



WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL

MINUTES

ORDINARY MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING
COMMENCING 9.00AM

18 March 2009

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2. OPENING OF MEETING AND PRAYER**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 Tony Cheng (*Director, Infrastructure & Assets*)
Ms Terri Maguire (*Director, Corporate & Community Services*)
Mrs Jill Davidson (*Executive Assistant*)

4. APOLOGIES AND APPLICATION FOR LEAVE

Councillor Wakefield advised Council of his application for leave during the period Saturday 21 – 28 March 2009.

Councillor Nichols reminded Council of her absence of leave from 24 March to 5 April 2009.

Moved Crs. King and Thompson that the applications for leave from Councillors Wakefield and Nichols be received and noted.

CARRIED

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**Recommendation**

That the minutes of the ordinary Council meeting held Wednesday 18 February 2009 be adopted as circulated.

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

CARRIED

6. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

7. PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS**8. MAYORAL REPORTS****8.1 APPOINTMENTS BY THE MAYOR FOR THE PERIOD 19 FEBRUARY TO 17 MARCH 2009**

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 19 February to 17 March 2009.

Report

Date	Conference/Appointment
19 Feb	CWA AGM
25 Feb	RAMROC Jerilderie
26 Feb	Launch of Latrobe Foundation
27 Feb	Graduation Ceremony at LaTrobe Uni Mildura Launch of Wentworth/Mildura Arts Mardi Gras
28 Feb	Mardi Gras parade
1-3 Mar	Western Division Conference
5 Mar	Willowbend Caravan park with GM Captain John Egge's contribution to Wwth – at Fishers
8 Mar	Shire welcome at Perry Sandhills Commissioning Service of Ruth & John Saulo (Dareton Uniting church)
10 Mar	Meeting with Adrian Wells re Murray Valley Trail
14 Mar	Official Opening Artback Gallery Wentworth
16 Mar	Meeting with Myer Foundation Inland Botanic Gardens
17 Mar	Wentworth Rotary Dinner - Speaker
18 Mar	Buronga/Gol Gol Senior Citizens – Seniors Week

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

CARRIED

9. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

10. DELEGATES REPORTS

10.1 Western Division Conference March 2009

Responsible Officer: Mayor
 Author: General Manager
 Implications: Governance
 File & References: File
 Attachments: Nil
 Separately Circ.: Nil
 Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

That Council notes the report.

Purpose

To report on the Western Division Conference held in Balranald on 1-3 March 2009.

Summary

Self explanatory.

Report

Seven Councillors from the Wentworth Shire attended the Western Division Conference, including the Mayor, Councillor Thomson, and Councillors McKinnon, Nichols, Hederics, Wheeldon, Whitfield and King.

The Conference was opened by the Minister for Local Government, The Hon. Barbara Perry MP, and other members of parliament including Mr Kevin Humphries MP, Shadow Minister for Healthy Lifestyles, Aboriginal Affairs and Western NSW, the Hon Sussan Ley MP, Federal Member for Farrer and Shadow Minister for Justice and Customs, and Mr John Williams, MP, Member for Murray-Darling. Councillor Bruce Miller, President of the Local Government Shires Association also attended.

The meeting dealt with 38 motions relevant to local government.

The main issue that was discussed was the future of Western Division and the support required to ensure that it continued to be a force to be reckoned with. The meeting resolved to employ a part time CEO to assist the development and implementation of policy for the Western Division. This Council was instrumental in raising the future of the Division 12 months earlier and achieving a strategic plan. Each Council will be levied \$1000 per year for three years.

Another motion worthy of note was the following which was defeated:

“That the Western Division Group of the Shires Association of NSW resolves that only the representatives from J Division be eligible for appointment to the Executive of the Western Division of the Group of Shires Association.”

It is interesting to note that approximately 75% of the motions put forward to the Conference emanated from the six councils making up J Division of which Wentworth is one.

The following motions were put up by this Council and carried.

“That the Western Division Group of Shires write to the State Government requesting that it introduce a trial 3 year 10 cent refund system on all recycled bottles and cans, covering the Western Division similar to the successful program in South Australia.”

“That the Western Division Group of Shires makes immediate representations to the State Government requesting that it develops a land use planning approach to rural lands to ensure that the “lot size for a dwelling entitlement” is based on local circumstances and actual trends

including the existing pattern of farming, existing pattern of allotments, current pressure for subdivision and dwellings and current pressure for change and, further, that a degree of flexibility in the planning system in rural areas be provided that enables merit consideration of exceptional cases which do not comply with the Local Environmental Plan.”

“That the Western Division Group of Councils write to the State Government requesting that the Road Traffic Authority reviews its contracts with local government with a view to increasing substantially the funding provided for the removal of roadside rubbish, on the basis of covering all costs incurred for the work involved and ensuring that the cleanliness of roadsides meet the expectations of the local area.”

“That the Western Division Group of Councils write to the State Government requesting that all leasehold land in the area represented by the Western Division Group of Councils of the Local Government Shire Association be converted to freehold land and that the development of a strategic plan to achieve this goal be instigated within three months.”

A raffle at the Conference raised \$2153 for the Victorian Bushfire Appeal. A further \$5000 was contributed to the Appeal by Western Division.

The 2010 Annual Conference of the Western Division Group of the Shires Association of NSW will be hosted by the Bourke Shire Council.

Policy and Management Plan Implications

The employment of a Western Division CEO will cost this Council in the order of \$1000 for this financial year. This situation will be reviewed within 12 months.

Conclusion

The Western Division Conference continues to be a valuable policy forum for this Council.

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

CARRIED

Moved Crs. Thomson and McKinnon that Council form a working party of all Councillors.

CARRIED

10.2 Riverina and Murray Regional Organisation of Councils (RAMROC) Meeting on 25 February 2009

Responsible Officer:	Mayor
Author:	General Manager
Implications:	Governance
File & References:	C6/12-2
Attachments:	Nil
Separately Circ.:	Draft Submission
Tabled:	Nil

Recommendation

That Council notes the report on the RAMROC meeting held on 25 February 2009.

Purpose

To report on the RAMROC meeting held on 25 February 2009.

Summary

Self explanatory.

Report

The Mayor and the General Manager attended the RAMROC meeting on 25 February. This meeting is represented by the Mayors and General Managers of 18 councils in the Riverina and Murray River areas.

The meeting was held in Jerilderie and dealt with numerous issues relevant to local government including the following:

- NSW Panel Report and recommendations into regional water and sewerage services
- Local Government Education Network
- Local Government Learning Solutions in house training proposal for councillors
- Committee and working group reports

Presentations were made by the Hon Phillip Costa MP, NSW Minister for Water, Messrs Mike Cahill and Mark Baker, regarding RAMROC's Water for Food Marketing and Advocacy Campaign, and Mr Allen Gavin, Faculty of Business Professional Development Unit Charles Sturt University, regarding the Local Government Education Network.

One of the main issues discussed was the status of the Water and Sewer Inquiry. The Minister for Water attended the meeting and advised that the Inquiry's report was now seeking submissions by 20 March 2009. The Minister advised that he was very interested in the RAMROC Alliance model proposed. However, it was made clear that a status quo situation for councils in relations to running water and sewer operations was highly unlikely unless you were one of the large councils in the East of the State.

RAMROC's position was:

- *that the Panel Inquiry Report be noted, but that it is observed that the Inquiry Panel Report proposes additional functions and powers for the RAMROC Binding Alliance over and above those originally proposed by RAMROC and that these are of concern to Member Councils, particularly control of water and sewerage pricing and the determination of water restrictions.*
- *that RAMROC re-affirm its original request that the State Government provide an estimated amount of \$200,000 to fully examine and develop a detailed Business Model for implementation of a Binding Alliance, encompassing the functions and responsibilities that are most appropriate for the region and as they were proposed in the original RAMROC submission.*
- *that the NSW Government be requested to provide assurances that its commitment of "hundreds of millions of dollars for water and sewerage infrastructure", as promised*

by the former Water Minister and now Premier the Hon Nathan Rees, will be honoured as an integral component of the reform proposals.

It is recommended that this Council support RAMROC's approach in relation to the "alliance model" and that in view of Minister Costa's comments not make a submission. This Council will be in a position to make further comment about the alliance model should it be accepted by the Government. RAMROC's draft submission has been separately circulated.

The second most important issue related to the marketing of the Water for Food Campaign Strategy. It was reported that RAMROC had raised approximately \$80,000 and it was resolved at the meeting, moved by Wentworth Shire Council, that an additional \$40,000 be put to the Campaign from RAMROC reserves.

RAMROC also supported the Charles Sturt University's work in developing a framework and courses to further the development of local government in regional NSW.

The next meeting of RAMROC will be held on 6 May at Mathoura.

Policy and Management Plan Implications

Various issues reported upon may impact on the budget in due course, in particular the results of the Water and Sewer Inquiry.

Conclusion

The RAMROC meeting continues to be a valuable policy forum for local government in this region.

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

CARRIED

11. COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

11.1 MINUTES OF LOCAL TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING 10 FEBRUARY 2009

Responsible Officer:	Acting Director Infrastructure and Assets
Author:	Engineering Assistant
Implications:	Traffic management
File Reference:	C6/15-2
Attachments:	Nil
Separately Circ.:	Minutes Local Traffic Committee Meeting 10 February 2009
Tabled:	Nil

Recommendation

That the minutes of the Local Traffic Committee meeting held on 10 February 2009 be received and noted.

Purpose

To address and consider local traffic issues within the Wentworth Shire.

Summary

Issues examined

- Signage
- Speed zones
- Skate Park location
- River crossing arrangements in the event of bridge closure
- Pedestrian Crossings
- Road Train Routes
- Enforcement of Road Rules
- Intersections
- Car Rally

Report

Full copy of minutes attached.

Policy and Management Plan Implications

All proposed works form part of the Management Plan and Road Safety awareness.

Conclusion

Not applicable.

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

CARRIED

12. OFFICERS' REPORTS**12.1 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE & STRATEGIC PLANNING****12.1.1 Change of Date for June Council Meeting**

Responsible Officer: General Manager
Author: General Manager
Implications: Governance
File & References: File
Attachments: Nil
Separately Circ.: Nil
Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

That Council Adopts the change of meeting date for the Ordinary Meeting of Council June 2009 from the normally scheduled third Wednesday to Wednesday 24 June 2009, and that the change be advertised accordingly.

Purpose

To recommend a change in date for the Ordinary Meeting of Council June 2009.

Summary

Self explanatory.

Report

This year the draft management plan will be adopted at Council's Ordinary Meeting in May and in order to comply with the 28 day public exhibition period required by the Local Government Act 1993 it will be necessary to move the Ordinary meeting of Council in June, normally held on the third Wednesday, to the fourth Wednesday, being 24 June 2009.

Policy and Management Plan Implications

Not applicable.

Conclusion

The move of the meeting will allow the statutory 28 day exhibition for the draft Management Plan to occur.

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

CARRIED

12.1.2 Senior Staff Movements

Responsible Officer:	General Manager
Author:	Manager Human Resources
Implications:	Governance
File & References:	PR14/9-2
Attachments:	Nil
Separately Circ.:	Nil
Tabled:	Nil

Recommendation

That Council notes the report.

Purpose

To report on newly appointed senior positions.

Summary

Self explanatory.

Report

Three recent appointments have been made to the team at Wentworth Shire Council.

Paula Mastrippolito (CEDO Community and Economic Development Officer)

Paula comes to Council with a broad range of experience and fills the replacement position of Community and Economic Development Officer. Paula commenced with Council 23 February.

Paula's main objective will be to work with local, state and federal development bodies as well as industry, investment and service providers, educational and employment providers and the community to achieve positive economic, social and environmental outcomes.

Paula holds an Advanced Diploma in Business Management and is currently completing a Bachelor of Applied Management. Paula is a highly experienced business professional and has been a Director/committee member for various community committees and boards throughout Sunraysia. For the past two years Paula has operated her own business specialising in strategic planning as well as funding and grant pursuit.

Tony Cheng (DIA Director of Infrastructure and Assets)

Tony comes to Council with a broad range of experience and fills the replacement position of Director Infrastructure and Assets. Tony commenced with Council on 9 March.

Tony holds a Bachelor of Engineering with Honours and has had almost 10 years Local Government experience in both New Zealand and Australia. In 2006 Tony was awarded Northern Territory's Professional Manager of the Year – Public Sector. In 2008 Tony was part of a team who developed the Meritorious Empowerment Principle (HR initiative) that was featured in the Local Government *FOCUS* periodical. Tony has had vast experience in a variety of major Capital Works projects especially in Alice Springs where he was project managing the Civic Centre Redevelopment Final Phase and conceptual designer and project manager for the Aquatic and Leisure Centre Works which was a \$16 million dollar project.

Tony will work with the General Manager, Directors and staff to achieve the overall strategic objectives of Council as defined in Council's goals, policies, priorities and programs.

Tony is responsible for the management and delivery of the following functions of Council:

- infrastructure services including water, sewer, roads, footpaths, parks and gardens, workshop and store.
- engineering technical services including advice on development applications, engineering design and contract documentation.

Sharon Morrison (MGCD Manager Governance and Corporate Development)

Sharon comes to Council with considerable experience in the commercial sector and local government and fills the new position of Manager Governance and Corporate Development. Sharon commenced on 9 March.

Sharon holds a Bachelor of Arts (Politics) and a Bachelor of Laws with Honours as well as eight years post qualification experience within the legal field. Having been a member on a number of community committees as well as a former Victorian Councillor Sharon has a strong background in policy development, setting strategic direction as well as a strong understanding of compliance and risk management principles and requirements.

Sharon will be responsible for providing internal legal advice on various issues, guidance, training, education and general assistance in the areas of governance and

corporate development to staff. Sharon will focus on improving the effectiveness of Council's governance and improve the level of compliance across the organisation.

Policy and Management Plan Implications

The CEDO and DIA are direct replacement positions whilst the MGCD is a new position that will be funded from a combination of changes in the organisational structure and a reduced reliance in contracting work to external sources.

Conclusion

The new appointees are well placed to make necessary and important contributions to the direction of this Council.

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

CARRIED

12.1.3 Federal Government Community Infrastructure Funding Stimulus

Responsible Officer:	General Manager
Author:	General Manager
Implications:	Management Plan
File & References:	G4/3-5
Attachments:	Nil
Separately Circ.:	Nil
Tabled:	Nil

Recommendation

That Council notes the report and authorises the General Manager to bring forward the preparation of business plans and associated documentation for the Wentworth Aerodrome and the Wentworth Showgrounds Complex, authorises the expenditure of funds for the business plans and associated documentation, and that sufficient funds be allocated in the 09/10 Management Plan to complete the work if needed.

Purpose

To report on the status of the Federal Government Community Infrastructure funding stimulus.

Summary

Self explanatory.

Report

As previously reported the Federal Government has provided significant amounts of funding for local government under a community infrastructure stimulus package.

The first package of \$300million was released in November 2008 and this was made up of \$250m (with criteria which was broad) and \$50million (with criteria which was specific and subject to projects being at least \$2m each). In February 2009 the \$50m component was expanded to \$500m.

Of the \$250m component this Council received \$460,000 which was more than most small councils. Council submitted 11 projects by the due date and only recently have been advised that a number of the projects did not meet the criteria. The Federal Government required immediate responses to indicate replacement projects for the ones rejected.

The items not approved are:

- Dinosaur Tourism attraction
- Business Plan for the Wentworth Showgrounds
- Chairs for Alcheringa Oval

Replacement items submitted are:

- Airconditioning of the Wentworth Rowing Club Gym room
- Additional money for the library wireless system
- Additional playground structures, including shade sails
- Move to energy efficient lighting in Council buildings

As a result of the funding released from the Federal Government and the criteria involved it is clear that future grant funding would be subject to adequate support documentation in the form of business plans and feasibility studies.

Over the last few weeks staff have attempted to align the information we currently have (or could produce in the short timeframe) on various projects with the funding. As evidenced by the approval process on submitted projects the level of scrutiny is thorough, precise and detailed. This was not expected in relation to the \$460,000 of funds allocated

It is argued that additional funds should be authorised in this financial year to commence works on necessary business plans for major projects included in the Management Plan. Currently consultancies for business plans either have a specific budget allocation or come under an account controlled by the General Manager.

It is proposed to fund the following projects (currently in the Council's 10 Year Plan) from the General Manager's Consultancy Account:

- Business plan and associated documentation for the Wentworth Aerodrome
- Business Plan and associated documentation for the Wentworth Showgrounds Complex

Policy and Management Plan Implications

The Management Plan currently includes the projects referred to in this report and it may be necessary to allocate funds into 2009/2010 financial year to completed the necessary documentation.

Conclusion

The allocation of funds and the commencement of business plans and associated documentation for the two projects will put Council in a much better position when further grant funds become available.

Moved Crs. Wakefield and King 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: F4/2-3
 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 February 2009 were \$962,314.71 After allowing for pensioner subsidies, the total Rates and Charges collected are now 66.66% of the levies. A summary of the Rates and Charges situation as at 28 February 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	687,769.11	
+ Supplementary Rates & Charges	24,784.56	
+ Additional Charges	38,070.77	
- Credit Adjustments	27,295.56	
- Farmland 20% capped	1,078.82	
- Abandonments	962.65	721,287.41
		7,659,469.56
<u>Deductions</u>		
- Payments	4,952,828.01	
- Less Refunds of Payments	3,371.41	4,949,456.60
- Pensioner Subsidy:-		
Government Subsidy	86,016.03	
Council Subsidy	70,368.62	156,384.65
Total Rates/Water Charges Outstand		\$2,553,628.31

Note: For comparison purposes 65.94% of the levy had been collected at the end of February 2008.

Reconciliation And Balance Of Funds Held As At 28 February 2009

The reconciliation has been carried out between the Cash Book of each fund and the Bank Pass Sheet as at 28 February 2009 and the investments have been made in accordance with the Act, the regulations and Council's investment policies.

	<u>Combined Bank Acc.</u>
Cash Balance as at 1 February 2009	\$832,329.05 Dr
<u>Add:</u> Receipts for Period Ending 28 February 2009	
Rates, Debtors, Miscellaneous	<u>4,458,694.68</u>
<u>Less:</u> Payments for Period Ending 28 February 2009	
Cash Book entries for this Month	<u>3,211,701.78</u>
<u>Cash Balance As At 28 February 2009</u>	<u>\$2,079,321.95 Dr.</u>

Investments

Bank	TD/C.Bill		
LGFS	FI 28 days @ 4.07% due 27/2/2009	927,210.26	
Community CPS Australia Ltd	TD 91 days @ 4.60% due 11/5/2009	1,000,000.00	
Savings & Loans Credit Union	TD 92 days @ 5.5% due 14/4/2009	1,000,000.00	
SGE Credit Union	TD 91 days @ 5.59% due 9/3/2009	1,000,000.00	
Heritage Building Society	TD 91 days @ 5.05% due 11/5/2009	1,000,000.00	
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 91 days @ 4.05% due 11/5/2009	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	
IMB Banking & Financial Services	TD 91 days @ 4.55% due 11/5/2009	1,000,000.00	13,927,210.26
TOTAL			\$16,006,532.21

Commitments

	\$	\$
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	679,090	
- Water Fund	1,854,433	
- Sewer Fund	656,554	
Total Internal Restrictions		5,481,889
External Restrictions		
- Trust	147,690	
- Developer Contribution Reserve	592,599	
- Prepayments - Cemeteries	173,347	
- Unexpended Grants	3,203,625	
Total External Restrictions		4,117,261
Total Commitments as at 28 February 2009		9,599,150

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	77,440.11	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	0.00	Paid out 26/2/2009
	Local Government Financial Services (LGFS)	Levee Bank	5.00%	1,000,000	826,663.84	
TOTAL					4,063,385.69	

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. Nichols and Wakefield that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

12.2.2 Stocktake – February 2009

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate & Community Services
 Author: Payroll Officer
 Implications: Management Plan

File Reference: PT13/3-2
 Attachments: Nil
 Separately Circ.: Nil
 Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

That the surpluses of \$81.34 and the deficiencies of \$3944.04 be written on and off the Stores Masterfile respectively.

Purpose

To advise Council of the details of the Stocktake for the period ending 11 February 2009.

Report

The stocktake for the period ending 11 February 2009 has been completed and revealed the following surpluses and deficiencies:-

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	Computer Balance	Count	Surplus	Deficit	Value
100000	Aerogard	34	30		4	(26.96)
100100	Batteries, Lantern	53	43		10	(43.00)
100201	Cartridge RC86 respirators	57	56		1	(6.39)
100205	Cement	161	146		15	(85.35)
100225	Clamps, exhaust	107	103		4	(15.28)
100235	Clips, hose	735	729		6	(8.46)
100280	CRC – 556	8	6		2	(11.90)
100400	Distillate- on road trucks	3076	2976		100	(119.00)
100405	Distillate – non-claimable	6138	6038		100	(123.00)
100406	Distillate – other mach-claim	7977	7783		194	(225.04)
100410	Drills to ½ / 12mm	205	176		29	(95.12)
100540	Emblems, Shire	196	185		11	(52.69)
100600	Files	17	18	1		25.60
100640	Filters, \$35 - \$39.99	21	20		1	(35.76)
100645	Filters, \$40 - \$44.99	18	15		3	(115.89)
100650	Filters, \$45 – \$49.99	21	20		1	(43.84)
100800	Handles	41	44	3		20.40
101500	Oil	4243	4164		79	(222.78)
101608	Paint, marker	497	503	6		35.34
101640	Petrol, unleaded – non-claim	3262	2262		1000	(1050.00)
101645	Petrol, unleaded - claimable	3494	2338		1156	(1595.28)
101750	Pipe, galv. 20mm	33	26		7	(40.25)
102400	Tape, PVC	150	147		3	(6.75)
102710	Wire rope, dees & clips	117	111		6	(21.30)
						\$(3862.70)

Policy and Management Plan Implications

Management Plan.

Conclusion

Stock takes are conducted regularly in accordance with accounting requirements.

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

CARRIED

12.2.3 Payment In Full Of Loan No. 178

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate & Community Services
Author: Director Corporate & Community Services
Implications: Management Plan
File & References: L7-1
Attachments: Nil
Separately Circ.: Nil
Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

That Council approves the repayment of Loan No. 178 for the amount of \$79,174.88 plus accrued interest from the Water Fund Reserve.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to repay Loan No. 178 acquired in January 2001 and refinanced in January 2005 for the purpose of conducting works associated with Water Capital works.

Summary

Loan No. 178 has a current outstanding balance of \$79,174.88 and is due for either refinancing or payment in full. The current interest rates quoted from the National Bank are 6.88% for variable interest and 5.07% for a five year fixed rate.

There are sufficient funds in the Water Fund for the Loan to be paid out from this Fund.

Report

Loan No. 178 was obtained in January 2001 for the amount of \$160,000 through the Commonwealth Bank and was later refinanced in January 2005 from the National Australia Bank for the outstanding amount of \$118,598.

The current balance of the Loan is \$79,174.88 and is due for refinancing or payment in full.

Current interest rates quoted by the National Bank are 6.88% for variable interest or 5.07% for a five year fixed rate.

As current Investment interest rates are much lower than the quoted interest rates for Loan borrowings and the Water Fund does have the funds to repay the loan in full, it would be preferable to make full payment of the Loan.

Policy and Management Plan Implications

The repayment of Loan No. 178 would require a variation to the Management Plan.

Conclusion

It is recommended that Loan No. 178 be paid out in full from the Water Fund Reserve.

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

CARRIED

Moved Crs. Wakefield and Thompson that item 12.2.4 be deferred and carried over to a later part of the meeting of Council when Warren Newton and Stephen Protopopoff address Council on the valuation processes.

CARRIED

12.2.4 Presentation by Representative from Valuer General's Department & Contract Valuer re 2008 Valuations

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate & Community Services
Author: Director Corporate & Community Services
Implications: Nil
File Reference: F4/13-3
Attachments: Nil
Separately Circ.: Nil
Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

That the verbal presentation by Stephen Protopopoff (District Valuer Queanbeyan) and Warren Newton (Contract Valuer for Valuer General's Department) be received.

Purpose

To explain to Council the process for valuation of properties in the Wentworth Shire.

Summary

Self explanatory.

Report

Stephen Protopopoff (District Valuer Queanbeyan) and Warren Newton (Contract Valuer for Valuer General's Department) have been invited to attend Council meeting to explain the process of how valuations are undertaken in the Wentworth Shire. Steven and Warren are available to discuss and answer any questions that the Councillors may have with respect to the valuation process.

Policy and Management Plan Implications

Not applicable.

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

CARRIED

12.3 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

12.4 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (HEALTH SERVICES)

12.5 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: COMMUNITY SERVICES

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: L1/8-4
 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 February 2009.

Report

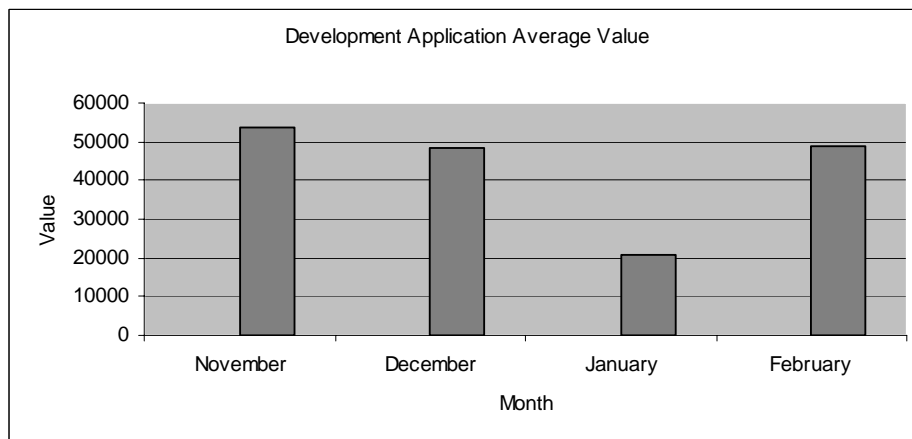
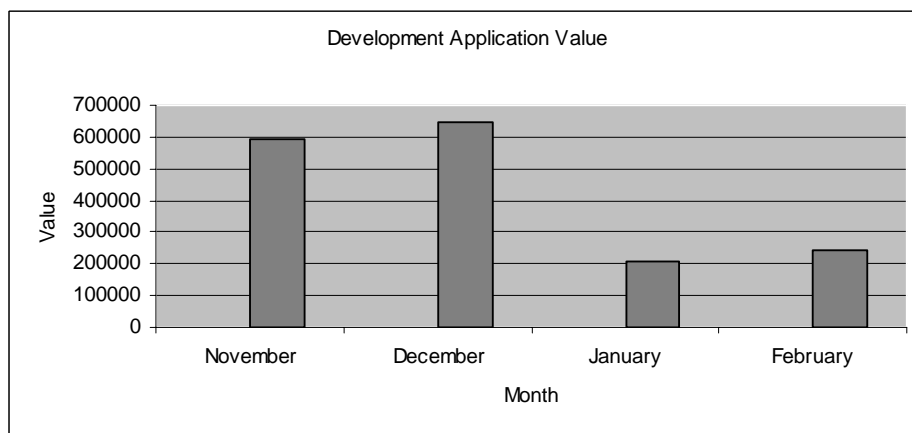
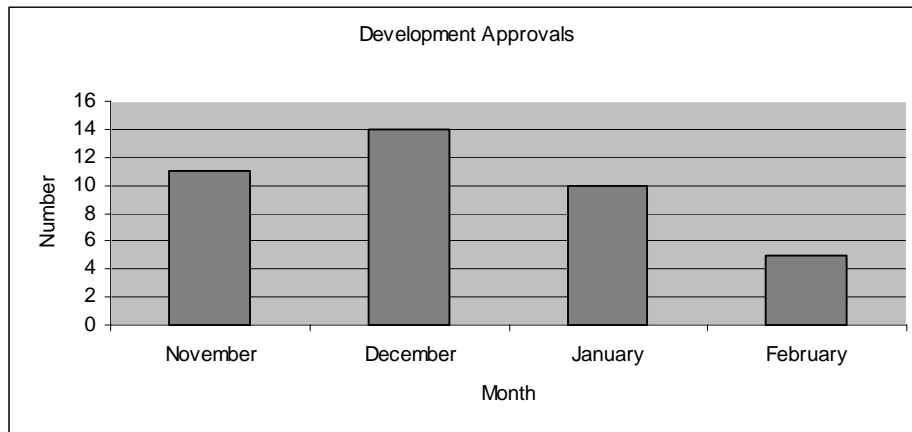
DA No	OWNER / APPLICANT	LOCATION	DEVELOPMENT TYPE & VALUE	NO. DAYS	DATE APPROVED
08/170	Forbes Wilson Investments P/L, Roy Costa & Ass	Lot 19 DP 1118464 Modica Crescent Buronga	Warehouse to be used as a commercial Laundromat (\$150000)	11	09/02/09
08/161	L & W Redpath	Lot 1075 DP 137501 Silver City Highway Coomealla	Two Lot Subdivision	55	9/2/09
08/142	Smith, GR, GSD Architects	Lot 12 DP 240719 (35) Carramar Drive Gol Gol	Dwelling extension and swimming pool (\$600,000)	24	16/02/09 (Approved STC)
09/011	Warren, W	Lot A DP 417571 Adams Street Wentworth	Carport (5000)	18	16/02/2009 (Approved STC)
09/019	Martin, SP & KL, Peter C Neate	Lot 178 DP 720088 Silver City Highway Wentworth	Swimming Pool (\$28,700)	9	25/02/2009 (Approved STC)

Summary

For the month of February there were five Development Applications approved under delegated authority by the Director - Development & Environment. The estimated cost of the approved developments is \$244700. The following data and graphs indicate comparison of value for previous months of this financial year.

Month	DA's Approved	Value	Average
November	11	\$592,960	\$53,905
December	14	\$649,226	\$48,516
January	10	\$206,300	\$20,630
February	5	\$244,700	\$48,940

Total 40 \$1,693,186 \$171,991



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

CARRIED

12.7 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: RECREATION & CULTURE

12.7.1 PS Ruby Board of Management Extraordinary Meeting Minutes 12 February 2009

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate & Community Services
 Author: Director Corporate & Community Services
 Implications: Nil
 File Reference: C14/2-5

Attachments: Nil
Separately Circ.: Minutes of meeting 12 February 2009
Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the report.

Purpose

To report on the PS Ruby Board of Management Committee Extraordinary meeting held Thursday 12 February 2009.

Report

PS Ruby Board of Management Committee meeting discussed issues regarding completed and ongoing works in progress and outcomes.

There are no decisions required of Council.

The minutes of the PS Ruby Board of Management are self explanatory.

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

CARRIED

12.7.2 Temporary Skateboard Ramps

Responsible Officer: Director Infrastructure & Assets
Author: General Manager
Implications: Management Plan
File Reference: R10/5-2
Attachments: Nil
Separately Circ.: Nil
Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

That Council purchase temporary ramp facilities up to the value of \$50,000 from the 2008/2009 budget year.

Purpose

To seek approval to purchase temporary ramp facilities up to the value of \$50,000 from the 2008/2009 budget year.

Report

Council currently has a project in the Management Plan to construct a skateboard facility in Dareton. Funding for the project is made up of \$70,000 from grant funds and \$50,000 from Council. The overall costs of this facility will be recosted for the Management Plan.

As an interim measure to accommodate the demands for skateboard facilities it is proposed to pursue a temporary skateboard facility which can be used in different locations throughout the Shire.

Councillors have been provided with information on the availability, cost, designs and other details associated with temporary skateboard ramps.

During a recent workshop of Councillors at which the issue of temporary skateboard ramps was discussed, there was a favorable response to the concept of a temporary facility and the possible expending of up to \$50,000 in the 2008/2009 budget to purchase a temporary facility and undertake the necessary site preparations for its use.

If this recommendation is passed an implementation plan will be developed as soon as possible.

Policy and Management Plan Implications

It is proposed to utilise funds from the current budget.

Conclusion

The temporary skateboard facility solution will provide the opportunity for youth throughout the Shire to experience this type of skateboarding.

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

CARRIED

12.8 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: STATUTORY & STRATEGIC PLANNING

12.8.1 DA08/064 Proposed Storage Bays and Retaining Wall – Lot 83 DP 756946 Gol Gol North Road Gol Gol

Responsible Officer:	Director Development and Environment
Author:	Planning Officer
Implications:	Policy, Management Plan
File & References:	DA08/064
Attachments:	Schedule 1
Separately Circ.:	Submissions; SimFresh Letter 2001; Letter from G Simonetta dated 21/5/01.
Tabled:	Locality Plan; Site Plan

Recommendation

That Council approves Development Application Number 08/064 for a shed consisting of six bays and a retaining wall on Lot 83 in DP 756946 Gol Gol North Road, Gol Gol.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to consider the objections lodged and to determine the application for a proposed shed and retaining wall on Lot 83 DP 756946 Gol Gol North Road Gol Gol.

Summary

An application for a shed (storage bays) and retrospective approval for a retaining wall was received at Council on 16 April 2008. The applicant is Simfresh Pty Ltd and the owner is Mr G Simonetta. The site is Lot 83 DP 756946 Gol Gol North Road,

Gol Gol. As a result of the public notification and advertising, three submissions objecting to the proposal have been received from residents of the adjacent properties situated in the Pineridge Estate subdivision (Stage 2). Ten letters were sent. The issues include amenity and noise pollution.

The proposed development is consistent with the existing use of the fruit packing operation and is permissible with consent. The land is zoned 1 (a) General Rural and abuts a 2 (v) Village/Urban zone.

Report

The fruit packing operation of Simfresh commenced in 1993 when Council approved a Development Application for a Packing Shed subject to conditions. Since that time four (4) Development Applications have been received and approved subject to conditions for extensions to the existing operation.

History

Dev. App. No	Date Approved	Proposal	Comments
38/93	9/9/93	Packing Shed	Conditions included loading and unloading bays, car parking, all weather surface and driveway sealing.
4/97	25/2/97	Commercial Packing Shed	Conditions included additional car parking, external lighting, noise emissions to comply with EPA requirements.
130/99	28/7/99	Packing Shed Extensions	Conditions included additional car parking.
66/01	27/6/01	Fifty Lot residential subdivision	This application was for the adjacent residential subdivision on Lot 215 DP 450525 (now DP 1038712) and condition 18 of that approval states "Screening is to be provided along the boundary between lot 215 and the horticultural land on the northern boundary. Such screening is to be to the satisfaction of the Wentworth Shire Council's Director Environmental Services"
186/01	27/2/02	Extension to Packing Shed	Conditions include that no heavy vehicles are to operate between the hours of 7.00pm and 7.00am other than during peak season.
202/06	15/1/07	Cool room extensions and shade sails	Building and fire safety conditions attached to approval.

The applicant of the current proposal had written to Council in 2001 expressing his concerns of the proposal for the fifty lot residential subdivision. The letter details concerns of his operation impacting on future residents and the possibility of those residents having issues with his operation, in respect to noise, etc. A copy of that letter is attached.

Accordingly, Council placed the already mentioned condition number 18 to provide screening. The onus for the screening was placed on the developers of the residential subdivision not Sim Fresh.

A meeting was held between the three submission writers and two officers of Council on the 29 October 2008 to discuss their concerns and matters raised to facilitate a satisfactory outcome to both the proponent and the objectors. As a result of that

meeting a number of specific matters were discussed, the submission writers requested the following matters be addressed:

- Proposed shed to be setback 3.5 metres from rear boundary.
- Back wall to be constructed in hebel
- Back wall to be colourbond (beige) to match resident's rear boundary fence
- 1.2 metre high tube screening to be positioned on retaining wall
- No storage to be permitted between rear wall and boundary
- A gate to be included to prevent access to area behind shed (western end).
- Capping to be installed on retaining wall to residents rear boundary fence to control pests, vermin and weeds.

Amended plans were received 30/1/09 detailing the above alterations. The plans were sent to the three submission writers requesting comment.

All three submission writers replied on the 19 and 20 February 2009 stating that objections still stand because of the following reasons:

Reason stated for objection	Council Officer comment
Plan drawing 3 of 3 states three different types of external cladding Plan drawing 2 stipulates 75mm hebel panel – require clarification of external cladding	Plan drawing 2 states hebel and plan drawing 3 states proposed storage shed to be constructed of sound absorbent materials to create sound buffer to residential subdivision.
1.2 metre extension not shown on plan	The plan shows 1.2 metre high tube stock plantings to screen shed wall. The Draftsman advised plantings in lieu of retaining wall extension. Approval has been conditioned to include retaining wall extension.

Policy and Management Plan Implications

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

Conclusion

The report has shown that the objections received have been adequately addressed in regard to privacy and amenity and it is therefore recommended that the proposed shed (storage bay) and retaining wall on Lot 83 DP 756946 Gol Gol North Road Gol Gol be approved subject to the attached conditions.

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

CARRIED

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

For the motion: Councillors Thomson, King, Thompson, Nichols, Whitfield, Wakefield, Hederics, and McKinnon

Against the motion: Councillor Wheeldon

12.9 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: BUILDING CONTROL**12.10 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & GROWTH****12.11 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT****12.12 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: DOMESTIC WASTE MANAGEMENT****12.13 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: ROADS & BRIDGES (INFRASTRUCTURE)****12.14 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: WATER SUPPLIES****12.15 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: SEWERAGE SCHEMES****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. King and Wakefield that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

14. QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Cr. Wheeldon

1. Enquired as to whether a presentation was undertaken to past Councillors whether retired or not re-elected.

(The Mayor advised that letters and a presentation were sent on her behalf to the Councillors).

Cr. King

1. Advised that the Rufus River Road was extremely rough.
2. Advised that when driving down from Coombah, a rubbish bin used to be located at the corner of Springwood and Mail Roads. The bin used to be cleared by outdoor staff travelling to various locations in that direction. Requested to have the rubbish bin reinstated.
3. Enquired as to whether it is correct that when hiring a hall for a one off occasion or function, that a \$10million public liability was required to be taken out by the hirers.

(The General Manager advised that a casual hall hire was available for this situation).

Cr. Thompson

1. Enquired as to whether the cumbungyee weed could be removed from the junction reserve area Wentworth as it is creating an eyesore with visitors unable to take in the view of the two rivers.
2. Enquired as to whether the Captain Sturt memorial cairn which had previously been moved to the Willowbend Caravan park in time of high river in the 70's, could be reinstated in its correct position on junction island.

Cr. Nichols

1. Enquired as to which Councillor will be judging the Golden Saddles talent competition at the Wentworth Services Club.

(Councillor King will be undertaking the judging if there are enough participants).

2. Previously advised about removal of dead trees and requested two trees directly opposite Masons be removed.

3. Stated that Council meetings have been "sanitized, are shorter, with reports submitted with no "guts" in them, and indicated that there used to be more depth in the Council meetings.

(The General Manager advised that due to the Councillor workshops being held on the alternate fortnight to Council meetings much of the discussion on issues reported to Council subsequently are being conducted at the workshops which has resulted in minimal debate at Council meetings. Council meetings are for items that require decisions or where important matters of information require some media exposure. Councillor King indicated that Councillors should be raising any concerns that they have on any matter and request the items be included in the next agenda. Councillor McKinnon advised that some issues need to be debated not just staff putting in recommendations.

Cr. Whitfield

1. Advised that he failed to see the logic in why the back road from Wentworth to Dareton is having money spent on its maintenance for one resident when

there should be serious consideration for Boeill Creek or Arumpo Roads to be maintained.

(Councillor Thompson advised that to travel to Wentworth from Dareton take 6 minutes less time than by using the highway. If a traffic count was placed on the road Councillors would be surprised at the traffic).

(Councillors Nichols advised that if the road was not maintained to a sufficient standard Council could be sued if an accident happened on the road when it is in poor condition).

Cr. McKinnon

1. Advised that he lives on a road with 6 other residents but because it is not a dedicated road it cannot be graded by Council. Residents can apply for the road to be dedicated.
2. Enquired as to what is the total amount of water allocation and licences that Council has at the present time. He indicated that it would be beneficial for the trees in parks and gardens to be generously watered before any watering limitations were to be placed on Council from 1 July.

(The Mayor advised Council that a letter has been sent to the Minister for Water seeking concessions for the Shire residents to be able to water their trees and gardens due to continuous dry weather conditions and location on the Murray River).

Cr. King

1. Advised that the Wentworth Golf Club minutes of their last meeting indicated that a decision was made to carry over their remaining water allocation to next year.

15. NEXT MEETING

- Wednesday 15 April 2009

16. CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

Nil

Adjournment

At 10.20am moved Crs. Nichols and King that Council suspend standing orders to receive a presentation by Warren Newton and Stephen Protopopoff.

CARRIED

Note: Warren Newton (Consultant Valuer) and Stephen Protopopoff (District Valuer Queanbeyan) made a presentation to Council on the valuation process.

Resumption

At 11.50am moved Crs. Nichols and Hederics that Council resumes the Council meeting, with all Councillors present.

CARRIED

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 11.52am.