000,000.00	
St. George Bank	TD 89 days @ 5.6% due 15/3/2009	1,000,000.00	13,926,898.41
TOTAL			\$14,759,227.46

Commitments

Details	Amount	
Internal Restrictions	\$	\$
- Employee Entitlements	1,318,100	
- Doubtful Debts	129,946	
- Tip Remediation	133,507	
- Future Development Reserve	510,259	
- Murray Street Acquisition	200,000	
- Plant Replacement Reserve	831,320	
- Water Fund	1,850,079	
- Sewer Fund	693,850	
Total Internal Restrictions		5,667,071

External Restrictions		
- Trust	145,413	
- Developer Contribution Reserve	592,599	
Prepayments – Cemeteries	169,622	
- Unexpended Grants	2,385,633	
Total External Restrictions		3,293,267
Total Commitments as at		8,960,338

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.

Name	Institution	Purpose	Interest Rate	Loan Amount \$	Amount Outstanding \$	Due Date
Loan 176	National Australia Bank	Wentworth Water Supply Construction	7.439%	180,000	43,490.90	25/08/2011
Loan 178	National Australia Bank	Water Supply Construction	6.008%	118,598	82,703.22	28/01/2015
Loan 180	National Australia Bank	Construction of Sewer Works	6.012%	105,368	73,432.49	23/02/2015
Loan 181	National Australia Bank	Buronga/Gol Gol/Dareton/Pooncarie Water Filtration	6.96%	2,180,000	660,023.30	19/08/2012
Loan 182	National Australia Bank	Buronga/Gol Gol Sewerage Augmentation	6.96%	178,000	53,551.02	19/08/2012
Loan 187	National Australia Bank	Buronga/Gol Gol Sewerage Augmentation	7.084%	1,454,000	768,021.26	19/11/2009
Loan 195	National Australia Bank	Midway/Memorial Gardens	6.904%	1,700,000	1,254,618.74	30/06/2021
Loan 198	Commonwealth Bank	Wentworth Streetscape	6.15%	220,000	55,338.29	25/01/2011
Loan 199	National Australia Bank	Wentworth Aerodrome	6.904%	300,000	250,805.74	23/06/2023
Loan 200	Department of Lands	Complete Fencing at Wentworth Showgrounds	7.5%	4000	4000.00	11/9/2013
	Local Government Financial Services (LGFS)	Levee Bank	5.00%	1,000,000	826,663.84	

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

CARRIED

12.2.2 Wentworth Polo Club Inc – Annual Fees Write Off

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate & Community Services
 Author: Director Corporate & Community Services
 Implications: Management Plan
 File & References: P50015/0003-02
 Attachments: Nil
 Separately Circ.: Nil
 Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

That Council approves the waver of the Wentworth Polo Club Inc. debt of \$4,791.20 invoiced for the use of the Showgrounds for Polo events for the 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 financial years.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to write off the Wentworth Polo Club Inc. debt due to the poor condition of the Showground and the inability to hold the Polo events in the 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 financial year.

Summary

A request has been received from the Captain of the Wentworth Polo Club Inc. to write off outstanding debt associated with the rental of the Wentworth Showgrounds. The drought conditions have rendered the Wentworth Showgrounds unusable. The annual event that generates revenue to pay Council for the hire of the grounds has been cancelled for both years that has resulted in the outstanding debt.

Report

The Wentworth Polo tournaments are recognised on the circuit as the most enjoyable of the country rounds and always enjoy good support from visiting teams that travel from as far away as 1000 kilometres for the event. They are keen to keep the Wentworth Showgrounds complex as their base and to hold their event if circumstances change.

The Wentworth Polo Club Inc. has cancelled their annual tournament normally held at the end of March each year for two consecutive years because of the poor condition of the grounds.

Even with intensive watering, the poor ground cover of the field would still prevent the Polo Club from holding their annual event as the current watering restrictions and budget constraints prevent the Showgrounds from being green all year round and in acceptable condition for practice.

The inability of the Club to raise funds through their annual event has resulted in the request to waver the rent of the grounds for 2006/2007 and 2007/2008. The initial request was addressed by the Wentworth Showgrounds Committee at the meeting held on 31 May 2007.

Policy and Management Plan Implications

Nil

Conclusion

It is recommended that Council write off the debt of \$4,791.20 being rental of the Showgrounds for the 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 financial years due to their inability to use the grounds as a result of the poor condition.

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

CARRIED

12.2.3 Financial Review of Council's 2008/2009 Management Plan as at 31 December 2008

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate and Community Services
Author: Director Corporate and Community Services
Implications: Management Plan and Adopted Budget
File: S501
Attachments: Adopted Budget Summary 2008/2009
Separately Circ.: Nil
Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

That Council receives the December Financial Review and adopts the variations to the 2008/2009 Management Plan adopted at the Council Meeting of the 18th June 2008.

Purpose

In accordance with S407 (1) of the Local Government Act 1993, Council's financial performance has been reviewed against the 2008/2009 Management Plan for the period ended 31 December 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 and 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 70% of the full year's Revenue Budget has been recognised as revenue. This is due to \$600,000 received from sale of land at Morquong and rate revenue recognised as income when rate notices are raised, with all unpaid rates appearing in the Balance Sheet as Rate Debtors until payment is made.

46.3% of the overall Expenditure Budget has been spent with variances ranging from 27% to 70% in the functional areas against the original budget. This trend is normal for the half year overall.

Report

A Budget Summary is attached for your information identifying the Adopted Budget, Year to Date Actual Revenue and Actual Expenditure to 31 December 2008, the Adopted budget and the proposed September Budget.

All Capital expenditure is being reviewed prior to commencement due to the current situation with water restrictions. 22.5% of the total Capital Budget was been spent to the second quarter.

A list of Proposed Variations 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 variances required

Expenditure

A minor variation is required for an unfavourable net amount of \$2,000 as a result of the Country Music Festival over budget by \$2,360 and subscriptions to the Shires Association and Murray Darling Association for \$730 and \$130. A favourable variation is required for Members Accident Insurance for \$1,220.

CORPORATE SERVICES

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

Revenue

A favourable variance is required for Interest on Investments of \$130,000. Even though interest rates are dropping, the current amount invested is significant and will result in additional revenue. A conservative approach was taken when the budget was set and expected funds were estimated lower because of the initial expectation of works and major plant purchases being completed and paid in the earlier part of the year. The current economic crisis will impact on expected returns on investments in future years with depleted funds and lower returns resulting in less revenue to fund operational and capital works in future years.

Expenditure

No variations are required in this area.

OPERATIONS ADMINISTRATION

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

Revenue

No variation required.

Expenditure

No variation required.

HEALTH SERVICES

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

Revenue

A favourable variation is required for \$10,000 for the sale of equipment at the Medical Practice.

Expenditure

A favourable variation is required for salaries and rental of premises for the Medical Practice. Final salary and wages for leave entitlements were finalised from the provisions account and the premises was transferred to the current operator after the decision to close the Practice. The net variance required is \$30,000.

PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

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

Income

An unfavourable variance of \$5,000 is required for management fees charged to the Balranald Shire Council for the management of the Rural Fire Service accounts.

Expenditure

A favourable variation is required for the Rural Fire Service as a result of advice from the

NSW RFS for cuts to the estimated budget of the Lower Western Zone for the net amount of \$10,100. A favourable variance is also required for NSW Fire Brigades for \$930.

COMMUNITY SERVICES EDUCATION

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

Revenue

No variations required.

Expenditure

No variations required.

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AMENITIES

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

Revenue

A favourable variance is required for the Coomealla Memorial Gardens lease for this financial year for the amount of \$8,110. This is as a result of costs associated with power and rent increases invoiced for usage on previous years.

Expenditure

No Variations required.

RECREATION & CULTURE

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

Revenue

An unfavourable variation is required for the Library Special Projects grant for \$700 as per notification from State Library. A favourable variation is required for \$1040 received from recipients of the State Library visit.

Expenditure

A favourable variation is required for the Library Special Projects grant expenditure for \$700. An unfavourable variation is required for the amount of \$1,040 for the State Library visit. The total cost of the visit was \$1,768 with the remaining \$728 to be distributed between training and other areas contributing to the cost.

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

Roads to Recovery – A favourable variance is required for the amount of \$248,932 as the funds have not been budgeted in the current budget and will be offset by expenditure. The

amount is in addition to the budgeted amount of \$864,000 as all works under this program must be completed by June 2009. A favourable variance is also required for the Block Grant for the net amount of \$13,540 and \$3,000 for Traffic facilities as advised by RTA.

Expenditure

A review in the Roads to Recovery funding has been carried out and identified that an unfavourable variance of \$414,912 is required as all works must be finalised by June 2009 for the current program.

BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS

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

Revenue

An unfavourable variation is required for the sale of Morquong Land for the amount of \$21,209 for GST as this was incorrectly budgeted as revenue.

Expenditure

A favourable variation is required for the Inland Awards for the amount of \$3,000. A variation is also required for a transfer of funds from newspaper advertisements to the upgrade of the Tourism Web page for the amount of \$4,000.

WATER & SEWER

Includes Water & Sewer services.

Water restrictions in this area will result in a reduction of revenue when compared with other years. This is partly offset by a reduction in operating costs.

Revenue

No variations required.

Expenditure

No variations required

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Capital Works projects totalling \$815,900 and Principal Loan repayments totalling \$278,700 (22.5% of total Capital budget) have been spent in the second quarter. Capital works expenditure includes plant purchases, office upgrade, the office archive, CMA works, library books, computer replacement and caravan park works.

An unfavourable Capital variation is required for replacement of an Airconditioner at the Operations Workshop for the amount of \$8,000.

As a result of the Australian Government Grant – Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government the amount of \$460,000 has been identified for community projects within the Wentworth Shire area. Confirmation of the amount has still not been received. The proposed projects have been discussed with Council at the December workshop, listed and forwarded to the Department. We believe that the projects listed meet the criteria and are awaiting confirmation. All projects must be completed by September and due to time constraints in completing the identified projects, the list has been included in these variations. Please note that only preliminary work has been started on these projects and the success of completion depends on the grant being awarded to Wentworth.

SUMMARY OF VARIATIONS**Revenue**

Interest on Investments	Favourable	\$130,000
Medical Practice sale of equipment	Favourable	\$10,000
RFS Management Fee	Unfavourable	-\$5,000
Coomella Memorial Gardens Lease	Favourable	\$8,110
Library Special Projects grant	Unfavourable	-\$700
State Library visit	Favourable	\$1,040
Roads to Recovery	Favourable	\$248,932
Block Grant	Favourable	\$29,000
Traffic Facilities	Favourable	\$3,000
Sale of Land	Unfavourable	-\$21,209
Australian Government Grant	Favourable	\$460,000
TOTAL REVENUE		\$863,173

Expenditure

Country Music Festival	Unfavourable	-\$2,360
Shires Association Subscriptions	Unfavourable	-\$730
Murray Darling Association	Unfavourable	-\$130
Members Accident Insurance	Favourable	\$1,220
Medical Practice Salaries and Wages	Favourable	\$28,300
Medical Practice Rent and sundry	Favourable	\$1,700
RFS – M & R Vehicles	Favourable	\$6,000
RFS – M & R Office Equipment	Favourable	\$1,500
RFS – M & R Buildings	Favourable	\$2,100
RFS – M & R Equipment	Favourable	\$500
NSW Fire Brigades contribution	Favourable	\$930
Library Special Projects expenditure	Favourable	\$700
State Library visit	Unfavourable	-\$1,040
Roads to Recovery	Unfavourable	-\$414,912
Block Grant reimbursement	Unfavourable	-\$15,460
Inland Tourism Awards	Favourable	\$3,000
Newspaper advertisements	Favourable	\$4,000
Tourism Web Page upgrade	Unfavourable	-\$4,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		\$394,682

Capital

Workshop Airconditioning	Unfavourable	\$8,000
Alcheringa Netball Courts – provision of lights	Unfavourable	\$40,000
Alcheringa Pavilion – Furniture	Unfavourable	\$15,000
Dareton Library Electricity Upgrade	Unfavourable	\$15,000
Access Facilities	Unfavourable	\$30,000
George Gordon Oval Netball Courts	Unfavourable	\$147,000
Kuhn Square Dareton Upgrade	Unfavourable	\$30,000
Muttaborrasaurus Sculpture	Unfavourable	\$22,000
Perry Sand Hills – Conservation MP and works	Unfavourable	\$25,000
Wentworth Wharf Precinct – Bank stabilization, Board Walk and Boat Ramp Upgrade	Unfavourable	\$90,000
Playground Equipment – Anabranck & Pooncarie	Unfavourable	\$26,000
Wentworth Showgrounds Project Building Plan Design, Enhancement of Business Plan	Unfavourable	\$20,000
Tourist Information Centre/Various Halls	Unfavourable	\$30,000

TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE		\$498,000
Total Expenditure (Including Capital)		\$897,682
Total Movement	Unfavourable	\$29,509

Conclusion

The net result for the December Quarter after variations have been considered for Revenue and Expenditure including Capital will be an unfavourable variance of \$29,509. The September quarter variations resulted in a favourable variance of \$214,490.

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

CARRIED

12.3 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

12.3.1 Suspension of Alcohol Free Zone – Wentworth Rowing Club

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

Recommendation

That Council suspends the operation of the alcohol free zone in the area of Wentworth Rowing Club Lawns on the day of April 12th 2009 and advertise the fact in a locally circulating newspaper.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is for Council to suspend the operation of the alcohol free zone at the Wentworth Rowing Club Lawns on April 12th 2009.

Summary

Council is in receipt of a request from the Wentworth Rowing Club to suspend the operation of the alcohol free zone on the rowing club lawns during the Easter Regatta.

Report

The Council may, at the request of any person or body or of its own motion, suspend the operation of an alcohol free zone by publishing notice of suspension in a newspaper circulating in the area that includes the zone concerned. During the period indicated in such a notice as the period of suspension, the zone does not operate as an alcohol free zone.

For the purpose of this report, the area identified in the attached map, being the area known as Wentworth Rowing Club Lawns will not operate as an alcohol free zone for the entire day of April 12th, 2009.

Conclusion

Council may suspend the operation of an alcohol free zone for a specified period by resolution and advertising the fact in a locally circulating newspaper.

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

CARRIED

12.4 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (HEALTH SERVICES)

Nil.

12.5 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: COMMUNITY SERVICES

Nil

12.6 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: HOUSING & COMMUNITY AMENITIES

12.6.1 Development Applications Determined Under Delegated Authority

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

Recommendation

That Council receive and note 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 January 2009

Report

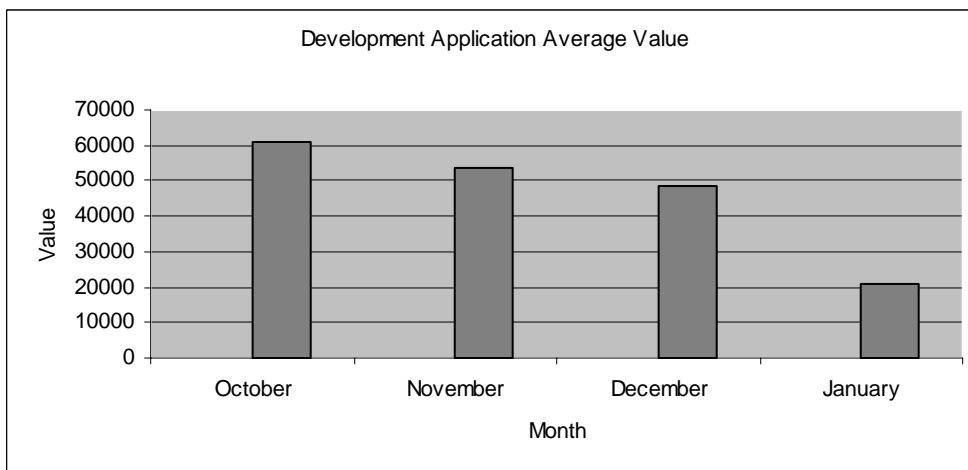
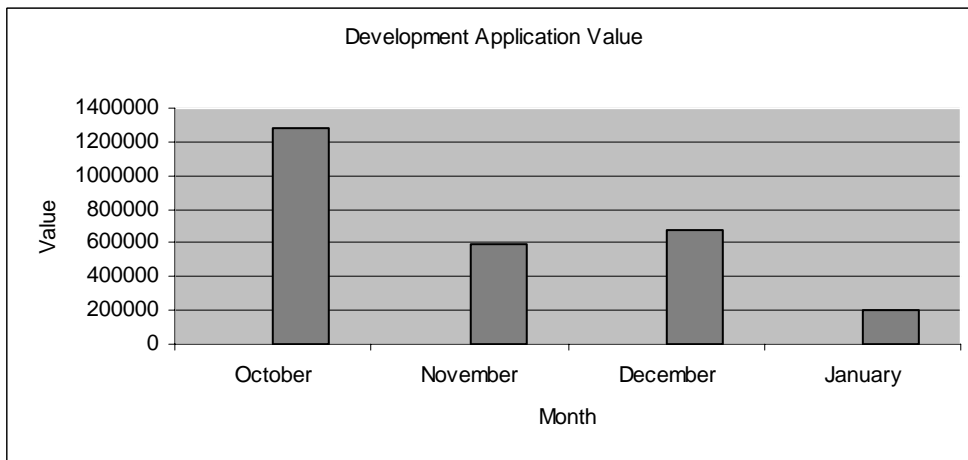
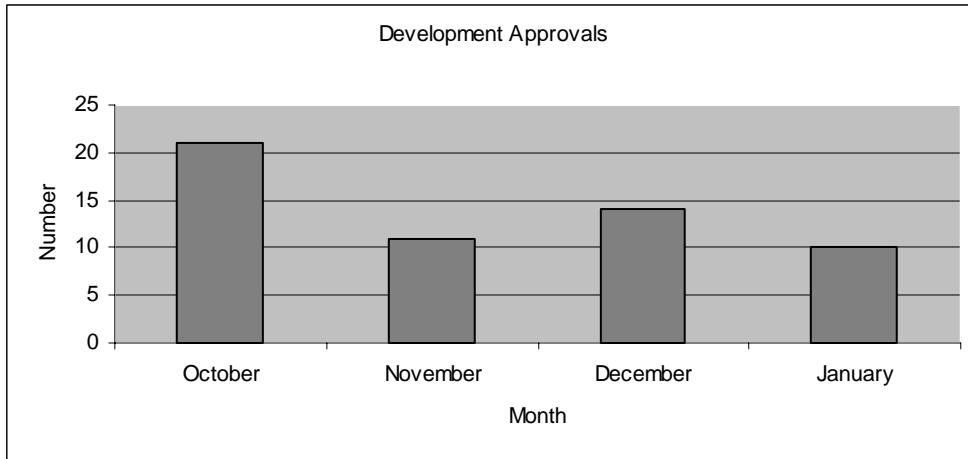
DA No	OWNER / APPLICANT	LOCATION	DEVELOPMENT TYPE & VALUE	NO. DAYS	DATE APPROVED
08/138	Peter Danson AH & MA Dyke	Lots 81 and 82 in DP 756961 Oleander Drive and reserve Road West Dareton	Consolidation and subdivision	67	Approved STC 7/1/09
08/155	K.A & K.J Sudholz BW & A	Lot 1 DP 1060701 (7) Murray Street Gol Gol	Swimming Pool & Fence (\$36,800)	12	Approved STC 12/01/2009

08/074	A Carrazza, TR Knight	Lot 433 DP 756961 River Drive Buronga	Two (2) Mooring Sites	81	Approved STC 12/01/2009
08/152	P.J. Anderson	Lot 2 DP 1093699 Murray River & Road Reserve adjacent to Boeill Creek Road Boeill Creek	Pumpsite and Irrigation pipeline (\$4,500)	34	Approved STC 14/01/2009
08/118	M I Luhrs	Murray River adjacent Lot 1 DP 1071309 The Cobb & Co. Way Gol Gol	Mooring Site	46	Approved STC 14/1/09
08/163	Roy Costa & Associates (Forbes-Wilson)	Lot 17 DP 1118464 Modica Crescent Buronga	Transport Terminal (\$20,000)	30	Approved STC 15/1/09
08/153	BW & A (L Skinner)	Lot 2 in DP 1068318 Boeill Creek Road Boeill Creek	Farm Shed (\$15,000)	56	Approved STC 15/1/09
08/154	BW & A (Turner & Wright)	Lot 2 in DP 777861 Amaroo Road Boeill Creek	Dwelling Extension and Deck (\$20,000)	51	Approved STC 15/1/09
08/097	Freeman & Freeman, (P L Crisp)	Lot 707 DP 756961 Reserve Road Coomealla	Two (2) lot subdivision	80	Approved STC 19/01/2009
08/144	BW & A (Mungo Lodge Holdings Pty Ltd)	Lot 6675 DP 820414 Arumpo Road Grazing Area	Relocation of Two (2) Units and Construction of One (1). (\$110,000)	50	Approved STC 19/01/2009

Summary

For the month of January 2009 there were ten Development Applications approved under delegated authority by the Director - Development & Environment. The estimated cost of the approved developments is \$206,300.00. The following data and graphs indicate comparison of value for previous months of this financial year.

Month	DA's Approved	Value	Average
October	21	\$1,283,585	\$61,123
November	11	\$592,960	\$53,905
December	14	\$679,226	\$48,516
January	10	\$206,300	\$20,630
Total	56	\$2,762,071	\$184,174



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

CARRIED

12.7 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: RECREATION & CULTURE

12.7.1 Report On the Australian Inland Botanic Gardens Committee Meeting Held 1 December 2008

Author: Mayor
Implications: Nil
File Reference: R9/5-2
Attachments: Nil
Separately Circ.: Minutes of the Australian Inland Botanic Gardens Committee
1 December 2008
Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the minutes of the Australian Inland Botanic Gardens Committee meeting held 10 November 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 1 December 2008 at MADEC's Wesley Complex Mildura are submitted for the information of Council and include the following:-

- Business Arising from previous minutes
 1. Riverine Reserve
 2. Ballarat quality chair products
 3. letterhead
 4. Administration/Education Officer
 5. Hire Charge
 6. Magenta Floor
- Correspondence Inwards
- Correspondence Outwards
- President's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Director's report
- Functions, Promotions & Publicity Report
- Friends of the Garden Report
- General Business including:-
 1. Insurance
 2. Toilet Overflow
 3. Chairs
 4. Mardi Gras
 5. Bidgee Finance

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

CARRIED

12.8 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: STATUTORY & STRATEGIC PLANNING

Nil

12.9 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: BUILDING CONTROL

Nil

12.10 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & GROWTH**12.10.1 Wentworth 150 Years Celebrations**

Responsible Officer: General Manager
Author: Chair of Meetings
Implications: Management Plan
File Reference: E7/12
Attachments: Minutes of 150th Meeting - February 2009
Separately Circ.: Nil
Tabled: 150th Promotional Brochure

Recommendation

That the report be received and noted.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the activities of the 150th Committee and highlight the events planned for 19, 20 and 21 June 2009, to mark 150 years since the town of Wentworth was named and gazetted (18th June 1859).

Summary

The 150th Committee was formed at a public meeting called by Council, 14 November 2007. This Committee of 5-8 community members has met on a monthly basis throughout 2008/2009.

150th Committee was allocated a \$20,000 budget and secretarial support by Council to use for the celebrations and has sought additional sponsorship and in-kind support from the community. (Revenue Budget - \$29,300/Expenditure Budget \$17,800 at February 2009).

Report

150th celebrations will include the following official events

- **Welcome Reception**
- **Running of the Sheep**
- **Street Parade**
- Official Opening – *awaiting attendance advice from Governor of NSW*
- Welcome to Country
- Old Time Films
- **“Festival of Pubs”**
- Celebration of Wentworth as a township
- Brunch at the Wharf

at various venues within Wentworth township. Other community groups have planned the following additional events/attractions to occur during the three days of celebrations:-

- Unveiling of John Egge Statue
- P.S. Ruby steaming and providing free rides from the Wharf
- Vintage Cars and Fergie Tractors
- Unveiling plaque at Anglican Church
- Little Lunch at The Gaol
- Book Launch
- Fashion from the Outback
- Parade of Wooden Boats
- Sweat Box Art

Other community groups will assist with the preparations and staffing of events during the celebrations.

Most events are planned to have free entry/access (food and drinks at cost) and a range of memorabilia is available/or being produced, which is being sold on cost recovery basis to ensure all community members will be able to participate.

Publicity has commenced and will intensify as the celebrations draw closer.

Policy and Management Plan Implications

- Insurance required for the Committee and event (professional officers, public liability, festivals and events and annual public liability) is available, but at considerable cost - \$3120.
- Running of the Sheep and Street Parade will involve closures of Darling, Sandwyck and Wharf Streets on Saturday 21 June 2009.
- Council staff will be requested to be involved with planning and risk management assessment prior to event, and traffic management and barricade erection/removal on Saturday 21 June 2009

Conclusion

The celebrations are proceeding for the successful 150th celebrations in June 2009.

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

CARRIED

Note: Jill Davidson briefed Council on the committee's activities.

12.11 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Nil

12.12 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: DOMESTIC WASTE MANAGEMENT

Nil

12.13 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: ROADS & BRIDGES (INFRASTRUCTURE)

Nil

12.14 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: WATER SUPPLIES

Nil

12.15 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: SEWERAGE SCHEMES

Nil

13. REPORT MATRIX**13.1 COUNCIL MATRIX OF OUTSTANDING MATTERS**

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

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 Whitfield that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

14. QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICECr. Wheeldon

1. Enquired as to whether the Wentworth Golf Course could buy surplus sewerage waste water or if a pipeline to the golf course could be investigated. He advised Griffith have 3 golf courses that are watered in this manner and questioned whether funding could be sought.

(The Director Development & Environment advised that Council's filtration procedure cannot deliver the proper quality of water that is required and recommended. The General Manager undertook to investigate the matter further).

Cr. King

1. Enquired as to whether Council could make representations to the Department of Water & Energy seeking transfer of water from one of Council's four licences to the Golf Course water licence to assist them with maintaining the greens.

(The General Manager advised that this will be investigated).

Cr. Thompson

1. Raised matters relating to the Swimming Pool at Wentworth and specifically encouraging more users to the pool, problems with the pump, inefficient valve functions, smells emanating from breather pipe which could perhaps be raised in height to assist dispersion of odours.

(The Acting Director Infrastructure & Assets advised that the Water Overseer has the matters in hand for repairs to the swimming pool equipment).

2. Advised that an ambulance was required at Ellerslie recently and missed the turnoff from the Silver City Highway to Fletchers Lake road due to no signage. Requested a sign to be placed on the intersection to avoid this occurring again.
3. Mobile phone reception at Ellerslie was still a problem and requested that this matter be addressed with the campaign for improved phone services in the area.

Cr. Nichols

1. Advised that the small dead trees in the townships and on Pomona Road need to be removed.
2. Advised that in the past there have been certain individuals with keys to the Wentworth tip to unload their rubbish, but now the locks have been changed and they are unable to use the Wentworth tip and do not wish to travel to Buronga each trip due to the cost of fuel.
3. Advised that Council staff have been discarding rose cuttings at the Wentworth sewerage farm area and indicated that this practice should cease.

Cr. Whitfield

1. Enquired as to whether the Darling River Run sign installed at the Junction Park will be modified.

(The General Manager advised that arrangements are in hand to attend to this matter).

2. Enquired as to whether any responses had been received regarding a mobile skate park which could be used in flat areas in the townships.
(This matter will be discussed at the next Councillors Workshop).

Cr. Wakefield

1. Advised that the nature strip in William Street Gol Gol is full of dead plants and needs re-landscaping to make it more attractive.
2. Indicated that the intersection of Dawn Avenue and Wood Street Gol Gol needs to be reconstructed as it is extremely uneven and is causing concern to motorists.
3. Advised that the lighting in Dawn Avenue is unsatisfactory and although this has been raised previously would like to know whether there is any chance of lighting being installed in this area.
(The Acting Director Infrastructure & Assets advised that Roy Harvey is undertaking an audit program of lighting in townships).
4. Advised that there will be a cricket game in Pooncarie on Sunday 22 February to raise funds for the Victorian Bushfire victims.

Cr. Hederics

1. Advised that there is a large mound of rose cuttings near the Gol Gol water plant and requested that these be disposed of.
2. Enquired as to when the Bus Tour for Councillors will occur in the Gol Gol and Buronga areas.
(The General Manager advised that the bus tour will be scheduled for the end of March after the new Director Infrastructure & Assets takes up duties in early March).
3. Advised that the new plantings on the service road at Buronga are doing well but there are still old dead bushes and plants appearing between the new plantings and these need to be removed.
4. Enquired as to whether the maintenance of the roundabout in the Riverbend Estate is Council's responsibility or that of the developer's.
5. Advised that over 3,000 pre-sold tickets for "Music Under the Stars" concert at the Perry Sand Hills on 8 March had been sold and indicated this is a huge plus for the Wentworth township.

Cr. McKinnon

1. Indicated that it would be beneficial to apply for a project under the \$42billion Rudd Government scheme and that perhaps a sky park for the Wentworth Aerodrome could be considered with Council borrowing details from a similar plan used elsewhere to expedite the application. The funds could be used to facilitate a training area, update the fuel depot, sealing of the runway/s etc. which would invite more business into the aerodrome and the Shire itself.

Cr. Thompson

1. Advised that he had received advice that the Eileen Kirby centre was declared unsafe and enquired as to whether Council could investigate this matter with possible removal or maintenance.
(The Director Development & Environment advised that no inspection of the centre had been undertaken and therefore no order had been served on the owners for the building to be demolished and will investigate this matter).

Mayor

1. Advised that she had received numerous emails on assistance to be given to the Victorian Bush Fire survivors and Willowbend Caravan park has donated 4 of his vans to assist the fire fighters with accommodation and Council has donated the cost of petrol required to take the vans down to the fire ravaged areas. The Mayor also advised that staff had conducted a few functions to raise money for the Bush Fire appeal and had raised an amount of \$561.40. The Mayor asked the Councillors if they were in agreement with Council offering a donation rather than goods and services.

Moved McKinnon and Wakefield that Council donates a cheque for \$2,000 towards the Victorian Bushfire appeal with a view to assessing the situation again in the next couple of months.

CARRIED

15. NEXT MEETING

- 18 March 2009

16. CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

Nil

There being no further business the meeting closed 10.08am.