



WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL

MINUTES

ORDINARY MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING
COMMENCING 9.00AM

Wednesday 18 November 2009

1.	CONTENTS	2
2.	OPENING OF MEETING AND PRAYER.....	4
3.	PRESENT.....	4
4.	APOLOGIES AND APPLICATION FOR LEAVE.....	4
5.	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.....	4
6.	DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.....	4
7.	PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS	4
8.	MAYORAL REPORTS	4
8.1	APPOINTMENTS BY THE MAYOR FOR THE PERIOD 22 OCTOBER TO 17 NOVEMBER 2009	4
9.	NOTICES OF MOTION.....	5
9.1	ESTABLISHMENT OF SUITABLE ROADSIDE/RIVER TOURISM SIGNAGE	5
9.2	STREET CLEANER PURCHASE	7
10.	DELEGATES REPORTS.....	8
11.	COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS	8
12.	OFFICERS' REPORTS.....	8
12.1	PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE & STRATEGIC PLANNING	8
12.1.1	<i>Audit and Risk Management Committee</i>	8
12.1.2	<i>SUPPLEMENTARY LATE REPORT - Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework.....</i>	9
12.2	PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: FINANCIAL PLANNING & ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT	11
12.2.1	<i>Financial Report.....</i>	11
12.2.2	<i>Performance Report First Quarterly Review of Council's Management Plan 2009/2010 (quarter ending 30 September 2009).....</i>	14
12.2.3	<i>Financial Review of Council's 2009/2013 Management Plan as at 30 September 2009</i>	16
12.2.4	<i>Cost Shifting Survey Results for 2007/2008</i>	21
12.3	PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY.....	23
12.4	PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (HEALTH SERVICES).....	23
12.5	PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: COMMUNITY SERVICES.....	23
12.6	PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: HOUSING & COMMUNITY AMENITIES	23
12.6.1	<i>Development Applications Determined Under Delegated Authority</i>	23
12.7	PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: RECREATION & CULTURE	26
12.7.1	<i>Draft Arts and Culture Plan.....</i>	26
12.8	PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: STATUTORY & STRATEGIC PLANNING.....	27
12.8.1	<i>DA69/06 Proposed Dwelling – Lot 1 Dp 787557 Boeill Creek Road Boeill Creek</i>	27
12.8.2	<i>DA08/098 Proposed Two Lot Subdivision – Lot 12 Dp 807830 Creek Road Curlwaa</i>	29
12.8.3	<i>Draft Murray Regional Strategy</i>	30
12.9	PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: BUILDING CONTROL.....	32
12.10	PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & GROWTH	32

12.10.1	Wentworth Airport Masterplan.....	32
12.11	PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT	34
12.11.1	Murray Regional Organisation of Council's State of The Environment Supplementary Report 2008/2009	34
12.12	PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: DOMESTIC WASTE MANAGEMENT	35
12.13	PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: ROADS & BRIDGES (INFRASTRUCTURE)	35
12.13.1	Maintenance Works - Council's Footpaths	36
12.14	PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: WATER SUPPLIES	37
12.14.1	Telemetry Replacement System.....	37
12.14.2	Status Update – Water Restrictions November 2009.....	38
12.15	PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: SEWERAGE SCHEMES.....	39
12.16	PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: PUBLIC PURPOSES - DRAINAGE.....	39
12.16.1	Acquisition of Pitman Avenue, Buronga Drainage Basin 3 – DP 1133980..	39
13.	REPORT MATRIX.....	41
13.1	COUNCIL MATRIX OF OUTSTANDING MATTERS.....	41
14.	QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE.....	42
15.	NEXT MEETING.....	42
16.	CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS	43

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

COUNCILLORS: Margaret Thomson (*Mayor*), Brian Wakefield (*Deputy Mayor*), Melisa Hederics, Don McKinnon, Peter Thompson, and Bill Wheeldon.

STAFF: Mr Peter Kozlowski (*General Manager*)
Mr Sylvester Tan (*A/g Director, Sustainable Planning & Environment*)
Mr Tony Cheng (*Director, Sustainable Infrastructure*)
Ms Terri Maguire (*Director, Corporate Services*)
Mrs Jill Davidson (*Executive Assistant*)

4. APOLOGIES AND APPLICATION FOR LEAVE

Apologies had been received from Councillors Ian Whitfield and Mark King.

Moved Crs. Wakefield and Hederics that the apologies from Councillors Whitfield and King be received and noted.

CARRIED

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**Recommendation**

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

Moved Crs. Wakefield and Hederics that the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held 21 October 2009 be adopted as circulated.

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 22 OCTOBER TO 17 NOVEMBER 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 22 October to 17 November 2009.

Report

Date	Conference/Appointment
22 Oct	Opening of Mallee Family Care Customer Centre Dareton
26 Oct	Wentworth Primary School presentation of 150 th Years sign Standing meeting with GM MADEC AGM
28 Oct	Palinyewah School Visit to Council chambers & offices
30 Octo	Sunbeam Factory tour Irymple CMA Think Tank session at AIBG
2 Nov	Meeting with DLALC Standing meeting with GM Race Club Black Tie Ball
4 Nov	Planning Department visit in Sydney
9 Nov	Standing meeting with GM Botanic Gardens meeting
10 Nov	Opening of Auscitrus facility - Dareton
11 Nov	Remembrance Day
12 Nov	Bushfire Management Committee meeting
13 Nov	Skateboard ramp unveiling at Dareton
16 Nov	Think Tank session with Peter Kenyon Standing meeting with GM Coomealla High School Year 12 Dinner
17 Nov	Peter Kenyon presentation
18 Nov	Council meeting

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

CARRIED

9. NOTICES OF MOTION

9.1 ESTABLISHMENT OF SUITABLE ROADSIDE/RIVER TOURISM SIGNAGE

Author of Motion: Councillor Peter Thompson
 Implications: Tourism, economic development
 File Reference: E1/12-8
 Attachments: Nil
 Separately Circ.: Nil

Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

That staff pursue funding and the establishment of suitable roadside/river tourism signage to support of the Murray Trail and Darling River run program. To add to this clearing to point out features in our environment would develop interest in our area. Six sites have been identified as follows.

- 1) O'Donnell Park Curlwaa signage to highlight the mystery of width of the Murray Valley from Abbotsford bridge to Renmark. May require rotunda type sign protection.
- 2) Clearing the top of the escarpment between the Coomealla Packers and Stephen's property to allow clear view over the valley.
- 3) Signage Dareton Town square about the mystery of the widened valley from Abbotsford Bridge to Renmark if accepted by the community at approaching council meeting.
- 4) Signage where the Sturt Highway crosses the Neckaboo ridge fault line at Monak. Will feature the Neckaboo as one of the six parallel west over east fault lines. A reduced style of cover over signage might be used.
- 5) Signage to display at Lock 10 Wentworth where existing structures could be adequate. Will feature Wentworth, Curlwaa and Pomona as the hub of the Murray Basin with greatest depth over bedrock which is sinking. It will relate to the Wentworth trough in bedrock.
- 6) Signage to be added to the Pooncarie and Ellerslie riverfront area. It will feature the recent change to this present course. Also that it is an old Lacklan Murrumbidgee stream from about Tarcoola. The reduced style of coverage over the sign might be used.

Purpose

To consider a notice of motion from Councillor Thompson in relation to options for further tourism signage as listed in the recommendation.

Officer's Report

At the last Council meeting Council adopted the updated tourism signage policy. You will recall that this policy referred to the report that was jointly commissioned by ourselves and Mildura Council to develop the Mildura- Wentworth Tourism navigation strategy. Our policy also draws on Tourism NSW and RTA guidelines for signage. A review of the existing (CP127) signage policy, in conjunction with a review of the Mildura-Wentworth Tourism Strategy (Bramark Consulting, 2008) confirmed that the existing policy is based on the recommendations of the Bramark report.

This existing policy provides an approach to Tourism Signage that is both regionally consistent, and compliant with RTA requirements.

The revised policy is largely unchanged. The new policy makes reference to the source document on which the policy is based, updates the policy to the new format, and allocates roles and responsibilities.

Currently there are limited funds in the 2009/10 budget for tourism type signage. Originally some federal grant money was going to be set aside for this purpose but in view of the increased criteria to justify federally supported projects this is not being pursued.

This request could be referred to the next Road Traffic Committee for consideration of the specific requests recommended.

It is intended that funds are allocated for 2010/2011 to commence the implementation of the Bramark report. Prior to consideration of the next Management Plan an action plan will be reported to Council.

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

CARRIED

9.2 STREET CLEANER PURCHASE

Author of Motion:	Councillor Peter Thompson
Implications:	Management Plan budget implications
File Reference:	S9/10-2
Attachments:	Nil
Separately Circ.:	Nil
Tabled:	Nil

Recommendation

That staff identify and research the purchase of a street cleaner or hired equipment that does not blow out unacceptable levels of sand from between pavers and will work without adding grime to nearby freshly painted walls. Further, it should also contribute to chewing gum removal mechanically on clay pavers especially. Staff to return a recommendation to Council as soon as possible.

Purpose

To consider a notice of motion from Councillor Thompson in relation to Council's response on the testing and research of a footpath cleaner.

Officer's Report

At the time of writing this report, initial investigations and contact has been made regarding pricing and advice regarding the purchase of a footpath cleaner from Sweepers Australia.

The Fleet Manager has contacted Enzed in Mildura which are agents for small sweepers and scrubbers. They also hire out their equipment with an operator. Advice from Enzed recommends a scrubber would be the best way to tackle dirty pavers, but does not consider that it will remove chewing gum. Enzed hire the scrubber for \$110 per hour with operator. It would be advisable that Council hires a machine and operator and see what results we get on our selected sites. Their scrubber is a ride on type, suitable for footpath areas and has rotating brooms with water and detergent added to the process. The Fleet Manager has researched removing chewing gum and all the internet sites that were visited indicate the best way is to freeze the gum and scrape it off. This can also be done with dry ice and various other products that freeze, as does the chemical from a fire extinguisher. It would be a huge job for an employee to remove the gum piece by piece, and this would not only be in Wentworth but Dareton, Buronga, Gol Gol etc. There is no doubt that new gum would be evident the next morning after cleaning had occurred.

If a machine was to be purchased there would need to be a resolution from Council for a variation to the Management Plan.

Due to the considerations in the report, it would be advisable to hire a scrubber from Enzed to see if the machine was effective in removing chewing gum.

Moved Crs. Thompson and McKinnon that the recommendation be adopted and that representations be made to RAMROC, the Western Division Group of the Shires Association for referral to the State Conference, on the matter of removing chewing gum from footpaths.

CARRIED

10. DELEGATES REPORTS

Councillor Wheeldon gave a verbal report on the meeting of the Sunraysia Rural Counselling Service at which he represented Councillor Peter Thompson who was unable to attend. He indicated that there were two things Council should be aware of, one is that there are 3,000 horticulturalists and last year 1060 of them applied to SRCS for assistance. This indicated that 1 in 3 horticulturalists in the Wentworth Shire are in financial difficulties, and that this needs to be taken into consideration with regard to rates etc.

11. COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

Nil

12. OFFICERS' REPORTS

12.1 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE & STRATEGIC PLANNING

12.1.1 Audit and Risk Management Committee

Responsible Officer: Manager Governance and Corporate Development
Author: Manager Governance and Corporate Development
Implications: Management Plan
File Reference: F4/1
Attachments: Nil
Separately Circ.: Nil
Tabled: Minutes of Meeting 11 November 2009

Recommendation

1. That Council amend the Committee Charter; and
2. That Council adopts the Auditors Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to inform council of the business considered at the quarterly meeting of the Internal Audit and Risk Management Committee on 11 November 2009.

Summary

As a result of the meeting of the Internal Audit and Risk Management Committee meeting on 11 November 2009, the above recommendations are made to council.

Report

The Internal Audit Committee met on 11 November 2009 to consider a number of issues relevant to the Committee. The Committee is required to provide the minutes of its meetings to Council and to make recommendations to Council, where necessary. This report responds to this requirement.

The Minutes of the Committee meeting have been separately circulated and are provided for councillors' information.

It can be seen from the Minutes of the meeting that the Committee considered the Charter adopted by Council at its last meeting and the Internal Audit Strategic Business Plan and Annual Work Plan for the 2009/2010 financial year. A late item added to the agenda was the External Auditor's Report.

Policy and Management Plan Implications

The adoption of the abovementioned recommendation will assist council to meet its Management Plan 2009-2013 objective to maintain strong levels of statutory compliance.

The Audit Committee complies with Council Policy 153 – Internal Audit Framework.

Conclusion

The Audit Committee assists council in maintaining strong levels of statutory compliance.

Moved Crs. McKinnon and Wakefield that:-

- 1. Council amends the Committee Charter to include an additional Councillor as a member of the Committee pending the appointment of an independent external member, and***
- 2. That Council appoint Councillor Wheeldon to the Audit and Risk Management Committee.***

CARRIED

Moved Crs. Wakefield and Thompson that item 12.1.2 be admitted to the Council meeting (as urgent) so that a decision can be made on Council's preferred group which is required by the Department of Local Government by 1 December 2009.

CARRIED

12.1.2 SUPPLEMENTARY LATE REPORT - Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

Responsible Officer: General Manager
Author: Manager Governance and Corporate Development
Implications: Management Plan

File Reference: C9/4
Attachments: Nil
Separately Circ.: Nil
Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

That Council nominates to be included in Group 3 for the implementation of the new Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework, which requires adoption of a Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program by 30 June 2012.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide councillors with sufficient information to make an informed decision regarding the timing of the implementation of the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

Summary

Recent changes to the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) ("the Act") require councils to implement a new Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework into council operations.

The Act allows for staged implementation of the Framework across New South Wales councils in three groups:

- Group 1 is required to adopt a Community strategic Plan and Delivery Program by 30 June 2010;
- Group 2 is required to adopt a Community strategic Plan and Delivery Program by 30 June 2011;
- Group 3 is required to adopt a Community strategic Plan and Delivery Program by 30 June 2012;

Councils have been given the opportunity to nominate which group they wish to be in. This nomination must be made by council resolution and advised to the Department of Local Government by 1 December 2009.

Report

On 9 October 2009 the Local Government Amendment (Planning and Reporting) Act 2009 ("the Amendment Act") was assented to by the Governor and commenced operation.

The Act gives effect to the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework ("the Framework"), a new strategic financial planning system for NSW councils. Under the new Framework, councils will develop:

- A 10 year **Community Strategic Plan** outlining local priorities and future aspirations;
- A **Resourcing Strategy** (including Asset Management Plan, Workforce Management Plan and Long Term Financial Plan);
- A rolling four-year **Delivery Program** showing how projects and programs are going to be delivered during council's term in office;

- An annual **Operational Plan** detailing the projects and activities to be undertaken each year to achieve the commitments made in the Delivery Program; and
- An **Annual Report** focusing on Council's implementation of the Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

Councils have been encouraged to consider the following matters when determining which one of the three groups Council will participate in:-

- Its capacity to meet the new legislative requirements within the timeframe;
- If there is sufficient time to effectively engage its community in the development of the Community Strategic Plan;
- The status of its Resource Strategy development, including its Asset Management Plan, Workforce Management Plan and Long Term Financial Plan.

After considering the above matters, it is the recommendation of council officers that council nominate to be included in Group 3.

During the transition period, council must continue to operate under the legislative requirements in place prior to the Amendment Act until such time as their Group commences under the new Framework.

Policy and Management Plan Implications

The adoption of the abovementioned recommendation will assist council to meet its Management Plan 2009-2013 objective to provide leadership and maintain strong levels of statutory compliance.

Conclusion

Council is required to nominate (by resolution) which Group they wish to be in by 1 December 2009.

Moved Crs. Wakefield and Hederics that Group 3 be nominated which requires Council to adopt a Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program by 30 June 2012.

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 October 2009 were \$182,348.73. After allowing for pensioner subsidies, the total Rates and Charges collected are now 34.02% of the levies. A summary of the Rates and Charges situation as at 31 October, 2009 is as follows:-

<u>Levies</u>		
Balance Outstanding at 30 June 2009	1,785,645.30	
Rates & Charges Levied 24 July 2009	6,428,697.21	8,214,342.51
+ Additional Water Charges	12,006.70	
+ Supplementary Rates & Charges	55,426.24	
+ Additional Charges	28,890.41	
- Credit Adjustments	14,768.63	
- Farmland 20% capped	156,462.19	
- Abandonments	60.56	74,968.03
		8,139,374.48
<u>Deductions</u>		
- Payments	2,608,787.11	
- Less Refunds of Payments	2,639.26	2,606,147.85
- Pensioner Subsidy:-		
Government Subsidy	89,444.00	
Council Subsidy	73,173.28	162,617.28
Total Rates/Water Charges Outstand		\$5,370,609.35

Note: For comparison purposes 38.21% of the levy had been collected at the end of October 2008.

Reconciliation And Balance Of Funds Held As At 31 October, 2009

The reconciliation has been carried out between the Cash Book of each fund and the Bank Pass Sheet as at 31 October, 2009 and the investments have been made in accordance with the Act, the regulations and Council's investment policies.

<u>Cash Balance as at 1 October 2009</u>	<u>Combined Bank Acc.</u>
	\$1,519,689.74 Dr
<u>Add:</u> Receipts for Period Ending 31 October, 2009	
Rates, Debtors, Miscellaneous	856,296.14
<u>Less:</u> Payments for Period Ending 31 October, 2009	
Cash Book entries for this Month	<u>1,078,821.13</u>
<u>Cash Balance As At 31 October 2009</u>	\$1,297,164.75 Dr.

Investments

Bank	TD/C.Bill		
LGFS	FI 31 days @ 3.89% due 30/11/09	865,035.07	
Members Equity Bank	TD 90 days @ 4.75% due 18/1/2010	1,000,000.00	
Matiland Mutual	TD 91 days @ 4.24% due 14/12/09	1,000,000.00	
Bank of Queensland	TD 104 days @ 4.35% due 14/1/2010	1,000,000.00	
Heritage Building society	TD 91 days @ 4.26% due 9/11/09	1,000,000.00	
Macquarie Bank Ltd	TD 90 days @ 4.35% due 30/11/09	1,000,000.00	
Police & Nurses Credit Society	TD 90 days @ 4.5% due 7/12/09	1,000,000.00	
West Bank	TD 90 days @ 4% due 9/11/09	1,000,000.00	
National Australia Bank	TD 90 days @ 4.42% due 13/12/09	1,000,000.00	
B&E Building Society	TD 90 days @ 4.35% due 22/12/09	1,000,000.00	
IMB Banking & Financial Services	TD 90 days @ 4.30% due 9/11/09	1,000,000.00	
Queensland Teachers Credit Union	Td 90 days @ 4.35% due 11/01/2010	1,000,000.00	
Mystate Credit Union	TD 91 days @ 4.70% due 11/01/2010	1,000,000.00	
Savings & Loans Credit Union	TD 90 days @ 4.39% due 1/12/09	1,000,000.00	
Allied Irish Banks	TD 92 days @ 4.69% due 2/12/09	1,000,000.00	
Australian Defence Credit Union	TD 90 days @ 4.52% due 1/12/09	1,000,000.00	15,865,035.07
			17,162,199.82

Commitments

Details	Amount	
Internal Restrictions	\$	\$
- Employee Entitlements	1,331,419	
- Doubtful Debts	9,602	
- Tip Remediation	141,517	
- Future Development Reserve	1,120,121	
- Plant Replacement Reserve	839,081	
- Water Fund	2,031,676	
- Sewer Fund	87,485	
Total Internal Restrictions		5,560,901
External Restrictions		
- Trust	173,607	
- Developer Contribution Reserve	653,306	
- Prepayments - Cemeteries	184,044	
- Unexpended Grants	2,502,208	
Total External Restrictions		3,513,165
Total Commitments as at 31 October 2009		9,074,066

Name	Institution	Purpose	Interest Rate	Loan Amount \$	Amount Outstanding \$	Due Date
Loan 180	National Australia Bank	Construction of Sewer Works	6.012%	105,368	68,715.99	23/02/2015
Loan 181	National Australia Bank	Buronga/Gol Gol/Dareton/Pooncarie Water Filtration	6.96%	2,180,000	517,085.73	19/08/2012

Loan 182	National Australia Bank	Buronga/Gol Sewerage Augmentation	Gol	6.96%	178,000	41,787.83	19/08/2012
Loan 187	National Australia Bank	Buronga/Gol Sewerage Augmentation	Gol	7.084%	1,454,000	691,856.88	19/11/2009
Loan 195	National Australia Bank	Midway/Memorial Gardens		6.904%	1,700,000	1,206,312.29	30/06/2021
Loan 198	Commonwealth Bank	Wentworth Streetscape		6.15%	220,000	35,373.74	25/01/2011
Loan 199	National Australia Bank	Wentworth Aerodrome		6.904%	300,000	245,212.37	23/06/2023
	Local Government Financial Services (LGFS)	Levee Bank		5.00%	1,000,000	826,663.84	
TOTAL						3,633,008.67	

The Director Corporate Services certifies that all investments have been made in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and Local Government (General) Regulations 2005 and Council's investment policy.

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. Wakefield and Thompson that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

12.2.2 Performance Report First Quarterly Review of Council's Management Plan 2009/2010 (quarter ending 30 September 2009)

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate Services
 Author: Director Corporate Services
 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 quarter ending September 2009 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 September 2009 quarter and this report summarises actual performance against required performance and reflects the activities of Council and statistical information for the 2009/10 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.

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 30 September 2009. Therefore, this report is a summary at that time notwithstanding that a number of actions will have progressed markedly since that time.

The objectives and actions listed in the attachment come directly from Council's 10 Year Plan (4 Year Focus) Management Plan 2009-13 adopted in June 2009. Only those objectives and actions that relate to the operational year ending 30 June 2010 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 30 September 2009, was on track in most program areas in terms of delivering on the actions identified in the Management Plan. The first quarter generally represents the action planning stages as reflected in the financial reports for operational and capital expenditure with the actions rolling out throughout the financial year.

Policy and Management Plan Implications

Progress on Management Plan 2009/10.

Conclusion

Council's performance in relation to delivering on its objectives and actions for the quarter ending 30 September 2009 were well on track.

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

CARRIED

12.2.3 Financial Review of Council's 2009/2013 Management Plan as at 30 September 2009

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 2009/2013
Separately Circ.: Nil
Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

That Council receives the September Financial Review and adopts the variations to the 2009/2010 Management Plan adopted at the Council Meeting of the 24th June 2009.

Purpose

In accordance with S407 (1) of the Local Government Act 1993, Council's financial performance has been reviewed against the 2009/2010 Management Plan for the quarter ended 30 September 2009.

Summary

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

You will note that 54.10% of the full year's Revenue Budget has been recognised as revenue. This is due to 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. Other revenue received includes Developer Contributions totalling \$102,000 and additional RTA revenue for works on State Highways 14 & 22 totalling \$433,000. This work was performed in 2008/09 and invoiced this financial year. Private works income totalling \$337,500 has been received for private works completed at Tara Downs Crossing.

21.44% of the overall Expenditure Budget has been spent with variances ranging from 12% to 28% in the functional areas against the original budget. This trend is normal in the initial three months of any financial year as many July payments are

accrued back to the previous financial year. The accrued payments have been offset by a number of payments that are due and payable in the first few months of the financial year such as insurances and some major contributions. In addition to the normal movements within the first three months of the financial year there is a need for some variances to be approved in some areas.

Report

A Budget Summary is attached for your information identifying the Adopted Budget, Year to Date Actual Revenue and Actual Expenditure to 30 September 2009, the Adopted budget and the proposed September Budget.

All Capital expenditure has been reviewed with 15% of the budget spent in the first quarter. This is generally the trend as preliminary work is carried out prior to commencement of Capital works.

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

GOVERNANCE

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

Revenue

A favourable variance is required for 150 Celebrations of \$10,930 as a result on income being received this financial year. The income was expected in the 2008/2009 financial year.

Expenditure

No variations are required in this area.

CORPORATE SERVICES

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

Revenue

An unfavourable variation is required for Council's Financial Assistance Grant as the first installment of \$1,017,000 was received in 2008/2009. This was a decision made by the Federal Government to help Council's cash flow problems due to the Global Economic Crisis. A change in accounting treatment results in revenue recognised as revenue when received and not accrued forward to counteract matching expenditure. The remainder of the Grant has been split into 4 quarterly installments of \$764,700 and may result in a deficit position for Council.

An unfavourable variance of \$6,440 is also required for Pensioner Rebates due to a larger than expected increase in the number of pensioners applying for the rebate.

Expenditure

No variations are required in this area.

OPERATIONS ADMINISTRATION

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

Revenue

A favourable variance is required of \$3,500 for an employment subsidy received on the completion of an apprenticeship by one of the workshop employees.

Expenditure

No variation are required in this area.

HEALTH SERVICES

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

Revenue

No Variations required.

Expenditure

No Variations required

PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

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

Income

No Variations required.

Expenditure

No Variations required.

COMMUNITY SERVICES EDUCATION

This area includes Youth Support, Pre-schools and Aged Care.

Revenue

No Variations required.

Expenditure

No Variations required.

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AMENITITES

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

Revenue

A favourable variation of \$87,800 is required for the second installment of funds owed by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development for Pooncarie Weir. A favourable variance is also required for Developer Contributions for Open Space for \$28,000.

An unfavourable variation of \$3,450 is required for pensioner rebates for Garbage Collection rates due to a larger than expected increase in applications for the rebate. Also a unfavourable variation is required for \$169,500 for the South Ellerslie Drainage project. This income was received in a previous year and had been carried over into this year to be matched against the capital expenditure for this project. The change in Accounting Practices does not allow for funds to be carried forward. Funds are recognised as revenue when received.

Expenditure

An unfavourable variation of \$380 is required for insurance at Pooncarie Quarters. This was not included in the budget.

RECREATION & CULTURE

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

Revenue

An unfavourable variation of \$192,000 for the Federal Government Infrastructure Grant project. This income was received in a previous year and had been carried over into this year to be matched against the capital expenditure for this project. On advice from Council's Auditor, an adjustment was required to recognise the revenue when it was received and not accrued forward.

Expenditure

No Variations Required.

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

The RTA Block Grant, Traffic Facilities and the 3 x 3 grant has been received for the first quarter.

Favourable variations are required for additional works carried out on State Highway 14, \$172,210 and State Highway 22, \$260,930 received this financial year with the corresponding works carried out in the 08/09 financial year.

An unfavourable variance of \$111,000 is required for the Federal Infrastructure Grant project at Wentworth Wharf and Board Ramp. This income was received in a previous year and had been carried over into this year to be matched against the capital expenditure for this project. The revenue was recognised as income in the 2008/09 financial year.

Expenditure

No Variations required.

BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS

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

Revenue

A favourable variation is required for private works undertaken at Tara Downs crossing for \$247,470. Originally these works were scheduled to be completed before the end of June 2009 and were not budgeted in this financial year.

A favourable variation of \$3,750 is required for a grant received from the Department of State and Regional Development to conduct Business Planning Workshops.

Expenditure

An unfavourable variance of \$215,120 is required for private works undertaken at Tara Downs crossing.

A favourable variance is required for the Dip Tin Sculpture for \$50,000 as this will be removed by the Australian Inland Botanical Gardens.

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

Access charges billed as budgeted for Water and Sewer.

A grant of \$62,880 was received in July from the Department of Water and Energy being financial assistance towards the installation of water meters in previous years. Developer Contributions for water and sewer of \$74,000 was received.

Expenditure

No variations required

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CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Capital Works projects totalling \$651,300 and Principal Loan repayments totalling \$192,490 (16.18% of total Capital budget) have been spent in the first quarter. Capital works expenditure includes plant purchases, office upgrade, the office archive, CMA works, library books, computer replacement, caravan park works, Federal Government Infrastructure projects, mobile skate ramp, Wentworth Showground's electrical upgrade, Wentworth Aerodrome Redevelopment Consultancy and Gol Gol Water Filling Station .

A separate report for the Wentworth Showground's Electrical upgrade with a budget variation of \$65,000 was approved at the August Council meeting.

A variation is required for the George Gordon Oval Netball Courts for \$47,760. This was part of the Federal Government Infrastructure grant received in 2008/2009.

A variation is required for Thegoa Lagoon Inlet Regulator for \$39,640. This was a CMA funded project with the funds received in 2008/2009.

SUMMARY OF VARIATIONS**Revenue**

Financial Assistance Grant	Unfavourable	-\$1,017,000
150 th Celebrations	Favourable	\$10,930
Pensioner Rebates – General Rates	Unfavourable	-\$6,440
Employment Subsidy	Favourable	\$3,500
Small Business Plan Grant	Favourable	\$3,750
Federal Infrastructure Grant	Unfavourable	-\$303,000
DOTARS Grant – Pooncarie Weir	Favourable	\$87,780
Pensioner Rebates – Garbage Charges	Unfavourable	-\$3,450
Developer Contributions	Favourable	\$102,000
Sth Ellerslie Drainage	Unfavourable	-\$169,500
Private Works – Tara Downs Crossing	Favourable	\$247,470
Additional Works – State Hwy 14 & 22	Favourable	\$433,140
Water Meter Grant	Favourable	\$62,880
TOTAL REVENUE		-\$547,940

Expenditure

Pooncarie Quarters – Insurance	Unfavourable	\$380
Private Works – Tara Downs Crossing	Unfavourable	\$215,120
Dip Tin Sculpture	Favourable	-\$50,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		\$165,500

Capital

Showgrounds – Electrical Works	Unfavourable	\$65,000
Thegoa Lagoon Inlet Regulator	Unfavourable	\$39,640
George Gordon Oval Netball Courts	Unfavourable	\$47,760
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE		\$152,400

Total Expenditure (Including Capital)		\$317,900
Total Movement	unfavourable	\$865,840

Conclusion

The net result for the September Quarter after variations have been considered for Revenue and Expenditure including Capital will be an unfavourable variance of \$865,840.

Moved Crs. McKinnon and Wakefield that Council adopts the variations to the 2009/2010 Management Plan with the addition of a further variation of \$145,000 (GST inclusive) to assist in the completion of the Wentworth wharf project which is subject to an application to the Federal Government by 20 November 2009.

CARRIED

12.2.4 Cost Shifting Survey Results for 2007/2008

Responsible Officer:	Director Corporate & Community Services
Author:	Director Corporate & Community Services
Implications:	The Impact of Cost Shifting on Local Government in NSW
File Reference:	G3/11
Attachments:	Nil

Separately Circ.: The Impact of Cost Shifting on Local Government in NSW: A Survey of Councils (Financial Year 2007/2008)
Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

That Council notes the report on the Impact of Cost Shifting in Local Government in NSW.

Purpose

To inform Council of the cost shifting survey results for 2007/2008 carried out by the Shires Association of NSW.

Summary

NSW Councils have been asked to provide information on cost shifting for the financial years commencing in 2005/2006 with the intention of highlighting the significant burden placed on Councils' financial situation on a continuous basis. The latest results for the 2007/2008 financial year are now available.

A sample of 65 NSW Councils were included in the survey showing that 5.92% of Councils' total income before capital amounts is attributed to cost shifting.

Cost shifting totalled \$431 million in 2007/2008 and increased from \$412 million in 2006/2007 and \$380 million in 2005/2006 for the whole of NSW Local Government.

A copy of the full report will be separately circulated.

Report

The Shires Association of NSW requested information on cost shifting since 2005/2006 to 2007/2008 for the purpose of collecting data to measure the cost of services that have been imposed or transferred to Local Government by other levels of government without the provision of corresponding funding or compensation or the conferral of corresponding and adequate revenue raising capacity.

Councils were asked to report on 23 functional areas identified in the survey in areas such as fire services, public libraries, pensioner rebates, Companion Animal Act (NSW) 1998, on-site sewerage facilities, noxious weeds, functions under the Rural Fires Act (NSW) 1997, immigration services and citizenships, administering food safety regulation, provision of educational services including maintenance of sporting facilities, community safety, flood mitigation programs, road safety and sewerage treatment system license fees.

The more recent cost shifting areas are contribution to State Emergency Services and maintenance of Crown Reserve land. The change of process in Election costs are another significant cost shifting exercise.

Conclusion

The survey data provides a concrete base to identify the extent of cost shifting onto NSW Local Government.

The survey results help quantify the extent of cost shifting onto NSW Local Government and support Local Government's argument for that practice to end. It also assists in monitoring compliance with the national Intergovernmental Agreement Establishing Principles Guiding Intergovernmental Relations on Local Government Matters, (2006).

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

CARRIED

12.3 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

Nil

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: L1/8-4
 Attachments: Nil
 Separately Circ.: Nil
 Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the report.

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a list of development applications approved under delegated authority by the Director and Acting Director – Sustainable Planning and Environment for the month of October 2009 and applications approved by elected members.

Report

No	Owner/ Applicant	Location	Development type and value	No. days	Date Approved (Delegated Authority)	Date Approved (Council Meeting)
09/106	P O Ragless	Darling River adjacent Lot 6 DP (225-227) Adams Street Wentworth	Private Mooring Site	32	6/10/09	

09/068	Prendergast, JP & VA, Freeman & Freeman	Lot 709 DP 756961 Reserve Road Coomealla	Two (2) lot subdivision	98	6/09/2009	
09/095	James, JA Glen Rigby	Lot 2 DP 23113 River Road Coomealla	Two (2) Lot Subdivision	48	7/10/2009	
09/115	BW & A (SC Cooper)	Lot 1 DP 801716 Syndicate Road Curlwaa	Pergola (\$11,500.00)	0	13/10/09	
09/035	Neilpo Pastoral Company Pty Ltd	Lot 1 DP610639 Old Renmark Road Via Wentworth	Rural Dwelling (\$170,000)	139		16/09/09
09/036	Neilpo Pastoral Company Pty Ltd	Lot 29 DP756964 High Darling Road Parish of Neilpo	Rural Dwelling (\$170,000)	139		16/09/09
09/045	Neilpo Pastoral Company Pty Ltd	Lot 26 DP756964 High Darling Road Parish of Neilpo	Rural Dwelling (\$170,000)	139		16/09/09
09/071	Hopfner W & P J	Lot 344 DP 756961 Citrus Drive Coomealla	Two (2) Lot Subdivision	100	22/10/2009	
09/118	BS & KM Gates	Lot 1 DP 1038712 Wood Street Gol Gol	Dwelling and Shed (\$200,000)	26	19/10/09	
09/101	Morello, E D	Lot 201 DP 756946 Gol Gol Road Gol Gol	Legalise existing pump & pump shelter (Nil)	46	22/10/2009	
09/100	Morello, E.D	Lot 201 DP 756946 Gol Gol Road Gol Gol	Legalise existing pump & pump shelter (Nil)	55	27/10/2009	
169/07	Freeman & Freeman, Marrows Estate Pty Ltd	Lot 2 DP 24314 Boeill Creek	Twenty Two (22) Lot Subdivision		28/10/209	
09/129	Sutton. G T & G K	Lot 42 DP 1038712 (4) Wood Street Gol Gol	Storage Shed (\$6700)	21	29/10/2009	

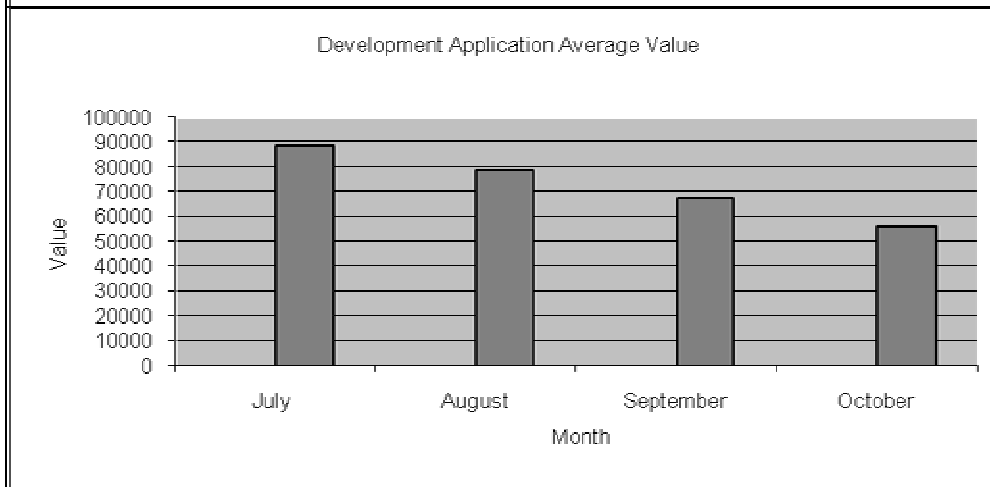
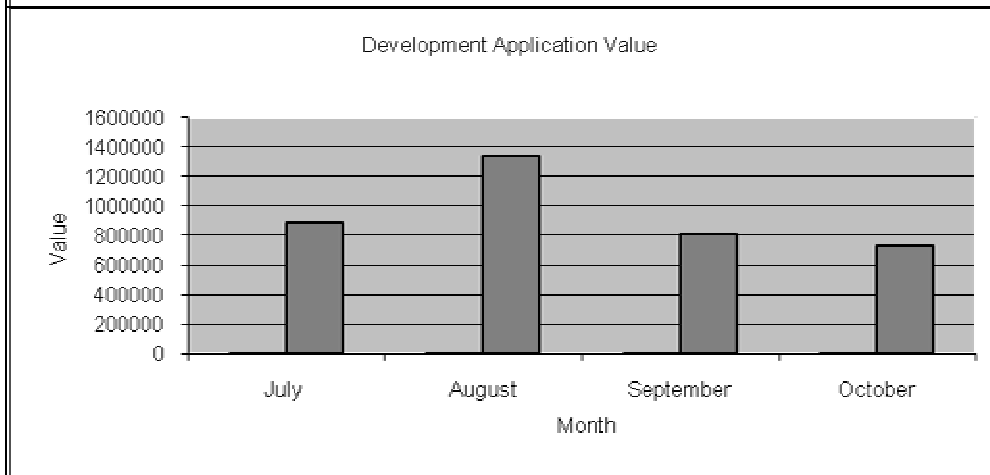
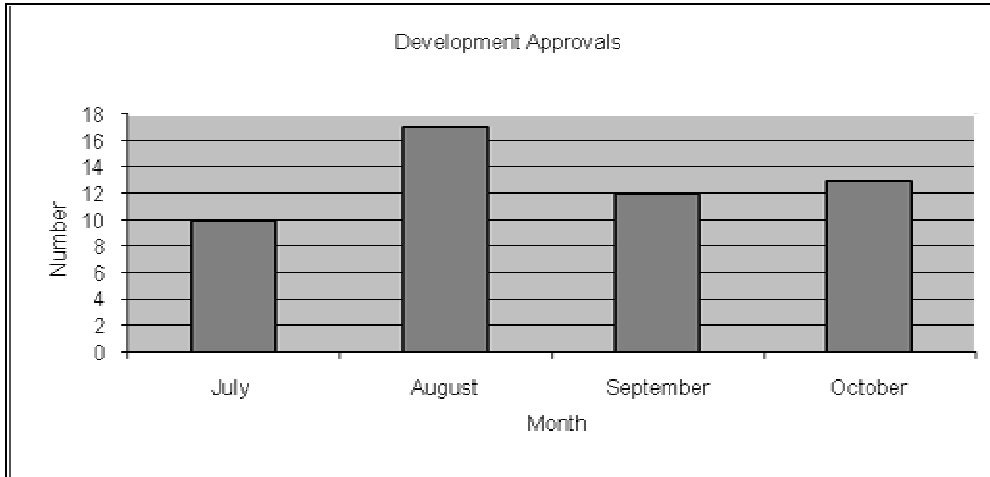
Number of Development Applications before the Court: NIL

Total number of DA's determined for the month: 13
 Total number of DA's determined under delegation: 10
 Proportion of DA's dealt with under delegation: 77%

Summary

For the month of October there were ten Development Applications approved under delegated authority by the Director – Sustainable Planning & Environment. The estimated cost of the approved developments are \$728,200.

Month	DA's Approved	Value	Average
July	10	\$885,531	\$88,553
August	17	\$1,337,800	\$78,694
September	12	\$811,900	\$67,658
October	13	\$728,200	\$56,015
Total	52	\$3,763,431	\$234,905



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

CARRIED

12.7 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: RECREATION & CULTURE

12.7.1 Draft Arts and Culture Plan

Responsible Officer:	Manager Community and Economic Development
Author:	Manager Community and Economic Development
Implications:	Nil
File Reference:	E1/12-8
Attachments:	Draft Arts and Culture Plan
Separately Circ.:	Nil
Tabled:	Nil

Recommendation

That the draft Arts and Culture plan be received and placed on public exhibition for a period of 21 days.

Purpose

To inform Council about the development of the Wentworth Shire Council Arts & Cultural Plan 2010 - 2014

Summary

Developed in conjunction with West Darling Arts, this is the first Arts & Cultural Plan for Wentworth Council and sets out a vision for the Arts and Cultural Development for the next 4 years.

Report

The Arts & Cultural Plan is designed to:

- Identify what makes Wentworth unique
- Define what Arts and Culture is
- Describe the benefits of having an Arts and Cultural Plan
- Determine a cultural vision
- Make recommendations for future actions.

As this is the first Arts & Cultural plan developed for Wentworth Council it is designed to provide a strategic approach to arts and cultural development within the Shire. Overall the plan is a tool to assist Council and the community to build a rich and vibrant cultural experience for all residents.

The recommended guidelines for cultural planning (NSW Ministry for the Arts) sees the development of an arts and cultural plan ideally being undertaken over an eight to twelve month period, with extensive consultation and would require a considerable budget allocation. The Arts and Cultural plan that has been drafted for Council is consistent with the requirements of the DLG checklist, and demonstrates the linkages to Federal, State and Regional Arts bodies, however much more work is required to further develop detailed actions and strategies as recommended by NSW Ministry for the Arts.

There are two key recommendations stemming from the draft plan:

1. To establish a consultative group that represents the diversity of arts and cultural interests in the Wentworth Shire.

2. To adopt a Wentworth Shire Council Public Arts Policy, for which the consultant has developed draft policy wording.

It is recommended that this draft plan be put on display for public comment and be presented back to the December Council meeting.

Policy and Management Plan Implications

Council staff will review the policy recommendations and will prepare appropriate recommendations for the December council meeting.

Council staff will review the recommendation to establish an advisory committee and will prepare appropriate recommendations for the December Council meeting.

Conclusion

The draft Arts and Cultural Plan has been compiled with little input from the public and now requires a consultation period to establish support or otherwise for the directions proposed by the consultant.

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

CARRIED

12.8 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: STATUTORY & STRATEGIC PLANNING

12.8.1 DA69/06 Proposed Dwelling – Lot 1 Dp 787557 Boeill Creek Road Boeill Creek

Responsible Officer:	Acting Director Sustainable Planning and Environment
Author:	Town Planning Officer
Implications:	Policy, Management Plan
File & References:	DA69/06
Attachments:	Nil
Separately Circ.:	Nil
Tabled:	Nil

Recommendation

That Council refuses the application submitted by B & S Yarrington for a proposed dwelling to be constructed on Lot 1 in Deposited Plan 787557 Boeill Creek Road, Boeill Creek on the following grounds:

1. Insufficient information has been supplied; accordingly a full assessment was not able to be undertaken, as required, pursuant to of Section 79C 1(b) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.
2. Council's Floodplain Management Plan states that dwellings or buildings of any nature and any obstruction or operation which may impede the floodwaters should not be permitted.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to allow a determination to be issued in accordance with Section 80 (2) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* as

amended. In accordance with current delegations a report for refusal of a Development Application must be prepared for the information of Council.

Summary

An application for a proposed dwelling on the floodplain was received on 12 April 2006. The site is designated "Floodway" in accordance with Council's Floodplain Management Plan and further information was requested to enable an assessment, which to date has not been forthcoming.

Report

A letter was sent to Mr & Mrs Yarrington on the 9 May 2006 detailing the requirements to enable an assessment in regard to floodplain matters. The letter advised that the application will only be considered with a full and detailed "Flood Impact Assessment" being submitted to Council. Due to the complexities of issues associated with flood impact, a suitably qualified consultant is required to undertake the study. The study is to address such issues as design flows; peak flow velocities, impact of dwelling on flood behaviour and potential for evacuation during severe floods and the like.

Council's Floodplain Management Plan describes a floodway as:

.....those areas where a significant volume of water flows during floods. They are often aligned with obvious naturally defined channels. Floodways are areas which, even if partially blocked would cause significant redistribution of flood flow, which in turn adversely affect other areas. They are often, but not necessarily the areas where higher velocities occur.

Floodway areas should not be developed because of significant risk to human life.

Dwellings or buildings of any nature and any obstruction or operation which may impede the floodwaters should not be permitted.

Source: Floodplain Management Plan Gol Gol to Abbotsford Bridge, 1995

Policy and Management Plan Implications

Legislation requires DA assessment in accordance with Section 79C 1(b) the likely impacts of that development; Section 79C (c) the suitability of the site for development; Section 79C (d) any submissions made in accordance with this Act or Regulation and 79C (e) the public interest.

As previously stated the request for information to enable assessment has not been forthcoming. A further courtesy letter was recently sent (24 September 2009) again requesting the information as per the previous correspondence or alternatively to inform Council within 14 days of their intention in regard to this application. No response was received.

Conclusion

This application has been on hold for over three years pending a flood impact study. In the absence of a study, Council Officers have prepared this report with consideration to the adopted Floodplain Management Plan, accordingly it is

recommended that the application for a dwelling on Lot 1 DP 787577 Boeill Creek Road, Boeill Creek be refused as per the recommendation.

Moved Crs. Wakefield and Thompson 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 Wakefield, Hederics, McKinnon,
Thompson and Thomson***

Against the motion: Councillors Wheeldon

12.8.2 DA08/098 Proposed Two Lot Subdivision – Lot 12 Dp 807830 Creek Road Curlwaa

Responsible Officer: Acting Director Sustainable Planning and Environment
Author: Town Planning Officer
Implications: Policy, Management Plan
File & References: DA08/098
Attachments: Nil
Separately Circ.: Nil
Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

That Council refuses the application submitted by G J Barila for a proposed two lot subdivision of Lot 12 in Deposited Plan 807830 Creek Road Curlwaa on the following grounds:

1. Owners consent has not been received, thereby making the application null and void for the purpose of Section 78 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 as amended*.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to allow a determination to be issued. In accordance with current delegations a report for refusal of a Development Application must be prepared for the information and determination of Council.

Summary

An application for a proposed two lot subdivision was received on 25 June 2008. The land tenure is lease land and as such requires the Minister's signature on the Development Application.

Report

The Department of Lands (now Land and Property Management Authority) have advised the applicant that their preferred option is to convert the holding to freehold title and then subdivide. The Department have provided application forms for the 'Division of a Holding', 'Surrender of current lease and grant of a new lease'. The Department have further advised that "Owners Consent" to the lodgement of the DA

cannot be provided until the application forms and fee have been lodged with the Department. The letter was dated back in 3 November 2008.

As no further information has been received Council advised the applicant on two occasions, the 24 August 2009 whereby owners consent was requested to enable processing of application and a reminder on 22 September 2009 whereby notification of a report to Council with a recommendation for refusal would be forthcoming if written consent of the Authority is not received.

Policy and Management Plan Implications

Pursuant to the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000*: Clause 49 A development application may be made:

- (a) By the owner of the land to which the development application relates; or
- (b) By any other person, with the consent in writing of the owner of that land.

Despite subclause (1), a development application made by a lessee of Crown land may only be made with the consent in writing given by or on behalf of the Crown.

By proceeding with the development application without the consent of the Crown and in this case an objection to the proposal in its current form by the agency of the Crown (Land and Property Management Authority) will be a breach of *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000*. Development consents issued in breach of the Act and Regulation carry no effect in New South Wales law.

Conclusion

The application for a two lot subdivision of Lot 12 DP 807830 cannot be considered without owners consent; accordingly it is to be refused as per the recommendation.

Moved Crs. McKinnon and Wakefield that this item lay on the table until discussions have been undertaken with the applicant.

CARRIED

Note: Items 12.13.1, 12.14.1 and 12.14.2 were considered prior to item 12.8.3.

12.8.3 Draft Murray Regional Strategy

Responsible Officer:	Acting Director Sustainable Planning & Environment
Author:	Acting Director Sustainable Planning & Environment
Implications:	Policy, Management Plan
File & References:	E6/26-3
Attachments:	Letter from Department of Planning
Separately Circ.:	Draft Murray Regional Strategy for public comments
Tabled:	Nil

Recommendation

That Council notes this report on the release of the Draft Murray Regional Strategy by the New South Wales Department of Planning.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the recently released Draft Murray Regional Strategy which has been placed on exhibition by the New South Wales Department of Planning (DoP).

Summary

The Draft Murray Region Strategy (Strategy) is prepared by the Department of Planning (DoP) as part of the 2006 New South Wales State Plan. The Strategy is one of nine to be prepared in the State to address regional wide planning and development issues. This is in addition to the draft Metropolitan Strategy for Sydney.

It is intended that the Strategy will provide the strategic planning and policy framework for Councils affected by the Strategy in preparation of comprehensive local environmental plans, district local environmental plans and development control plans.

Of importance, the Murray Regional Environmental Plan Number 2 has been replaced by the deemed State Environmental Planning Policy (Murray REP 2) in the interim. However the Strategy is not to replace the Murray Regional Environmental Plan Number 2.

The Strategy is on exhibition for public consultation until 11 December 2009. Comments are to be directed to the Western Region Office of the Department of Planning in Dubbo.

Report

The Draft Murray Regional Strategy (Strategy) has five main themes; each carried equal weighting in current and future strategic planning considerations. An example of this in practice is the consistency between the Strategy and Council's draft Local Environmental Plan 2011.

The Strategy affects Councils in the local government areas of Albury, Greater Hume, Corowa, Berrigan, Balranald, Murray, Conargo, Deniliquin, Wakool and Wentworth.

The five themes are:

Settlement and Housing	An issue for the region as growth continues to increase pressure on key Councils to deliver on affordable housing equally across their respective municipalities. The ageing population of the region, decreasing household size and changing housing tenure will necessitate an increased mix of housing types.
Economic Development	An emphasis is made on achieving balanced economic growth across the whole of Murray Region. Single economic driver for a district is no longer viable over the next 20 years and there is a need to diversify to ensure that employment remains stable rather than series of peaks and troughs. Employment stability is a fundamental principle in community wellbeing and growth.

Natural Resources	<p>A key emerging issue in this thematic is water – availability, access, recycling and conservation.</p> <p>Major industries in the western half of the Murray Region are reliant on water resources and the absence of reliable water may impact on the region’s economic wellbeing. Councils are asked to proactively plan in a strategic manner to lead communities forward on water issues.</p>
Environment	<p>An emphasis is made on environmental and ecological sustainability, specific to the conservation, rehabilitation, management and regeneration of flora and fauna habitats. Key feature includes a regional wide Biodiversity Assets Map. The Strategy builds on the new zones introduced under the New South Wales Standard Instrument 2006 for Local Environmental Plans relating to environmental protection.</p> <p>In the Murray Region, the importance of the riverine environments is protected through statutory controls such as setback line from the river.</p>
Cross Border Coordination	<p>This thematic is unique to two regions in New South Wales, being the Murray and the Far North Coast.</p> <p>In Wentworth’s case, the cross border coordination is important to ensure that key strategic planning issues are resolved at an interstate level between New South Wales authorities and Victorian authorities. A complementary approach is needed on issues that promote environmental and ecological sustainability. The objectives of this thematic underpins much of the thematic objectives found under Economic Development, and Settlement and Housing.</p>

Conclusion

Council intends to make a submission on the draft strategy.

Moved Crs. McKinnon and Thompson that Council supports the making of a submission and that details of the submission are to be discussed with Councillors at a workshop on 2 December 2009.

CARRIED

12.9 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: BUILDING CONTROL

Nil

12.10 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & GROWTH

12.10.1 Wentworth Airport Masterplan

Responsible Officer: Manager Community and Economic Development
 Author: Manager Community and Economic Development
 Implications: Economic Development
 File Reference: E1/12-8
 Attachments: Nil

Separately Circ.: Proposed Capital Costs Worksheet
Tabled: Airport Master Plan

Recommendation

1. That the Airport Master Plan (&feasibility) Report be adopted.
2. That Council pursues funding under the current round of RLCIP – Strategic Projects, with the draft application and cash flow projections to be presented for approval at the December Council meeting.

Purpose

To adopt the Airport Master Plan (&feasibility) Report.

Summary

Council views the Wentworth Airport as being a significant regional asset which requires a visionary approach to maximize its potential and deliver enhanced economic benefit to the region. The master plan/feasibility study by Rehbein AOS consulting provides a clear direction for the short, medium and long term development of the airport.

Report

Specialist airport consulting firm Rehbein AOS were engaged to develop a masterplan and feasibility study for the Wentworth Airport. The Master Plan / Feasibility Study addresses issues relating to:-

- existing and potential aircraft throughput
- existing and potential aircraft frequency and size
- airfield, terminal and landside facility requirements, including infrastructure requirements
- residential, business and commercial opportunities at the airport

In preparing the plan, consultant Ben Hargreaves spoke with Councillors, Council staff, interested members of the public and the Sunraysia Sport Aero Club, and conducted an extensive review of the airport and its environs.

The resulting report identifies and assesses the principal opportunities available to increase the use of the Wentworth Aerodrome, specifically in relation to Sport and recreational aviation, flying school training support, leisure-based commercial charter operations and business/corporate aerial work.

The report recommends that the strategic direction for development of the aerodrome should focus on the sports and recreational sector, in particular the development of a significantly increased frequency of fly-ins, in conjunction with an expanded schedule of local events.

To achieve this it is recommended that an all-weather capability is provided through the provision of a suitably shaped and sealed surface to Runway 08/23 and the main circulation areas in the vicinity of the Aero Club, Council hangar and fuel facility. It is also recommended that a universal card reader for the fuel facility is provided, along with an aircraft tie-down area.

The consultant has provided indicative capital cost estimates for three sealing alternatives that might be considered for an airport of this size:-

- 2-coat chip seal to full length of runway 08.26 and main apron/taxiway
- 2-coat chip seal on runway 08/26 ends only and main apron/taxiway. Primer seal to remainder of the runway.
- Primer seal to full length of runway 08/26 and main apron/taxiway area.

Indicative costs are also provided for the provision of itinerant aircraft parking facilities and the provision of the credit card reader.

Section 5.4 of the draft document develops a long-term strategic land-use plan which should be noted for consideration and section 5.5 provides insight into the various management structures that might be considered by Council.

Applications for Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program – Strategic Projects Round 2 are now open, and close 15/01/10.

- This is a nationally competitive funding round for projects of \$1million plus.
- Preference may be given to projects with greater co-contributions
- Projects must have a clear, direct and measurable benefit to local communities, and we need to be able to demonstrate what the ongoing community benefits will be and how the project is sustainable.
- Evidence of how we will deliver the project and sustain it into the future needs to be provided
- Cash flow projections of the project and evidence to support the projection need to be provided.

Policy and Management Plan Implications

The Master Plan places Council in a much better position to attract grant funding. The competitive nature of grant applications requires Council to make a commitment to:

- Co-contributions to the infrastructure costs
- Ongoing upkeep /maintenance of the infrastructure

Cash flow projections specific to the airport masterplan will be required to evidence these commitments. This will be in addition to the normal financial information within the management plan.

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

CARRIED

12.11 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

12.11.1 Murray Regional Organisation of Council's State of The Environment Supplementary Report 2008/2009

Responsible Officer: Director Sustainable Planning & Environment
Author: Director Sustainable Planning & Environment
Implications: Management Plan
File & References: E6/4
Attachments: Nil

Separately Circ.: Nil
Tabled: State of Environment Supplementary Report

Recommendation

1. That Council endorses the Murray Region Councils State of Environment Report – Supplementary Report 2008/2009
2. That a copy of the report, having been endorsed by Wentworth Shire Council, be forwarded to the Department of Local Government as an appendix to Council's annual report.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is for Council to endorse the Murray Regional Organisation of Councils supplementary State of the Environment Report for the 2008/2009 financial year.

Summary

Wentworth Shire Council being a member of MUROC undertake the statutory requirements for the preparation of the State of The Environment Report on a regional basis with the other member Councils.

Report

The State of The Environment Report is required to be prepared by Council as part of its annual reporting. Council's are required to submit an annual State of the Environment Report within five months after the end of each financial year in accordance with Section 428(1) of the NSW Local Government Act 1993.

Management Plan Implications

The State of the Environment report provides Council with recommendations that will need to be addressed as part of future management plans. As part of councils strategic planning the State Of The Environment Report should be linked to enable the recommendations to be actioned.

Conclusion

The State of The Environment Supplementary Report 2008/2009 conforms with the statutory requirements of the Local Government Act 1993 and provides Council with recommendations for areas that will need to be addressed and or reached in the future. The report is available for inspection on Council's website and a hard copy is available for inspection at Council's Office.

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

CARRIED

12.12 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: DOMESTIC WASTE MANAGEMENT

Nil

12.13 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: ROADS & BRIDGES (INFRASTRUCTURE)

12.13.1 Maintenance Works - Council's Footpaths

Responsible Officer: Director Sustainable Infrastructure
 Author: Team Leader Civil Works
 Implications: Nil
 File Reference: S9/10-2
 Attachments: Nil
 Separately Circ.: Nil
 Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the report.

Purpose

To inform Council of footpath maintenance works undertaken to date.

Summary

This report outlines works that have been carried out on footpaths in various areas within the Shire as a result of footpath inspections that were undertaken and generated by incoming customer requests.

Report

Works and trip hazards identified and auctioned.

ADDRESS	WORKS	ACTION COMPLETED
97 Adams Street Wentworth	5 metres of concrete path removed due to tree root intervention.	Works Completed September 2009
Wentworth Swimming Pool	Section of pathway to be replaced. Some concrete grinding works at uplifted joints. Control joints needs resealing & water proofing.	Works Completed October 2009
17 Mitchell Ave Dareton	A section of footpath was repaired as a result of termite damage to underground cabling.	Works Completed September 2009
Wilkes Street, Wentworth	Trip hazards – Council undertook concrete grinding works to reduce trip hazards where sections of paths had been dislodged by root systems of street plants.	Works Completed September 2009

Sandwych Street, Wentworth	Paving works in between the concrete pads had subsided due to ground movement. A 15 metre long section of clay pavers were relayed to line & level.	Works Completed September 2009
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Policy and Management Plan Implications

All footpath works have been identified and works undertaken as per 10 year plan

Conclusion

Works have been completed with current ongoing inspections and maintenance of Councils footpaths.

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

CARRIED

12.14 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: WATER SUPPLIES

12.14.1 Telemetry Replacement System

Responsible Officer: Director Sustainable Infrastructure
 Author: Manager Design & Assets
 Implications: Management Plan
 Attachments: Nil
 Separately Circ.: Evaluation of tender
 Tabled: Lowest price conforming document

Recommendation

That Council approves the variation in budget to \$188,090.32 (approved budget \$180,400 incl GST) and accepts the tender submitted by Hinros Consulting Services to Tender 0910/03 – Upgrade of Wastewater Telemetry System.

Purpose

To address the existing monitoring system in the Wentworth Shire Council sewerage system.

Summary

As per the Council Management Plan 2009-2013 and Council's 2023 (10 year) plan, the contract works were tendered and four tenders were obtained. The tenders were evaluated and a panel determined that the best value for money was available from Hinros Consulting Services with a tender amount of \$188,090.32 including GST.

Report

The existing Elpro system was installed 14 years ago. The operating system was based on DOS system and had major hardware problems from time to time. During

the past couple of years, some of the systems have experienced difficulties and last year the whole system failed with the sewerage system operating without any electronic monitoring since January 2008. The selection of equipment recommended is based on quality, performance and reliability in service and back up provided by the manufacturer.

Policy and Management Plan Implications

The Council Management plan 2009-2013 and Council 2023 (10 year) plan.

Conclusion

The Telemetry monitoring of Council's wastewater system will enhance system efficiency and improve health and safety conditions for the Wastewater team.

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

CARRIED

12.14.2 Status Update – Water Restrictions November 2009

Responsible Officer:	Director Sustainable Infrastructure
Author:	Director Sustainable Infrastructure
Implications:	Township aesthetics
File Reference:	W2/11-7
Attachments:	TBA
Separately Circ.:	Nil
Tabled:	Nil

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the report.

Purpose

To review water restriction levels in accordance with Council's resolution to review monthly.

Summary

Self-explanatory.

Report

On the 7 October 2009 Council resolved the following:-

“That Council move to level 2 water restrictions with the following guidelines:-

- Watering times being from 6pm to 10am daily*
- 12 hours in total per week for watering*
- You can water lawns, gardens, shrubs, trees etc*
- New pools and spas may be filled from Councils water supply. Existing pools may be filled by automated systems or by hand held hose with trigger nozzle*
- Hand held hose with trigger nozzle can be used*
- Manual dripper systems and/or movable sprinklers operating through a tap timer can be used*

- *Automatic sprinkler systems can be used*
- *Vehicle washing by hand held hose with trigger nozzle or high pressure cleaning devices on a soft surface*
- *and, further that appropriate information be disseminated throughout the community.”*

Council also resolved to review the water restriction issue on a monthly basis. No changes are required to be made.

Policy and Management Plan Implications

Nil.

Conclusion

Circumstances have not changed since the last report to Council.

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

CARRIED

Adjournment

At 10.32am moved Crs. Wakefield and Wheeldon that Council suspend standing orders for a morning tea break.

CARRIED

At 10.50am a presentation was undertaken by Margaret O'Dwyer, Regional Manager Tourism NSW.

Resumption

At 11.18am moved Crs. McKinnon and Hederics that Council resumes the Council meeting at item 12.8.3, with Councillors Thomson, Thompson, Wheeldon, Wakefield, Hederics and McKinnon present.

CARRIED

12.15 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: SEWERAGE SCHEMES

Nil

12.16 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: PUBLIC PURPOSES - DRAINAGE

12.16.1 Acquisition of Pitman Avenue, Buronga Drainage Basin 3 – DP 1133980

Responsible Officer: General Manager
Author: Governance Officer, Director Sustainable Infrastructure
Implications: Policy, Management Plan
File & References: S1/6-2
Attachments: Copy DP1133980
Separately Circ.: Nil
Tabled: Nil

Recommendation

1. That Council confirms its intention to compulsorily acquire the land and all interests in DP 1133980 [“the Acquisition Area”] (refer to attached plans).
2. That the purpose of the proposed acquisition of the Acquisition Area be for public purposes.
3. That such acquisition of the Acquisition Area be pursuant to Chapter 8 Part 1 of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) [“the LG Act”] (including section 186 of the LGA), the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act (NSW) [“the LA Act”] and all relevant native title legislations and regulations [“the Legal Requirements”].
4. That the Mayor and the General Manager be authorized to execute all such documents and take all such actions to fully effectuate these resolutions and the Legal Requirements.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to advise Council that the linen plans for the Pitman Avenue, Buronga Drainage Basin #3, has been registered with the NSW Land and Property Information Department under DP 1133980.

This report details the requirements of the Department of Local Government [“DLG”] and the Legal Requirements, which require Council’s attention.

Report

In order to comply with DLG requirements and the Legal Requirements to progress and finalize the acquisition of the Acquisition Land, Council needs to affirm its intention to acquire and comply with the Legal Requirements.

History

- On 7 July 1999 Council requested approval in principal from the Department of Land and Water Conservation (DLWC) to acquire the subject land.
- Initially it was envisaged that Western Murray Irrigation (WMI) would share the drainage basin with WSC and DLWC would not provide approval in principal until agreement in writing was established.
- On 20 September 2000 Council resolved their intent to acquire the land, the purpose of the acquisition and the method of valuation.
- In January 2007 Council received verbal advice that WMI were no longer interested in sharing the basin.
- On 8 February 2007, Peter Danson on behalf of Council requested that Lands Department re-examine the plan of Acquisition of Lot 1 DP 1019493 and reissue a requisition letter so that Council could re-activate the file to complete the registration. Subsequently DP1133980 was created when the plans were lodged with Land and Property Information (LPI).
- On 10 May 2007 Western Murray Irrigation advised in writing that the drainage basin was no longer required.
- On 26 September 2008 WSC wrote to Department of Lands to reaffirm approval in principal for the acquisition.
- On 30 September 2008 Lands advised that approval had been granted.

The above recommendations confirm Council’s intention to acquire all interests in the land and delegates signing authority for documentation.

Policy and Management Plan Implications

The acquisition of this land is in accordance with the 2009/2013 Management Plan.

Conclusion

The suggested resolutions are a component of the acquisition process that needs to be ratified to progress the final stages of this acquisition.

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

CARRIED

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

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

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the report matrix.

Purpose

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

Summary

The report matrix lists the items presented at the last Council meeting and indicates action that is needed to be taken or is to be taken by Senior Staff that the items raised are completed satisfactorily.

Report

The report is attached and is self-explanatory.

Policy and Management Plan Implications

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

Conclusion

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

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

CARRIED

Cr Wakefield vacated the Council Chambers at 12.20pm.

Cr Wakefield returned to the Council Chambers at 12.22pm.

14. QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Cr. Thompson

1. Advised that he had previously raised the issue of signage required at Fletchers Lake Road indicating an alternative shorter route to Ellerslie which would have been helpful when an ambulance had been called out and had taken the longer route which could have been the difference between life and death of the patient.

(Councillor Wakefield advised that this matter could be raised at the next Local Traffic Facilities meeting).

Cr. Wakefield

1. Indicated that he had received advice through a My Thoughts article that Gol Gol North does not appear on Council's website in the maps directory.
2. Advised that a resident in Dareton had informed him that the water pressure is very low especially in Neilpo Street and is getting worse.
(The Director Sustainable Infrastructure will investigate this matter).
3. Wished to extend his thanks to the staff in the Sustainable Infrastructure department and especially the Parks and Gardens area, for assisting the Sisters of Mercy with their request for rose petals for a religious ceremony.

Cr. Hederics

1. Enquired as to what is the current situation with regard to the consultation process for the future use of the Midway Centre.

(The General Manager advised that this matter will be discussed at the Councillors' Workshop to be held on Wednesday 2 December).

Cr. McKinnon

1. Enquired as to when will the next meeting of the George Gordon Oval Management Committee be held.

(The General Manager advised that he has requested the Director Sustainable Planning & Environment investigate whether members were able to attend a meeting before Christmas).

2. Enquired as to whether Council would be purchasing equipment and arrange training for the Local Laws Officers to assist with the trapping and seizure of uncontrolled dogs.

(The General Manager advised that the A/g Director Sustainable Planning & Environment has been liaising with him regarding various options available and that equipment and training will be considered).

15. NEXT MEETING

- 16 December 2009

16. **CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS**

Nil

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 12.29pm