



WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 that an **ORDINARY MEETING** of Wentworth Shire Council will be held in the **WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, SHORT STREET, WENTWORTH**, commencing at **10.00AM**.

KEN ROSS
GENERAL MANAGER

ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA

19 FEBRUARY 2020

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1 OPENING OF MEETING

In accordance with section 5.19 of the adopted Code of Meeting Practice the open meeting of council is to be webcast via an audio recording.

The Public Forum and the Closed Council Meeting are not recorded.

By speaking at this council meeting you are consenting to being recorded.

All persons speaking at this meeting are required to use appropriate language and to be respectful of other people at all times.

The podcast of this meeting will be uploaded to council's website by close of business tomorrow afternoon.

Recording of Council meetings by any means, by any other person is strictly prohibited.

The Wentworth Shire Council accepts no responsibility for defamatory or offensive remarks that may be made during these proceedings.

2 PRAYER OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

3 APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

4 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 18 December 2019 be confirmed as circulated.

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held 22 January 2020 be confirmed as circulated.



WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL

ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES

18 DECEMBER 2019

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1 OPENING OF MEETING

The Mayor opened the meeting with a prayer at 10.03am

2 PRAYER OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS: Councillor Melisa Hederics (Mayor)
Councillor Tim Elstone (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor Greg Evans
Councillor Steve Heywood
Councillor Jane MacAllister
Councillor Don McKinnon
Councillor Susan Nichols
Councillor Peter Nunan
Councillor Bill Wheeldon OAM

STAFF: Ken Ross (General Manager)
Hodi Beauliv (Acting Director Finance and Policy)
Geoff Gunn (Director Roads and Engineering)
Paula Mastrippolito (Manager Organisational Support)

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

4 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

Cr Elstone advised that he had a pecuniary interest in item 9.10 because of his profession as a real estate agent.

Cr Elstone advised that he had a less than significant non-pecuniary interest in item 9.17 because of his profession as a real estate agent. (item 9.16 of electronic record)

Cr McKinnon advised that he had a pecuniary interest in item 9.4 as his son is an employee of Council working in the waste management area.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING TO CONDUCT A PUBLIC FORUM

Council Resolution

That the Ordinary Council meeting be adjourned, and the recording of the meeting be paused, for the purpose of conducting a Public Forum.

Moved Cr. Nunan , Seconded Cr. Evans

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 10.06am

Item 9.21

At 10.06am Planning consultant James Goldsworthy addressed the meeting, speaking on behalf of the applicants in relation to Development Application 2019/079 Gypsum Mine Arumpo Road Lot 6918 DP 1000008 Wentworth for DA. Also in attendance was a representative from Morello Earthmoving.

Concluded at 10.11am

Item 9.22

At 10.12am Planning consultant Roy Costa addressed the meeting speaking on behalf of the applicants in relation to DA2018/005 Farm Stay Accommodation - 83 Williamsville Road, Lot 3 DP 540613, Curlwaa. Also in attendance was Grant Bertalli and Maeva Lopez.

Concluded at 10.17am

At 10.17am Stacey Perry addressed the meeting speaking against DA2018/005 Farm Stay Accommodation - 83 Williamsville Road, Lot 3 DP 540613, Curlwaa. Concluded at 10.22am

At 10.22am Councillor Greg Evans left the Council Chambers.

At 10.24am Councillor Greg Evans returned to Council Chambers.

Item 9.4

At 10.25am Geoff Webster from Waste & Management Services presented his report for the Review Waste Management Services and Infrastructure. Concluded at 11.13am

RESUMPTION OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Council Resolution

That the Ordinary Council meeting be reconvened and the recording of the meeting be recommenced.

Moved Cr. Nunan, Seconded Cr. MacAllister

CARRIED

The Ordinary Council meeting was reconvened at 11.13am

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 20 November 2019 be confirmed as circulated.

Council Resolution

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 20 November 2019 be confirmed, noting that Councillor Heywood is to be removed from the list of councillors present at the meeting.

Moved Cr. Nichols, Seconded Cr. MacAllister

CARRIED

6 OUTSTANDING MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

6.1 OUTSTANDING ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

File Number: RPT/19/1196

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Paula Mastroppolito - Manager Organisational Support

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

The Outstanding Actions report provides details of activities raised at previous Council meetings that are yet to be reported back to council.

Officer Recommendation

That Council notes the list of outstanding items from previous meetings

Council Resolution

That Council notes the list of outstanding items from previous meetings

Moved Cr. Nichols, Seconded Cr. MacAllister

CARRIED

6.1(a) WEST DARLING ARTS MOU

Cr MacAllister advised that it was her understanding that council agreed that there was to be the inclusion of an annual festival written into the MOU with West Darling Arts (Item 9.5 of previous meeting).

The General Manager advised that he was meeting with representatives of West Darling Arts on 19/12/19 and would discuss this with them.

6.1(b) PEARSON AVIATION

Cr Peter Nunan asked if an assurance had been provided by Pearson Aviation of their commitment to the Wentworth aerodrome (item 10.7 of previous meeting).

The General Manager advised that he was awaiting a phone call from representatives of Pearson Aviation.

6.1(c) MOBILE SKATE RAMPS

Cr Jane MacAllister advised that in item 9.20 of the previous meeting it was requested that there be an investigation of costs to have a static skate ramp at each site.

7 MAYORAL AND COUNCILLOR REPORTS

7.1 MAYORAL REPORT

File Number: RPT/19/1110

Recommendation

That Council notes the information contained in the Mayoral report.

Council Resolution

That Council notes the information contained in the Mayoral report.

Moved Cr. Hederics, Seconded Cr. MacAllister

CARRIED

7.2 ACTIVITY REPORT - COUNCILLOR JANE MACALLISTER

File Number: RPT/19/1106

Summary

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of meetings, conferences and appointments undertaken by Councillor Jane MacAllister for the period 1 September 2019 – 30 November 2019.

Recommendation

That Council notes the information contained in Councillor Jane MacAllister's report.

Council Resolution

That Council notes the information contained in Councillor Jane MacAllister's report.

Moved Cr. MacAllister, Seconded Cr. Evans

CARRIED

Activity of other Councillors

It was noted that Councillor Nicholls attended a Wentworth Regional Tourism meeting, the Pomona Public School presentation evening and the Wentworth Public School presentation.

It was noted that Councillor Evans attended the Palinyewah Public School concert.

8 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

8.1 REVIEW OF LOAD LIMIT - MOURQUONG ROAD

File Number: RPT/19/1167

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering

Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering

Reporting Officer: Belinda Fitzgerald - Road Safety Officer

Objective: 1.0 Wentworth is a vibrant, growing and thriving Shire

Strategy: 1.1 Grow the potential for business and industry to develop and expand

Summary

A meeting of the Local Traffic Committee was held on 21 February 2019.

The Committee has requested that the Reporting Officer seeks a resolution of Council on the restrictive load limit on Mourquong Road, Mourquong.

Recommendation

That Council overturns the decision to implement a Load Limit of 14.5t to Mourquong Road Mourquong, as made by the Local Traffic (RMS) Committee on 21 February 2019, and authorises the removal of all previously installed load limit signage.

Council Resolution

That Council overturns the decision to implement a Load Limit of 14.5t to Mourquong Road Mourquong, as made by the Local Traffic (RMS) Committee on 21 February 2019, and authorises the removal of all previously installed load limit signage.

Moved Cr. MacAllister, Seconded Cr. Heywood

CARRIED

9 REPORTS TO COUNCIL

9.1 GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

File Number: RPT/19/1111

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Paula Mastroppolito - Manager Organisational Support
Gayle Marsden - Executive Assistant

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

The General Manager's report details information pertaining to meetings attended and general information which are of public interest, and which have not been reported elsewhere in this agenda. Items of note in this report are:

1. OLG Circulars

Nil

2. Meetings

As listed

3. Upcoming meetings or events

As listed

4. Other items of note

4.1 – Consultation of the appointment of senior staff

Recommendation

That Council notes the information contained within the report from the General Manager and approves the out of region travel listed in the list of upcoming events.

Council Resolution

That Council notes the information contained within the report from the General Manager and approves the out of region travel listed in the list of upcoming events.

Moved Cr. Elstone, Seconded Cr. Evans

CARRIED

9.2 TRENTHAM CLIFFS DEVELOPMENT - PROVISION OF WATER AND SEWER

File Number: RPT/19/1203

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager

Objective: 1.0 Wentworth is a vibrant, growing and thriving Shire
Strategy: 1.2 Encourage and support population growth and resident attraction

Summary

The Health and Planning Division have recently approved three developments in the Trentham Cliffs precinct which will facilitate the development of a Highway Service Centre and a Cabin Park.

Included in the consents for these developments is a provision that filtered water would be provided from Gol Gol and sewer would be pumped back to Gol Gol. These discussions were had and supported in early 2016 by the then Mayor and former general manager.

While the concept is supported the detail around apportionment of cost is critical to the timely development of the Highway Service Centre and a cabin park.

Recommendation

That Council authorises the Mayor and General Manager to negotiate an agreement with the developer regarding the provision of water and sewer infrastructure to Trentham Cliffs and beyond.

Council Resolution

That Council authorises the Mayor and General Manager to negotiate an agreement with the developer regarding the provision of water and sewer infrastructure to Trentham Cliffs and beyond, and that it be brought back to council for ratification.

Moved Cr. Nichols, Seconded Cr. Elstone

CARRIED

9.3 WENTWORTH SHIRE CIVIC CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

File Number: RPT/19/1202

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural assets

Strategy: 3.2 Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure

Summary

Council previously approved a concept plan (concept 6) for the development of the Wentworth Shire Civic Centre.

A further 2 iterations of concept 6 has resulted in the development of concept 8, which is now being presented to council for endorsement.

Recommendation

That Council endorses concept 8 for the development of the Wentworth Shire Civic Centre and authorizes the General Manager to proceed with finalising the detailed design in preparation for tender.

Council Resolution

That Council endorses concept 8 for the development of the Wentworth Shire Civic Centre and authorizes the General Manager to proceed with finalising the detailed design in preparation for tender.

Moved Cr. Nichols, Seconded Cr. Elstone

CARRIED

Cr Nunan requested that his vote against the resolution be recorded.

9.4 REVIEW WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

File Number: RPT/19/1162

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural assets

Strategy: 3.2 Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure

At 11:36 am Councillor Don McKinnon left the Council Chambers as he has previously declared a pecuniary interest in this item.

Summary

In May 2019, Council commissioned a consultant, Waste and Management Services, to undertake an independent operational review of Council's waste management infrastructure and associated operational activities.

The purpose of the review was to provide independent, qualified advice on the performance of Council's waste operations to guide the future management of these services.

The review is now complete and is provided to Council to enable an informed discussion and decision regarding the future of Council's waste management services and infrastructure.

Recommendation

- 1) That Council notes the report from the consultant on the performance of Council's Waste management services and infrastructure and,
- 2) That Council authorises the General Manager to investigate options for alternative management arrangements of Council's waste services.

Council Resolution

- 1) That Council notes the report from the consultant on the performance of Council's Waste management services and infrastructure and,
- 2) That Council authorises the General Manager to investigate options for alternative management arrangements of Council's waste services.

Moved Cr. MacAllister, Seconded Cr. Heywood

CARRIED

Cr Nichols requested that her vote against the motion be recorded.

At 11:48 am Councillor Don McKinnon returned to Council Chambers.

9.5 WORKFORCE STRUCTURE

File Number: RPT/19/1204

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

Council had previously requested that the structure be reviewed to examine any opportunities to build an improved internal skill set in preference to over using external consultancies and or contractors.

Recommendation

That Council adopts an appropriate structure to enable the delivery of all services to a satisfactory level.

Council Resolution

That this item be deferred, to be considered at an extraordinary meeting on 22 January 2020.

Moved Cr. Nunan, Seconded Cr. McKinnon

CARRIED

9.6 CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINT STATISTICS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 SEPT. 2019

File Number: RPT/19/1164

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Paula Mastrippolito - Manager Organisational Support

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

The Procedures for the Administration of the Model Code of Conduct require a report to be presented to council within 3 months of the end of September each year on Code of Conduct complaints.

The information contained in the report pertains to the period ended 30 September 2019.

Recommendation

That Council notes the reporting of the Code of Conduct complaints statistics for the period ended 30 September 2019.

Council Resolution

That Council notes the reporting of the Code of Conduct complaints statistics for the period ended 30 September 2019.

Moved Cr. MacAllister, Seconded Cr. Wheeldon

CARRIED

9.7 DELIVERY PROGRAM PROGRESS UPDATE

File Number: RPT/19/1182

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Paula Mastroppolito - Manager Organisational Support

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

A report on the progress with implementing the 4 year Delivery program of council is required to be presented at least every six (6) months (LGA s404(5)).

To this end a progress report on the implementation of the annual operational plan is presented, with this report detailing each of the activities that is to be undertaken in the current financial year against each of the Delivery Program strategies.

Recommendation

That Council notes the progress update on the 2019/20 Operational Plan activities.

Council Resolution

That this item be deferred to the February meeting, and that there be an audit committee meeting be held in January to fully review all budgeted projects, and that there be a quarterly review of all projects.

Moved Cr. Nichols, Seconded Cr. Nunan

CARRIED

9.8 2020 WESTERN DIVISION OF COUNCILS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

File Number: RPT/19/1132

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Gayle Marsden - Executive Assistant

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

The 2020 Western Division of Councils Annual Conference will be held from 18 - 20 March 2020 in Broken Hill. The focus of the Conference will be the Four Pillars of Sustainability – Human, Social, Economic and Environment.

Recommendation

That Council determines attendees to the 2020 Western Division of Council's Annual Conference.

Council Resolution

That the Mayor and Councillors Wheeldon, Evans and Elstone attend the 2020 Western Division of Council's Annual Conference on 18-20 March in Broken Hill.

Moved Cr. Nunan, Seconded Cr. Heywood

CARRIED

9.9 COUNCILLOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

File Number: RPT/19/1199

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Paula Mastroppolito - Manager Organisational Support

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

Amendments made to the Local Government Act 1993 (the Act) by the Local Government Amendment (Governance and Planning) Act 2016 in August 2016 saw the inclusion in the prescribed role of councillors under section 232 a responsibility “to make all reasonable efforts to acquire and maintain the skills necessary to perform the role of a councillor”.

In support of this, regulations have been made for induction and other professional development for mayors and councillors, and information about the PD activities undertaken by each councillor is required to be published in council’s annual report.

Recommendation

That Council notes the requirements for professional development training and the request for each councillor to advise the General Manager of the PD activities that they wish to undertake in 2020 to support their individual professional development plan.

Council Resolution

That Council notes the requirements for professional development training and that the General Manager investigates what courses can be held in Wentworth for inhouse training by our council and other councils via the JO .

Moved Cr. Nichols, Seconded Cr. McKinnon

CARRIED

9.10 MURRAY DARLING WETLANDS WORKING GROUP - THREE RIVERS PROJECT

File Number: RPT/19/1206

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Gayle Marsden - Executive Assistant

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural assets

Strategy: 3.5 Recognise the importance of a healthy Murray-Darling River system

At 11:56 am Councillor Tim Elstone left the Council Chambers as had previously declared a conflict of interest in this item.

Summary

The Wetlands Working Group is seeking Council's in-principle endorsement of a ten year project which aims to link the lower Murray, lower Darling and lower Murrumbidgee river floodplains and wetlands (from Hay to the SA border) and develop integrated and broad scale management to improve river, wetland and floodplain environments. The program will also explore new ways to benefit small native fish.

Recommendation

That Council endorse in-principle the Three Rivers Connection Proposal program.

Council Resolution

That Council endorses, in-principle, the Three Rivers Connection Proposal program.

Moved Cr. MacAllister, Seconded Cr. Heywood

CARRIED

AT 11:59 AM COUNCILLOR TIM ELSTONE RETURNED TO COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

9.11 SUPPLY OF BARIATRIC CHAIRS

File Number: RPT/19/1099

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager

Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager

Reporting Officer: Paula Matrippolito - Manager Organisational Support

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.3 Promote disability inclusion within the general community

Summary

Council's customer service staff have received several requests for the supply of height adjustable chairs catering for people with mobility issues (bariatric chairs) at council facilities.

These chairs will be of assistance to people with mobility issues and would be placed at council chambers, council libraries, the Memorial rooms, and the Midway Centre function room. The supply of these chairs is consistent with council's adopted Disability Inclusion Action Plan.

Recommendation

That Council approves a budget variation of \$16,336 in the current operational plan to enable the purchase of a quantity of bariatric chairs.

Council Resolution

That Council approves a budget variation of \$8,480.00 in the current operational plan to enable the purchase of a quantity of bariatric chairs.

Moved Cr. Nichols, Seconded Cr. MacAllister

CARRIED

9.12 WILLOWFEST 2019 SPONSORSHIP

File Number: RPT/19/1192

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Gayle Marsden - Executive Assistant

Objective: 2.0 Wentworth is a desirable Shire to visit, live, work and invest
Strategy: 2.1 Grow visitation to the Shire by developing a quality visitor experience and promoting our destination

Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the Willowfest Australian Cricket Championship event to be held in the region with five different championship events running from September 2019 to December 2019. The event organisers have approached Wentworth Shire Council with a request to provide sponsorship for the event for the next three years.

Recommendation

That Council nominates a preferred option from the options a) or b) provided in the report.

Council Resolution

That Council provides sponsorship of \$10,000 for 3 years to the Willowfest Australian Cricket Championship.

Moved Cr. T Elstone, Seconded Cr. MacAllister

CARRIED

Council Resolution

That Standing Orders be suspended for the purpose of morning tea.

Moved Cr. Nunan, Seconded Cr. MacAllister

CARRIED

Meeting suspended at 12.03pm

Council Resolution

That Standing Orders be resumed.

Moved Cr. Nunan, Seconded Cr. MacAllister

CARRIED

Meeting resumed at 12.13pm

9.13 AUSTRALIA DAY 2020 AWARDS

File Number: RPT/19/1130

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Gayle Marsden - Executive Assistant

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future
Strategy: 4.7 Promote the celebration of the region's rich cultural and social heritage

Summary

This year Council requested nominations for the following categories:

- Citizen of the Year (must be 18 years or over on 26 January 2020)
- Young Citizen of the Year (must be under 18 years on 26 January 2020)
- Sportsperson of the Year (must be 18 years or over on 26 January 2020)
- Young Sportsperson of the Year (must be under 18 years on 26 January 2020)
- Environmental Award (individuals or groups)

Recommendation

That Council determines the individual award recipients through a secret ballot and that the results remain confidential until announced at the official Australia Day event at the Wentworth Rowing Club lawns.

Council Resolution

That Council determines the individual award recipients through a secret ballot and that the results remain confidential until announced at the official Australia Day event at the Wentworth Rowing Club lawns.

Moved Cr. Nunan, Seconded Cr. Evans

CARRIED

9.14 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT

File Number: RPT/19/1165

Responsible Officer: Hodi Beauliv - Acting Director, Finance and Policy

Responsible Division: Finance and Policy

Reporting Officer: Vanessa Lock - Finance Officer

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

Rates and Charges collections for the month of November 2019 were \$ 1,512,837.14. After allowing for pensioner subsidies, the total levies collected are now 55%. For comparison purposes 55.42% of the levy had been collected at the end of November 2018. Council currently has \$29,465,683.80 in cash and investments.

Recommendation

That Council notes the monthly finance report.

Council Resolution

That Council notes the monthly finance report.

Moved Cr. Nunan, Seconded Cr. Elstone

CARRIED

9.15 MONTHLY INVESTMENT REPORT

File Number: RPT/19/1201

Responsible Officer: Hodi Beauliv - Acting Director, Finance and Policy

Responsible Division: Finance and Policy

Reporting Officer: Hodi Beauliv - Acting Director, Finance and Policy

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

As at 30 November 2019 Council had \$27,000,000.00 invested in term deposits. Council received \$43,932.88 from its investments for the month of November 2019.

In November 2019 Council investments averaged a rate of return of 1.75% and it currently has \$8,466,832.09 of internal restrictions and \$16,790,607.32 of external restrictions.

Recommendation

That Council notes the monthly investment report.

Motion

That Council notes the monthly investment report.

Moved Cr. Nichols, Seconded Cr. Elstone

9.15(a) PROVISION FOR DOUBTFUL DEBTS

Cr Nichols questioned the amount of the provision for doubtful debts.

The Acting Director Finance and Policy took the question on notice.

9.16 A32 ACQUISITION GOLF COURSE ROAD

File Number: RPT/19/1114

Responsible Officer: Hodi Beauliv - Acting Director, Finance and Policy
Responsible Division: Finance and Policy
Reporting Officer: Kathy Collinson - Reserves and Acquisitions Officer

Objective: 1.0 Wentworth is a vibrant, growing and thriving Shire
Strategy: 1.2 Encourage and support population growth and resident attraction

At 12.17pm Councillor Elstone left the chambers as he had previously declared a conflict of interest in this item.

Summary

The road formerly known as Kookaburra Drive Extension and now known as Golf Course Road was constructed on Crown Land under the assumption that the subject land was a Travelling Stock Route (TSR). Internal investigation and confirmation from Crown Lands indicated that the TSR had never been gazetted. This acquisition covers the road from River Drive to the intersection of Kookaburra Drive and provides legal access to adjoining essential infrastructure and residential subdivisions. A Council resolution is required to commence the acquisition of Lots 1 to 6 DP 1253515 and an easement for access over an existing track in use effecting Lot 10 DP 1253515.

Recommendation

That Council

- a) Compulsory acquires under the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991, by authority contained in the Local Government Act 1993 for the purposes of public road which will provide road widening, and access to essential infrastructure, residential subdivisions.
- b) That Council confirms its intention to compulsory acquire the land in Lots 1 to 6 DP 1253515 and an easement for access over an existing track in use effecting Lot 10 DP 1253515. ["the acquisition area"] (Refer to page 5 of attached plan).
- c) That minerals are to be excluded from this acquisition.
- d) That these acquisitions are not for the purpose of resale.
- e) That the necessary applications be made to the Minister for Local Government and the Governor.
- f) That the Common Seal of Wentworth Shire Council be affixed to any related documentation and the Mayor and the General Manager be delegated to sign any related documents.
- g) That upon Gazettal of the Acquisition Notice the land is further gazetted as public road under Section 10 of the Roads Act 1993.
- h) That compensation is paid to the State of NSW under the terms of the Land Acquisition Just Terms Compensation Act 1991.

Council Resolution

That council endorses items a) to h) of the Officer's recommendation.

Moved Cr. Wheeldon, Seconded Cr. Nichols

CARRIED

At 12.19pm Councillor Elstone returned to the chambers.

9.17 A31 A42 A44 ACQUISITION OF LAND FOR ESSENTIAL PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE DARETON

File Number: RPT/19/1115

Responsible Officer: Hodi Beauliv - Acting Director, Finance and Policy

Responsible Division: Finance and Policy

Reporting Officer: Kathy Collinson - Reserves and Acquisitions Officer

Objective: 1.0 Wentworth is a vibrant, growing and thriving Shire

Strategy: 1.2 Encourage and support population growth and resident attraction

Summary

Multiple capital works have been undertaken in Dareton. The Dareton Boat Ramp Upgrade and the Sewer Rationalisation Project were undertaken on Crown Land under licence until an acquisition could be completed. In addition the land tenure for the Dareton Riverboat Pump Station is included. This report requests the resolution required to commence the acquisition process for Lots 7, 11, 12 and 13 DP 1253515.

Recommendation

That Council

- a) Compulsory acquires under the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991, by authority contained in the Local Government Act 1993 for the purpose of essential public infrastructure.
- b) That Council confirms its intention to compulsory acquire the land in Lots 7, 11, 12 and 13 DP 1253515. ["the acquisition area"] (refer to attached plan).
- c) That minerals are to be excluded from this acquisition.
- d) That these acquisitions are not for the purpose of resale.
- e) That the necessary applications be made to the Minister for Local Government and the Governor.
- f) That the Common Seal of Wentworth Shire Council be affixed to any related documentation and the Mayor and the General Manager be delegated to sign any related documents.
- g) That upon Gazettal of the Acquisition Notice Lots 7, 11, 12 and 13 DP 1253515 are classified as Operational Land.
- h) That compensation be paid to Crown Lands for the acquisitions under the terms of the Local Government Act 1993.

Council Resolution

That council endorses items a) to h) of the Officer's recommendation.

Moved Cr. Nunan, Seconded Cr. McKinnon

CARRIED

9.18 A38 RYDER CRESCENT SEWER PUMP STATION

File Number: RPT/19/1128

Responsible Officer: Hodi Beauliv - Acting Director, Finance and Policy

Responsible Division: Finance and Policy

Reporting Officer: Kathy Collinson - Reserves and Acquisitions Officer

Objective: 1.0 Wentworth is a vibrant, growing and thriving Shire

Strategy: 1.2 Encourage and support population growth and resident attraction

Summary

Sewer Pump Station Number 6 is located at the rear of Ryder Crescent on Crown Land. Council has undertaken a survey of the infrastructure being Lot 100 DP 1252704 and an easement for access 4 metres wide from Ryder Cres to the pump site. A Council Resolution is required to commence the compulsory process.

Recommendation

- a) That Council proceeds to acquire the following land and interest by compulsory process under the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991, by authority contained in the Local Government Act 1993 for the purposes of the Wentworth Sewerage Scheme.
 - I. Lot 100 Deposited Plan 1252704 which is part of Lot 29 Deposited Plan 45055 as shown highlighted in yellow on the attached plan.
 - II. An easement for access 4 metres wide & variable, effecting Lot 29 Deposited Plan 45055 shown as "A" in Deposited Plan 1252704 and highlighted orange on the attached plan.
- b) That minerals are to be excluded from this acquisition.
- c) That these acquisitions are not for the purpose of resale.
- d) That the necessary applications be made to the Minister for Local Government and the Governor.
- e) That the Common Seal be affixed to all documentation required to be sealed to give effect to this resolution; and the General Manager and Mayor be authorised to sign any documentation necessary to finalise the matter.
- f) That Lot 100 Deposited Plan 1252704 be classified as Operational Land upon Gazettal of the Acquisition Notice under the power of the Local Government Act 1993.
- g) That compensation be paid to the State of NSW for the acquisitions under the Terms of the Land Acquisition Just Terms Compensation Act 1991.

Council Resolution

That Council endorses items a) to g) of the Officer's recommendation.

Moved Cr. Wheeldon, Seconded Cr. Nunan

CARRIED

9.19 DELEGATED AUTHORITY APPROVALS AS AT END OF NOVEMBER 2019

File Number: RPT/19/1191

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Nicky Meredith - Coordinator Health and Planning

Objective: 1.0 Wentworth is a vibrant, growing and thriving Shire
Strategy: 1.1 Grow the potential for business and industry to develop and expand

Summary

For the month of November 2019, a total of 7 Development Applications and 1 S4.55 Modification Applications were determined under delegated authority by the General Manager.

The estimated value of the determined developments was \$815,492. This brings the year to date total to 138 Development Applications approved and 22 S4.55 Applications approved, with an estimated development value of \$22,757,811.

Recommendation

- a) That Council receives and notes the report for the month of November 2019.
- b) That Council publicly notifies, for the purposes of Schedule 1 Division 4 Section 20 (2) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, the applications as listed in the attachment on the Wentworth Shire Council website.
- c) That a division be called in accordance with S375A of the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)*.

Council Resolution

- a) That Council receives and notes the report for the month of November 2019.
- b) That Council publicly notifies, for the purposes of Schedule 1 Division 4 Section 20 (2) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, the applications as listed in the attachment on the Wentworth Shire Council website.
- c) That a division be called in accordance with S375A of the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)*.

Moved Cr. Elstone, Seconded Cr. MacAllister

CARRIED

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

For the Motion : ***Clr.s Elstone, Evans, Hederics, Heywood, MacAllister, McKinnon, Nichols, Nunan and Wheeldon.***

Against the Motion: ***Nil.***

9.20 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION DA2017/145 DEMOLITION OF EXISTING BUILDINGS, ERECTION OF STORAGE UNITS, SIGNAGE AND OPERATION OF LAUNDROMAT AND SIGN HIRE COMMERCIAL BUSINESSES 18-20 ADELAIDE STREET LOT 4 SECTION 13 DP 758456

File Number: RPT/19/1113

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: George Kenende - Development Assessment Officer

Objective: 1.0 Wentworth is a vibrant, growing and thriving Shire
Strategy: 1.1 Grow the potential for business and industry to develop and expand

Summary

Council received a development application (DA2017/145) for Storage Units, Signage, Laundromat and Sign Hire business to be located at 18-20 Adelaide Street, Lot 4 Section 13 DP 758456 Gol Gol. The development application proposal seeks approval to:

- Demolish two existing buildings
- Construct storage units
- Construct and operate a laundromat
- Operate a sign hire company from the site
- Signage

In accordance with the RU5 Village zone within the Wentworth Local Environmental Plan 2011 (WLEP 2011) the demolition, storage units, signage, laundromats and sign hire businesses are permitted with consent.

Recommendation

- 1) That Council, having considered the content of this report, resolves to refuse approval of Development Application DA2017/145 being Demolition of existing buildings, Storage Units, Signage, Laundromat and Signage Hire business at 18-20 Adelaide Street, Lot 4 Section 13 DP 758456 Gol Gol due to the following reasons:
 - The development does not meet the requirements of the *State Environmental Planning Policy No 65 – Advertising and Signage*
 - Current application submitted does not adequately address all anticipated impacts from the proposed development (traffic and parking, amenity, security, noise)
 - Proposed application does not meet the objectives of the WLEP 2011
 - The proposed development does not meet relevant provisions of the Wentworth Development Plan (DCP) 2011
- 2) That a division be called in accordance with s375A of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW)

The General Manager advised that this item has been withdrawn.

**9.21 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION 2019/079 GYPSUM MINE ARUMPO
ROAD LOT 6918 DP 1000008 WENTWORTH**

File Number: RPT/19/1116

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: George Kenende - Development Assessment Officer

Objective: 1.0 Wentworth is a vibrant, growing and thriving Shire
Strategy: 1.1 Grow the potential for business and industry to develop and expand

Summary

A Development Application (DA) (DA2019/079) has been received by Council seeking approval for the mining of gypsum at Arumpo Road, Lot 6918 DP 1000008, Wentworth.

The site falls under the RU1 Primary Production zone and in accordance with the Wentworth Local Environmental Plan 2011 (WLEP 2011) open cut mining is permissible with consent in that zone.

The definition of open-cut mining is mining carried out on, and by excavating, the earth's surface, but does not include underground mining.

Recommendation

- 1) That Council issues development approval for DA2019/079 being an open cut mine located at Arumpo Road, Lot 6918 DP 1000008, Wentworth.
- 2) That a division be called in accordance with s375A of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW).

Council Resolution

- 1) That Council issues development approval for DA2019/079 being an open cut mine located at Arumpo Road, Lot 6918 DP 1000008, Wentworth.
- 2) That a division be called in accordance with s375A of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW).

Moved Cr. MacAllister, Seconded Cr. T Elstone

CARRIED

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

For the Motion : ***Clr.s Elstone, Evans, Hederics, Heywood, MacAllister, McKinnon, Nichols, Nunan and Wheeldon.***

Against the Motion: ***Nil.***

9.22 DA2018/005 FARM STAY ACCOMMODATION - 83 WILLIAMSVILLE ROAD, LOT 3 DP 540613, CURLWAA

File Number: RPT/19/1170

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: George Kenende - Development Assessment Officer

Objective: 1.0 Wentworth is a vibrant, growing and thriving Shire
Strategy: 1.1 Grow the potential for business and industry to develop and expand

Summary

A Development Application (DA) (DA2018/005) has been received by Council seeking approval for the development and use of a farm stay accommodation facility at 83 Williamsville Road, Lot 3 DP 540613, Curlwaa.

The site falls under the RU1 Primary Production zone and in accordance with the Wentworth Local Environmental Plan 2011 (WLEP 2011) farm stay accommodation is permissible with consent in that zone.

The definition of farm stay accommodation is for a building or place to be used to provide temporary or short-term accommodation to paying guests on a working farm, with the use being a secondary business to primary production.

Recommendation

- 1) That Council grants development consent for DA2018/005 being a farm stay accommodation located at 83 Williamsville, Lot 3 DP 540613 Curlwaa.
- 2) That a division be called in accordance with s375A of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW).

Council Resolution

- 1) That Council grants development consent for DA2018/005 being a farm stay accommodation located at 83 Williamsville, Lot 3 DP 540613 Curlwaa.
- 2) That a division be called in accordance with s375A of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW).

Moved Cr. Nunan, Seconded Cr. Wheeldon

CARRIED

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

For the Motion : ***Clr.s Evans, Hederics, MacAllister, McKinnon, Nichols, Nunan and Wheeldon.***

Against the Motion: ***Clr.s Elstone and Heywood.***

9.23 MAJOR WORKS UPDATE FOR NOVEMBER 2019

File Number: RPT/19/1129

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering

Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering

Reporting Officer: Allan Eastmond - Manager Works

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural assets

Strategy: 3.2 Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure

Summary

This report provides a summary of the major works undertaken by the Roads and Engineering Division which have been completed during the month of November 2019 and the planned works for December 2019.

Recommendation

That Council notes the major works update for November 2019 and the proposed works for December 2019.

Council Resolution

That Council notes the major works update for November 2019 and the proposed works for December 2019.

Moved Cr. Elstone, Seconded Cr. Nunan

CARRIED

9.24 EMERGENCY WATER CARTING - UPDATE

File Number: RPT/19/1105

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering
Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering
Reporting Officer: Barbara George - Acting Coordinator, Roads and Engineering

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future
Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

In July 2019, 100% of New South Wales was declared "in drought".

WSC have previously been successful with two (2) requests for financial assistance from the Government for emergency water carting to Pooncarie.

In October 2019, Council requested further financial assistance to enable continued carting of emergency water supplies to Pooncarie property owners, and to cover carting to the Pooncarie Township whilst new in ground water bore supplies were established. (A copy is attached)

A response from Melinda Pavey – Minister for Water, Property and Housing – was received on 22 November 2019, advising that a further \$100,000.00 has been provided for water carting to Pooncarie and Lower Darling area until either 30 June 2020, or the funding is fully committed or, the restoration of normal supplies. (A copy is attached).

Recommendation

That Council notes the report.

Council Resolution

That Council notes the report.

Moved Cr. Evans, Seconded Cr. Nichols

CARRIED

9.25 PANEL CONTRACT PC1920/01 - SUPPLY OF BUILDING TRADES, PROFESSIONAL AND CONSULTATION SERVICES

File Number: RPT/19/1071

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering

Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering

Reporting Officer: Allan Eastmond - Manager Works

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural assets

Strategy: 3.2 Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure

Summary

This report is to seek resolution of Council to enter into a Panel Contract for the Supply of Building Trades, Professional and Consultation Services to undertake operational maintenance activities for Wentworth Shire Council.

Cr Nunan raised a point of order, questioning whether Cr Heywood had a pecuniary interest in this item and the next item.

At 12:38 pm Councillor Heywood left the Council Chambers as he declared a significant pecuniary interest.

Recommendation

That Council approves the contractors listed in the body of this report as Council's preferred suppliers of Building Trades, Professional and Consultation Services for a 12 month period.

Council Resolution

That Council approves the contractors listed in the body of this report as Council's preferred suppliers of Building Trades, Professional and Consultation Services for a 12 month period.

Moved Cr. Elstone, Seconded Cr. MacAllister

CARRIED

Cr Nunan requested a list of current panel tenders and how much each was paid per job

9.25(a) CURRENT PANEL TENDERERS

Cr Nunan requested a list of current panel tenderers (from the previous financial year), detailing how much had been paid to each one per job for both Building Trades, Professional and Consultation Services and for the hire of construction plant and equipment.

9.26 PANEL CONTRACT PC1920/02 - HIRE OF CONSTRUCTION PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

File Number: RPT/19/1074

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering

Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering

Reporting Officer: Allan Eastmond - Manager Works

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural assets

Strategy: 3.2 Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure

Summary

This report is to seek a resolution of Council to enter into a Panel Contract for the Hire of Construction Plant and Equipment to undertake road related capital and operational projects for Wentworth Shire Council.

Recommendation

That Council approves the contractors listed in the body of this report as Council's preferred suppliers for the hire of construction plant and equipment - PC1920/02 for a 12 month period.

Council Resolution

That Council approves the contractors listed in the body of this report as Council's preferred suppliers for the hire of construction plant and equipment - PC1920/02 for a 12 month period

Moved Cr. MacAllister, Seconded Cr. Elstone

CARRIED

AT 12:41 PM COUNCILLOR STEVE HEYWOOD RETURNED TO COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

9.27 PANEL CONTRACT PC1920/03 - SUPPLY OF ROAD CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

File Number: RPT/19/1075

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering

Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering

Reporting Officer: Allan Eastmond - Manager Works

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural assets

Strategy: 3.2 Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure

Summary

This report is to seek resolution of Council to enter into a Contract for the Supply of Road Construction Materials in Wentworth Shire for road related capital and operational projects for Wentworth Shire Council.

Recommendation

That Council approves the contractors listed in the body of this report as Council's preferred suppliers for the supply of road construction materials - PC1920/03 for a 12 month period.

Council Resolution

That Council approves the contractors listed in the body of this report as Council's preferred suppliers for the supply of road construction materials - PC1920/03 for a 12 month period.

Moved Cr. Nichols, Seconded Cr. Elstone

CARRIED

9.28 EMERGENCY WATER SUPPLY TO POONCARIE TOWNSHIP

File Number: RPT/19/1218

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering
Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering
Reporting Officer: Ashton Cowling - Engineering Assistant

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural assets
Strategy: 3.2 Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure

Summary

This report provides a summary of the current water supply availability for the Pooncarie Township, including the current and ongoing emergency raw water supply works being undertaken.

Together with details in relation to the implementation of staged water restrictions as identified in Council's Draft Drought Management Plan 2019 to 2024.

Recommendation

That Council admits for consideration the supplementary late report from the Director Roads and Engineering as the matter is deemed urgent and requires a resolution of council before the next scheduled meeting of council.

That Council authorises the reviewed water restrictions for the Pooncarie Township to that of Level 4 in Council's Draft Drought Management Plan 2019 to 2024.

Late Report

That Council admits for consideration the supplementary late reports from the Director Roads and Engineering (item 9.28) and Cr MacAllister (item 10.1) as the matters is deemed urgent and requires a resolution of council before the next scheduled meeting of council.

Moved Cr. MacAllister, Seconded Cr. Nunan

Council Resolution

That Council authorises the reviewed water restrictions for the Pooncarie Township to that of Level 4 in Council's Draft Drought Management Plan 2019 to 2024.

Moved Cr. MacAllister, Seconded Cr. Evans

CARRIED

10 NOTICES OF MOTIONS / QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

10.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - PROPOSAL TO DUAL NAME THE DARLING RIVER

File Number: RPT/19/1216

Motion

That Council supports the proposal put to the Geographical Names Board to add the name "Baaka" to Darling River.

Moved Cr. MacAllister, Seconded Cr. Heywood

LOST

Council Resolution

That after the Geographic Names Board has conducted its community consultation into the dual naming of the Darling River, the item be brought back to council for consideration.

Moved Cr. Nichols, Seconded Cr. Elstone

CARRIED

10.2 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

10.2.1 COUNCILLOR EXPENSES REPORT (ITEM 9.10 FROM PREVIOUS MEETING)

Cr Nichols asked whether councillor expenses were legislatively required to be reported to Council every 6 months, and requested a report detailing every conference attended by councillors in the last 12 months, where it was held and how much it cost.

The Acting Director Finance and Policy took the question on notice.

10.2.2 AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

Cr Nichols asked whether this council provided feedback to the OLG on the new requirements for the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee.

The General Manager advised that he believed that this matter had previously been reported to Council and that this council had resolved not to make any changes to the existing committee structure. The new requirements for Audit, Risk and Improvement Committees take effect from March 2021.

10.2.3 TOURISM CONFERENCE MARCH 16-18, 2020

Cr Nichols asked whether we will be sending anyone to the Tourism Conference March 16-18 2020, advising that she believed it would be more advantageous for staff to attend rather than Councillors and that early bookings enable council to take advantage of the early bird rate.

10.2.4 WENTWORTH MEDICAL PRACTICE

Cr Nichols advised that she feels that council should do something about the

inadequate servicing arrangements for people wanting appointments at the medical practice. Cr Evans raised similar concerns about the blood collection service.

10.2.5 PROPOSAL TO MOVE THE POONCARIE WEIR

Cr MacAllister asked whether anyone was aware of a meeting of the traditional owners to discuss the moving of the Pooncarie weir.

Cr Elstone advised that he and GM have sat on several phone conferences regarding the Western Weirs project addressing the 29 weirs along the Darling river, but that he was not aware of this particular meeting.

10.2.6 RATE RELIEF FOR DROUGHT DECLARED AREAS

Cr Wheeldon asked whether we should be lobbying the Premier to seek rate relief due to the continuing drought.

The Mayor advised that this has been the subject of discussion on numerous occasions and that previous advice has always been that it can't happen under NSW legislation.

10.2.7 DARETON STREETScape PROJECT

Cr Nunan asked about the progress with the Dareton streetscape project.

The Director Roads and Engineering advised that the project had not progressed any further.

10.2.8 WATER RESTRICTIONS

Cr Nunan asked whether townships (other than Pooncarie) will be placed on water restrictions.

The Director Roads and Engineering advised that he has been in discussion with MRCC, LMW and Water NSW in recent days, particularly in relation to the current algae alert and the watering of playing fields, parks and gardens. As things change people will be kept updated via the website and facebook.

10.2.9 ALCHERINGA OVAL

Cr Nunan asked when the spoil at the north end of Alcheringa Oval will be removed. Cr Hederics advised that it was her hope that the service road will be constructed by Easter 2020.

10.2.10 WENTWORTH CARAVAN PARK

Cr Evans asked about the build up of green waste at the Caravan Park, and whether it can be addressed prior to the busy Christmas holiday period.

The General Manager took the question on notice and advised that he would investigate the matter further.

Council Resolution

That there be an extraordinary meeting held on 22 January at 10.00am for the purpose of discussing the organisational structure.

Moved Cr. Nunan, Seconded Cr. Evans

CARRIED

11 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS – ADJOURNMENT INTO CLOSED SESSION

Recommendation

That Council adjourns into Closed Session, that the recording of the meeting be paused and members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting of the Closed Session, and that access to the correspondence and reports relating to the items considered during the course of the Closed Session be withheld unless declassified by separate resolution.

This action is taken in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act, 1993 as the items listed come within the following provisions:-

12.1 PT1920/2 - Public Toilet Upgrade James King Park and Darling Street. (RPT/19/1194)

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

12.2 Wentworth Show Society Pavilion - PT1819/13. (RPT/19/1195)

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

12.3 Tender for the Supply of New Corporate Information System - PT1819/18. (RPT/19/1091)

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

Move into Closed Session

That Council adjourns into a closed session, that the recording of the meeting be paused, that members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting of the closed session, and that access to the correspondence and reports relating to the items considered during the course of the closed session be with-held unless declassified by separate resolution.

Moved Cr. Nunan, Seconded Cr. Elstone

Council adjourned into closed session at 1.19pm

Council resumed into open session at 1.45pm

12 OPEN COUNCIL - REPORT FROM CLOSED COUNCIL

12.1 PT1920/2 - PUBLIC TOILET UPGRADE JAMES KING PARK AND DARLING STREET

File Number: RPT/19/1194

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering
Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering
Reporting Officer: Taygun Saritoprak - Project Officer

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural assets
Strategy: 3.1 Promote the efficient delivery of water supply, sewer and drainage services for the long term interests of future generations

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

The Mayor advised that during the closed session council resolved to accept a tender from Gaylard Building Group Pty Ltd to carry out the specified works for Contract PT1920/2 for \$207,755.85 GST exclusive, and that Council authorised the Mayor and General Manager to sign the contract documentation and affix the seal.

12.2 WENTWORTH SHOW SOCIETY PAVILION - PT1819/13

File Number: RPT/19/1195

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering
Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering
Reporting Officer: Rachael Withers - Project Administration Officer

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural assets
Strategy: 3.2 Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

The Mayor advised that during the closed session council resolved to accept a revised tender from CPM Building Contractors Pty Ltd to carry out the specified works for contract PT1819/13 for the amount of \$974,220.00 GST exclusive and council authorised the Mayor and General Manager to sign the contract documentation and affix the seal.

12.3 TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY OF NEW CORPORATE INFORMATION SYSTEM - PT1819/18

File Number: RPT/19/1091

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

The Mayor advised that during the closed session council accepted a tender from Open Office to carry out the specified works for Contract PT1819/18 in the amount of \$466,000 excluding GST and authorised the Mayor and the General Manager to sign the contract documentation and affix the council seal.

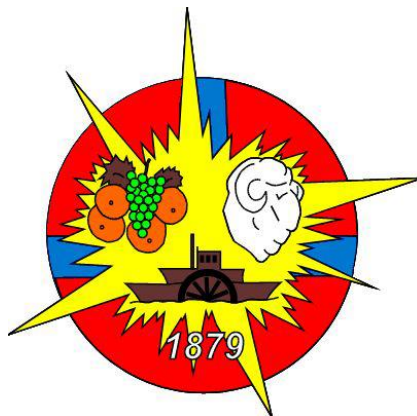
13 CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

The meeting was declared closed at 1.50pm

NEXT MEETING

Extraordinary meeting 22 January 2020.

.....
CHAIR



WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING MINUTES

22 JANUARY 2020

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1 OPENING OF MEETING

The Mayor opened the meeting with a prayer at 10.08am

2 PRAYER OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS: Councillor Melisa Hederics (Mayor)
Councillor Tim Elstone (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor Greg Evans
Councillor Steve Heywood
Councillor Jane MacAllister
Councillor Susan Nichols
Councillor Bill Wheeldon OAM

STAFF: Ken Ross (General Manager)
Simon Rule (Director Finance and Policy)
Geoff Gunn (Director Roads and Engineering)
Glen Norris (Manager Human Resources)
Paula Mastrippolito (Manager Organisational Support)

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Councillor Nunan has requested a leave of absence for this meeting.

Councillor McKinnon is an apology for this meeting.

Council Resolution

That Council notes the apology from Councillor McKinnon and grants the Leave of Absence Request from Councillor Nunan.

Moved Cr. Elstone, Seconded Cr. Nichols

CARRIED

4 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

Nil

5 REPORTS TO COUNCIL

5.1 CLASSIFICATION OF LAND TO OPERATIONAL LAND - A21 - A22 - A26

File Number: RPT/19/1221

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Responsible Division: Finance and Policy

Reporting Officer: Kathy Collinson - Reserves and Acquisitions Officer

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural assets

Strategy: 3.2 Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure

Summary

Section 31(2) of the *Local Government Act, 1993* (the Act) provides that before Council acquires land, or within 3 months after it acquires land, Council may classify the subject land by resolution.

A resolution of Council, within the time frame prescribed in the Act, is required to finalise the classification of land as Operational.

Recommendation

That Council classifies Lot 102 DP 1232722, Lot 104 DP 1232727, and Lot 102 DP 1232727 as Operational Land.

2020_001 Council Resolution

That Council classifies Lot 102 DP 1232722, Lot 104 DP 1232727, and Lot 102 DP 1232727 as Operational Land.

Moved Cr. Elstone, Seconded Cr. MacAllister

CARRIED

5.2 AERODROME STAGE 1, ACQUISITION OF LAND

File Number: RPT/20/19

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy
Responsible Division: Finance and Policy
Reporting Officer: Hilary Dye - Property and Land Tenure Officer

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural assets
Strategy: 3.2 Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure

Summary

A Council resolution is required to commence the acquisition of Lot 5101 Deposited Plan 720104 being Crown land east of the Wentworth Aerodrome by the Compulsory Acquisition Process.

Recommendation

1. That Council proceed to acquire Lot 5101 Deposited Plan 720104 by compulsory process under the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991 by authority contained in the Local Government Act 1993 for the purposes of the Wentworth Airport Aerodrome Expansion.
2. That minerals are to be excluded from this acquisition.
3. That the acquisition is not for the purpose of resale.
4. That the necessary applications be made to the Minister for Local Government and the Governor.
5. That the Common Seal of the Wentworth Shire Council be affixed to all documentation required to be sealed to give effect to this resolution.
6. That upon Gazettal of the acquisition the land becomes classified as Operational land.

2020_002 Council Resolution

1. That Council proceed to acquire Lot 5101 Deposited Plan 720104 by compulsory process under the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991 by authority contained in the Local Government Act 1993 for the purposes of the Wentworth Airport Aerodrome Expansion.
2. That minerals are to be excluded from this acquisition.
3. That the acquisition is not for the purpose of resale.
4. That the necessary applications be made to the Minister for Local Government and the Governor.
5. That the Common Seal of the Wentworth Shire Council be affixed to all documentation required to be sealed to give effect to this resolution.
6. That upon Gazettal of the acquisition the land becomes classified as Operational land.

Moved Cr. Elstone, Seconded Cr. Heywood

CARRIED

5.3 WORKFORCE STRUCTURE

File Number: RPT/20/12

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

This report was presented to the Ordinary Council meeting in December 2019 and at the request of council is re-presented to the Extraordinary Meeting.

Council had previously requested that the structure be reviewed to examine any opportunities to build an improved internal skill set in preference to over using external consultancies and or contractors.

Recommendation

That Council adopts an appropriate structure to enable the delivery of all services to a satisfactory level.

Motion

That Council adopts a structure consisting of 132.45 full time equivalents as presented.

Moved Cr. MacAllister, Seconded Cr. Elstone

Council Resolution

That Council adjourns into closed session, that the recording of the meeting be suspended, and members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting of the closed session, and that reports relating to the items considered during the course of the closed session be withheld unless declassified by separate resolution.

This action is taken in accordance with Section 10A(a) of the Local Government Act 1993 as the items to be discussed involve personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors).

Moved Cr. MacAllister, Seconded Cr. Elstone

CARRIED

Moved into closed session at 10.26am

Resumed into open session at 11.43am

Resumption of Open Council

The Mayor advised that during the closed session Council discussed personnel matters in relation to the structure, and staff, with the exception of the General Manager and the Manager Human Resources left the closed session at 10.40am.

During the closed session council resolved to adopt a structure consisting of 132.45 full time equivalents.

6 CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

The meeting was declared closed at 11.45am

NEXT MEETING

19 February 2020

.....
CHAIR

6 OUTSTANDING MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

6.1 PROPOSAL TO DUAL NAME THE DARLING RIVER

File Number: RPT/20/35

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
 Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
 Reporting Officer: Gayle Marsden - Executive Assistant

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.5 Encourage the self determination of individual townships and community groups

Summary

At the 18 December 2019 Ordinary Council meeting, Cr MacAllister put forward a notice of motion for the proposal to dual name the Darling River. Council resolved that the item be brought back to council for consideration after further information from the Geographical Names Board regarding community consultation was received. Council has been advised feedback will be received up to 28 February 2020.

Recommendation

That Council consider the proposal to dual name the Darling River as Baaka.

Detailed Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to consider the proposal to dual name the Darling River as Baaka taking into consideration community consultation undertaken by the Geographical Names Board.

Background

Cr MacAllister put forward a notice of motion for the dual naming of the Darling River as Baaka at the last meeting of council. Council resolved that the item be brought back to council for consideration after further information from the Geographical names board regarding community consultation was received.

Report Detail

The public consultation process was undertaken from 19 December 2019 to 28 January 2020. Advertisements were placed in the Koori Mail, Bourke Western Herald, Broken Hill Barrier Daily Truth and the Sunraysia Daily. A media release was sent to these publications as well as to Broken Hill ABC radio, 2WEB radio, 2BH Broken Hill radio, Wilcannia FM and Wilcannia News. This was supported with information published on the GNB website and an online portal to make submissions. Flyers seeking feedback on the proposal were sent to Bourke Shire Council, Central Darling Shire Council and Wentworth Shire Council, to be distributed in community. Correspondence was sent to the following stakeholders seeking feedback on the proposal: Bourke Shire Council, Central Darling Shire Council, Wentworth Shire Council, National Parks and Wildlife Services, Nulla Nulla Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC), Dareton LALC, Menindee LALC and Wilcannia LALC.

In total, GNB received 74 submissions; 54 were in support and 20 in objection.

The 54 submissions in support can be broken down into the following areas:

Wentworth Shire Council – 1

Central Darling Shire – 5

Bourke Shire Council - 1

Broken Hill City Council – 8

NSW other – 21

Interstate - 15

Overseas – 1

Address not stated – 2

The 20 submissions in objection can be broken down into the following areas:

Wentworth Shire Council – 0

Central Darling Shire – 7

Bourke Shire Council - 0

Broken Hill City Council – 2

NSW Other – 3

Interstate – 6

Address not stated - 2

Conclusion

Of the 74 submissions received only one submission was from a Wentworth Shire Council resident. For Council areas close to or on the Darling River in New South Wales 15 out of 54 residents were in support and 9 out of 20 objected.

Attachments

1. Letter from Geographical Names Board [↓](#)
2. Background information dual naming of Darling River [↓](#)
3. Further background Information Dual naming of Darling River [↓](#)



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Ken Ross
General Manager, Wentworth Shire Council
26-28 Adelaide Street
Wentworth NSW 2648

Via email: council@wentworth.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Ross,

RE: Proposal to dual name the Darling River as Baaka

The Geographical Names Board (Board) is seeking comment from Wentworth Shire Council on a proposal by the Barkindji Native Title Group Aboriginal Corporation to dual name the Darling River as Baaka.

The proposed dual name is for the extent of the Darling River, commencing approximately 39km NE of Bourke, winding through Bourke, Wilcannia, Menindee, Pooncarie and Wentworth where it joins the Murray River.

The proposal was considered by the Board at its meeting held on the 19 November 2019 and approved to be advertised for public comment. The Board will be accepting submissions from 18 December 2019 to 28 January 2020. During this period we welcome you to lodge your feedback on the proposed name, including the spelling and extent.

Since June 2001, the NSW government has supported a dual naming policy for geographical features and cultural sites. Where a feature has a non-Aboriginal name, an Aboriginal name can be assigned. This will sit alongside the non-Aboriginal name, each part having equal status. Dual naming does not apply to towns, roads, localities or other administrative based areas such as a reserve or state forest. Assigning a place name under the Geographical Names Act 1966 does not impact other legislation or change rights or responsibilities.

Comments on the proposal can be lodged on the Geographical Names Board website at https://www.gnb.nsw.gov.au/place_naming/current_proposals or via email at SS-GNB@customerservice.nsw.gov.au

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Geographical Names Board Secretariat on 02 6332 8214.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Powell'.

Lisa Powell
Secretary, Geographical Names Board

12/17/2019

Darling River is called Baaka by Barkindji people, now NSW Government considers dual name - ABC News (Australian Broadcasti...

WINE VVS

Darling River is called Baaka by Barkindji people, now NSW Government considers dual name

ABC Broken Hill By Declan Gooch

Posted Wed 4 Dec 2019, 6:20am

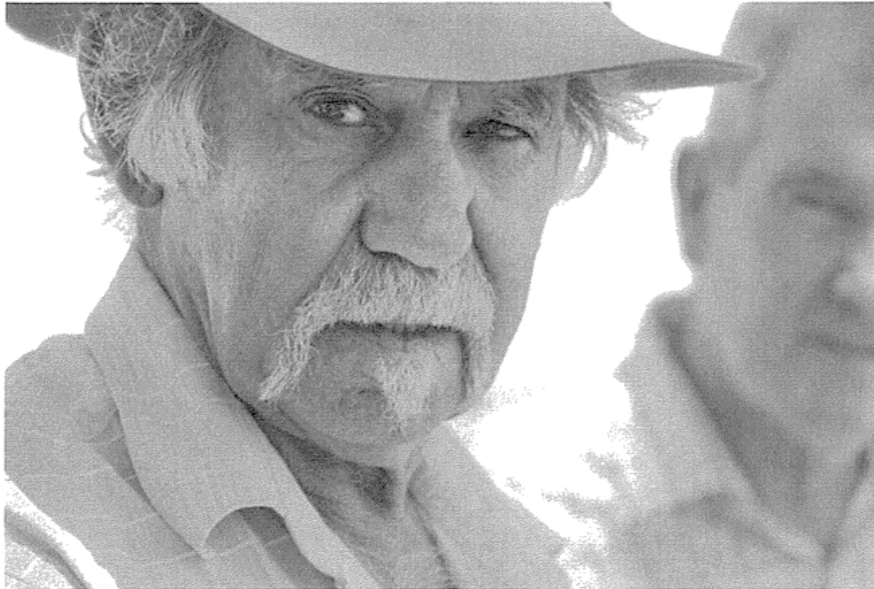


PHOTO: Badger Bates hopes dual naming of the Darling River would create more respect for the 'Baaka' among people and government departments. (ABC News: Paige Cockburn)

The NSW Government is considering whether to formally adopt a traditional name for the Darling River, to exist side-by-side with the European name it has held since 1829.

The Darling River has been known as the Baaka by the Barkindji people for thousands of years.

The NSW Geographical Names Board said it was about to begin consultation about whether to formally recognise Baaka as a dual name for the river.

"[The Board] will reach out to relevant Local Aboriginal Land Councils, local government councils and National Parks seeking endorsement for a proposal to dual name the Darling River as Baaka," it said in a statement.

The river was named by explorer Charles Sturt in honour of NSW Governor Ralph Darling.

The name Baaka has become widely used by non-Indigenous people, organisations and politicians in recent years, especially after the river's poor health and fish kills at Menindee hit national headlines.

RELATED STORY: 'Speaking the language of government' on Darling River

RELATED STORY: Mourning a troubled river that's been a lifeblood for thousands of years

Key points:

- The Barkindji people have called the Darling River "Baaka" for thousands of years
- In 1829 it was named after NSW Governor Ralph Darling, by explorer Charles Sturt
- Barkindji gained native title over large parts of western NSW, including the River between Tilpa and Menindee in 2015

'It will give the river more respect'

12/17/2019

Darling River is called Baaka by Barkindji people, now NSW Government considers dual name - ABC News (Australian Broadcasti...



PHOTO: The Darling River, pictured here near Bourke earlier in the year, is mostly dry. (Supplied)

Many local Indigenous people blame mismanagement by state and federal authorities for the poor state of the river.

It has barely flowed for two years, and in many stretches has dried up completely.

Barkindji elder and Wilcannia artist Badger Bates said formally recognising the Indigenous name for the river would emphasise its importance to local culture and spirituality.

"It will give the river more respect, the Baaka more respect," Mr Bates said.

"It's going to make the Government realise that there are people dependent on it, and not just irrigators," he said.

He said the fact the name was regularly used even outside a local Indigenous context suggested there would be support for dual-naming.

"I reckon the support'll be great," he said.

"It's not just black people want to call it the Baaka — it should be respecting both cultures' wishes.

"Everyone who lives along the Baaka, even animals, if they could talk, they'd get up and say call it the Baaka, so you can manage it properly."

Earlier this year, the native title group proposed a new culturally-focused authority to oversee the management of the river.

Naming must respect cultural boundaries: peak body

12/17/2019

Darling River is called Baaka by Barkindji people, now NSW Government considers dual name - ABC News (Australian Broadcasti...

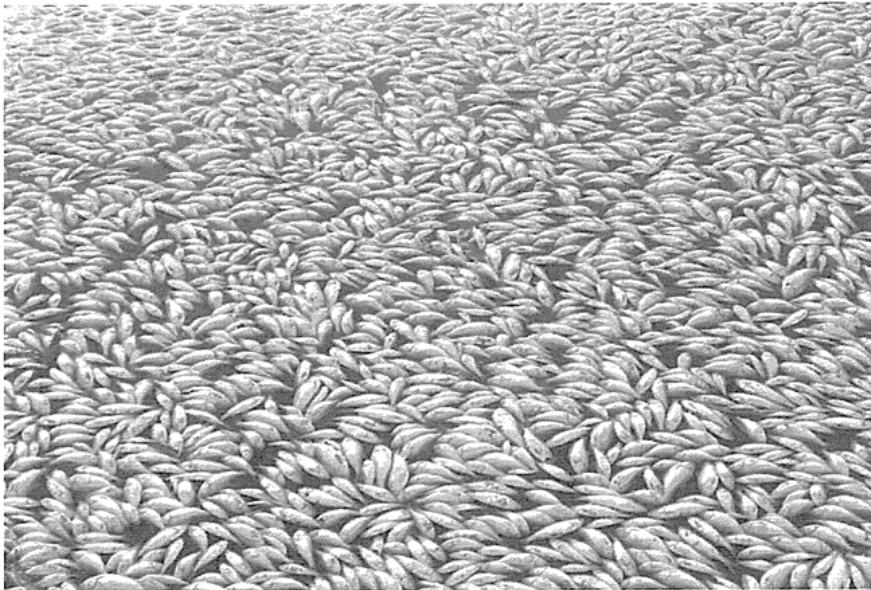


PHOTO: The river was the site of mass fish kills at Menindee over last summer. (Supplied: Rob Gregory)

The Barkindji people were granted native title over a large portion of far west NSW in 2015, including the river between an area north of Tilpa and south of Menindee.

Fred Hooper from Northern Basin Aboriginal Nations (NBAN), which represents Indigenous groups along the upper Darling and Barwon Rivers, said any dual naming should occur within those boundaries.

"We support certainly the dual naming within the Barkindji native title boundaries that they have native title over," Mr Hooper said.

"Certainly upstream we would call for consultation with the Ngiyampaa people, the Ngemba people, and the Murrawarri people in regards to the naming of that."

He said NBAN would oppose any decision to extend the name Baaka beyond the Barkindji region.

"It's not keeping with First Nations protocol and First Nations law to impose names on other nations or other traditional owner groups along the river, without consultation from those traditional owner groups as well."

Members of the public will be able to have their say on the Geographical Names Board's website for a month.

Topics: rivers, indigenous-policy, indigenous-culture, states-and-territories, aboriginal-language, indigenous-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander, broken-hill-2880, tilpa-2840, menindee-2879, wilcannia-2836

Contact Declan Gooch

DUAL NAMING OF THE DARLING RIVER

The Geographical Names Board has been asked to give the Darling River a dual name, that is both the European name Darling and the traditional Barkandji name Baaka. This is not a name change, but an acknowledgment of both traditions, combining the two as Darling/Baaka or vice versa. The Board is currently doing wide consultation about the proposed dual name.

The name Baaka (spelt many ways as there is no set spelling for this non-English-word) has been the Barkandji name for the river since the distant past. The Barkandji language group area is large and is composed of different dialects on both sides of the river with minor differences in vocabulary and grammar, but they all used the same name for the river. However, neighbouring language groups such as Ngiyampaa, Ngemba, and Murrawarri have a slightly different word for river- Barwon (Baawon).

A quick check of archives shows that Baaka (with different spellings) has been recorded as the Barkandji name of the Darling River since at least 1872, and it has been recorded as the name right along the river from Bourke to Wentworth. Some examples are:

In Curr's 1885-1886 book 'The Australian Race', Teulon wrote a very detailed description of the Kurnu Barkandji dialect collected at Bourke, where he lists 'River – Parkka' in the vocabulary.

Dr Pechey in 1872 published details about Kurnu Barkandji dialect collected from near Louth, he wrote in his vocabulary 'The River – Parkah'.

Anthropologist R. H. Mathews recorded the name for the Darling River as 'Baka' when he revisited Toorale Station in 1903 to collect additional Kurnu Barkandji language.

Simpson Newland, owner of Marra Station between Wilcannia and Tilpa, in a published article in 1887 wrote 'on the Upper Darling the [Aboriginal people], though divided into tribes, spoke the same language, and were friendly. They call the river the Parka, and themselves the Parkengees.'

Charles Richards published in 1903 detailed information collected from the Maraura/Thangkali Barkandji dialects speaking Nganya family from the scrub country south of Broken Hill, including: 'Bpaa gka - A river, (the "Darling")' and 'Bpaa gkon-jee – river dwellers (the "Darling" tribes)'.

Anthropologist A.W. Howitt interviewed elderly Maraura Barkandji people at the junction of the Murray/Darling in 1907 who told him "all who live on both sides of the Darling River from its junction up were Barkanji, that is 'belonging with the River (Barka)'".

Peter Bonney, a speaker of the Maraura Barkandji dialect from around Wentworth, gave South Australian Museum anthropologist N. B. Tindale the following information in 1938-9, 'The people of the Ba:ka or Darling River are the Ba:kindji'.

In the 1960's linguist Luise Hercus collected Barkandji language from Dareton and Wilcannia, the tapes are available in the AIATSIS, Canberra. In her 1982 book she writes Baagandji [she later spelt it Paakantyi] means "belonging to the Darling River, Baaga". In the 1980s elder and linguist Auntie Elsie Jones wrote a story for teaching language in the Wilcannia school where she uses the word Paaka for river, and in the 1990's elder Mrs King wrote more stories for the school, in which she lists the word Baaka for river. It is very clear that the word Baaka has been used at least since 1872 right up until recently, and right along the Darling River.

6.2 COUNCILLOR EXPENSES REPORT

File Number: RPT/20/107

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Responsible Division: Finance and Policy

Reporting Officer: Hodi Beauliv - Manager Finance

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

At the December 2019 Council meeting Cr Nichols asked:

- whether councillor expenses were legislatively required to be reported to Council every 6 months, and
- requested a report detailing every conference attended by councillors in the last 12 months, where it was held and how much it cost.

This report responds to those two requests.

Recommendation

That Council notes the councillor expenses report.

Detailed Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to respond to Cr Nichols request at the December Council meeting for clarification on:

- legislative requirements regarding reporting councillor expenses and
- a report on councillor expenses for attending conferences over the last year

Background

Section 252 of the Local Government Act 1993 outlines the requirements for the payment of councillor expenses. It requires Council to adopt a policy on the payment of expenses, and the provision of facilities to, the Mayor and other Councillors in relation to discharging the functions of civic office in line with the Act, Regulation and any relevant guidelines.

Report Detail

Reporting councilor expenses

Wentworth Shire Council's current "Payment of expenses and provision of facilities for Councillors" Policy was adopted on 28 June 2017. This policy requires expenses to be reported once per year in Council's annual report.

A revised Policy was tabled at the Council meeting on 4 September 2019, based on the Office of Local Governments Best Practice template. The draft policy references providing detailed reports on the provision of expenses and facilities to councillors at a council meeting every six months, including summarised expenditure by individual councillor.

This revised policy is yet to be adopted, as it was deferred to enable further discussion about the content. As a result, Councillor expenses are only reported once per year in Council's Annual report, as per the current policy.

Councillor Conference Expenses

The following table outlines the councillor expenses for attending conferences in the 18-month period from 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2019. It highlights the date and location of the conference and shows which Councillors attended which conference.

Conference	Cr Heywood	Cr MacAllister	Cr Evans	Cr Hederics	Cr Wheeldon	Cr Nunan	Cr Elstone	Grand Total
Murray Darling Association Conference								
Leeton	\$ 399.50	\$ 399.50						\$ 799.00
29-31 August 2018								
LGNSW Conference								
Albury	\$ 1,358.50			\$ 1,413.50		\$ 1,399.60		\$ 4,171.60
21-23 October 2018								
National Roads Congress & Safety Conference								
Alice Springs, NT	\$ 2,520.66							\$ 2,520.66
20 November 2018								
Western Division of Councils Conference								
Bourke			\$ 548.16	\$ 1,864.58		\$ 711.20	\$ 548.16	\$ 3,672.10
24-25-26 February 2019								
Floodplain Management Australia Conference								
Canberra, ACT					\$ 2,724.40			\$ 2,724.40
15-17 May 19								
Western Division of Councils Conference								
Cobar			\$ 260.00	\$ 297.00				\$ 557.00
2 - 3 July 2019								
Murray Darling Association Farmers Conference								
Sydney		\$ 767.56						\$ 767.56
24 July 2019								
LGNSW Water Management Conference								
Albury	\$ 972.00	\$ 972.00					\$ 972.00	\$ 2,916.00
2-4 September 2019								
Murray Darling Association Conference								
Toowoomba, Qld	\$ 3,068.91	\$ 3,058.01	\$ 3,087.11					\$ 9,214.03
22-24 October 2019								
National Roads Congress Conference								
Harndorf SA	\$ 1,402.00							\$ 1,402.00
17-19 November 2019								
Grand Total	\$ 9,721.57	\$ 5,197.07	\$ 3,895.27	\$ 3,575.08	\$ 2,724.40	\$ 2,110.80	\$ 1,520.16	\$ 28,744.35

Conclusion

Councillor expenses are only reported once per year in Council's Annual report, as per the current policy.

Over the last 18 months, Council has spent just under \$29,000 for Councillors to attend 10 conferences.

Attachments

Nil

6.3 OUTSTANDING ACTIONS - SUMMARY REPORT

File Number: RPT/20/110

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager

Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager

Reporting Officer: Paula Matrippolito - Manager Organisational Support

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

This report summarises the details of actions raised from previous Council meetings that remain outstanding. Individual items that require detailed responses are reported separately.

Officer Recommendation

That Council notes the current list of outstanding action items.

Additional Information

Nil

Attachments

1. Outstanding actions - summary report [↓](#)

Outstanding

Division:

Committee:

Officer:

Ordinary Council

Date From:

Date To:

Printed: Wednesday, 12 February 2020 9:51:40 AM

Outstanding Action Items Report

Ordinary Council 18/12/2019	9.9	Councillor Professional Development Training	<div> <div><u>Council Resolution</u></div> <div>That Council notes the requirements for professional development training and that the General Manager investigates what courses can be held in Wentworth for inhouse training by our council and other councils via the JO .</div> <div>Moved Cr. Nichols, Seconded Cr. McKinnon</div> <div><u>CARRIED</u></div> </div>	12 Feb 2020 - 9:47 AM General Manager has raised the matter with the JO CEO for coordination through LGNSW. ACTION COMPLETE
Ordinary Council 18/12/2019	9.11	Supply of bariatric chairs	<div> <div><u>Council Resolution</u></div> <div>That Council approves a budget variation of \$8,480.00 in the current operational plan to enable the purchase of a quantity of bariatric chairs.</div> <div>Moved Cr. Nichols, Seconded Cr. MacAllister</div> <div><u>CARRIED</u></div> </div>	6 Jan 2020 - 10:13 AM Additional quotes to be obtained to secure greatest number of chairs within adopted budget allocation.
Ordinary Council 18/12/2019	9.15(a)	Provision for Doubtful Debts	Cr Nichols questioned the amount of the provision for doubtful debts.	7 Feb 2020 - 8:59 PM - Hodi Beauliv As outlined in Council's 2018-19 Annual Financial Statements in Note 18. Financial Risk Management, to determine Council's Provision for doubtful debts Council applies the simplified approach for non-rates and annual charges debtors as prescribed by Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) 9. This standard permits the use of the lifetime expected loss provision. To measure the expected credit losses, non-rates and annual charges debtors have been grouped based on shared credit risk characteristics and the days past due. The provision is not based on individual outstanding debts. ACTION COMPLETE

Outstanding	Division: Committee: Ordinary Council Officer:	Date From: Date To:	Printed: Wednesday, 12 February 2020 9:51:40 AM
Outstanding Action Items Report			
Ordinary Council 18/12/2019	10.2.10	Wentworth Caravan park	Cr Evans asked about the build up of green waste at the Caravan Park, and whether it can be addressed prior to the busy Christmas holiday period.
			ACTION COMPLETE

6.4 REQUEST FOR INFORMATION REGARDING SUPPLIERS UNDER THE PANEL CONTRACT TENDER

File Number: RPT/20/108

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy
Responsible Division: Finance and Policy
Reporting Officer: Hodi Beauliv - Manager Finance

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

At the December 2019 Council meeting Cr Nunan requested a list of current panel tenderers (from the previous financial year), detailing how much had been paid to each contractor under each of the three categories: Building Trades, Professional and Consultation Services and hire of construction plant and equipment.

Recommendation

That Council note the total expenses paid under the previous Panel Tender Contract.

Detailed Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to respond to Cr Nunan's request for a list of current panel tenderers (from the previous financial year), detailing how much had been paid to each contractor under each of the three categories: Building Trades, Professional and Consultation Services and hire of construction plant and equipment.

Background

The previous Panel Contract Tender was in place from 19 November 2018 to 2 December 2019 which results in financial data in both the 2018/19 and 2019/20 financial years.

The purpose of the panel contract is to ensure that Council has access to a range of suppliers to best meet specified requirements and to enable efficient access to services to meet Council requirements on an as needs basis. Utilising a panel arrangement allows Council officers to have access to a range of suppliers that have been exposed to a competitive tender process which represents best value.

This panel contract also ensures that Council will be able to engage contractors at known rates and materials cost and will streamline the procurement process for works.

Report Detail

The table on the following page outlines the total amount of work sourced under each of the three categories of the Panel Tender Contract, by contractor as requested by Councillor Nunan.

The table highlights from the previous Panel Tender Contract over the two financial years, just over \$1million of services were procured from 30 different organisations.

Creditor Name	PC1819/01 - Trades & Services		PC1819/02 - Hire Construction Plant & Equipment	PC1819/03 - Road Constructions Materials	Grand Total
A&C LIQUID WASTE DISPOSAL	\$	1,655.00			\$ 1,655.00
AUSTRAL TREE SERVICES	\$	20,130.00			\$ 20,130.00
BAHR EARTHMOVING				\$ 45,128.29	\$ 45,128.29
BOTT EARTHMOVING PTY LTD			\$ 46,418.64		\$ 46,418.64
BRENDON EDE PEST MANAGEMENT	\$	3,880.00			\$ 3,880.00
BULPUNGA ENTERPRISES PTY LTD / FORSTERS			\$ 14,586.00		\$ 14,586.00
CIVIL TEST	\$	8,956.20			\$ 8,956.20
COATES HIRE OPERATIONS PTY LTD			\$ 31,290.36		\$ 31,290.36
DEVILEE'S	\$	2,550.64			\$ 2,550.64
GOODING PLUMBING PTY LTD	\$	5,637.50			\$ 5,637.50
KARYM CLEANING	\$	125,110.78			\$ 125,110.78
KW EARTHMOVING & CONCRETING	\$	63,174.32	\$ 7,479.20	\$ 1,029.93	\$ 71,683.45
LUXTON PLANT PTY LTD			\$ 10,787.63		\$ 10,787.63
MAWSONS				\$ 132,669.31	\$ 132,669.31
MCGILLIVRAY ELECTRICAL & BUILDING SERVIC	\$	57,315.51			\$ 57,315.51
MCM FENCES & GATES	\$	1,680.25			\$ 1,680.25
MILDURA BUILDING GROUP	\$	3,363.50			\$ 3,363.50
MILDURA TREE SERVICES	\$	5,154.08			\$ 5,154.08
MORELLO EARTHMOVING PTY LTD			\$ 1,707.75		\$ 1,707.75
OASIS UNMATCHED	\$	1,430.00			\$ 1,430.00
O'CALLAGHAN EARTHMOVING			\$ 3,811.50		\$ 3,811.50
PHIL MAW DESIGNS	\$	4,995.50			\$ 4,995.50
PIPELINE GROUP PTY LTD			\$ 24,574.00		\$ 24,574.00
S L DODD			\$ 130,866.00		\$ 130,866.00
SCAD'S MAINTENANCE & MOWING	\$	23,189.70			\$ 23,189.70
SLATTER PLUMBING & CO	\$	43,012.68			\$ 43,012.68
STABILCO PTY LTD	\$	126,793.72			\$ 126,793.72
WATERS EXCAVATIONS			\$ 1,220.97	\$ 47,586.00	\$ 48,806.97
WHITFIELD REFRIGERATION PTY LTD	\$	5,384.00			\$ 5,384.00
XCAV8IT	\$	3,780.01	\$ 66,763.10		\$ 70,543.11
Grand Total	\$	507,193.39	\$ 339,505.15	\$ 226,413.53	\$ 1,073,112.07

Conclusion

The supply of this information is in response to a question raised by Councillor Nunan at the December council meeting.

Attachments

Nil

7 MAYORAL AND COUNCILLOR REPORTS

7.1 MAYORAL REPORT

File Number: RPT/20/13

Summary

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of meetings, conferences and appointments undertaken by the Mayor for the period 9 December 2019 - 7 February 2020

Recommendation

That Council notes the information contained in the Mayoral report.

Report

The following table lists the meetings attended by the Mayor for the period 9 December 2019 - 7 February 2020.

Date	Meeting	Location
12 Dec 2019	Meeting with Helen Dalton MP	Buronga
13 Dec 2019	All staff meeting – Service Awards	Wentworth
17 Dec 2019	Pooncarie School Presentation Night	Pooncarie
18 Dec 2019	Council briefing	Wentworth
18 Dec 2019	Ordinary Council Meeting	Wentworth
30 Dec 2019	Willowfest Australian Cricket Championships Presentation	Mildura
10 Jan 2020	Mayoral Meeting	Buronga
15 Jan 2020	Mayoral Meeting	Wentworth
16 Jan 2020	Senator Perin Davey	Mildura
21 Jan 2020	Mayoral Meeting	Wentworth
22 Jan 2020	Extraordinary Council Meeting	Wentworth
24 Jan 2020	FWJO Meeting	Buronga
26 Jan 2020	Australia Day Celebrations	Wentworth
5 Feb 2020	Internal Audit & Risk Management Committee	Wentworth
5 Feb 2020	Willow Bend Committee Meeting	Wentworth
5 Feb 2020	Mayoral Meeting	Wentworth

Attachments

Nil

8 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

8.1 REPORT FROM 2019 MDA CONFERENCE

File Number: RPT/19/1222

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
 Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
 Reporting Officer: Gayle Marsden - Executive Assistant

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural assets
 Strategy: 3.5 Recognise the importance of a healthy Murray-Darling River system

Summary

This report provides the opportunity for Councillors to provide updates on the activities of organisations to which they have been appointed as council's delegate.

Councillors MacAllister, Evans and Heywood attended the MDA 75th National Conference, held in Toowoomba QLD from 22 – 24 October 2019, and Councillor MacAllister has provided the following information.

Recommendation

That the information provided by delegates to the 2019 MDA Conference be noted.

Additional Information

REPORT MDA NATIONAL CONFERENCE DAY 1 MDA National Conference 22 October 2019

After an extremely colourful and animated Welcome to Country dance and song, by local first nations group, the **Mayor of Toowoomba, Paul Antonio** spoke about Rich Traditions / Bold Ambitions – that Health, Education, Retail, Military and having a diverse economy contributes to low unemployment, GRP of \$11bn and the need to identify where new water will come from, also about the importance of Regeneration – getting the right balance.

MDA National President, Cr David Thurley welcomed all on behalf of MDA

Ramzi Jabbour, Deputy Inspector-General for the Murray-Darling Basin spoke about the new office and that the key is not to duplicate roles from other agencies, the Northern Basin Commissioner's report due for release 1 December.

Ian McConnel, Global Commodity Leader – Beef, World Wide Fund for Nature spoke about their role in taking the global lead in beef industry and that the state of wildlife was at 67% decline, so sustainability and creating value out of regenerative agriculture will ensure the beef industry can continue to grow to supply the 9bn people on the planet by 2050. He said there will be 7billion people living in urban centres and that we must grow with all the haste of the urgent tortoise.

He said Australia is the third largest deforester in the world (for beef) and must intensify agriculture sustainably. Investment is the leading cause of change.

The Global Goals: Australian red meat industry says it will be carbon-neutral by 2030, leading to “certified sustainable beef”. It must be a collaborative effort and must tell the story about sustainability and regeneration.

Grant Barnes, Chief Regulatory Officer, Natural Resources Access Regulator said the privilege to extract water is a property right.

Panel discussion: Australian Agriculture’s plan for a \$100bn industry by 2030

Warrick Ragg, GM NRM National Farmers’ Federation

Currently \$59bn in farmgate revenue, will be \$84bn by 2030 through intensification, innovation and that there is a parallel process underway.

The National Drought Policy – the Government is waiting on the National Farmers’ Federation to agree with policy (currently with government)

Dave ? – Department of Agriculture says this roadmap “lifts the bar”, is visionary, very bold, to attain \$100bn by 2030 collaboration is key. Needs to go from 3% to 5.4%. What can the Commonwealth do to assist? House of Representatives Inquiry looking into opportunities and barriers to achieving the 2030 target, submissions due by November. Range of sustainable activities to be drawn from.

Key things – review of Research and Development system, Deregulation taskforce, Rural Investment Corporation will be referenced under context of the plan.

Ben ? - MDBA

Charged under the Basin Plan to improve social, economic and environmental outcomes. Climate change and Northern Basin. Climate Change program to 2024.

Thomas – AATLIS / FJG Group Toowoomba

Spoke about the collaborative solutions hub, that works on a circular economy model, converting waste to value. Teamed with Telstra – 3 x 5G towers, with onsite solar and gas energy generation.

Smart farms

The 450GL is a difficult no-negative socio-economic impact. May impact 605GL. May impact access from the consumptive pool. 2020 evaluation will be delivered next year.

If we can’t recover 450GL, we will try to devise strategies to minimize harm and maximise benefits – natural capital.

Kirsty McDermott – Student TAFE Toowoomba “a vocationally driven centre for excellence”

Dreamtime landscaping – looking after where we trample

Phillip Glyde, CEO MDBA

Trying to strike a balanced solution. It’s not just a piece of law, it is an historical compact. Must balance values, not at the exclusion of any one. We (MDA) are the rock stars of water reform. Water recovery means getting back 20% of entitlements back to the Commonwealth

Environmental Water Holder. "We've re-plumbed the basin" Must be better prepared for the future, there is still a lot more to do.

\$6.8bn - \$8.6bn value of irrigated agriculture to the economy.

2012-2016 Water for critical human water needs.

Compliance Compact has been endorsed. MDBA reports on performance

Role of Inspector-General to ensure states don't exceed the amount of water they have allocated. "We need someone like Mick (Keelty) to come in and provide the trust" (so we are not marking our own homework).

Changes to dams, rules regarding SDL Adjustment Mechanisms, so 605GL does not need to be recovered. If not recovered by 2024, MDBA has to review and irrigation industry is hostage to government. Following through on SDLAM's, alternative futures (socio-economic impact). Hard to continue on with reform. Water Resource Plans are 33 separate catchment level plans. Must meet all conditions of plan. Of 13 submitted, 6 have been accredited, remaining 7 confident they will be. NSW 20 plans remain to be accredited – long way to go. Creation of water market "...moves to its highest value use" focus on operation of market is ACCC referral. Market / recovery plan moving water across the basin. There's no plan B.

Bruce McConnel – Food Leaders' Australia

Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise (TSBE), Pulse Data Centre, FKG Group, Witmack precinct "Problem-defined innovation" ASTERION

Paul Brindlecombe – Cubbie Station

Culgoa and Intersecting Streams letting 10GL past following extended dry periods is an enduring commitment.

"What is local government's role in improving land management practice (aside from pest management) and what partners does it need if it does have a role?" – Paul McDonald CEO Southern QLD Landscapes

DAY 2 MDA National Conference 23 October 2019

David Post – CSIRO spoke about the hydrology of water flows across the northern basin, and their relationship to southern connected systems.

John Madden – Productivity Commission gave an update. The Commissioner is appointed by the Governor-General and therefore is truly independent of Government. The Terms of Reference were not about the number, but about the process. Water Trading Rules of the States is now part of a Productivity Commission review process. Supply and Efficiency measures were identified as High risk (of meeting objective). Too many elephants in the room (not enough room for the people!)

Four recommendations for further consideration:

1. disagreed (special account for water for the environment)

Deliverability work plan (trade between areas) – structured work plan, transparent, jointly handled, needs to be done.

Major Risks: Water Resource Plans; Development and accreditation behind schedule, CHWN quality shepherding; Supply measures are more cost-effective than recovering 605GL through infrastructure investments - \$564m more if key projects fail; environmental losses if poor projects proceed; past experience with easing constraints; governments should develop integrated plan for delivery; management of interdependencies.

Supply Measures gateway before funding with independent advice – Independent Advisory Panel to build confidence and transparency. If projects fail, governments should make good.

Efficiency Measures Schedule 5 of the Basin Plan conditional on constraints lifting in southern basin (450GL) key assumptions have changes.

2012 model run to be redone (by MDBA)

2. Water Recovery Strategy – clear environmental objectives; water recovered in line with ability to use it; priority entitlement types; program design to address adverse socio-economic impacts.

3. Broaden 2021 review of Water for the Environment Special Account – not enough money; update modelling; constraint easing; likely costs of further recovery.

4. Monitoring and evaluation – Next 5 year review of plan 2023 – pc.gov.au

Make good provisions have to be articulated.

More costly to do than buybacks.

MDBA are not independent because there is that overlay.

Productivity Commission did not look at land development around 10 years Water Sharing Plans in place before should be location by location review.

Ashley Bland – Constructive Energy

50% renewable by 2025. AEMO projections graph \$1,216bn market worth (NSW). Over generation risk. 20 Gigawatts in planning in NSW

Tesla battery / pumped hydro batteries - \$100m, built in. 100 days, will pay itself off in 3 years!

Compared to Electric vehicles, increase in production / market. Council is seller and buyer. Socio-economic adjustment with a closing window. Be cautious about good deals under the old model – ie bulk purchasing is easy but not smart. Risk in markets. Manage risk by shoring up customers. Wouldn't make sense to be disconnected from grid, if you could be

Dr Jacki Schirmer – University of Canberra

Regional wellbeing survey. Climate change, drought and regional wellbeing. International day of happiness March 20 (!)

Measuring progress based on GDP vs wellbeing measures = world shift

Measured in Confidence Intervals

Data tables up 1st November on University of Canberra website.

Panel Discussion: Australia's National Water Security Plan infrastructure requirements

(Menindee loses on average over 400GL per year)

Andrew Reynolds – Murray RiverOps

David Wiskar – QLD Government

Only state to have all water sharing plans accredited. 457 submissions, 40% from aboriginal stakeholders. Stanthorpe – Emu Swamp Dam. Oct 18 Water Act amendment – climate change. Northern Basin toolkit measures. \$180m for environmental works and measures achieving outcomes without water recovery, improving water management.

Rachel Connell – Executive Director, Water NSW DPIE

Priority infrastructure and regional water strategies. “Better strategic planning with focus on water security.” Lawyer contested policy and strategic problems. Priority infrastructure programs. Better regional planning. Priority infrastructure includes Wyangala (Lachlan); Dungowan (Peel); Mole River (Northern Rivers); Drought program - \$78m; Safe & Secure Water program - \$1bn local water utilities program.

Tamworth, Dubbo, Orange – work with Councils. Security, Health, quality. 12 strategies. Long term water resource resilience. Key planning framework for water management. 20 year strategies, adaptive, staged. Greater Hunter strategy released 2018. Current focus: Lachlan, Macquarie, Gwydir, Far North Coast, South Coast. Namoi, Border Rivers, Western, Murray, Murrumbidgee and North Coast in 2020.

Resilient water resources for towns and communities, the environment, Aboriginal communities and industry.

Incorporating new data and modelling to understand climate variability and change – expert panel review. Options: Managed aquifer recharge. Dubbo – Macquarie.

“Health check” document / process for local government to use in assessing how we are using & distributing water resources.

Every powerpoint presentation available on website.

Rebecca Pickering and Jo Tait ARTC – Inland Rail

Jodie Swirepek – Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder

Section 3 (a) Murray Darling Basin Plan “...so as to give effect to relevant international agreements.”

Priorities

1. Critical Human Water Needs
2. Basic needs of environment – drought refuges / survival of species
3. Stock / High Security water
4. General Security needs

Quarantined to manage for the drought.

Andrew Reynolds – Executive Director River Management – MDBA

Water quality is continuously monitored.

Stratification of weirs (=dissolved oxygen)

Water Resource Plans are legally binding – 6 accredited, 7 with Minister for determination, 7 with MDBA for assessment.

Andrew Kassebaum – Independent Socio-Economic Panel

“An enabler for communities” Engagement and research pathways, including the needs of first nation communities, Rice, Cotton, Dairy industries, studies.

27 Roundtable meetings, 700 individuals, 315 responses online – stakeholder engagement has concluded. (Closes end Oct)

Presentation from sponsor **Taggle**

40,000km² = 40 receivers in the west wimmera / mallee region

37 Councils use this for potable water solutions, reduced consumption (leaks on residents' side)

Rainfall gauge @ \$1,000 each, \$1 per month reading cost.

Attachments

1. Murray Darling Association Letter [↓](#)



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T (03) 5480 3805
ABN: 64 636 490 493

L1, 250 Anstruther Street
P.O. Box 1268
Echuca, Vic 3564

19 December 2019

Cr Jane MacAllister and Mr Ken Ross
Wentworth Shire Council
PO Box 81
WENTWORTH NSW 2648

Dear Councillor and Ken,

Further to our recent discussions, please find attached (14) copies of our latest Annual Report as well as the MDA's membership brochures.

You will note that on page 30-31 of the report, there is a table aligning the MDA's advocacy priorities as identified by our members resolutions with direct changes in policy.

"The purpose of the MDA is to provide effective representation of local government and communities at state and federal level in the management of Basin resources by exchanging information; facilitating debate; and seeking to influence government policy."

Motions resolved at the National Conference and AGM form the foundations of the MDA's leadership and advocacy work for the year and years ahead. By writing to and engaging with responsible governments, agencies and Ministers, pursuing the objectives through meetings, education, leadership and dialogue, we inform better policy and practice".

We have provided the enclosed information to support your communications with your fellow Councillors, to demonstrate the effectiveness of a united voice.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Emma Bradbury", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Emma Bradbury
Chief Executive Officer

For conservation and sustainable development

8.2 COUNCILLOR REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

File Number: RPT/20/70

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
 Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
 Reporting Officer: Paula Mastrippolito - Manager Organisational Support

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future
 Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

This report provides the opportunity for Councillors to provide verbal updates on the activities of organisations to which they have been appointed as council's delegate.

The meetings noted to have occurred during the reporting period are:-

Date	Meeting	Attendees	Location
16 Jan 2020	Wentworth Shire Health Interagency Group	Cr MacAllister	Buronga
20 Jan 2020	Wentworth Regional Tourism	Cr Nichols	Coomealla
28 Jan 2020	Bottle Bend Reserve Trust	Cr MacAllister	Buronga
29 Jan 2020	Inquiry into Management Murray Darling Basin water Resources	Cr MacAllister Cr Heywood Cr Nichols	Mildura
29 Jan 2020	MDA Region 4	Cr MacAllister Cr Heywood	Buronga
3 Feb 2020	Wentworth Regional Tourism	Cr Nichols	Coomealla
4 Feb 2020	George Gordon Sporting Complex	Cr Elstone	Coomealla
5 Feb 2020	Willow Bend Committee	Cr Heywood Cr Elstone	Wentworth

Recommendation

That the information provided by councillors on the activities of external bodies to which they are council's nominated delegate be noted.

Additional Information

Nil

Attachments

Nil

8.3 INTERNAL AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

File Number: RPT/20/75

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Responsible Division: Finance and Policy

Reporting Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

A meeting of the Internal Audit and Risk Management Committee was held on 05 February 2020 and the Minutes of the meeting are attached to this report for the information of Councillors.

The Committee has requested that the Reporting Officer seeks resolutions of Council on the following items:-

- Adoption of the December Quarterly Budget Review Statement

Officer Recommendation

That Council approves the December Quarterly Budget Review statement noting a favorable operational variance of \$472,000 and a favorable capital variance of \$3,689,000, resulting in a total favorable budget variation of \$4,161,000.

Additional Information

The December Quarterly Budget Review report that was presented to the committee is attached for information.

The committee also reviewed and noted an updated Delivery Program Progress Report.

Attachments

1. Minutes IA&RM Committee 05 February 2020[↓](#)
2. December Quarterly Budget Review - Internal Audit & Risk Management Committee 05 February 2020[↓](#)
3. December 2019 Quarterly Budget Review Statement[↓](#)



WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL

INTERNAL AUDIT & RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

5 FEBRUARY 2020

INTERNAL AUDIT & RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES **5**
FEBRUARY 2020

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INTERNAL AUDIT & RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 2020

5

1 OPENING OF MEETING

The Mayor opened the meeting at 9:06am

2 PRESENT

COUNCILLORS

Councillor Melisa Hederics (Mayor)
Councillor Jane MacAllister
Councillor Susan Nichols
Councillor Greg Evans

STAFF (non- voting members)

Ken Ross (General Manager)
Simon Rule (Director Finance and Policy)
Paula Matrippolito (Manager Organisational Support)
Hodi Beauliv (Manager Finance)

3 APOLOGIES

Recommendation

That the apology received from Cr. Nunan be noted.

Committee Resolution

That the Committee notes the apology.

Moved Cr. Evans, Seconded Cr. Nichols

CARRIED

4 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr Nichols declared a less than significant non-pecuniary interest in matters pertaining to the Wentworth Bowling Club, as she is a member of that club.

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Recommendation

That the committee notes that the meeting of the Internal Audit and Risk Management Committee scheduled for 6 November 2019 was cancelled after the agenda was published, and that the September Quarterly Budget Review Statement was presented directly to council.

Motion

That the committee confirms the minutes of the Internal Audit and Risk Management Committee meeting held on 7 August 2019 and notes that the meeting of the Internal Audit and Risk Management Committee scheduled for 6 November 2019 was cancelled after the agenda was published, and that the September Quarterly Budget Review Statement was presented directly to council

Moved Cr. MacAllister, Seconded Cr. Nichols

CARRIED

**INTERNAL AUDIT & RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 2020**

5

6 Reports**6.1 DELIVERY PROGRAM PROGRESS UPDATE**

File Number: RPT/20/27

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager

Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager

Reporting Officer: Paula Mastrippolito - Manager Organisational Support

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

The report on the implementation of the annual operational plan was presented to council at the 18 December 2019 meeting, where council resolved to defer consideration of the report until the February council meeting to enable this committee the opportunity to fully review all budgeted projects.

Recommendation

That the committee notes the progress update on the 2019/20 Operational Plan activities.

Committee Resolution

That the committee notes the progress update on the 2019/20 Operational Plan activities.

Moved Cr. Nichols, Seconded Cr. Evans

CARRIED

**INTERNAL AUDIT & RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 2020**

5

6.2 DECEMBER QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW

File Number: RPT/20/31

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Responsible Division: Finance and Policy

Report Author: Hodi Beauliv - Acting Director, Finance and Policy

Summary

A full analysis of Council's Income, Operating Expenditure and Capital Expenditure has been undertaken. A number of variations have been identified against the original budget as outlined in this report. Council's revenue and expenditure is reviewed on a quarterly basis to identify any potential areas requiring a variation.

	YTD Actual (31-Dec-2019)	% of Original Budget	% of Revised Budget
Revenue	\$15,992,133	49.8%	48.9%
Operational Expenditure	\$11,554,182	48.4%	48.1%
Capital Expenditure	\$5,746,763	25.3%	25.8%

If approved, the net result of variances for the December 2019 Quarter is a favorable operational variance of \$472,000 and a favorable capital variance of \$3,689,000. A total favorable budget variation of \$4,161,000. This report also includes an unfavorable operational variance of \$8,480 approved at the Council Meeting on 18 December 2019 for the purchase of Bariatric Chairs.

Recommendation

That the Internal Audit and Risk Management Committee recommends that Council approves the variations to the 2019/20 Operational Plan adopted at the Council Meeting on 26 June 2019.

Committee Resolution

That the Committee recommends that Council approves the variations to the 2019/20 Operational Plan adopted at the Council Meeting on 26 June 2019.

Moved Cr. MacAllister, Seconded Cr. Evans

CARRIED

INTERNAL AUDIT & RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 5 FEBRUARY 2020

7 NEXT MEETING

To be advised.

8 CLOSURE

The meeting was declared closed at 11:10 am.

6.2 December Quarterly Budget Review

File Number: RPT/20/31

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Responsible Division: Finance and Policy

Report Author: Hodi Beauliv - Acting Director, Finance and Policy

Summary

A full analysis of Council's Income, Operating Expenditure and Capital Expenditure has been undertaken. A number of variations have been identified against the original budget as outlined in this report. Council's revenue and expenditure is reviewed on a quarterly basis to identify any potential areas requiring a variation.

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Recommendation

That the Internal Audit and Risk Management Committee recommends that Council approves the variations to the 2019/20 Operational Plan adopted at the Council Meeting on 26 June 2019.

Detailed Report**Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to review the financial performance of Council for the quarter ending 31 December 2019 in accordance with S407 (1) of the Local Government Act 1993.

Report Detail

The Quarterly Budget Review Statement is attached for your information identifying the Adopted Budget, Recommended Changes for Council Resolution, Projected Year End Budget, December 2019 Quarterly Review Changes, Year to Date Actual Revenue and Actual Expenditure to 31 December 2019.

Council has recorded \$15,992,133 in revenue as at 31 December 2019. This equates to 49.8% of the original revenue budget or 48.9% of the revised revenue budget. Notable revenue during this quarter includes:

- Financial Assistance Grant - \$783,840
- RMCC Maintenance & Ordered Works Fees - \$614,976
- Buronga Landfill Receipts - \$491,875
- Water Consumption Charges - \$314,779

- Safe & Secure Water Fund Grant - \$231,756
- RFS Repairs & Maintenance Grant - \$196,200
- Drought Capital Grants - \$146,450
- Pensioner Concession Rebate - \$103,960
- Stronger Country Communities Grants – 79,827
- Willowbend Caravan Park Fees - \$77,579

Council's total operating expenditure to 31 December 2019 is \$11,554,182. This is 48.4% of the original expenditure budget or 48.1% of the revised expenditure budget. Notable operating expenditure for this quarter includes:

- Local Roads Maintenance - \$200,598
- RMCC Works - \$412,651
- Water and Waste Water Operational & Maintenance Expenses - \$501,421
- Landfill Operations - \$250,591
- Swimming Pool Operational & Maintenance - \$102,730

Expenditure on Capital projects to the end of December 2019 has been \$5,746,763. This equates to 25.3% of the original capital budget or 25.8% of the revised capital budget. Notable capital expenditure for this quarter includes:

- Sewer Infrastructure - \$796,896
- Road Renewals - \$462,735
- Water Infrastructure - \$445,829
- Curlwaa Hall - \$211,812
- Plant Replacement Program - \$207,617
- Willowbend Office - \$135,150
- Hall Upgrades - \$126,392
- Amenities Upgrades \$65,312
- Curlwaa Boat Ramp - \$53,591

Matters under consideration

A list of recommended changes for Council resolution to the original budget are included on the notes pages within the Quarterly Budget Review Statement. This statement has been updated to include notes to explain the reason for the variations, using alphabetical note references against both the operational and capital budgets.

To provide additional information to Councillors to help explain any variances of actuals compared to projected budget, numerical note references have also been included. Comments will be provided for any year to date variance of greater than 10% against 50% of the proposed budget, given we are half way through the financial year.

Conclusion

If approved, the net result for the December 2019 Quarter, after variations have been considered for Revenue and Expenditure including Capital, will be a favorable variance of \$4,161,000, giving a year to date net favorable variance of \$967,000 to the original budget.

Attachments

1. December 2019 Quarterly Budget Review Statement

Wentworth Shire Council

Quarterly Budget Review Statement
for the period 01/10/19 to 31/12/19

Report by Responsible Accounting Officer

The following statement is made in accordance with Clause 203(2) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005:

31 December 2019

It is my opinion that the Quarterly Budget Review Statement for Wentworth Shire Council for the quarter ended 31/12/19 indicates that Council's projected financial position at 30/6/20 will be satisfactory at year end, having regard to the projected estimates of income and expenditure and the original budgeted income and expenditure.

Signed:



date: 30/01/2020

Simon Rule
Responsible Accounting Officer

Wentworth Shire Council

Quarterly Budget Review Statement

for the period 01/10/19 to 31/12/19

Income & Expenses Budget Review Statement

Budget review for the quarter ended 31 December 2019

Income & Expenses - make a choice >>>

	Original Budget 2019/20	Approved Changes			Revised Budget 2019/20	Variations for this Dec Qtr	Notes	Projected Year End Result	Actual YTD figures	Notes	% Actuals by Projected
		Carry Forwards	Other than by QBRs	Sep QBRs	Dec QBRs						
Income											
Rates and Annual Charges	8,664	-	-	-	-	8,664	51 a	8,715	8,715	1	100.0%
User Charges and Fees	4,910	-	-	-	-	4,910	- b	4,910	2,438	2	49.7%
Interest and Investment Revenues	735	-	-	-	-	735	- c	735	189	3	25.7%
Other Revenues	1,257	-	-	-	-	1,257	- d	1,257	447	4	35.6%
Grants & Contributions - Operating	9,024	-	-	-	-	9,024	451 e	9,475	2,736	5	28.9%
Grants & Contributions - Capital	7,398	-	-	-	-	7,398	101 f	7,499	1,467	6	19.6%
Net gain from disposal of assets	100	-	-	-	-	100	- g	100	-	-	0.0%
Total Income from Continuing Operations	32,088	-	-	-	-	32,088	603	32,691	15,992		48.9%
Expenses											
Employee Costs	8,853	-	-	-	-	8,853	- h	8,853	4,641	7	52.4%
Borrowing Costs	246	-	-	-	-	246	(72) i	174	87	8	50.0%
Materials & Contracts	4,473	-	-	-	-	4,473	203 j	4,676	1,525	9	32.6%
Depreciation	7,064	-	-	-	-	7,064	- k	7,064	3,532	10	50.0%
Other Expenses	3,251	-	8	-	-	3,259	- l	3,259	1,769	11	54.3%
Interest & Investment Losses	-	-	-	-	-	-	- m	-	-		#DIV/0!
Net Loss from disposal of assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	- n	-	-		#DIV/0!
Total Expenses from Continuing Operations	23,887	-	8	-	-	23,895	131	24,026	11,554		48.1%
Net Operating Result from Continuing Operation	8,201	-	(8)	-	-	8,193	472	8,665	4,438		51.2%
Discontinued Operations - Surplus/(Deficit)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Net Operating Result from All Operations	8,201	-	(8)	-	-	8,193	472	8,665	4,438		51.2%
Net Operating Result before Capital Items	803	-	(8)	-	-	795	371	1,166	2,971		

This statement forms part of Council's Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBRs) for the quarter ended 31/12/2019 and should be read in conjunction with the total QBRs report

Wentworth Shire Council

Quarterly Budget Review Statement
for the period 01/10/19 to 31/12/19

Income & Expenses Budget Review Statement
Recommended changes to revised budget

Budget Variations being recommended include the following material items:

Notes	Details	
a	Actual rates levied for the year were more than budgeted	\$51,000
e	RFS Hazard Reduction Grant for works completed 2018/19 - \$62,000	\$62,000
	Reimbursement for emergency water carting	\$142,000
	Increased Financial Assistance Grant (FAGs) entitlement 2019/20	\$247,000
f	Increased funding Upgrade Buronga Effluent Disposal Station Facility	\$76,000
	Increased funding Curlwaa Boat Ramp	\$25,000
i	Reduced interest expense due to delay in drawing down Wentworth Civic Centre	-\$72,000
j	Emergency water carting	\$203,000
l	Additional \$8,480 approved at December Council Meeting to Purchase Bariatric Chairs	

Notes to provide additional information on material operational item variances to proposed budget:

Notes	Details
1	Full rates levied in July 2019
3	Due to timing of maturity of investments, income not fully recognised until end of financial year RBA cash rate has dropped from 1.5% to 0.75% since the budget was set. Review budgeted income at March Quarterly review
4	Other revenue is variable in nature and not always received evenly throughout the year
5	Timing difference for Financial Assistance Grant received in advance last financial year, but may
6	Grants received in advance: Drought projects, Stronger Country Community Projects Funding still to be received from projects yet to commencement: Aerodrome Projects with funding awaiting milestone payments: Roads to Recovery, Curlwaa Hall, Barrett Pavillion,
9	First half of the year substantial planning work undertaken preparing for commencement of projects.

Quarterly Budget Review Statement
for the period 01/10/19 to 31/12/19

Wentworth Shire Council

Capital Budget Review Statement

Budget review for the quarter ended 31 December 2019

Capital Budget - Council Consolidated

	Original Budget 2019/20	Approved Changes				Revised Budget 2019/20	Variations for this Dec Qtr	Notes	Projected Year End Result	Actual YTD figures	Notes	% Actuals by Projected
		Carry Forwards	Other than by QBRs	Sep QBRs	Dec QBRs							
Capital Expenditure												
New Assets												
- Plant & Equipment	800	28	-	-	-	828	(160)	a	-	-	1	#DIV/0!
- Land & Buildings	-	53	-	-	-	53	-	b	668	167	2	25.0%
- Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	c	53	50	3	94.3%
Renewal Assets (Replacement)												
- Plant & Equipment	4,531	-	-	-	-	4,531	(1,300)	d	3,231	554	4	17.1%
- Land & Buildings	5,334	439	-	197	-	5,970	(2,250)	e	3,720	716	5	19.2%
- Roads, Bridges, Footpaths	6,984	436	-	-	-	7,420	-	f	7,420	2,087	6	28.1%
- Other Structures	906	154	-	-	-	1,060	(82)	g	978	214	7	21.9%
Loan Repayments (Principal)	347	-	-	-	-	347	(147)	h	200	102	8	51.0%
Water Infrastructure	1,421	80	199	10	-	1,710	250	i	1,960	475	9	24.2%
Sewer Infrastructure	2,447	1,588	-	10	-	4,045	-	j	4,045	1,589	10	39.3%
Total Capital Expenditure	22,770	2,778	199	217	-	25,964	(3,689)		22,275	5,954		26.7%
Capital Funding												
Rates & Other Unified Funding	9,722	1,234	-	49	-	11,005	10	k	11,015	4,023	11	36.5%
Capital Grants & Contributions	7,398	1,544	199	168	-	9,309	101	l	9,410	1,181	12	12.6%
Reserves:												
- External Restrictions/Reserves	1,500	-	-	-	-	1,500	-	m	1,500	750	13	50.0%
New Loans	3,800	-	-	-	-	3,800	(3,800)	n	-	-	14	#DIV/0!
Receipts from Sale of Assets												
- Plant & Equipment	350	-	-	-	-	350	-	p	350	-	15	0.0%
- Land & Buildings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	q	-	-	16	#DIV/0!
Total Capital Funding	22,770	2,778	199	217	-	25,964	(3,689)		22,275	5,954		26.7%
Net Capital Funding - Surplus/(Deficit)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-		

This statement forms part of Council's Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBRs) for the quarter ended 31/12/2019 and should be read in conjunction with the total QBRs report

Wentworth Shire Council

Quarterly Budget Review Statement
for the period 01/10/19 to 31/12/19

Capital Budget Review Statement
Recommended changes to revised budget

Total capital adjustments **-\$3,689,000**

Budget Variations being recommended include the following material items:

Notes	Details	
b	New Assets - Land & Buildings Wentworth Riverfront BBQ	-\$160,000
d	Renewal Assets - Plant & Equipment Replacement of Landfill Equipment deferred until 2020/21	-\$1,300,000
e	Renewal Assets - Land & Buildings Wentworth Civic Centre Wentworth Riverfront - Wall Remediation	-\$2,000,000 -\$250,000
g	Other Structures Upgrade Buronga Effluent Disposal Station Facility Flagtrax Wentworth Pool Tiling	\$38,000 -\$60,000 -\$60,000
h	Loan Repayments - Principal Wentworth Civic Centre Loan and loan for Landfill equipment not to commence	-\$147,000
i	Water Infrastructure Water Treatment Plant Upgrades, Pooncarie - Emergency works	\$250,000
k	Rates & Other Untied Funding Total cost to Council for capital variations from Quarterly Budget Review	\$10,000
l	Capital Grants & Contributions - as per note (f) in Profit and Loss Increased funding Upgrade Buronga Effluent Disposal Station Facility Increased funding Curlwaa Boat Ramp	\$76,000 \$25,000
o	New Loans New loans for Wentworth Civic Centre and Landfill to be re-budgeted in 2020/21	-\$3,800,000

Notes to provide additional information on material capital item variances to proposed budget:

Notes	Details
3	Alcheringa (Carramar Drive) Oval lights (\$53,000) - project complete.
4	Integrated Management System Tender (\$500,000) only awarded at December Council meeting Plant replacement program only 20% expended of \$2.4 million budget at end of December 2019
5	George Gordon Oval Netball Court and Lights (\$440,000) - works to commence in December and scheduled for completion in March Wentworth Showgrounds Upgrades - Barrett Pavillion Replacement (\$675,000) works only just commenced, scheduled for completion by August 2020. Dareton Main Street Upgrades (\$250,000) works yet to commence. Landfill, Transfer Station Site Huts (\$100,000) on-hold pending outcome of waste review
6	Wentworth Aerodrome - Capital works (\$3 million) tender currently being advertised. Materials expected to be purchased prior to end of financial year.
7	EDS Facilities Upgrade (\$496,000) - Installation delayed by contractor availability Buronga Riverfront Masterplan (\$225,000) - design complete but works yet to commence
9	Water Treatment Plant, Gol Gol (\$675,000) - materials, fittings and componets currently being purchased Water Infrastructure Annual Upgrades (\$222,002) works not commenced due to other priorities Water Treatment Plant, Gol Gol Lagoon (\$150,000) - works to be tendered in February
10	Waste Water Rationalisation Project - Dareton (\$1 million) expenditure only 25% complete Sewer Replacement, Neville Street (\$200,000) - works not yet commenced
12	Capital grants generally paid on completion of works. Now work is commencing on majority of projects, anticipate increase in grant income in second half of year.
15	The new loans proposed for the Wentworth Civic Centre and Landfill have not been drawn down and will not be drawn down until 2020/21 financial year

Wentworth Shire Council

Quarterly Budget Review Statement

for the period 01/10/19 to 31/12/19

Cash & Investments Budget Review Statement**Investments**

Investments have been invested in accordance with Council's Investment Policy.

Cash

The Cash at Bank figure included in the Cash & Investment Statement totals \$2,124,953

This Cash at Bank amount has been reconciled to Council's physical Bank Statements.

The date of completion of this bank reconciliation is 31/12/19

Reconciliation Status

The YTD Cash & Investment figure reconciles to the actual balances held as follows:

\$ 000's

Cash at Bank (as per bank statements)

2,125

Investments on Hand

26,000

less: Unpresented Cheques

(Timing Difference)

(99)

add: Undeposited Funds

(Timing Difference)

278

Reconciled Cash at Bank & Investments

28,304

Balance as per Review Statement:

28,304

Difference:

-

Wentworth Shire Council

Quarterly Budget Review Statement

for the period 01/10/19 to 31/12/19

Key Performance Indicators Budget Review Statement - Industry KPI's (OLG)

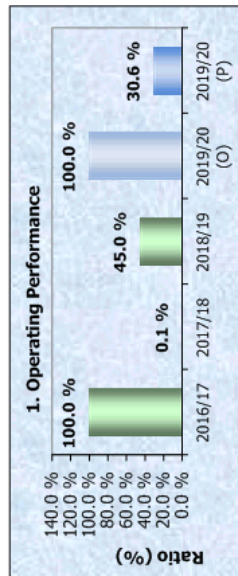
Budget review for the quarter ended 31 December 2019

(\$000's)	Current Projection		Original Budget	Actuals	
	19/20	Indicator 19/20		Prior Periods	
			19/20	18/19	17/18

NSW Local Government Industry Key Performance Indicators (OLG):

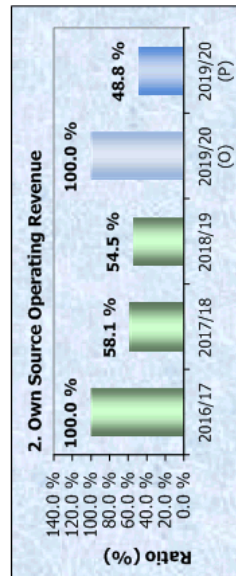
1. Operating Performance					
Operating Revenue (excl. Capital) - Operating Expenses	4438				
Operating Revenue (excl. Capital Grants & Contributions)	14525	30.6 %	100.0 %	45.0 %	0.1 %

This ratio measures Council's achievement of containing operating expenditure within operating revenue.



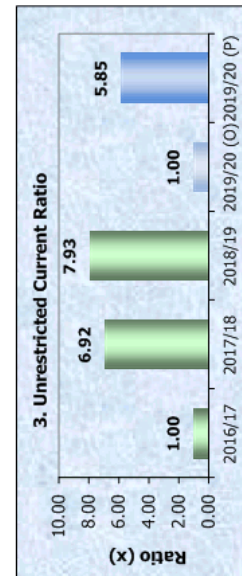
2. Own Source Operating Revenue					
Operating Revenue (excl. ALL Grants & Contributions)	15666				
Total Operating Revenue (incl. Capital Grants & Cont)	32088	48.8 %	100.0 %	54.5 %	58.1 %

This ratio measures fiscal flexibility. It is the degree of reliance on external funding sources such as operating grants & contributions.



3. Unrestricted Current Ratio					
Current Assets less all External Restrictions	17329518				
Current Liabilities less Specific Purpose Liabilities	2962501	5.85	1.00	7.93	6.92

To assess the adequacy of working capital and its ability to satisfy obligations in the short term for the unrestricted activities of Council.



Wentworth Shire Council

Quarterly Budget Review Statement

for the period 01/10/19 to 31/12/19

Key Performance Indicators Budget Review Statement - Industry KPI's (OLG)

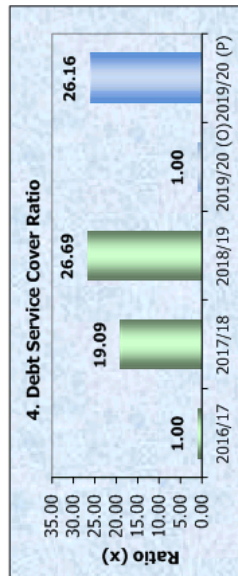
Budget review for the quarter ended 31 December 2019

(\$000's)	Current Projection		Original Budget	Actuals	
	Amounts	Indicator		Prior Periods	
	19/20	19/20	19/20	18/19	17/18

NSW Local Government Industry Key Performance Indicators (OLG):

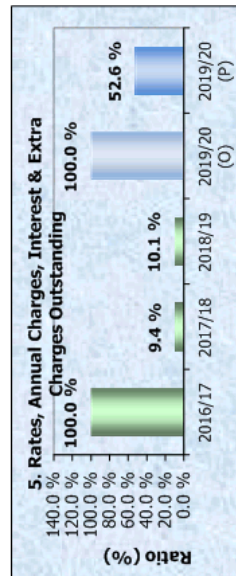
4. Debt Service Cover Ratio					
Operating Result before Interest & Dep. exp (EBITDA)	15511	26.16	1.00	26.69	19.09
Principal Repayments + Borrowing Interest Costs	593				

This ratio measures the availability of operating cash to service debt including interest, principal and lease payments.



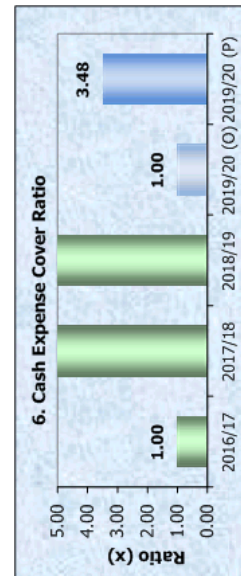
5. Rates, Annual Charges, Interest & Extra					
Rates, Annual & Extra Charges Outstanding	4631507	52.6 %	100.0 %	10.1 %	9.4 %
Rates, Annual & Extra Charges Collectible	8808110				

To assess the impact of uncollected rates and annual charges on Council's liquidity and the adequacy of recovery efforts.



6. Cash Expense Cover Ratio					
Current Year's Cash & Cash Equivalents (incl. Term Deposits)	28304	3.48	1.00	17.28	16.51
Operating & financing activities Cash Flow payments	8124				

This liquidity ratio indicates the number of months a Council can continue paying for its immediate expenses without additional cash inflow.



Wentworth Shire Council

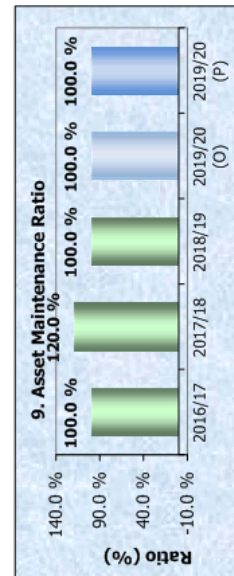
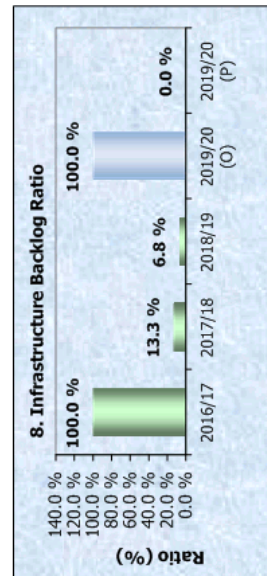
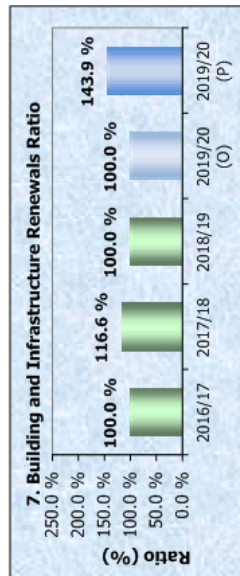
Quarterly Budget Review Statement

for the period 01/10/19 to 31/12/19

Key Performance Indicators Budget Review Statement - Industry KPI's (OLG)

Budget review for the quarter ended 31 December 2019

(\$000's)	Current Projection		Original Budget	Actuals	
	Amounts	Indicator		Prior Periods	
	19/20	19/20	19/20	18/19	17/18
NSW Local Government Infrastructure Asset Performance Indicators (OLG):					
7. Building and Infrastructure Renewals Ratio					
Asset Renewals (Building, Infrastructure & Other Structures)	5081	143.9 %	100.0 %	100.0 %	116.6 %
Depreciation, Amortisation & Impairment	3532				
To assess the rate at which these assets are being renewed relative to the rate at which they are depreciating.					
8. Infrastructure Backlog Ratio					
Estimated cost to bring Assets to a satisfactory condition		0.0 %	100.0 %	6.8 %	13.3 %
Total value of Infrastructure, Building, Other Structures & depreciable Land Improvement Assets					
This ratio shows what proportion the backlog is against the total value of a Council's infrastructure. NOTE: Only valid at end of financial year					
9. Asset Maintenance Ratio					
Actual Asset Maintenance	1	100.0 %	100.0 %	100.0 %	120.0 %
Required Asset Maintenance	1				
Compares actual vs. required annual asset maintenance. A ratio above 1.0 indicates Council is investing enough funds to stop the Infrastructure Backlog growing.					



Wentworth Shire Council

Quarterly Budget Review Statement
 for the period 01/10/19 to 31/12/19
Contracts Budget Review Statement

Budget review for the quarter ended 31 December 2019

Part A - Contracts Listing - contracts entered into during the quarter

Contractor	Contract detail & purpose	Contract Value	Start Date	Duration of Contract	Budgeted (Y/N)	Notes
Mildura Truck Centre	CTE Widener Trailer	194,178	16/10/19	30/06/2020	Y	
Mildura Truck Centre	DAF FTT CR85 6X4 Prime Mover	213,384	16/10/19	30/06/2020	Y	
All State Earthworks	George Gordon Oval Netball Courts	361,432	16/10/19	31/03/2020	Y	
Hutchinson Motors	Purchase of 2 Kia Optima SI Motor Vehicles	60,858	20/11/19	31/12/2019	Y	
Davison Motor Group	Purchase of 2 Ford Ranger Dual Cab Utes	99,670	20/11/19	31/12/2019	Y	
Gaylard Building Group	James King Park & Darling Street Toilet Upgrade	207,756	21/12/19	30/06/2020	Y	
CPM Building Contractors	Barrett Pavilion Upgrade	974,220	21/12/19	31/07/2020	Y	
Open Office	Supply of new Corporate Information System	512,600	21/12/19	31/03/2021	Y	

Notes:

1. Minimum reporting level is 1% of estimated income from continuing operations of Council or \$50,000 - whatever is the lesser.
2. Contracts listed are those entered into during the quarter being reported and exclude contractors on Council's Preferred Supplier list.
3. Contracts for employment are not required to be included.

This statement forms part of Council's Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBRs) for the quarter ended 31/12/2019 and should be read in conjunction with the total QBRs report

Wentworth Shire Council

Quarterly Budget Review Statement

for the period 01/10/19 to 31/12/19

Consultancy & Legal Expenses Budget Review Statement

Consultancy & Legal Expenses Overview

Expense	YTD Expenditure (Actual Dollars)	Budgeted (Y/N)
Consultancies	125,494	Y
Legal Fees	32,665	Y

Definition of a consultant:

A consultant is a person or organisation engaged under contract on a temporary basis to provide recommendations or high level specialist or professional advice to assist decision making by management. Generally it is the advisory nature of the work that differentiates a consultant from other contractors.

8.4 WILLOWBEND CARAVAN PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

File Number: RPT/20/76

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Responsible Division: Finance and Policy

Reporting Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Objective: 2.0 Wentworth is a desirable Shire to visit, live, work and invest

Strategy: 2.1 Grow visitation to the Shire by developing a quality visitor experience and promoting our destination

Summary

A meeting of the Willowbend Caravan Park Advisory Committee was held on 5 February 2020 and the Minutes of the meeting are attached to this report for the information of Councillors.

The Committee has requested that the Reporting Officer seeks a resolution of Council on the following items:-

- Family Parks Memberships

Officer Recommendation

That Council notes the minutes of the Willowbend Caravan Park Advisory Committee Meeting held on 5 February 2020

That Council approves Willowbend Caravan Park becoming a member of Family Parks.

Additional Information

Nil

Attachments

1. Minutes - Willowbend Caravan Park meeting 05 February 2020 [📎](#)



WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL

WILLOWBEND ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

5 FEBRUARY 2020

WILLOWBEND ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

5 FEBRUARY 2020

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7	NEXT MEETING.....	3
8	CLOSURE	3

WILLOWBEND ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

5 FEBRUARY 2020

1 OPENING OF MEETING

Th Mayor opened the meeting at 11.15am

2 PRESENT

COUNCILLORS: Councillor Melisa Hederics (Mayor)
Councillor Tim Elstone (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor Steve Heywood
Councillor Greg Evans (Non-Voting)

COUNCIL STAFF: Ken Ross (General Manager)
Simon Rule (Director Finance and Policy)

PARK MANAGERS: Tony Smith
Ana Smith

3 APOLOGIES

Nil

4 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**Committee Resolution**

That the Minutes of the Willowbend Advisory Committee held 30 April 2019 be confirmed as circulated.

Moved Cr. Elstone, Seconded Cr. Heywood

CARRIED

WILLOWBEND ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

5 FEBRUARY 2020

6 REPORTS**6.1 CARAVAN PARK UPDATE - JANUARY 2020**

File Number: RPT/20/26

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy
Responsible Division: Finance and Policy
Report Author: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Summary

This report provides an update on the following projects:

- Levee Bank Reinstatement
- Boundary Fence Installation
- New Office
- Power Upgrade
- Camp Kitchen Awnings

The report also covered the following additional items:

- Financial Update as at 31 December 2019
- 2020/2021 Fees and Charges

Committee reviewed the current fees and charges and have made suggestions for the 2020/21 fees and charges that will be included in the draft Annual Fees and Charges schedule for Council's consideration in May.

- Family Parks Membership

Committee Resolution

The Committee recommends that Council becomes a member of Family Parks.

Moved Cr. Heywood, Seconded Cr. Elstone

CARRIED

- General Business

Park Managers requested a review of the beds/bunks in the cabins with a plan to progressively replace them. Will work with DFP to progress further.

Committee Resolution

The Committee recommends that Council notes the report.

Moved Cr. Heywood, Seconded Cr. Elstone

CARRIED

WILLOWBEND ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

5 FEBRUARY 2020

7 NEXT MEETING

TBA

8 CLOSURE

The meeting was declared closed at 12:35 pm.

8.5 GEORGE GORDON SPORTING COMPLEX USER GROUP MEETING TUESDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2020

File Number: RPT/20/79

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering
 Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering
 Reporting Officer: Barbara George - Administration Officer, Roads and Engineering

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.6 Collaborate with others to achieve desired outcomes for the local community

Summary

A meeting of the George Gordon Sporting Complex User Group Meeting was held of Tuesday 4 February 2020 and the Minutes of the meeting are attached to this report for the information of Councillors.

Recommendation

That Council notes the minutes of the George Gordon Sporting Complex User Group held on Tuesday 4 February 2020.

That Council endorses the naming of the new oval to the Andrew Murdoch Oval following receipt of notification from the Geographical Names Board that the Complex was gazetted as the George Gordon Sporting Complex as at 17 January 2020.

Additional Information

A meeting of the George Gordon Sporting Complex User Group was held of Tuesday 4 February 2020 at the George Gordon Sporting Complex.

- Netball Courts project has commenced with the concrete base slab to be poured Friday/Saturday 7 and 8 February 2020.
- Notification has been received for the Geographical Names Board that the Complex was gazetted the George Gordon Sporting Complex as of 17 January 2020.

The Management Plan has been updated accordingly.
 Correspondence has been received from the Wentworth District Football/Netball Club requesting Council's endorsement to name the new oval at the Complex the Andrew Murdoch Oval. (copy of correspondence attached)

Discussion is ongoing as to the "Future Opportunities for Development" at the Complex for inclusion in the Management Plan.

- Several maintenance requests were tabled.

Attachments

1. Correspondence received from Wentworth District Football/Netball Club [↗](#)
2. Minutes of the George Gordon Sporting Complex User Group held Tuesday 4 February 2020 [↗](#)

The General Manager
Wentworth Shire Council
Mr Ken Ross

7/2/2020

Dear Ken

We are about to commence the third season of junior football played on the new oval at Dareton, which has been an outstanding success, this new facility has drawn high praise, from all the visiting SFL clubs, parents, players, NSW Members of Parliament, as well as AFL Officials, and many football followers and supporters from far and wide.

This project was a great example of what can happen, when the community and local government come together, jointly using their resources, to build a first class sporting facility for all to use.

The Wentworth District Football Netball Club, and the George Gordon Oval User Group, and the Wentworth Shire Council, developed this project over a 5 year time frame, although the actual construction was completed in a few months. The planning, design work and financing, this project was very well managed by WDFNC President Andrew Murdoch.

Andrew Murdoch took on this project with great enthusiasm and endeavour, to ensure a good outcome for all the people who become involved, including the volunteers, sponsors, and contractors, as well as WSC personnel. The WDFNC strongly believes the success of this project, is entirely due to the efforts of Andrew Murdoch and his ability to get things done for his community.

In consideration of his involvement with the Coomealla and Dareton community, over a long period of time as a sportsman, a leader, with great management skills. As well as a very willing worker for his community, Andrew is as a Life Member of the WDFNC, as well as a Life Member of the Coomealla – Wentworth Cricket Club.

We believe that it would be very fitting that the Wentworth Shire Council name this new facility the

ANDREW MURDOCH OVAL

It would be a lasting, and well-earned tribute to person who has served his community very well, over many years.

Respectfully submitted for Council consideration

Simon Huetzenroeder
V/President WDFNC

David Swain
Secretary WDFNC


Ron Kuhn
Secretary GGOUGroup

 <p>Wentworth Shire Council 26- 28 Adelaide Street PO Box 81 WENTWORTH NSW 2648 Tel: 03 5027 5027 council@wentworth.nsw.gov.au</p>	<p>USER GROUP MEETING MINUTES</p>
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<p>Our Ref:</p> <p>Subject: George Gordon Sporting Complex User Group Meeting</p> <p>Location: George Gordon Sporting Complex</p>	<p>Date: Tuesday 4 February 2020</p>	<p>Time: 5:30pm</p>
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1. OPENING OF MEETING

The meeting was opened at: 1745 by Geoff Gunn.

2. PRESENT

User Group Members:

Kyra Cumming Wentworth District Football/Netball Club
Ron Kuhn – Wentworth District Football/Netball Club
Ross Robertson – Coomealla/Wentworth Cricket Club
Matt George – Coomealla/Wentworth Cricket Club

Council Staff:

Geoff Gunn – Director Roads and Engineering
Barb George – Administration Officer

3. APOLOGIES

CR Elstone
CR Nunan
Andy Murdoch – Wentworth District Football/Netball Club

The Contact list was tabled – no update required

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:

Maintenance:

- Whirlybirds for Cricket Club Shed – to be purchased and installed.
- Guttering – Council to arrange for cleaning of the guttering.
- Storm water downpipe repair/upgrade – Council to action as necessary.

Netball Courts:

- Concrete base slab planned to be poured Friday/Saturday 7th or 8th February 2020.
- Electrical works have been completed.
- Still on track to complete the project by mid-March.
- Colour of surface - Taygun to liaise with Kyra.
- Will there be a logo on the new courts – Taygun to investigate.

5. OTHER MATTERS UNDER FOR CONSIDERATION:Management Plan

- Following advice from the Geographical Names Board that the Complex was gazetted **George Gordon Sporting Complex** as of 17 January 2020, the Management Plan has been updated accordingly.
- Page 6 – Table 2: “Future Opportunities for Development” – with the development of the 2nd oval, netball courts, this section of the Management Plan requires review.

Items discussed for inclusion:

- Fencing of the Complex
- Construction of a new Time Keeper's Box.
- Extension/upgrade of the kitchen
- Upgrade Club Rooms
- Car Parking and Road Construction
- Extension to the Netball Rooms
- Review of plantings around the Complex, including upgrade of irrigation system.

Council Administration Officer to investigate the availability of Grants.

Playground Placement

- Placement of the playground will be addressed once the courts, seating and shade have been completed.
- Taygun to provide weekly updates on the progress of the project to Barb who will forward the information to members of the User Group.

6. NEW BUSINESS:Naming of the new oval

Correspondence from the Wentworth District Netball/Football Club was tabled requesting Council's endorsement to name the new oval at the Complex the **Andrew Murdoch Oval**.

Copy is attached.

Watering of trees

A concern was raised by a member of the User Group that the Oleander Trees on the road reserve next to the new oval are not thriving.

It was explained that as the trees are on the road reserve it is not Council's usual practice to undertake watering of them, however, Parks and Gardens Team will be asked to investigate the state of the trees and report back to DRE.

It was suggested that a better option may be to look at all plantings around the Complex, including the new oval, and look to upgrading irrigation systems along with plans/designs for plantings around the entire complex – hence the addition to the “Future Opportunities” for that upgrade.

Request to provide electronic version of the Complex Plan

A map of the Complex is attached to the Management Plan. Members of the group have requested to have an electronic copy forwarded to them as it will provide a clearer picture to assist with future planning. Council Administration Officer will action.

Maintenance Required:

- Request to have “whirlybirds” placed on the Cricket Shed.
- Guttering around the complex to be cleaned and repaired as necessary.
- Modification required to existing building storm water downpipe discharge to extend past the car park area.

ACTIONS FROM MEETING:

Action	Responsibility/Outcome
Placement of whirlybirds to Cricket Club Shed.	Council. CR/20/303
Clean guttering around the Complex.	Council. CR/20/304
Storm water downpipe modification.	Council. CR/20/305
Colour of new netball courts – Taygun to liaise with Kyra Cumming.	Council/Netball Club: CR/20/306
Will there be a logo on the new courts – Taygun to investigate.	Council. CR/20/307
Availability of Grants	Council. CR/20/308
Updates of Netball Court construction progress.	Council: CR/20/309
Investigate state of Oleander Trees on Road Reserve next to new oval.	Council: CR/20/309
Provision of an electronic version of the Complex Map.	Council: CR/20/311

7. MEETING CLOSURE: The meeting closed at 1830

8. NEXT MEETING - TBA

9 REPORTS TO COUNCIL

9.1 GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

File Number: RPT/20/62

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
 Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
 Reporting Officer: Gayle Marsden - Executive Assistant
 Paula Mastrippolito - Manager Organisational Support

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

The General Manager's report details information pertaining to meetings attended and general information which are of public interest, and which have not been reported elsewhere in this agenda. Items of note in this report are:

1. OLG Circulars

Details of OLG Circulars 19-30 to 19-31 and 20-01 to 20-03 are listed.

2. Meetings

As listed

3. Upcoming meetings or events

As listed

4. Other items of note

4.1 Council has been advised that Cr MacAllister has been appointed as Council's representative to the Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage Advisory Committee.

4.2 Balranald Shire Council Public Inquiry Report released.

Recommendation

That Council notes the information contained within the report from the General Manager and approves the out of region travel listed in the list of upcoming events.

Detailed Report

1. OLG Circulars

OLG Circular 20-03 - Amendments to the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 to increase the tendering exemption threshold for contracts for bushfire recovery and operations.

OLG Circular 20-02 - Exemption for activities under Part 3 of the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act).

OLG Circular 20-01 - Recovery Information for Councils impacted by bushfires in NSW.

OLG Circular 19-31 - Amendments to the electoral provisions of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005.

OLG Circular 19-30 - Review of Impounding Act 1993 and Release of Discussion Paper.

OLG Circular 19-29 -

2. Meetings

Following is a list of public meetings or events attended by the General Manager for the period 7 December 2019 – 7 February 2020.

Date	Meeting	Location
13 Dec 2019	All Staff Meeting – Service Awards	Wentworth
18 Dec 2019	Council meeting Briefing	Wentworth
18 Dec 2019	Ordinary Council Meeting	Wentworth
10 Jan 2020	Mayoral Meeting	Wentworth
14 Jan 2020	Mayoral Meeting	Buronga
16 Jan 2020	Senator Perin Davey	Mildura
21 Jan 2020	Mayoral Meeting	Wentworth
22 Jan 2020	Extraordinary Council Meeting	Wentworth
22 Jan 2020	RMS Meeting	Wentworth
24 Jan 2020	FWJO Board Meeting	Buronga
26 Jan 2020	Australia Day Celebrations	Wentworth
26 Jan 2020	Australia Day Celebrations	Dareton
28 Jan 2020	Western Murray Regional Economic Development Strategy meeting	Balranald
5 Feb 2020	Willow Bend Committee Meeting	Wentworth
5 Feb 2020	Internal Audit & Risk Management Committee	Wentworth
5 Feb 2020	Mayoral Meeting	Wentworth
7 Feb 2020	Healthy Country Plan meeting	Wilcannia

3. Events

Following is a list of upcoming events, conferences or committee meetings, including out of region meetings where the Shire has been requested to attend in an official capacity.

Date	Meeting	Proposed Attendees	Location
19 Feb 2020	SAG Meeting	Cr MacAllister	Menindee
19 Feb 2020	Council Meeting	All Councillors & GM	Wentworth
19 Feb 2020	Citizenship Ceremony	All Councillors & GM	Wentworth
20 Feb 2020	Wentworth Shire Health Interagency Group	Cr MacAllister & GM	Dareton
20 Feb 2020	Wentworth Shire Liquor Accord Meeting	Cr Nichols	Wentworth
24 Feb 2020	Bottlebend Reserve Trust	Cr MacAllister	Buronga
25 Feb 2020	Mayoral Meetings	Cr Hederics, Cr Elstone & GM	Wentworth
26 Feb 2020	Wentworth Shire GP Plan Meeting	Cr MacAllister & GM	Dareton
28 Feb 2020	FWJO GM's Meeting	GM	Broken Hill

4 Mar 2020	Preparing for Council Elections	GM	Sydney
6 Mar 2020	Country Mayors Association meeting	Cr Hederics	Sydney
10 Mar 2020	Mayoral Meetings	Cr Hederics, Cr Elstone & GM	Wentworth
10 Mar 2020	MDA Region 4	Cr MacAllister, Cr Heywood, Cr Elstone & GM	Buronga
12-13 Mar 2020	MDA Strategic Planning Meeting	Cr MacAllister, Cr Heywood & Cr Elstone	Moama
17 Mar 2020	Mayoral Meetings	Cr Hederics, Cr Elstone & GM	Wentworth
18 Mar 2020	Council Meeting	All Councillors & GM	Wentworth
18 -20 Mar 2020	2020 Western Division of Council Conference	Cr Hederics, Cr Elstone, Cr Evans, Cr Wheeldon & GM	Broken Hill
18 Mar 2020	FWJO Meetings	Cr Hederics, Cr Elstone & GM	Broken Hill
19 Mar 2020	Wentworth Shire Health Interagency Group	Cr MacAllister & GM	Dareton

4. Other items of note

- 4.1 Council has been advised that Cr MacAllister has been appointed as Council's representative to the Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage Advisory Committee
- 4.2 The Balranald Shire Council Public Inquiry Report has been released, and on 29 January 2020 the Minister for Local Government announced that the council had been dismissed. Mike Colreavy has been appointed to perform the role of the mayor and councillors until 2024. A copy of the public inquiry report can be downloaded from the OLG website and the media release is attached for information (attachment 7).

Attachments

1. OLG Circular 19-29[↓](#)
2. OLG Circular 19-30[↓](#)
3. OLG Circular 19-31[↓](#)
4. OLG Circular 20-01[↓](#)
5. OLG Circular 20-02[↓](#)
6. OLG Circular 20-03[↓](#)
7. OLG Media Release - Balranald Shire Council[↓](#)



Office of
Local Government

Circular to Councils

Circular Details	Circular No 19-29 / 12 December 2019 / A679406
Previous Circular	N/A
Who should read this	General Managers / Financial accounting business areas
Contact	Policy Team / (02) 4428 4100 / code@olg.nsw.gov.au
Action required	Councils/Joint Organisations to implement

2019-20 draft Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting (update 28)

What's new or changing

- The draft Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting (Code) (update 28) has been released for comment.
- Guidance material on AASB 16 Leases, AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers and AASB1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities.

What this will mean for your Council/Joint Organisation (JO)

- Councils and JOs are invited to provide feedback on the draft Code (Update No. 28) by **Friday 31 January 2020** to: code@olg.nsw.gov.au.
- Councils are strongly encouraged to review Guidance material to support councils with the implementation of the new Accounting Standards AASB 16, 15 and 1058.

Key points

- The Office of Local Government (OLG) has prepared the draft Accounting Code (update 28) for consultation in response to sector feedback, policy changes and changes to the Australian Accounting Standards.
- OLG recommends that councils and JOs carefully review the *Summary of proposed changes* document accompanying the draft Code.
- New changes for this year are highlighted in yellow. Commentary in red relates to OLG requirements and commentary in blue relates to the Australian Accounting Standards.
- There are no new OLG requirements in the Code this year.
- To support understanding of the proposed changes to the Code, a webinar recording and a Questions and Answers document will be made available shortly via OLG's Website.
- OLG has prepared guidance material to support the implementation of the new Accounting Standards AASB 16, 15 and 1058. This material has been made available to all Councils via Objective Connect.
- Any questions or further clarifications relating to the draft Code, other documentation and guidance material can be submitted to code@olg.nsw.gov.au.

Where to go for further information

- OLG's website has the
 - Code comprising of five documents:
 - A. General Purpose Financial Statements
 - B. Special Purpose Financial Statements
 - C. Special Schedules
 - D. Joint Organisation Supplement
 - E. Appendices.
 - Summary of changes document to the Code (update 28)
- Guidance material will be made available via Objective Connect
- OLG's Accounting Practice page can be found here:
www.olg.nsw.gov.au/strengthening-local-government/supporting-and-advising-councils/accounting-practice



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Office of
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Circular to Councils

Circular Details	Circular No 19-30 / 17 December 2019 / A685370
Previous Circular	NA
Who should read this	Councillors / General Managers
Contact	Policy Team – 02 4428 4100 or olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
Action required	Council to Note

Review of *Impounding Act 1993* and Release of Discussion Paper

What's new or changing

- The NSW Government has announced the first comprehensive review of the *Impounding Act 1993* since it commenced (the Act).
- The Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Shelley Hancock MP, is inviting public submissions on a Discussion Paper to inform the review.

What this will mean for your council

- Councils are invited to provide feedback on the Discussion Paper to help ensure that impounding laws remains fit for purpose into the future.

Key points

- The Act aims to provide councils and other authorised public land managers with impounding powers to minimise health, safety and amenity issues caused by items and animals being abandoned in public and on private property.
- Feedback on the Discussion Paper received from councils and others will help the NSW Government to shape next steps in the review, including any proposals for reform.
- The deadline for submissions is **Friday 20 March 2020**.
- The Discussion Paper asks a series of strategic and operational questions to inform the review. Responses can be provided using the proforma at the end of the Discussion Paper or via the Survey Monkey website at www.surveymonkey.com/r/impoundingactreview.

Where to go for further information

- Further information on the review is available on the Office of Local Government's website at www.olg.nsw.gov.au/impounding-act-1993-review, or by contacting the Policy Team on 02 4428 4100.

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Office of
Local Government

Circular to Councils

Circular Details	Circular No 19-31 / 20 December 2019 / A685947
Previous Circular	19-22 - <i>Government response to IPART's review of local government election costs</i>
Who should read this	Councillors / General Managers / Council Governance staff
Contact	Council Governance - (02) 4428 4100 / olg@nsw.gov.au
Action required	Information

Amendments to the electoral provisions of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*

What's new or changing?

- Amendments have been made to the electoral provisions of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* (the Regulation). The amendments give effect to the Government's commitment, made in its response to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal's review of local government election costs, to modernise the electoral provisions of the Regulation and to align them with the more contemporary and efficient practices used at State elections in time for the September 2020 council elections.
- The amendments also give effect to amendments made to the *Local Government Act 1993* earlier this year removing the ability of councils' general managers to administer their councils' elections, and requiring councils to engage an electoral services provider to administer their elections where they do not enter into an election arrangement with the NSW Electoral Commissioner.
- The amendments also update and make refinements to improve the efficacy and clarity of provisions relating to postal voting, the administration of countback elections and the procedures for counting votes under the optional preferential, and the proportional systems and the publication of data in relation to counts.

What this will mean for your council

- Among other things, the amendments will improve the efficiency of elections and reduce costs by:
 - removing the requirement for notices to be advertised in newspapers
 - further supporting the centralisation of council election operations to achieve efficiencies
 - moving away from "paper based" prescription and removing red tape
 - aligning local government electoral practices with State electoral practices thereby reducing the NSW Electoral Commission's (NSWEC) operating costs in relation to the administration of council elections
 - reducing data and other storage costs by allowing election data and materials to be disposed of after six months unless the council has resolved to fill vacancies using a countback
 - allowing consultation by election managers with client councils in the exercise of their functions in relation to the administration of elections.

Key points

- The amendments give effect to the Government's ongoing commitment to reduce councils' election costs.
- Amendments were made to the Regulation last year to give councils the option of avoiding the cost of by-elections in the first 18 months of councils' terms by filling vacancies by a countback. The option of countbacks will be available to councils following the September 2020 ordinary elections.
- Councils are reminded that amendments were also made to [clause 326 of the Regulation](#) last year to give election managers greater flexibility to determine the days and hours of operation of pre-poll voting offices between the twelfth and first days before election day.
- Earlier this year, the Government contributed close to \$20m to the NSWEC's corporate overheads for the September 2020 local government elections to ensure these costs are not passed on to councils.
- Early next year, the Government will be consulting with the local government sector on extending to all councils the option of conducting their elections by universal postal voting instead of attendance voting from the 2024 elections.

Where to go for further information

- Contact OLG's Council Governance Team by phone on (02) 4428 4100 or by email at olg@olg.nsw.gov.au.



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Office of
Local Government

Circular to Councils

Circular Details	Circular No 20-01 / 6 January 2020 / A686940
Previous Circular	Nil
Who should read this	Councillors / General Managers / All council staff
Contact	Ms Karen Purser, Acting Director Policy and Sector Development olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
Action required	Council to Implement

Recovery Information for Councils impacted by bushfires in NSW

The Office of Local Government (OLG) has agreed to be the State coordinating agency between affected local councils seeking assistance and councils who have the capacity to assist. OLG has teamed up with the City of Sydney, Sydney Resilience Office and Local Government NSW to provide a disaster recovery council resource co-ordination service to assist councils impacted by the bushfire crisis.

What's new or changing

- This circular contains recovery information for council areas with residents recently impacted by bushfires in NSW.

What this will mean for your council

- Councils may become a go-to point for people recently impacted by bushfires who are seeking assistance.
- Council staff should make themselves familiar with recovery information sources available to the public.
- Councils may be called upon to help with clean-up activities and/or to waive tip fees for the disposal of material directly related to the recent fires.
- A councils helping councils resource sharing initiative called the **Local Government Bushfire Recovery Support Group** has been established by OLG, the City of Sydney, Sydney Resilience Office and Local Government NSW to enable unaffected councils to offer assistance, resource sharing and temporary deployment of relief staff to councils in need.
- The Office of Emergency Management convenes the State Recovery Committee. Two General Managers Working Groups have been established as part of the Recovery Committee process. The General Managers Working Groups will be the central point to establish priority needs of local councils with particular regard to the needs that could be met through the assistance of other councils. The General Managers Working Groups are meeting weekly with the State Recovery Coordinators to discuss recovery issues.

Key points

General

- A disaster welfare assistance line has been established on 1800 018 444.
- A number of grants have been made available, such as grants of up to \$15,000 for business owners directly affected by bushfires and grants of up to \$15,000 for bushfire affected primary producers.

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- A number of allowances are available for individuals affected by recent fires, such as a one-off payment of \$1,000 per adult and \$400 per child for people who have lost their properties or whose properties have been severely damaged.
- Housing assistance is available to support people via temporary accommodation.
- A number of disaster welfare assistance points have been established.
- Free mental health telephone support is available 24/7 via the Mental Health Line, Lifeline, Mensline, Kids Helpline and Beyond Blue.

Waste disposal

- The NSW Government is waiving waste levy fees for residents disposing of bushfire-generated waste at nominated facilities.
- Councils should check whether the fees adopted for council operated tips already include a provision allowing council to waive fees in circumstances of a bushfire emergency.
- If there is no such provision councils may choose to explore the use of their power under section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993 to grant financial assistance to fire-affected persons.
- This could occur by way of free waste disposal vouchers. Alternatively, councils may resolve to grant a "tip fee" amnesty. To adopt either option council will need a resolution. The terms of the resolution would authorise the nature and terms of the amnesty.
- Whether public notice of 28 days would be required under section 356(2) will depend on the nature of the proposed amnesty. It could apply uniformly to all persons within the council's area or it could apply to a significant group of persons within the council's area.
- Councils must keep records of the total value of any amnesty or financial assistance provided for future financial reporting requirements. Councils should later ratify the loss in revenue due to the amnesty as an expense against the revenue budget.
- In establishing an amnesty councils should be guided by their own legal advice.

Where to go for further information

- For recovery information, information fact sheets and updates please visit the following useful sites:
 - www.emergency.nsw.gov.au
 - <https://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au/Pages/for-the-community/disaster-assistance/Northern-Fires-November-2019.aspx>
 - <https://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au/Documents/factsheets/community-recovery-information-november-northern-nsw-fires-2.pdf>
- **To offer resources** and/or specialist staff assistance, please contact the **Local Government Bushfire Recovery Support Group** on 02 9246 7709 or recovery@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.
- **Requests for assistance** can be directed to the Office of Emergency Management State Recovery Committee - General Managers Groups, or directly to the Office of Local Government on olg@olg.nsw.gov.au.

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Office of
Local Government

Circular to Councils

Circular Details	Circular No 20-02 / 16 January 2019 / A687470
Previous Circular	N/A
Who should read this	Councillors / General Managers / All council staff
Contact	Council Engagement Team / 02 4428 4100 / olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
Action required	Information

Exemption for activities under Part 3 of the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act)

What's new or changing

- On 10 January 2020, the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment, the Hon Sussan Ley MP, granted an exemption for NSW State agencies and local councils from the application of all of the provisions of Part 3 of the EPBC Act (other than sections 21, 22A, 24D, 24E, 27B and 27C), in relation to the following actions:
"the taking of firefighting activities, fire prevention activities and fire recovery activities in New South Wales in response to any bushfires that occur or have occurred during the 2019/2020 bushfire season".
- These activities are defined in the decision as follows:
 - firefighting activities** means emergency actions taken to prevent bushfires damaging life, property or matters of national environmental significance.
 - fire prevention activities** means urgent preventative actions taken to prevent the spread or reduce the severity of fires. This includes back burning, clearance of vegetation and building of fire breaks.
 - fire recovery activities** means urgent actions taken in the recovery from damage from bushfires. This includes clearance of vegetation that has been damaged as a result of bushfires, and urgent repair or replacement of essential infrastructure damaged by bushfire.

What this will mean for your council

- This exemption means that councils can continue to undertake these necessary firefighting, prevention and recovery activities which would usually require approval from the Commonwealth without seeking and obtaining that approval.
- Councils are reminded that, in undertaking these activities they must continue to comply with all applicable State legislation and requirements of relevant NSW agencies (eg: obtaining a *Bush Fire Hazard Reduction certificate* from the NSW Rural Fire Service).

Key points

- The NSW Government recognises the critical role that local councils play in ensuring local communities are protected from the threat of bushfires and in recovering from bushfire.
- On 9 January 2020, the NSW Government made an application to Minister Ley seeking an exemption for local councils and State agencies under section 158 of the Commonwealth EPBC Act to undertake emergency works and recovery actions associated with the bushfires.
- In granting the exemption, Minister Ley determined that it was in the national interest and that the exemption will enable bushfire preparation, response and recovery activities to be undertaken by State agencies and local councils in a timely manner without needing approvals under the Commonwealth EPBC Act.

Where to go for further information

- Minister Ley's exemption decision and a statement of reasons can be accessed here:
<http://epbcnotices.environment.gov.au/exemptionnotices/exemptionnotice/?id=336751c4-4533-ea11-a115-005056842ad1>



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Office of
Local Government

Circular to Councils

Circular Details	Circular No 20-03 / 24 January 2020 / A688241
Previous Circular	N/A
Who should read this	Councillors / General Managers / Staff involved in bushfire recovery and procurement
Contact	Melissa Gibbs, Director Policy and Sector Development, olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
Action required	Council to Implement

Amendments to the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* to increase the tendering exemption threshold for contracts for bushfire recovery and operations

What's new or changing

- Section 55 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act) requires councils to invite tenders before entering into a wide range of contracts. This section also specifies a number of exemptions to this requirement.
- Section 55(3)(n)(i) of the Act currently exempts from the tendering requirements a contract involving an estimated expenditure of an amount of less than \$250,000.
- The *Local Government (General) Amendment (Tendering) Regulation 2020* augments this by extending the exception where the contract is primarily for the purposes of bushfire response and recovery.
- The exception will be limited to contracts entered into during the period 17 January 2020 to 1 July 2020 where the contract involves an expenditure of an amount less than \$500,000.

What this will mean for your council

- The tendering requirements are designed to ensure probity in the letting of contracts. However, this involves the application of time and resources.
- Many councils are having to undertake urgent bushfire protection, recovery, and remediation operations to assist their communities.
- While the Act provides several exceptions to the tendering requirements, the Government has provided a specific exception targeted at the current bushfire crisis.
- This provision will provide affected councils with greater certainty as to the availability of an exception, while allowing them to undertake urgent bushfire protection, recovery and remediation operations to help their communities recover and rebuild.
- Notwithstanding these temporary arrangements, councils should still strive to achieve best value for money in the expenditure of public funds.

Key points

- The NSW Government is committed to helping local councils and their communities recover and rebuild in the wake of the recent bushfire emergencies including cutting red tape.
- Many councils are having to undertake urgent bushfire protection, recovery, and remediation operations to assist their communities.
- The specific exemption to tendering requirements for councils will save time and resources when undertaking bushfire-related works.

Where to go for further information

- Contact OLG's Council Engagement Team by phone on (02) 4428 4100 or by email at olg@olg.nsw.gov.au.



Tim Hurst
Deputy Secretary
Local Government, Planning and Policy

Office of Local Government
5 O'Keefe Avenue NOWRA NSW 2541
Locked Bag 3015 NOWRA NSW 2541
T 02 4428 4100 F 02 4428 4199 TTY 02 4428 4209
E olg@olg.nsw.gov.au W www.olg.nsw.gov.au ABN 44 913 630 046



Shelley Hancock
Minister for Local Government

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 29 January 2020

ADMINISTRATOR APPOINTED TO BALRANALD SHIRE COUNCIL

Balranald Shire Council has been dismissed following a public inquiry which found it is plagued by entrenched performance and behavioural issues.

Minister for Local Government Shelley Hancock accepted the recommendation from the independent commissioner of the public inquiry to dismiss the council's mayor and councillors and appoint an administrator to address financial and structural issues.

The report, which has been tabled in Parliament, found:

- The council has failed to command the confidence of its community
- Councillors have failed to appreciate the need for sound and consistent financial principles, with division among councillors affecting decision making;
- An absence of understanding by councillors of the importance of transparency in decision making, including inappropriate closure of council meetings;
- The council has failed to act as a responsible employer, particularly regarding the interaction between councillors and council staff, resulting in the loss of valuable personnel; and
- The council has failed to comply with its obligations as Reserve Trust Manager under the Crown Lands Act in relation to Balranald Caravan Park.

"I have not taken the decision to dismiss the council lightly," Mrs Hancock said.

"The ratepayers of Balranald Shire deserve a strong council that is representing the best interests of the community.

"I have accepted the recommendation by Commissioner Roslyn McCulloch to dismiss the elected representatives and appoint an administrator to perform the role of the mayor and councillors until 2024.

"This course of action will provide the best possible way to strengthen the operation, performance and sustainability of the council and ensure it is serving the best interests of the local community."

Mike Colreavy has been appointed administrator of Balranald Shire Council. Mr Colreavy has 37 years' experience in the local government sector at metropolitan, regional and rural councils including holding various general manager positions.

The report of the public inquiry can be found on the Office of Local Government website [here](#).

MEDIA: Nicholas Story | 0438 255 020

9.2 2020 NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT - CALL FOR MOTIONS

File Number: RPT/20/15

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
 Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
 Reporting Officer: Gayle Marsden - Executive Assistant

Delivery Program Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Delivery Program Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

The 2020 National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) is being held in Canberra from 14-17 June 2020. The NGA provides an opportunity for councils to identify and discuss national issues of priority for the sector. Additionally the Far West JO has scheduled a board meeting to coincide with the Assembly.

Councillors are requested to consider the call for motions, which will need to be endorsed by council at the March meeting prior to submission to the NGA.

Recommendation

- (a) That Council notes the call for motions for inclusion in the National General Assembly's agenda by 27 March 2020 and that Council considers any motions at its meeting in March.
- (b) That Council nominates delegates to attend the National General Assembly of Local Government 14-17 June 2020 in Canberra, with travel dates being 14-19 June 2020 to accommodate attendance at the Far West JO board meeting.

Detailed Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to inform Council that the 2020 National General Assembly of Local Government is providing an opportunity for councils to identify and discuss national issues of priority for the sector.

Background Information

To be eligible for inclusion in the NGA business papers, motions must follow the principles set out by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Board, namely;

1. Be relevant to the work of local government nationally.
2. Be consistent with the themes of the NGA.
3. Complement or build on the policy objectives of your state and territory local government association.
4. Be submitted by a council which is a financial member of their state or territory local government association.
5. Propose a clear action and outcome.
6. Not to be advanced on behalf of external third parties which may seek to use the NGA to apply pressure to Board members or to gain national political exposure for

positions that are not directly relevant to the work of, or in the national interest of, local government.

Report Detail

Councillors are requested to submit items they would like council to consider for submission to the National General Assembly.

To assist Councils in preparing motions, a discussion paper has been prepared and is attached.

Councillors are requested to submit proposed motions to the GMEA by close of business on Friday 6 March 2020 to enable council to consider, at its March meeting, which motions should be submitted to the ALGA by its deadline of 11.59pm Friday 27 March 2020.

Councillors are also requested to nominate delegates to attend the NGA, noting that the Far West JO has scheduled a board meeting to coincide with this meeting, and is also arranging meetings with numerous Federal Ministers.

Conclusion

The National General Assembly of Local Government combined with a scheduled board meeting of the Far West JO ensures that the time and cost of attending the NGA are well justified.

Attachments

1. National General Assembly of Local Government Call for Motions 2020 Discussion Paper [↓](#)
2. Letter National General Assembly of Local Government - Call for Motions [↓](#)

**WORKING
TOGETHER
FOR
OUR
COMMUNITIES
NGA20**

Call for Motions
Discussion Paper 2020

14-17 June 2020
National Convention Centre Caberra

nga20.com.au



**AUSTRALIAN
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION**

KEY DATES

18 November 2019

Opening of Call for Motions

27 March 2020

Acceptance of motions close

14 - 17 June 2020

National General Assembly

To submit your motion go to:

alga.asn.au/nga20-motions/

SUBMITTING MOTIONS

The National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) is an important opportunity for you and your council to influence the national policy agenda.

To assist you to identify motions that address the theme of the 2020 NGA – Working Together for Our Communities, the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Secretariat has prepared this short discussion paper. You are encouraged to read all the sections of the paper but are not expected to respond to every question. Your motion/s can address one or more of the issues identified in the discussion paper.

Remember that the focus of the NGA is on partnerships and working together so your questions could focus on how Local Governments can work in partnership with the Australian Government to address the challenges our communities face, or the opportunities that are arising as we approach the crossroads before us.

Criteria for motions

To be eligible for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers, and subsequent debate on the floor of the NGA, motions must meet the following criteria:

1. be relevant to the work of local government nationally
2. not be focussed on a specific location or region – unless the project has national implications. You will be asked to justify why your motion has strategic importance and should be discussed at a national conference
3. be consistent with the themes of the NGA
4. complement or build on the policy objectives of your state and territory local government association
5. be submitted by a council which is a financial member of their state or territory local government association
6. propose a clear action and outcome i.e. call on the Australian Government to do something
7. not be advanced on behalf of external third parties that may seek to use the NGA to apply pressure to Board members, or to gain national political exposure for positions that are not directly relevant to the work of, or in the national interests of, local government.

OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER

Motions should generally be in a form that seeks the NGA's support for a particular action or policy change at the Federal level which will assist local governments to meet local community needs. Motions should commence as follows - This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to

e.g. This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to restore funding for local government Financial Assistance Grants to a level equal to at least 1% of Commonwealth taxation revenue.

In order to ensure efficient and effective debate where there are numerous motions on a similar issue, the ALGA Board NGA Subcommittee will group the motions together under an overarching strategic motion. The strategic motions have either been drafted by ALGA or are based on a motion submitted by a council which best summarises the subject matter. Debate will focus on the strategic motions. Associated sub-motions will be debated by exception only.

Motions should be lodged electronically using the online form available on the NGA website at: www.alga.asn.au. All motions require, among other things, a contact officer, a clear national objective, a summary of the key arguments in support of the motion, and endorsement of your council. **Motions should be received no later than 11:59pm AEST on Friday 27 March 2020.**

Please note that for every motion it is important to complete the background section on the form. Submitters of motions should not assume knowledge. The background section helps all delegates, including those with no previous knowledge of the issue, in their consideration of the motion.

All motions submitted will be reviewed by the ALGA Board's NGA Sub-Committee, as well as by state and territory local government associations to determine their eligibility for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers. When reviewing motions, the Sub-Committee considers the importance and relevance of the issue to local government.

Please note that motions should not be prescriptive in directing how the matter should be pursued. With the agreement of the relevant council, motions may be edited before inclusion in the NGA Business Papers to ensure consistency. If there are any questions about the substance or intent of a motion, ALGA will raise these with the nominated contact officer.

Any motion deemed to be primarily concerned with local or state issues will be referred to the relevant state or territory local government association and will not be included in the NGA Business Papers.

There is an expectation that any Council that submits a motion will be present at the National General Assembly to move and speak to the motion.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this discussion paper is to provide guidance to councils developing Motions for Debate at the 2020 National General Assembly (NGA). This NGA will focus on working together for our communities and how local governments can achieve success through partnerships. It will consider how strategic partnerships can assist councils to address the challenges and opportunities we are facing today and tomorrow.

Some of the challenges and opportunities facing Australia were outlined in the CSIRO's Australian National Outlook 2019. Many of the challenges have direct implications for local governments and the communities they represent and provide services for. These challenges can also be opportunities that, if seized and managed appropriately, can ensure that our councils and communities thrive. This will require long-term planning, significant effort, and a cultural shift that will rebuild trust in institutions and all tiers of government, encourage healthy risk taking, and incorporate environmental and social outcomes in decision-making.

Collaboration and partnerships across sectors and with a diverse range of organisations will be vital to develop and implement solutions to the challenges ahead and to seizing the opportunities that emerge.

The National Outlook

The Australia National Outlook 2019 released by the CSIRO¹ revealed that Australia is at a crossroads. The research highlighted that we need to think and act differently if we are to ensure a bright future where GDP per capita could be as much as 36% higher in 2060 and growth is environmentally sustainable and inclusive. Failure to adequately address the significant economic, environmental and social challenges identified would result in a slow decline.

The CSIRO identified six important challenges that are already taking hold or on the horizon:

- **The rise of Asia** – The development boom in China that fuelled strong demand for Australian commodities (particularly resource and energy exports) is tapering off as China transitions to a new phase of growth fuelled by domestic consumption and services. However, growth in Asia could also create significant opportunities for Australia. By 2030, the Asia-Pacific region is set to consume more than half of the world's food, 40% of its energy, and be home to an estimated 65% of the world's middle class, resulting in increased demand for Australia's quality produce and service exports including tourism, education, health and aged care services, entertainment and financial and professional services.

How can local government position its communities to reap the benefits of the rise of the Asian middle class and manage any impacts? What partnerships are important?

- **Technological change** – New disruptive technologies are transforming industries and the way people live, work, and interact with each other. They are also changing the skills that will be needed in the workforce of the future. In the face of declining academic results Australia faces difficulties in ensuring that the workforce is prepared for the jobs of the future. With adaptation strategies in place embracing technology can have a net positive outlook for jobs.

What are the pre-requisites for commitments to take advantage of technological change?

What adaptation strategies are required at a local level to ensure councils and local communities are ready for the jobs of the future? What partnerships may be required?

- **Climate change and environment** – a broad range of impacts will be experienced in Australia as a result of global climate change, the severity of which will depend on the effectiveness of global emission reductions and local adaptation. The impacts include more extremely high temperatures and few extremely low temperatures, less rainfall and more droughts in southern Australia, less snow, more intense rainfall and fire weather, and fewer but stronger cyclones, and sea level rise. These changes will increase stress on Australia's ecosystems that are already threatened, and significantly affect agriculture, forestry, fisheries, transport, health, tourism, finance and disaster risk management. It is possible to strive towards zero emissions through a range of actions that target key sectors including energy, land use, urban infrastructure and industrial systems.

How do we work together to ensure that there is local adaptation to climate change and climate extremes? What partnerships are available to achieve zero emissions?

- **Demographics** – Australia's population is estimated to reach 41 million by 2060. This increase will be accompanied by an ageing of the population resulting in a reduction in the proportion of working age people from 66% in 2018 to an estimated 60% in 2060. This will impact economic output and infrastructure requirements and place pressure on government budgets. The impacts of population growth are likely to be felt most strongly in urban environments, with Sydney and Melbourne projected to be home to 8-9 million people and Brisbane and Perth increasing to 4-5 million people. If density does not increase, more and more people will be distanced from jobs, higher education, health services and transport.

What partnerships and forward planning are required to manage the impact of population growth in urban areas? How do regional and rural areas work in partnership to realise the benefit of population growth?

- **Trust** – Trust in institutions including governments, businesses, non-government organisations and the media has declined significantly since 1993 when 42% trusted government compared with just 26% in 2016. The loss of trust threatens the social licence to operate for Australia's institutions, restricting their ability to enact long term strategies.
- *How can local governments utilise partnerships to strengthen our social licence to operate?*
- **Social cohesion** – like trust, social cohesion has declined falling from a baseline of 100 in 2007 to 88.5 in 2017, according to the Scanlon Foundation Index. This index considers survey respondents' sense of belonging and worth, social justice and equity, political participation and attitudes towards minorities and newcomers. The drivers of social cohesion are not fully understood but the following factors may all play a role: issues related to trust; financial stress, slow wage growth; poor housing affordability and its disproportionate affect on low income earners; and the rise of inequity.

How can local governments work in partnership with their communities and others to build and maintain social cohesion?

If Australia tackles these six challenges head on using a collaborative approach, we can achieve a bright future as a nation. However, there are five major shifts or changes that must occur. Each of these shifts have several “levers” that support their attainment. Local government has a role in some of the levers.

- An industry shift to enable a productive, inclusive and resilient economy with new strengths in both the domestic and export sectors
 - Increase the adoption of technology to boost productivity in existing industries that have historically supported Australia’s growth, as well as new industries.
 - Invest in skills to ensure a globally competitive workforce that is prepared for technology-enabled jobs of the future.
 - Develop export-facing growth industries that draw on Australia’s strengths and build competitive advantage in global markets and value chains.

What can be achieved through partnerships that can address the gap between regions that are struggling and those that are well-off?

- An urban shift to enable well-connected, affordable cities that offer more equal access to quality jobs, lifestyle amenities, education and other services.
 - Plan for higher-density, multicentre and well-connected capital cities to reduce urban sprawl and congestion.
 - Create mixed land use zones with diverse high-quality housing options to bring people closer to jobs, services and amenities.
 - Invest in transportation infrastructure, including mass-transit, autonomous vehicles and active transit, such as walking and cycling.

Rural communities are essential to Australia’s wellbeing. What is required to ensure equitable access to quality jobs, lifestyle amenities, education and other services? What role do partnerships have to play in this?

Local governments are vital partners in achieving the urban shift? What needs to be brought to the partnerships by other parties? What policies need to be developed or changed?

- An ENERGY shift to manage Australia’s transition to a reliable, affordable, low-emissions energy economy that builds on Australia’s existing sources of comparative advantage.
 - Manage the transition to renewable sources of electricity, which will be driven by declining technology costs for generation, storage and grid support.
 - Improve energy productivity using available technologies to reduce household and industrial energy use.
 - Develop new low-emissions energy exports, such as hydrogen and high-voltage direct current power.

What role do local governments play in the energy shift? How will local governments and communities benefit?

- A LAND shift to create a profitable and sustainable mosaic of food, fibre and fuel production, carbon sequestration and biodiversity.
 - Invest in food and fibre productivity by harnessing digital and genomic technology, as well as using natural assets more efficiently.
 - Participate in new agricultural and environmental markets, such as carbon forestry, to capitalise on Australia's unique opportunities in global carbon markets.
 - Maintain, restore and invest in biodiversity and ecosystem health, which will be necessary to achieve increased productivity.

How can rural and regional communities' benefit from the land shift? What partnerships are required to achieve this shift?

- A CULTURE shift to encourage more engagement, curiosity, collaboration and solutions, and should be supported by inclusive civic and political institutions.
 - Rebuild trust and respect in Australia's political, business and social institutions.
 - Encourage a healthy culture of risk taking, curiosity and an acceptance of fear of failure to support entrepreneurship and innovation.
 - Recognise and include social and environmental outcomes in decision-making processes.

How can local governments build partnerships with their local communities that also benefit the nation as a whole?

How can local governments work in partnership with the Australian Government and other key stakeholders to achieve these shifts and other significant policy challenges?

Can a partnership approach address the current infrastructure backlog and ensure that infrastructure (including transport infrastructure) is available and fit for the future?

Trust

To effectively implement the scale of change and reform that will be required for the growing Australian population, government needs to focus on rebuilding trust. According to the *Edelman Trust Barometer*², trust in government around the world fell to record lows in 2018. While modest increases were reported in the 2019 study including in Australia, citizens around the world are struggling to trust that their governments are working in their best interest.

The 2018 report *Trust and Democracy in Australia: Democratic decline and renewal*³ revealed that Members of the Australian Parliament (MPs) in general are distrusted by nearly half the population (48 per cent) with only one in five (21 per cent) are willing to express that they trust them "a little bit". For State MPs and local councillors, the figure is slightly better with 31 % and 29 % respectively indicating they "trust them a little bit". Table 1 details the level of trust in different generations.

	Generation Z (1995-present)	Millennials (1980-94)	Generation X (1965-79)	Baby Boomers (1946-64)	Builders (1925-45)
State/Territory Government	38.5%	40.0%	26.7%	35.7%	44.1%
Federal Government	39.5%	31.5%	21.5%	30.8%	39.2%
Political parties	26.9%	15.6%	12.2%	16.7%	15.7%
Local Government	66.5%	47.1%	33.6%	47.5%	54.9%
Government ministers	27.5%	24.5%	15.7%	24.3%	31.1%
MPs in general	26.9%	23.2%	16.1%	20.2%	22.3%
Local Councillors	33.8%	31.7%	24.7%	27.2%	33.3%
Public Servants	45.4%	40.4%	34.4%	39.4%	35.9%
Your local MP	29.2%	30.5%	27.5%	31.2%	39.8%

Table 1: Levels of political trust in different generations (source: Stoker et al 2018)

The report revealed that one thing that appears to unite most Australians is complaining about their politicians with the three biggest grievances being:

- politicians are not accountable for broken promises;
- that they don't deal with the issues that really matter; and
- that big business/trade unions have too much power.

Professor Ken Smith, the Dean and CEO of the Australia and New Zealand School of Government (ANZSOG), is intent on understanding the factors that drive distrust in government and developing innovative ways to counter some of these trends. He has highlighted⁴ that people look at central government and see bureaucrats far removed from their own local circumstances. In Australia, where people live in very varied conditions, it is crucial for policymaking to be based in local realities. Yet locally-based solutions have not been the method of choice so far in Australian politics. The answer, according to Professor Smith, is devolved government, or subsidiarity where "policies are driven by and tailored to the needs of the local community – to avoid the problem of service provision that completely misses the mark".

Some commentary suggests that declining trust and confidence is driven by a perceived failure of our institutions to uphold promises and deliver outcomes. Research undertaken for *Trust and Democracy in Australia: Democratic decline and renewal*⁵ revealed a significant appetite for reform including the co-design of policies with ordinary Australians, citizen juries, to solve complex problems that parliament can't fix, and reforms aimed at creating a stronger community or local focus to decision-making.

The Review into the Australian Public Service (APS) had a focus on delivering local solutions⁶ not only in terms of place-based policy making but also by paying attention to communities (often specific communities determined by interest or identity). The review found that there is currently no guiding set of administrative principles or coordinated holistic architecture either within the APS or across the APS and other levels of government to fully support and enable local delivery solutions.

The report⁷ went on "evidence suggest the need for increasing localised solutions in genuine partnership with communities to achieve best social, economic and environmental outcomes. Top down policy making is no longer sufficient alone to deal with community expectations or the complexity of challenges faced in community settings. Communities themselves need to be part of the solutions, right from problem conception to design, implementation and evaluation". "There are opportunities for the APS to get closer to the communities it services directly and indirectly (through effective partnerships with other levels of government and civil society".

How can local governments address the trust deficit with their local communities and assist the Australian Government to do the same?

How can the Australian Government and local governments maximise the strengths and abilities of the public service (including council staff) and deliver in partnership for our communities?

How can we draw on the strengths and resourcefulness of local governments and local communities to work in partnership with the Australian Government to tackle issues of national significance and lift key economic and social indicators?

What do local governments bring to the table to tackle issues of national significance?

REFERENCES

PAGE 4

1. CSIRO (2019) Australian National Outlook 2019 Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation

PAGE 7

2. Edelman (2019) 2019 Edelman Trust Barometer Global Report <https://www.edelman.com.au/research/trust-barometer-2019>

3. Stoker, G; Evans, M and Halupka, M (2018) Trust and Democracy in Australia: Democratic decline and renewal. Report No.1 Democracy 2025 Canberra

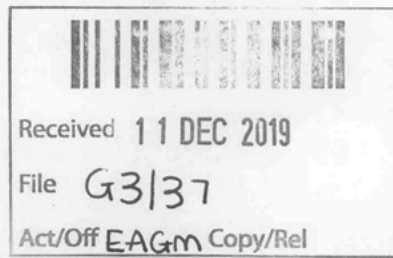
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4. Centre for Public Impact (2019) Subsidiarity, leadership and an empowered public service: keys to rebuilding trust in government. <https://www.themandarin.com.au/98763-subsidiarity-leadership-and-an-empowered-public-service-keys-to-rebuilding-trust-in-government/>

5. Stoker, G; Evans, M and Halupka, M (2018) Trust and Democracy in Australia: Democratic Decline and Renewal. Report No.1 Democracy 2025 Canberra

6. Althaus, C and McGregor C (2019) Ensuring a world-class Australian Public Service: delivering local solutions. An ANZSOG research paper for the Australian Public Service Review Panel Australian & New Zealand School of Government ANZSOG.EDU.AU

7. Ibid.



4 December 2019

Wentworth Shire Council
PO Box 81
WENTWORTH NSW 2648

Dear Mayor, Councillors and CEO (please distribute accordingly)

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) is now calling for Notices of Motions for National General Assembly 2020 (NGA).

The NGA provides a platform for Local Government to address national issues and advocate to the federal government on critical issues facing our sector.

The theme for the 2020 NGA is '*Working Together for our Communities*'. This theme acknowledges the need to come together and with other partners, including the Federal Government, to deliver for our communities.

ALGA received significant feedback on the motions process and topics from the 2018 and 2019 NGA. In response to the feedback received, ALGA has prepared a discussion paper that explores data that identifies critical areas local government needs to consider now and into the future.

To inform the submission of motions, please read the discussion paper (included with this letter) and ensure motions meet the identified criteria.

To be eligible for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers, and subsequent debate on the floor of the NGA, motions must meet the following criteria:

1. be relevant to the work of local government nationally;
2. be consistent with the themes of the NGA;
3. complement or build on the policy objectives of your state and territory local government association;
4. be from a council which is a financial member of their state or territory local government association;
5. propose a clear action and outcome; and
6. not be advanced on behalf of external third parties that may seek to use the NGA to apply pressure to Board members or to gain national political exposure for positions that are not directly relevant to the work of, or in the national interests of, local government.

All motions require, among other things, a contact officer, a clear national objective, a summary of the key arguments in support of the motion, and endorsement of your council. Motions should be lodged online at alga.asn.au no later than 11:59pm on Friday 27 March 2020.

Any administrative inquiries can be directed to ALGA by calling 02 6122 9400.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adrian Beresford-Wylie".

Adrian Beresford-Wylie
ALGA CEO

**WORKING
TOGETHER
FOR
OUR
COMMUNITIES
NGA20**

**Call for Motions
Discussion Paper 2020**

14-17 June 2020
National Convention Centre Caberra

nga20.com.au



**AUSTRALIAN
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION**

9.3 MDA STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP

File Number: RPT/20/53

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
 Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
 Reporting Officer: Gayle Marsden - Executive Assistant

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural assets
 Strategy: 3.5 Recognise the importance of a healthy Murray-Darling River system

Summary

The Murray Darling Association is holding a Strategic Planning Workshop on 12 – 13 March 2020 at Moama. The workshop is an opportunity for members and community leaders from across the Basin to play a significant role in the direction and future of the MDA; and discuss Basin-scale issues and opportunities. Council's delegates on the MDA executive are Councillors Elstone, Heywood and MacAllister.

Recommendation

That Council endorses the attendance of Councillors Elstone, Heywood and MacAllister as its delegates for the MDA Strategic Planning Workshop.

Detailed Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide information for council to consider representation at the MDA Strategic Planning Workshop in Moama from 12-13 March 2020.

Background

The Murray Darling Association is the peak body representing Local Government & communities across the Murray-Darling Basin. The Strategic Planning Workshop will bring together Local Government and community leaders to plan the future direction of the Murray Darling Association. Council delegates on the MDA executive are Cr MacAllister, Cr Heywood & Cr Elstone.

Report Detail

The workshop will cover the following:

- MDA Vision 2024
- CSIRO - how science and the MDA can partner on the big Basin issues
- Memberships - pricing and process
- Basin Communities Leadership Program

Council representation at this workshop will ensure that Wentworth Shire Council has a say in the future direction of the MDA and ensure that local issues are highlighted and in turn lobbied by the MDA.

Conclusion

Council has the opportunity to have three delegates attend the strategic planning workshop. Representation at this workshop will ensure that Wentworth Shire Council has a say in the future direction of the MDA and ensure that local issues are highlighted and in turn lobbied by the MDA.

Attachments

1. MDA Strategic Planning Workshop Program [↓](#)



MDA 2020 Strategic Workshop

You are invited to the MDA Strategic Workshop 2020.

The workshop is an opportunity for leaders across the Basin to play a significant role in the direction and future of the Murray Darling Association.

The workshop is also a fantastic opportunity for region chairs, executives and stakeholders to collaborate and share solutions to the Basin's most important challenges and opportunities.

We look forward to your attendance and participation.

Kind regards,

Emma Bradbury
Chief Executive Officer
Murray Darling Association

DAY ONE

8.30am

Welcome to the MDA Strategic 2020 Workshop!

CSIRO - how science and the MDA can partner on the big Basin issues
a) CSIRO science update
b) Local government problem sharing/solutions focused workshop

Strategic Plan - Vision 2024

a) Review SPW 2019 - Annual Review of Vision 2024

Branding and Identity

a) Core business
b) Name & Image
c) Consultation

Basin Communities Leadership Program

a) Curriculum Review
b) DISC Profiling

4.30pm

Day One Closing

6.30pm

Meet and greet dinner event.

Smart casual - drinks and food provided.

Maiden's Rest
1 Murray St Moama 2731

DAY TWO

8.30am

Welcome back!

Membership Services
a) Projects
b) Fee Structure
c) Review of Discounts (Region 7)

National Conference 2020

a) Theme
b) Speakers
c) 2021 - Host

Progress and Consolidation Review

Board meeting 396

Day Two Closing

4.00pm

Informal local pub dinner - pay as you go.

6.30pm

Border Inn
19/21 Meninya St
Moama NSW 2731

*All locations are within walking distance of the venue.

9.4 CHANGE OF MEETING DATE

File Number: RPT/20/16

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
 Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
 Reporting Officer: Gayle Marsden - Executive Assistant

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future
 Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

Easter 2020 falls on 10 April to 13 April 2020. The Ordinary Council meeting is scheduled for 15 April 2020.

Council has several staff who have already indicated they will be absent prior to Easter and over the Easter four day weekend. This may affect the reports and the agenda for the Ordinary Council meeting.

It is therefore proposed that the Ordinary Council meeting scheduled for 15 April 2020 be held on the 22 April 2020.

Recommendation

That the Ordinary Council meeting scheduled for 15 April 2020 be rescheduled to be held at Wentworth Shire Council Chambers at 10am on 22 April 2020.

Detailed Report

The Easter four day break occurs from 10 – 13 April 2020 inclusive and the Ordinary Council meeting is scheduled for the 15 April 2020. Several staff have indicated they will be taking leave prior to and including the Easter break. This may have an effect on reports and the agenda for the Ordinary Council meeting. To overcome this it is proposed that the Ordinary Council meeting scheduled for 15 April 2020 be moved back one week to 22 April 2020.

Attachments

Nil

9.5 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT - DECEMBER 2019

File Number: RPT/20/3

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Responsible Division: Finance and Policy

Reporting Officer: Vanessa Lock - Finance Officer

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

Rates and Charges collections for the month of December 2019 were \$412,609.90. After allowing for pensioner subsidies, the total levies collected are now 58.68%. For comparison purposes 57.7% of the levy had been collected at the end of December 2018. Council currently has \$28,124,952.91 in cash and investments.

Recommendation

That Council notes the monthly finance report.

Detailed Report

The purpose of this report is to indicate to Council the position in relation to the rate of collections and the balance of cash books.

Reconciliation and Balance of Funds held as at 31 December 2019

The reconciliation has been carried out between the Cash Book of each fund and the Bank Pass Sheet as at 31 December 2019.

	Combined Bank Account
Cash Balance as at 1 December 2019	\$ 2,465,683.80
Add: Receipts for the Period Ending 31 December 2019	\$ 3,385,630.03
Rates, Debtors, Miscellaneous	
Less: Payments for the Period Ending 31 December 2019	
Cash Book entries for this Month	\$ 3,726,360.92
Cash Balance at at 31 December 2019	\$ 2,124,952.91
Investments	
Total Investments as at 31 December 2019	\$ 26,000,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 28,124,952.91

Collection of Rates and Charges

Rates and Charges collections for the month of December 2019 were \$ 412,609.90. After allowing for pensioner subsidies, the total levies collected are now 58.68%. A summary of the Rates and Charges situation as at 31 December 2019 is as follows:

	Rates and Charges	
Levies		
Balance Outstanding at 30 June 2019 - Rates	1,048,851.71	
Balance Outstanding at 30 June 2019 - Water (Jan-June 2019)	913,670.40	
Rates and Charges Levied 24 July 2019	8,808,110.28	\$ 10,770,632.39
+ Additional Water Charges	317,236.30	
+ Supplementary Rates and Charges	97,127.49	
+ Additional Charges	38,418.92	
- Credit Adjustments	8,920.80	
- Abandonments	979.83	\$ 11,213,514.47
Deductions		
- Payments	6,402,754.62	
- Less Refunds of Payments	4,874.59	\$ 6,397,880.03
		\$ 4,815,634.44
- Pensioner Subsidy		
Government Subsidy	100,994.77	
Council Subsidy	81,297.56	\$ 182,292.33
Total Rates/Water Charges Outstanding		\$ 4,633,342.11

Note: For comparison purposes 57.70% of the levy had been collected at the end of December 2018.

Rates/Water write offs and adjustments

Rates and charges that have been written off under the delegated authority of the General Manager for the month of December 2019.

Rate Assessment	Date	Amount	Comment
1974.04	4.12.2019	\$ 1,075.55	Licence 547073 has been cancelled by Planning Industry and Environment therefore Property valuation has been cancelled
1974.04	4.12.2019	\$ 118.20	Interest accrued on Licence 547073
1686-1	6.12.2019	141.01	Lic 316502 has been cancelled by Planning Industry and Environment therefore Property valuation has been cancelled
1686-1	6.12.2019	0.43	Interest accrued on Licence 316502
1788-3	6.12.2019	540.45	Lic 450876 has been cancelled by Planning Industry and Environment therefore Property valuation has been cancelled
2279-2, 2284,2285- 2,2290	6.12.2019	1968.12	Properties have been amalgamated. Credit has been calculated from 13/8/2019 when the adjusted valuation was created
1786.1	9.12.2019	422	Lic 361456 has been cancelled by Planning Industry and Environment therefore Property valuation has been cancelled
441-0329	10.12.2019	314.5	Lic 410131 has been cancelled by Planning Industry and Environment therefore Property valuation has been cancelled
441.0329	10.12.2019	1.43	Interest accrued on Licence 410131
441-0323	10.12.2019	192.00	Lic 365384 has been cancelled by Planning Industry and Environment therefore Property valuation has been cancelled
1610-019	12.12.2019	720.95	Two lots have been amalgamated, only one sewerage and water charge now apply. Credit has been prorated from the date the new valuation was created

Council Loans Report

Name	Institution	Purpose	Interest Rate	Loan Amount	Amount Outstanding	Due Date
Loan 201	National Australia Bank	Buronga Landfill	4.550% Fixed	\$ 920,000.00	\$ 522,083.77	30/01/2025
Loan 202	ANZ Bank	Civic Centre	3.470% Fixed	\$ 850,000.00	\$ 732,891.01	21/10/2026
Loan 203	National Australia Bank	Midway Centre	3.586% Fixed	\$ 1,900,000.00	\$ 1,781,264.80	28/04/2023
Loan 204	Bendigo Bank	Buronga Landfill	5.290% Fixed	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,380,485.71	12/05/2037
				TOTAL	\$ 4,416,725.29	

Overtime and Travelling

Month	Dec-19	13 & 14						
Overtime								
	Time and a Half		Double Time		Double Time and Half		Triple Time	
Department	Hours	Amount	Hours	Amount	Hours	Amount	Hours	Amount
Administration								
Aerodrome								
Animal Services	3.00	\$ 135.84	4.00	\$ 241.49				
Caravan Park					20.00	\$ 1,129.20	4	271.01
Civil Works	6.00	\$ 282.59	11.00	\$ 649.15				
Finance	11.50	\$ 601.10						
Health & Planning	2.00	\$ 105.88	1.50	\$ 105.88				
Governance								
Human Resources	29.00	\$ 2,530.98	31.00	\$ 3,607.35				
Library	2.00	\$ 97.52						
Parks & Gardens	34.00	\$ 1,377.17	58.00	\$ 3,095.21				
Roads - Council	93.50	\$ 4,213.38	36.00	\$ 2,114.62				
Roads - RMS	8.00	\$ 323.52	4.00	\$ 219.71				
Roads & Engineering Indoor	5.00	\$ 286.72						
Tourism	4.25	\$ 166.50						
Waste Management	11.00	\$ 433.15	17.00	\$ 950.72				
Water & Waste Water	73.50	\$ 3,523.38	119.75	\$ 8,113.73				
Workshop								
Total	282.75	\$ 14,077.73	282.25	\$ 19,097.86	20.00	\$ 1,129.20	4.00	\$ 271.01
Travel Allowance								
Department	Kms	Amount						
Health & Planning	652	\$ 508.56						
Total	652	\$ 508.56						
		35,084.36						

Conclusion

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

Attachments

Nil

9.6 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT - JANUARY 2020

File Number: RPT/20/71

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy
Responsible Division: Finance and Policy
Reporting Officer: Vanessa Lock - Finance Officer

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future
Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

Rates and Charges collections for the month of January 2020 were \$212,694.67. After allowing for pensioner subsidies, the total levies collected are now 60.45%. For comparison purposes 58.07% of the levy had been collected at the end of January 2019. Council currently has \$27,494,561.47 in cash and investments.

Recommendation

That Council notes the monthly finance report.

Detailed Report

The purpose of this report is to indicate to Council the position in relation to the rate of collections and the balance of cash books.

Reconciliation and Balance of Funds held as at 31 January 2020

The reconciliation has been carried out between the Cash Book of each fund and the Bank Pass Sheet as at 31 January 2020.

Cash Balance as at 1 January 2020	\$	2,124,952.91
Add: Receipts for the Period Ending 31 January 2020	\$	2,664,262.82
Rates, Debtors, Miscellaneous		
Less: Payments for the Period Ending 31 January 2020		
Cash Book entries for this Month	\$	3,294,654.26
Cash Balance at at 31 January 2020	\$	1,494,561.47
Investments		
Total Investments as at 31 January 2020	\$	26,000,000.00
TOTAL	\$	27,494,561.47

Collection of Rates and Charges

Rates and Charges collections for the month of January 2020 were \$ 212,694.67. After allowing for pensioner subsidies, the total levies collected are now 60.45%. A summary of the Rates and Charges situation as at 31 January 2020 is as follows:

	Rates and Charges	
Levies		
Balance Outstanding at 30 June 2019 - Rates	1,048,851.71	
Balance Outstanding at 30 June 2019 - Water (Jan-June 2019)	913,670.40	
Rates and Charges Levied 24 July 2019	8,808,110.28	\$ 10,770,632.39
+ Additional Water Charges	317,236.30	
+ Supplementary Rates and Charges	98,426.47	
+ Additional Charges	61,806.38	
- Credit Adjustments	9,836.80	
- Abandonments	1,016.71	\$ 11,237,248.03
Deductions		
- Payments	6,615,449.29	
- Less Refunds of Payments	4,874.59	\$ 6,610,574.70
		\$ 4,626,673.33
- Pensioner Subsidy		
Government Subsidy	100,471.40	
Council Subsidy	82,197.80	\$ 182,669.20
Total Rates/Water Charges Outstanding		\$ 4,444,004.13

Note: For comparison purposes 58.07% of the levy had been collected at the end of January 2019.

Rates/Water write offs and adjustments

Rates and charges that have been written off under the delegated authority of the General Manager for the month of January 2019.

Account	Date	Amount	Comment
Debtor - Waste Management Services	16/01/2020	\$1,076.78	Credit December Buronga Landfill Charges as per discount agreement
Debtor - Waste Management Services	16/01/2020	\$1,621.56	Credit November Buronga Landfill Charges as per discount agreement
Rate Account 1170-2	8/01/2020	952.88	Land owned by NSW Land & Housing is now vacant land and therefore Non-Rateable Under Section 555 of the Local Government Act

Council Loans Report

Name	Institution	Purpose	Interest Rate	Loan Amount	Amount Outstanding	Due Date
Loan 201	National Australia Bank	Buronga Landfill	4.550% Fixed	\$ 920,000.00	\$ 522,083.77	30/01/2025
Loan 202	ANZ Bank	Civic Centre	3.470% Fixed	\$ 850,000.00	\$ 722,583.91	21/10/2026
Loan 203	National Australia Bank	Midway Centre	3.586% Fixed	\$ 1,900,000.00	\$ 1,781,264.80	28/04/2023
Loan 204	Bendigo Bank	Buronga Landfill	5.290% Fixed	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,376,741.71	12/05/2037
				TOTAL	\$ 4,402,674.19	

Overtime and Travelling

Overtime								
	Time and a Half		Double Time		Double Time and Half		Triple Time	
Department	Hours	Amount	Hours	Amount	Hours	Amount	Hours	Amount
Administration								
Animal Services	6.00	\$ 271.68	1.50	\$ 90.56				
Caravan Park					17.50	\$ 988.05		
Civil Works	18.00	\$ 870.18	5.00	\$ 345.37			19.50	\$1,321.18
Finance	4.75	\$ 254.44						
Human Services	23.00	\$ 2,007.33	29.00	\$ 3,374.64				
Governance								
Health & Planning			11.00	\$ 776.47				
Parks & Gardens	35.00	\$ 1,471.19	39.00	\$ 2,166.69				
Roads - Council	38.50	\$ 1,747.71	14.00	\$ 851.20				
Roads - RMS	32.00	\$ 1,453.91	40.50	\$ 2,350.86				
Tourism	4.25	\$ 170.66						
Waste Management	17.00	\$ 858.46	5.50	\$ 596.17				
Water & Waste Water	64.50	\$ 3,162.45	97.00	\$ 6,403.65				
Workshop								
Total	243.00	\$ 12,268.01	242.50	\$ 16,955.61	17.50	\$ 988.05	19.50	\$1,321.18
Travel Allowance								
Department	Kms	Amount						
Water & Waste Water	36.5	\$ 28.48						
Health & Planning	635.0	\$ 495.30						
Total	671.5	\$ 523.78						
		32,056.63						

Conclusion

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

Attachments

Nil

9.7 MONTHLY INVESTMENT REPORT - DECEMBER 2019

File Number: RPT/20/97

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy
Responsible Division: Finance and Policy
Reporting Officer: Hodi Beauliv - Manager Finance

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future
Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

As at 31 December 2019 Council had \$26,000,000.00 invested in term deposits. Council received \$32,437.26 from its investments for the month of December 2019.

In December 2019 Council investments averaged a rate of return of 1.70% and it currently has \$8,466,832.09 of internal restrictions and \$16,909,563.60 of external restrictions.

Recommendation

That Council notes the monthly investment report.

Detailed Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the current status of its investments.

Matters under consideration

As at 31 December 2019 Council had \$28,124,952.91 invested with seven financial institutions.

Breakdown of Total Funds Available

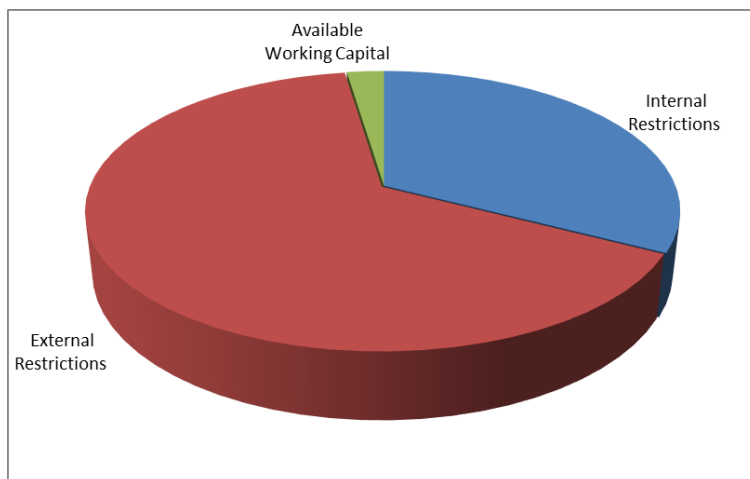
Financial Institution	Amount	Percentage of Available Funds
AMP	\$ 5,000,000.00	17.78%
Bank of Queensland	\$ 5,000,000.00	17.78%
BankWest	\$ 1,000,000.00	3.56%
Bendigo Bank	\$ 7,124,952.91	25.33%
IMB Bank	\$ 2,000,000.00	7.11%
Members Equity Bank	\$ 4,000,000.00	14.22%
National Australia Bank	\$ 4,000,000.00	14.22%
	\$ 28,124,952.91	100.00%

Investments on Hand as at 31 December

Investments on Hand as at 31 December 2019						
Investee	Date Invested	Date of Maturity	Effective Interest Rate	Investment Type	Amount Invested	Rating
AMP (2)	7/11/2019	7/05/2020	1.75%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB+
AMP (5)	25/09/2019	24/03/2020	1.75%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB+
AMP (6)	14/10/2019	14/04/2020	1.70%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB+
AMP (7)	25/11/2019	25/05/2020	1.90%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB+
AMP (9)	13/11/2019	13/05/2020	1.80%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB+
Bank of Queensland (2)	12/08/2019	11/02/2020	1.73%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB+
Bank of Queensland (6)	27/06/2019	23/01/2020	2.08%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB+
Bank of Queensland (7)	19/06/2019	17/03/2020	2.08%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB+
Bank of Queensland (8)	8/08/2019	4/02/2020	1.83%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB+
Bank of Queensland (9)	30/08/2019	26/02/2020	1.73%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB+
Bankwest	6/08/2019	3/02/2020	1.70%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A3/AA-
Bendigo Bank (3)	10/09/2019	10/01/2020	1.60%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB+
Bendigo Bank (6)	4/09/2019	4/03/2020	1.60%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB+
Bendigo Bank (7)	29/11/2019	29/04/2020	1.50%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB+
Bendigo Bank (9)	21/10/2019	21/02/2020	1.50%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB+
Bendigo Bank (10)	5/12/2019	3/05/2020	1.50%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB+
IMB Bank	9/12/2019	9/03/2020	1.59%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB
IMB Bank (2)	19/11/2019	19/02/2020	1.55%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB
Members Equity Bank	26/08/2019	24/02/2020	1.75%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB
Members Equity Bank (10)	17/09/2019	15/01/2020	1.65%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB
Members Equity Bank (9)	29/10/2019	31/03/2020	1.55%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A1+/AA-
Members Equity Bank (11)	19/11/2019	16/04/2020	1.55%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A1+/AA-
National Australia Bank (1)	11/09/2019	9/03/2020	1.73%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A1+/AA-
National Australia Bank (3)	3/12/2019	2/03/2020	1.54%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A1+/AA-
National Australia Bank (4)	30/09/2019	28/01/2020	1.68%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A1+/AA-
National Australia Bank (5)	13/09/2019	11/03/2020	1.73%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A1+/AA-
Total					\$ 26,000,000.00	
Representing:						
- Internal Restrictions						
- Employee Entitlements				\$ 2,376,437.00		
- Doubtful Debts				\$ 48,595.00		
- Tip Remediation				\$ 1,372,493.54		
- Future Development Reserve				\$ 1,113,213.94		
- Trust Account				\$ 356,092.61		
- Capital Projects				\$ 1,000,000.00		
- Plant Replacement Reserve				\$ 2,200,000.00	\$ 8,466,832.09	
- External Restrictions						
- Water Fund				\$ 9,589,026.25		
- Sewer Fund				\$ 2,640,367.73		
- Developer Contributions Reserve				\$ 619,065.20		
- Domestic Waste Management Reserve				\$ 104,796.78		
- Unexpended Grants				\$ 3,109,117.32		
- Crown Reserves Reserve				\$ 333,116.80		
- Loan Guarantee Reserve				\$ 10,774.04		
- Prepayments Cemeteries				\$ 503,299.48	\$ 16,909,563.60	
- Day to Day Liquidity					\$ 623,604.31	
					\$ 26,000,000.00	
Operating Account					\$ 2,124,952.91	
Total Funds Available					\$ 28,124,952.91	

Note: Ratings provided are from Moody's and Standard & Poors Rating Agencies

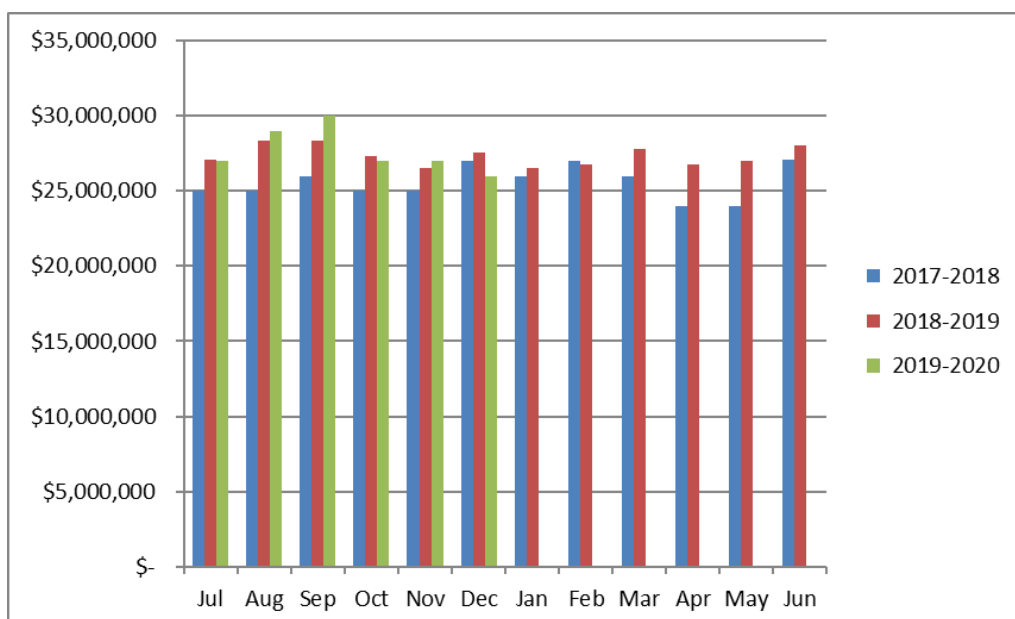
Breakdown



Summary – Unexpended Grants as at 31 December 2019

Grant	Amount
Block Grant	\$810,205.09
Roads to Recovery	\$0.00
Pooncarie Weir	\$77,746.00
RFS R & M Grant 2011-2018	\$260,923.00
Financial Assistance Grant 2019/20 Received in Advance	\$1,542,194.50
Drought Communities Programme	\$64,272.20
Stronger Country Communities Fund	\$353,776.53
Total	\$3,109,117.32

Total funds invested

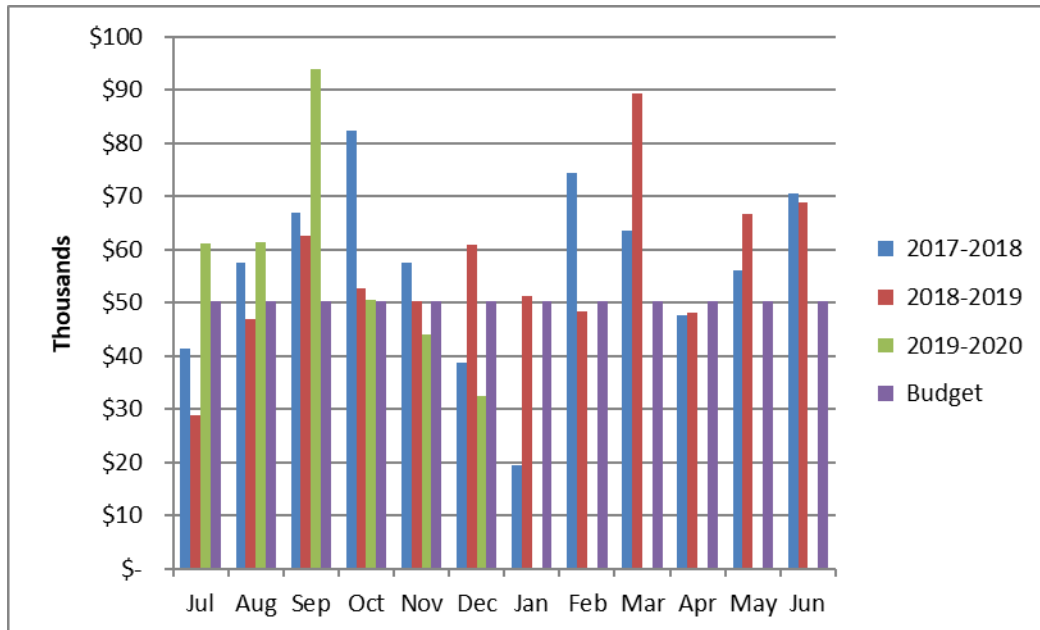


Four term deposits matured in December earning Council \$32,437.26 in interest. The budget for December was \$50,212.50. Year to date Council has received \$343,315.07 in interest. The year to date budget is \$301,275.00.

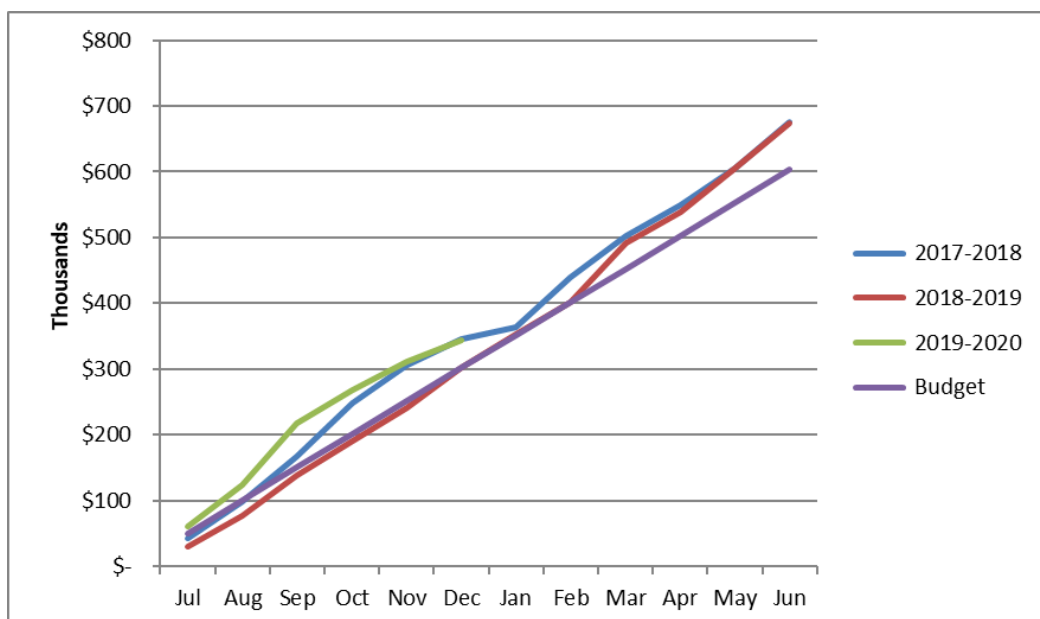
Investments maturing in December 2019

Investee	Date Invested	Date of Maturity	Effective Interest Rate	Investment Type	Amount Invested	Interest Earned
AMP (8)	19/06/2019	17/12/2019	2.35%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 11,653.42
Bank of Queensland (5)	13/06/2019	10/12/2019	2.13%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 10,504.11
IMB Bank	9/09/2019	9/12/2019	1.71%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 4,263.29
National Australia Bank (3)	5/08/2019	3/12/2019	1.83%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 6,016.44
Total						\$ 32,437.26

Interest received December 2019

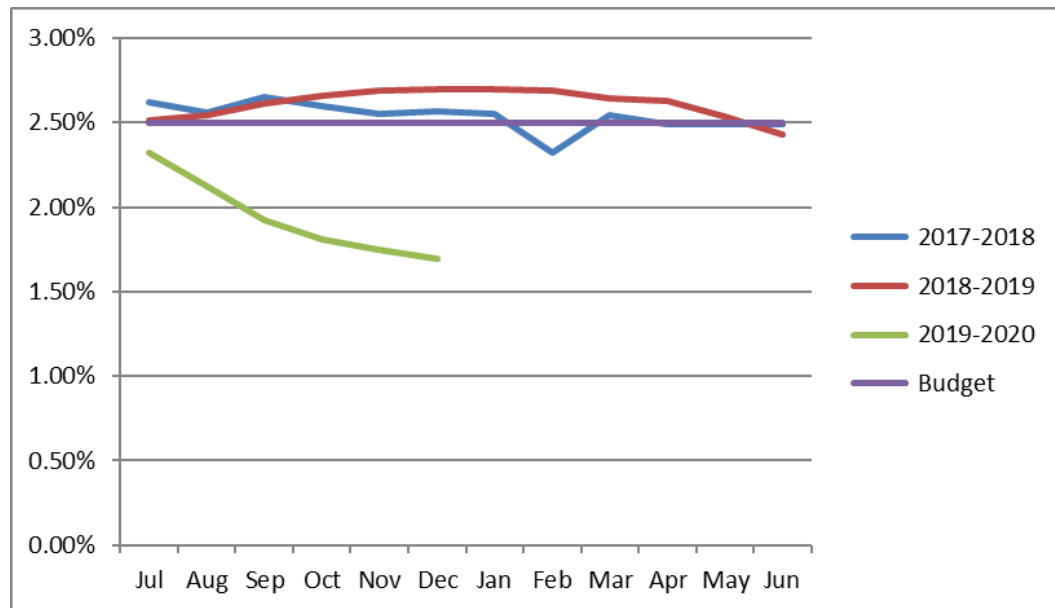


Total Interest received July 2019 – June 2020



For December 2019 Council's investments returned an effective average rate of 1.70%. Year to date the effective average rate has been 1.94%. The budget for 2019-2020 is 2.50%.

Effective average Interest Rate



Conclusion

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

Council is investing its funds prudently to optimise returns and reduce exposure to risk in accordance with legislation and its own investment policy.

Attachments

Nil

9.8 MONTHLY INVESTMENT REPORT - JANUARY 2019

File Number: RPT/20/99

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy
Responsible Division: Finance and Policy
Reporting Officer: Hodi Beauliv - Manager Finance

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future
Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

As at 31 January 2020 Council had \$26,000,000.00 invested in term deposits. Council received \$28,263.02 from its investments for the month of January 2020.

In January 2020 Council investments averaged a rate of return of 1.67% and it currently has \$8,466,832.09 of internal restrictions and \$17,414,762.75 of external restrictions.

Recommendation

That Council notes the monthly investment report.

Detailed Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the current status of its investments.

Matters under consideration

As at 31 January 2020 Council had \$27,494,561.47 invested with seven financial institutions.

Breakdown of Total Funds Available

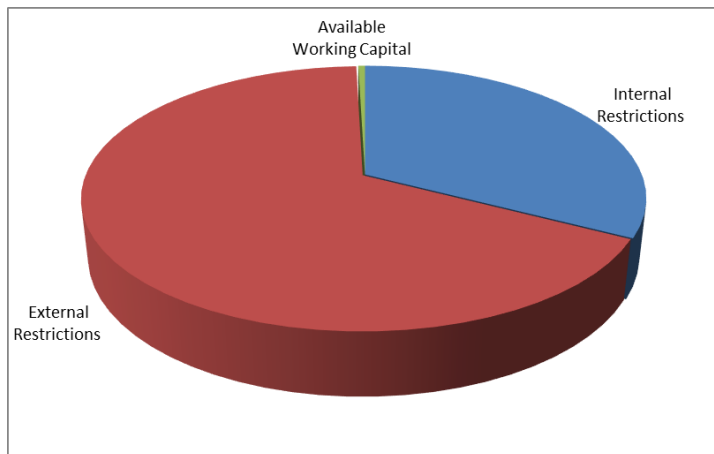
Financial Institution	Amount	Percentage of Available Funds
AMP	\$ 6,000,000.00	21.82%
Bank of Queensland	\$ 5,000,000.00	18.19%
BankWest	\$ 1,000,000.00	3.64%
Bendigo Bank	\$ 5,494,561.47	19.98%
IMB Bank	\$ 2,000,000.00	7.27%
Members Equity Bank	\$ 4,000,000.00	14.55%
National Australia Bank	\$ 4,000,000.00	14.55%
	\$ 27,494,561.47	100.00%

Investments on Hand as at 31 January

Investments on Hand as at 31 January 2020						
Investee	Date Invested	Date of Maturity	Effective Interest Rate	Investment Type	Amount Invested	Rating
AMP (2)	7/11/2019	7/05/2020	1.75%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB+
AMP (5)	25/09/2019	24/03/2020	1.75%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB+
AMP (6)	14/10/2019	14/04/2020	1.70%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB+
AMP (7)	25/11/2019	25/05/2020	1.90%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB+
AMP (9)	13/11/2019	13/05/2020	1.80%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB+
AMP (10)	10/01/2020	9/04/2020	1.75%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB+
Bank of Queensland (2)	12/08/2019	11/02/2020	1.73%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB+
Bank of Queensland (6)	23/01/2020	23/04/2020	1.53%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB+
Bank of Queensland (7)	19/06/2019	17/03/2020	2.08%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB+
Bank of Queensland (8)	8/08/2019	4/02/2020	1.83%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB+
Bank of Queensland (9)	30/08/2019	26/02/2020	1.73%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB+
Bankwest	6/08/2019	3/02/2020	1.70%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A3/AA-
Bendigo Bank (6)	4/09/2019	4/03/2020	1.60%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB+
Bendigo Bank (7)	29/11/2019	29/04/2020	1.50%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB+
Bendigo Bank (9)	21/10/2019	21/02/2020	1.50%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB+
Bendigo Bank (10)	5/12/2019	3/05/2020	1.50%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB+
IMB Bank	9/12/2019	9/03/2020	1.59%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB
IMB Bank (2)	19/11/2019	19/02/2020	1.55%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB
Members Equity Bank	26/08/2019	24/02/2020	1.75%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB
Members Equity Bank (10)	15/01/2020	16/06/2020	1.55%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB
Members Equity Bank (9)	29/10/2019	31/03/2020	1.55%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A1+/AA-
Members Equity Bank (11)	19/11/2019	16/04/2020	1.55%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A1+/AA-
National Australia Bank (1)	11/09/2019	9/03/2020	1.73%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A1+/AA-
National Australia Bank (3)	3/12/2019	2/03/2020	1.54%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A1+/AA-
National Australia Bank (4)	28/01/2020	27/04/2020	1.60%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A1+/AA-
National Australia Bank (5)	13/09/2019	11/03/2020	1.73%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A1+/AA-
Total					\$ 26,000,000.00	
Representing:						
- Internal Restrictions						
- Employee Entitlements				\$ 2,376,437.00		
- Doubtful Debts				\$ 48,595.00		
- Tip Remediation				\$ 1,372,493.54		
- Future Development Reserve				\$ 1,113,213.94		
- Trust Account				\$ 356,092.61		
- Capital Projects				\$ 1,000,000.00		
- Plant Replacement Reserve				\$ 2,200,000.00	\$ 8,466,832.09	
- External Restrictions						
- Water Fund				\$ 9,405,515.47		
- Sewer Fund				\$ 2,619,463.12		
- Developer Contributions Reserve				\$ 619,065.20		
- Domestic Waste Management Reserve				\$ 104,796.78		
- Unexpended Grants				\$ 3,818,731.86		
- Crown Reserves Reserve				\$ 333,116.80		
- Loan Guarantee Reserve				\$ 10,774.04		
- Prepayments Cemeteries				\$ 503,299.48	\$ 17,414,762.75	
- Day to Day Liquidity					\$ 118,405.16	
					\$ 26,000,000.00	
Operating Account					\$ 1,494,561.47	
Total Funds Available					\$ 27,494,561.47	

Note: Ratings provided are from Moody's and Standard & Poors Rating Agencies

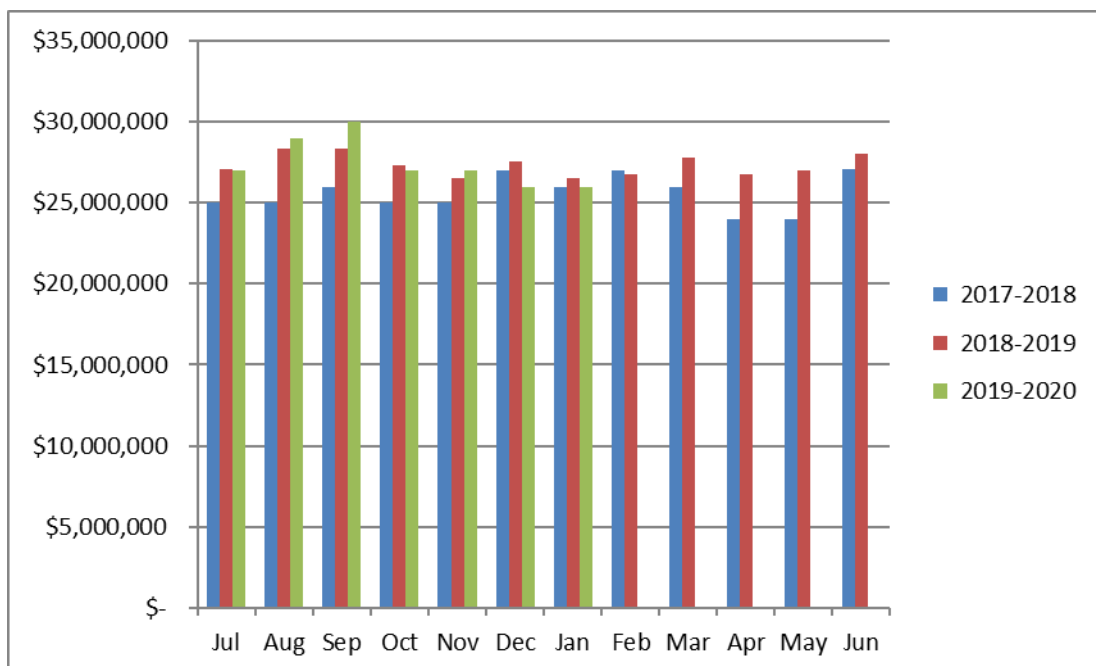
Breakdown



Summary – Unexpended Grants as at 31 January 2020

Grant	Amount
Block Grant	\$1,588,083.69
Roads to Recovery	\$0.00
Pooncarie Weir	\$77,746.00
RFS R & M Grant 2011-2018	\$260,923.00
Financial Assistance Grant 2019/20 Received in Advance	\$1,542,194.50
Drought Communities Programme	\$62,574.56
Stronger Country Communities Fund	\$287,210.11
Total	\$3,818,731.86

Total funds invested

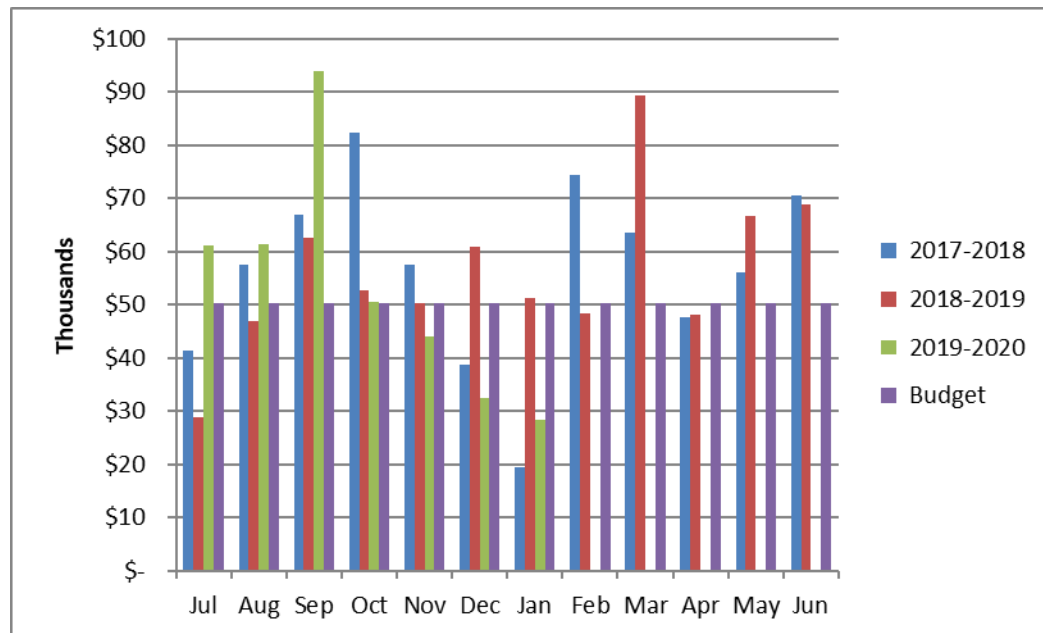


Four term deposits matured in January earning Council \$28,263.02 in interest. The budget for December was \$50,212.50. Year to date Council has received \$371,578.09 in interest. The year to date budget is \$351,487.50.

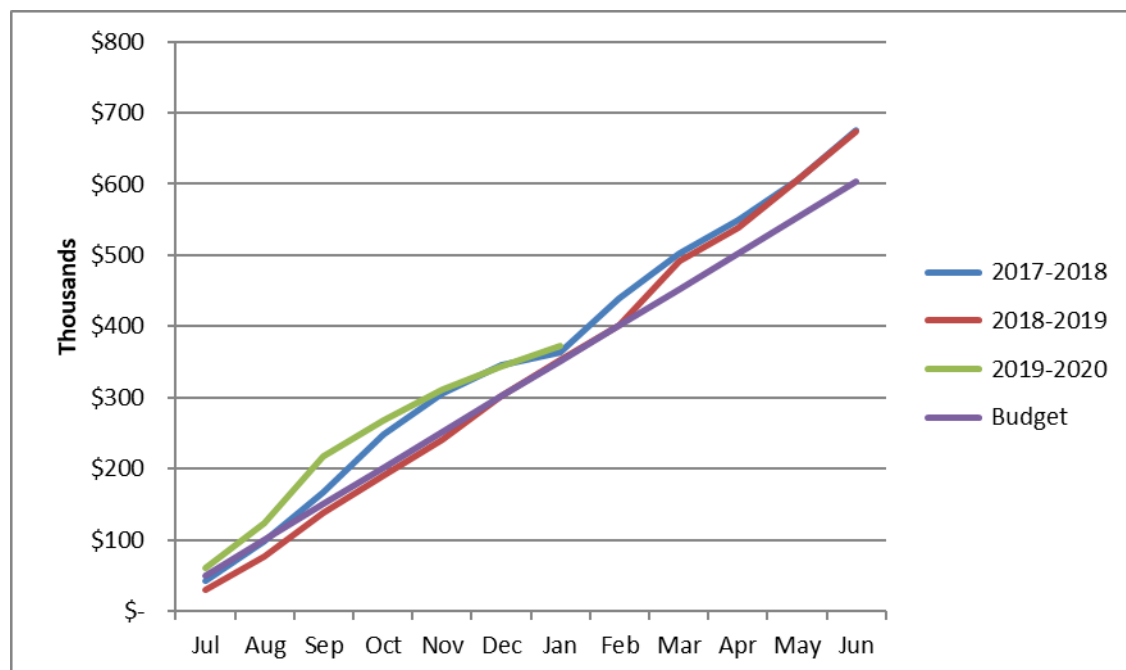
Investments maturing in January 2020

Investee	Date Invested	Date of Maturity	Effective Interest Rate	Investment Type	Amount Invested	Interest Earned
Bank of Queensland (6)	27/06/2019	23/01/2020	2.08%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 11,967.12
Bendigo Bank (3)	10/09/2019	10/01/2020	1.60%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 5,347.95
Members Equity Bank (10)	17/09/2019	15/01/2020	1.65%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 5,424.66
National Australia Bank (4)	30/09/2019	28/01/2020	1.68%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 5,523.29
Total						\$ 28,263.02

Interest received January 2020

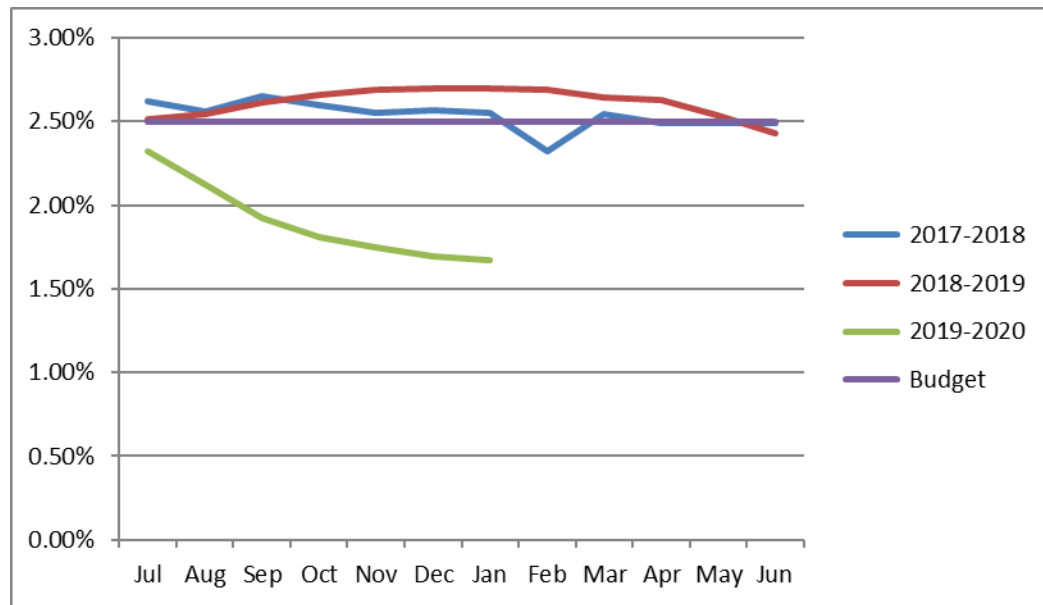


Total Interest received July 2019 – June 2020



For January 2020 Council's investments returned an effective average rate of 1.67%. Year to date the effective average rate has been 1.90%. The budget for 2019-2020 is 2.50%.

Effective average Interest Rate



Conclusion

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

Council is investing its funds prudently to optimise returns and reduce exposure to risk in accordance with legislation and its own investment policy.

Attachments

Nil

9.9 A40 ACQUISITION RIVERBOAT EFFLUENT STATION (EDS) & A39 ACCESS EASEMENT - ADAM STREET WENTWORTH

File Number: RPT/20/20

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy
 Responsible Division: Finance and Policy
 Reporting Officer: Hilary Dye - Property and Land Tenure Officer

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural assets
 Strategy: 3.2 Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure

Summary

A Council resolution is required to proceed with the Acquisition by the compulsory process of Lot 100 DP1253778 previously part of Lot 7344 DP1150178 and part of the bed of the Darling River and easement for access 5 metres wide over Lot 101 DP1253778 previously identified as Lot 7344 DP1150178.

Recommendation

1. That Council proceed to acquire the following land and easement by compulsory process under the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991 by authority contained in the Local Government Act 1993 for the purposes of the Adams Street Riverboat Effluent Disposal Station (EDS).
 - a. Lot 100 Deposited Plan 1253778 previously being part of Lot 7344 Deposited Plan 1150178 which is Crown Land and part of the bed of the Darling River.
 - b. An easement for access 5 metres wide shown as "C" in Deposited Plan 1253778 affecting Lot 101 Deposited Plan 1253778 which was previously identified as Lot 7344 Deposited Plan 1150178.
2. That minerals are to be excluded from this acquisition.
3. That the terms of the easements shall be as shown on Schedule 'D' attached
4. That these acquisitions are not for the purpose of resale.
5. That the necessary applications be made to the Minister for Local Government and the Governor.
6. That the Common Seal of Wentworth Shire Council be affixed to all documentation required to be sealed to give effect to this resolution.
7. That upon acquisition (Gazettal) the land is classified as operational land under Sections 31 & 34 of the Local Government Act 1993.

Detailed Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to commence the acquisition process for the subject land.

Background

Council is progressing the acquisition of land that houses essential public infrastructure. In this instance the infrastructure is the Riverboat Effluent Disposal Station located within Adams Street Reserve, Wentworth.

Matters under consideration

Council needs to rectify the land tenure status by acquiring the land that houses this essential public infrastructure and also enabling public access.

Legal, strategic, financial or policy implications

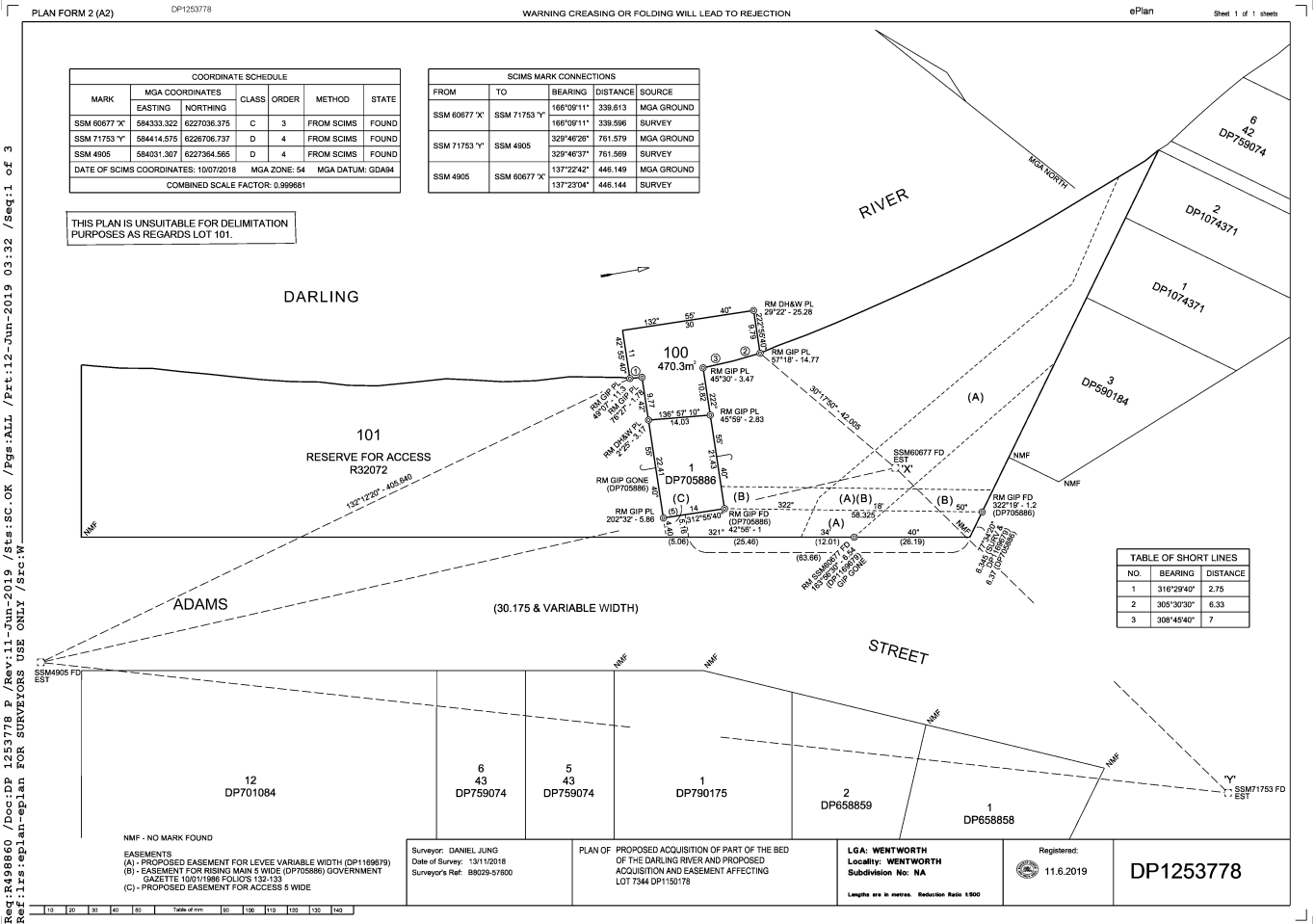
Council does not own the land on which this infrastructure is located, it is Crown Land.

Conclusion

This acquisition is considered a high priority as the infrastructure is in place.

Attachments

1. Deposited Plan 1253778P [↓](#)
2. Terms of Easement - Schedule D [↓](#)
3. Aerial map [↓](#)



SCHEDULE 'D'**Terms of Easements**Easement for Access

FULL AND FREE right for the Body having the benefit of this easement (being a public or local authority) and every person authorised by it from time to time and at all times to go, pass and repass for all purposes with or without materials, tools, implements, plant, machinery, or vehicles upon and over the surface of the servient tenement TOGETHER WITH the right to enter upon the servient tenement from time to time and at all times with any materials, tools, implements, plant machinery, or vehicles and to remain there for any reasonable time for the purpose of laying upon the surface of the servient tenement, rock, stone, gravel, bitumen, concrete or other material, or for the purpose of removing the surface and undersurface of the servient tenement and substituting therefor either in whole or part, rock, stone, gravel, bitumen, concrete or other material and of forming and maintaining a road thereon to such standards as may from time to time be determined by the Body having the benefit of this easement



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* This map is not to be sold or remade as part of a commercial product.

A40 Effluent Disposal Station (EDS) & A39 Easement for access, Adam Street Wentworth

Created by: Hilary Dye
Date: 15/01/2020



P.O. Box 81 Wentworth 2648
Tel: (03) 5027 5027 Fax: (03) 5027 5000
E: council@wentworth.nsw.gov.au
W: www.wentworth.nsw.gov.au

9.10 AF003 REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

File Number: RPT/20/36

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy
 Responsible Division: Finance and Policy
 Reporting Officer: Shenay Harris - Coordinator Finance and Policy

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future
 Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

Council has provided an allocation of \$187,000.00 (inclusive of GST) for the 2019/20 financial year for the consideration by Council, for the funding of requests from the community for financial assistance. In this financial year, \$104,436.00 has been granted to a variety of organisations through the annual fees and charges "Exemptions from the Application" process. The total value of requests granted so far for this financial year totals \$29,626.00.

The total value of requests for this February 2020 funding application period totals \$19,295.60 which if granted in full, would leave a balance in the Donations, Contributions and Grants fund of \$33,642.40.

Recommendation

That Council having considered the current requests for financial assistance, makes appropriate recommendations on the level of funding to be provided to each of these applications, from the Donations, Contributions and Grants program.

Detailed Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to consider requests for financial assistance that have been received within the current application period.

Background

Council's ability to make financial contribution and/or in kind assistance are set out in Section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993. To assist Council in its compliance requirement, Council has adopted a Donations, Contribution and Grants Policy (AF003), and has provided a funding allocation of \$187,000.00 (inclusive of GST) for the 2019/20 financial year. In this financial year, \$104,436.00 has been granted to a variety of organisations through the annual fees and charges "Exemption from the Application" process, as outlined in Appendix A – Bodies Granted Exemptions, Fees and Charges 2019/20.

Matters under consideration

In this current application period, there have been 10 requests for assistance received from Community organisations. The total value of the requests under consideration is \$19,295.60, which if granted in full would leave a balance of \$33,642.40 for the remainder of 2019/20.

Options

Based on the information contained in this report, the options available to address this matter are to:

- a) Consider granting the full value of all requests, or
- b) Consider reducing or declining some applications.

Attachments

1. DCG Donations Contributions & Grants Applications February 2020 [↓](#)
2. DCG Donations Contributions & Grants Application February 2020 (Under Separate Cover) [⇒](#)
3. DCG Donations Contributions & Grants Application - Mid Lachlan Aboriginal Housing (Under Separate Cover) [⇒](#)
4. DCG Donations Contributions & Grants Application - Vintage Machinery Society of Sunraysia (Under Separate Cover) [⇒](#)
5. DCG Donations Contributions & Grants Application - Pooncarie Christmas Tree (Under Separate Cover) [⇒](#)
6. DCG Donations Contributions & Grants Application - South West Water Users Association (Under Separate Cover) [⇒](#)
7. DCG Donations Contributions and Grants WRTI Financial Statements [⇒](#)
8. DCG Donations Contributions & Grants Application & Financial Statement - Wentworth District Rowing Club (Under Separate Cover) [⇒](#)
9. DCG Donations Contributions & Grants Application - Bottlebend Reserve Trust (Under Separate Cover) [⇒](#)
10. DCG Donations Contributions & Grants Application & Financial Statement - Bottlebend Reserve Land Trust (Under Separate Cover) [⇒](#)
11. DCG Donations Contributions & Grants Application & Financial Statement - Mildura to Portsea (Under Separate Cover) [⇒](#)
12. DCG Donations Contributions & Grants Application & Financial Statement - Wentworth District PreSchool - Long Day Care Centre (Under Separate Cover) [⇒](#)

DONATIONS, CONTRIBUTIONS AND GRANTS - FEBRUARY 2020			
Organisation/Recipient	Type of Request	\$ Value	Details of Request
Mid Lachlan Aboriginal Housing	Fee Waiver	\$ 234.00	Request for Fee Waiver of the Hire Fees for Tapio Park Dareton, including bin hire & for a Free Family Fun Day (open to the whole community) being held 5 December 2019.
Vintage Machinery Society of Sunraysia	Fee Waiver	\$ 159.60	Request for Fee Waiver of their Annual Licence Fee for the Werntworth Showgrounds.
Pooncarie Community Christmas Tree	Fee Waiver	\$ 222.00	Request for Fee Waiver of the hire fees for the Pooncarie Racecourse for the Annual Community Christmas Tree Event held 7 December 2019.
South West Water User Group	Fee Waiver	\$ 160.00	Request for Fee Waiver of the hire fees for Meeting Rooms 1 & 2 at the Buronga Midway Centre for their Annual General Meeting held 17 December 2019.
Wentworth Regional Tourism Incorporated	Grant	\$ 5,000.00	Request for funding towards generating the Wentworth Shire Official Visitors Guide, printing & stationary costs,etc.
Wentworth District Rowing Club	Grant	\$ 2,000.00	Request for Grant towards the 2020 Annual Easter Rowing Regatta.
Bottlebend Reserve Land Trust	Fee Waiver	\$ 520.00	Request for Fee Waiver of the hire fees for Meeting Rooms at the Buronga Midway Centre.
Bottlebend Reserve Land Trust	Grant	\$ 5,000.00	Request for Grant towards the replacement of the reserves boundary fence. Amount requested as per material cost quoted by Gregg & Sons Steel. Previously funded \$5,000 in February 2019 towards the fence replacement.
Mildura to Portsea	Grant	\$ 5,000.00	Request for Grant funding towards sending disadvantaged kids from Sunraysia to the Portsea Camp.
Wentworth District Pre-School - Long Day Care Centre	Grant	\$1,000.00	Request for Grant towards the Wentworth Long Day Care Centre Gala Night.
	TOTAL	\$ 19,295.60	

9.11 BREAST SCREEN NSW REQUEST FOR FEE WAIVER

File Number: RPT/20/98

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
 Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
 Reporting Officer: Annette Fraser - Coordinator Customer Service

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future
 Strategy: 4.6 Collaborate with others to achieve desired outcomes for the local community

Summary

Breast Screen NSW – Western Local Health District are a not for profit organisation bringing an important service to our region with one goal - to improve Breast Cancer Survival Rates.

Breast Screen NSW wish to conduct free Breast Screening at Fotherby Park Wentworth from 7 – 20 April 2020 and are seeking exemption from hire fees.

Recommendation

That Council grants a fee waiver of \$1,736.00 to Breast Screen NSW for the conduct of free breast screening from 7 – 20 April 2020.

Detailed Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to request an exemption from hire fees on behalf of Breast Screen NSW.

Background

Breastscreen NSW have approached Council seeking an exemption from hire fees to enable them to conduct free Breast Screening at Fotherby Park Wentworth from 7 – 20 April 2020. The fees would total \$1,736.00

Breast Screen NSW are not eligible to apply for a fee waiver via the Donations Contributions and Grants program (DCG) because they are a NSW Government organization, similar to Dareton Primary Health Services.

Report Detail

The Annual Fees and Charges are determined annually by council and in accordance with the adopted 2019/20 schedule the applicable fees have been calculated as follows:-

- 14 days use at \$96.00 per day = \$1,344.00
- 14 days power at \$28.00 per day = \$392.00

Conclusion

Council has historically granted fee reductions to Dareton Primary Health which is also run through NSW Health Services, and therefore Council is being asked to consider this request.

Attachments

Nil

9.12 REQUEST FOR EXPANDED USE OF MIDWAY CENTRE BASKETBALL STADIUM

File Number: RPT/20/104

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy
 Responsible Division: Finance and Policy
 Reporting Officer: Annette Fraser - Coordinator Customer Service

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.6 Collaborate with others to achieve desired outcomes for the local community

Summary

The Alcheringa Saints Basketball Club is the major user of the Midway Centre Stadium. The current regular use agreement permits 18 hours of use per week over 6 days. The club is requesting that this be increased by 3.5 hours per week by expanding use to 7 days per week.

Recommendation

That Council amends the Regular Use Agreement for the Alcheringa Basketball Club to include an additional 3.5 hours per week, being each Friday night between 4.30pm – 8.00pm at no additional cost.

Detailed Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to request that the Regular Use Agreement between Council and the Alcheringa Saints Basketball Club be amended to cover an additional 3.5 hours per week, bringing the clubs total use to 21.5 hours per week over 7 days per week.

Background

The Midway Centre redevelopment provided an expanded stadium facility to cater for competition basketball. Council entered into a Regular Use Agreement with the Alcheringa Saints Basketball Club (the Club) which has enabled the Club to utilize the facility as its primary training venue. The Club is experiencing a growth in the numbers of teams training at the venue, which can be attributed, in part, to the improved facilities.

In August 2018 a request was received to allow Sunday training from 9.00am – 1.00pm (4 hours) to cater for additional teams. Additional hours were added to the agreement at no additional charge to the Club.

The current Regular Use Agreement enables the Club to use the facilities for 18 hours per week, as follows:-

- Monday 5-8pm
- Tuesday 4-8pm
- Wednesday 4-6pm
- Thursday 4-6pm
- Saturday 9am-12pm
- Sunday 9am-1pm

Report Detail

The Club is seeking to increase its use of the Stadium to include each Friday night between 4.30pm and 8.00pm, which will enable additional teams to train at the facility.

In accordance with the adopted Annual Fees and Charges the advertised discounted hourly rate for stadium users that have entered into a Regular User agreement is \$30.00 per hour, (\$120.00 per hour less 75%), equating to \$540.00 per week (18 hours x \$30), or \$28,080.00 per annum for this hirer.

Written agreements for Regular Users of the Midway Centre were originally established to enable Council to set individual hire rates for frequent users of the Midway Centre, with each agreement negotiated separately and confidentially, to enable Council to consider the needs of individual organisations, and the overall community benefit, and to this end the Club has been provided with further discounts from the advertised rate, with the current agreement due for renewal on 30 June 2021.

Council is being requested to consider amending the Regular Use Agreement for the Alcheringa Basketball Club for an additional 3.5 hours per week with no additional charge. If Council was to charge the Club for the additional 3.5 hours the cost to the club would be an additional \$5,460.00 per annum. (3.5 hours x \$30 per hour x 52 weeks = \$5,460.00)

Conclusion

The Midway Centre stadium was expanded to cater for competition basketball, and the Alcheringa Saints Basketball Club are using the facility as its primary training venue. The Club is seeking to expand its use by 3.5 hours each week over 7 days per week. It is recommended that the expanded use be granted with no additional charge.

Attachments

1. Alcheringa Saints Basketball Club request to have access to Midway Stadium Friday Nights for training [↓](#)

Annette Fraser

From: Corey Iredale <rmc@smecc.org.au>
Sent: Friday, 7 February 2020 9:36 AM
To: Annette Fraser
Cc: alcheringabb@gmail.com
Subject: Midway Centre

Good morning Annette,
I am writing to you as President of the Alcheringa saints Basketball Club.

As time has progressed since our original lease agreement, we had had an increase in our number of teams participating in our club.

We believe being at Midway has had a direct impact on this.
We have 3 new teams, who are all kids from Buronga/Gol Gol area.
Also, we have an additional 3 teams of kids from around the district.

So in total, 6 new teams this season.
This has provided us a problem, in that the timetable agreed upon is now required to be expanded to kids training on a Friday between 4:30 – 8:00.

We are really happy that our relationship with WSC and the Midway Centre has allowed our club to expand in numbers and seek the support of WSC to facilitate these requirements.

We have also partnered with the Senior Mildura Heat program and are assisting them with court usage as they have current issues around their training times. This is providing exposure for WSC and Midway Centre and we feel this to be a positive experience for all concerned.

Thanks and regards
Corey

Corey Iredale
Regional Migration Coordinator



107-111 Twelfth Street
Mildura VIC 3500
Tel: 03 5022 1006
Mobile: 0427 077 715
Fax: 03 5021 2450
<http://www.smeccinc.org>

9.13 WILLOW BEND CARAVAN PARK REDEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS PLAN

File Number: RPT/20/96

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy
 Responsible Division: Finance and Policy
 Reporting Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future
 Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

Willow Bend Caravan Park is an important community asset to the town of Wentworth, however over the years the standard of the park's facilities has declined and is now in need of a major upgrade or replacement. In some circumstances the facilities are no longer compliant with modern standards.

A review of the park has found that the site has no set plan or design resulting in an inefficient use of space. By upgrading the civil infrastructure and redesigning the site will make better use of the available space therefore improving the functionality of the park which greatly enhances the amenity and financial sustainability of the park.

Council engaged the services of Intrend Designs to undertake the design and staging of a master plan for the redevelopment of the Willow Bend Caravan Park. The master plan outlines a multi stage program that allows Council to progress the redevelopment subject to funding availability.

The plan has been reviewed and endorsed by the Caravan Park Advisory Committee, it now requires ratification and a commitment by Council in order to commence implementation of the improvement plan.

Recommendation

That Council adopts the Willow Bend Caravan Park Redevelopment and Business Plan, and that funds be allocated in the 2020/2021 Operational Plan to commence stage 1 of the redevelopment.

Detailed Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement from Council for the proposed redevelopment of the Willow Bend Caravan Park.

Background

In December 2017 Wentworth Shire Council purchased the Willow Bend Caravan Park business and commenced operations. At the time of acquiring the business it was obvious that there were numerous issues with the caravan park including but not limited to:

- Aged facilities not matching year round tourist markets
- Low occupancy rates leading to poor revenue yield
- The need to enhance management and customer service
- Lack of promotion of the park
- Lack of a clear operational and development vision for the park.

Matters under consideration

Willow Bend Caravan Park is an important community asset to the town of Wentworth, however over the years the standard of the park's facilities has declined and is now in need of a major upgrade or replacement. In some circumstances the facilities are no longer compliant with modern standards.

A review of the park has found that the site has no set plan or design resulting in an inefficient use of space. By upgrading the civil infrastructure and redesigning the site will make better use of the available space therefore improving the functionality of the park which greatly enhances the amenity and financial sustainability of the park.

The provision of modern amenities and facilities is a critical element of a modern caravan park seeking to attract high levels of patronage, particularly noting that expectations regarding basic levels of services and facilities to be provided have substantially increased in recent decades.

Council engaged the services of Intrend Designs to undertake the design and staging of a master plan for the redevelopment of the Willow Bend Caravan Park. The master plan outlines a multi stage program that allows Council to progress the redevelopment subject to funding availability.

The objective is to develop a commercially sustainable master plan that has the capacity to guide the future operation and improvement of the park. Council requires the business plan to provide a forward implementation and investment plan that considers cost, benefit, risk and timeframes to ensure the park which operates in a highly competitive tourist accommodation market, maintains current patronage and improves overall occupancies by attracting new business.

The plan outlines a strategy which identifies the actions required for the redevelopment of the business with the aim of enhancing the park's market presence and commercial outcomes. The key outcomes that will be achieved as a result of the redevelopment include:

- Social equity – the improvement will provide an increased variety of types of sites and accommodation at a range of affordable price points. This will add to the choice for people who visit Wentworth and add to the provision of facilities in the area. New cabins installed in the park will include units specifically designed to accommodate people with restricted mobility or a disability.
- Environmental Quality – the design of facilities and cabins has incorporated the principles of ecological sustainability and responsibility in order to minimise the use of water, energy and non-renewable resources.
- Economic growth – the redevelopment will bring the caravan park into the modern age with a focus on providing a quality visitor experience at an affordable price, this will generate spending that will bring “new” money to the local economy.

It is intended that this plan to be a “living” document and be progressively updated when the budget, scope, staging and delivery process for the project is further developed or finalised.

The plan has also been prepared so that it can be used as a catalyst for Council to apply for grant funding as they come up and also to allow Council to comply with the Office of Local Government's Capital Expenditure Guidelines.

The plan has been reviewed and endorsed by the Caravan Park Advisory Committee, it now requires ratification and a commitment by Council in order to commence implementation of the improvement plan.

Legal, strategic, financial or policy implications

The redevelopment needs to proceed in order to meet consumer expectations, to address deteriorating assets and to increase the future commercial value of the business. Costs will continue to rise if the improvements outlined in this plan are delayed.

Conclusion

The redevelopment will not only enhance the capacity of the park to satisfy the requirements of visitors who already come to Wentworth but also allow the park to target new and emerging market opportunities with the potential to grow occupancy and revenue, whilst ensuring that the park is fully compliant with relevant standards and legislation.

Attachments

1. Willow Bend Caravan Park Redevelopment and Business Plan V3 [↓](#)



Wentworth
Shire Council

Revised Draft V3

Willow Bend Caravan Park

Redevelopment and Business Plan

January 2020

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OVERVIEW

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to detail how the proposed redevelopment of the Willow Bend Caravan Park will be managed and to provide a baseline for measurement of its success during the various stages of the project.

It is intended that the plan be a “living” document that is progressively updated when the budget, scope, staging and delivery process for the project is further developed or finalised.

This document examines the issues associated with the improvement of the caravan park, with the objective being to develop a commercially sustainable business strategy and master plan to guide the future development and operation of the park.

Council as owner of the business and Crown Land Manager of the reserve that the park operates on, requires the business plan to provide a forward implementation and investment plan that considers cost, benefit, risk and timeframes to ensure the park, which operates in a highly competitive tourist accommodation market is sustainably viable. This requires an understanding of the trends and product demands of the market, and how this might continue to emerge into the future over the life of this document.

Therefore this strategy will identify the actions required for the development of the business with the aim of enhancing the park’s market presence and commercial outcomes by promoting growth in revenue and profit. The requirement is for a practical and financially sustainable approach to the improvement of the park, where investment generates appropriate growth in occupancy and income.

Background

Willow Bend Caravan Park is located in Wentworth NSW on a Crown Reserve that is vested in Wentworth Shire Council, who has care and control of the reserve subject to the consent of the Minister for Lands and Forestry.

In December 2017 Council purchased the Caravan Park business and commenced operations. Since acquiring the business a review by Council has identified numerous issues with the caravan park including but not limited to:

- Aged facilities not matching year round tourist markets
- Low occupancy rates leading to poor revenue yield
- The need to enhance management and customer service
- Lack of promotion of the park
- Lack of a clear operational and development vision for the park.

At the time of purchase the park contained:

- An Office and Managers Residence
- 12 x On-site cabins
- 5 permanent cabins and vans
- 1 x main amenities block with male and female toilets/showers and laundry

- Camp Kitchen

The site is currently licenced for 116 sites which includes 10 permanent sites, however only 5 of those site are being utilised, therefore the current site utilisation within the parks is as follows:

- ❖ 12 x on-site cabin sites
- ❖ 5 x permanent sites
- ❖ 71 x powered sites
- ❖ 28 x unpowered camping sites

The caravan park is an important community asset to the town of Wentworth and provides a rest stop for travellers and visitors to the region, however over the years the standard of the facilities in the park has declined and is now in need of a major renovation or replacement. In some circumstances the facilities no longer meet modern standards.

Council engaged the services of Intrend Designs to prepare a concept design and staging of a master plan to facilitate the redevelopment of the Willow Bend Caravan Park. The master plan outlines a multi stage program that allows Council to progress the redevelopment subject to the availability of funding.

The brief for the master plan was to develop a commercially sustainable plan that has the capacity to guide the future operation and improvement of the park. The implementation of the master plan has been staged in order to better reflect anticipated cash flows, as well as ensuring as minimal disruption to guests as possible.

The redevelopment will include:

1. Replacement of current power, water and sewerage which currently are unable to meet peak demand requirements and pose significant safety risks.
2. Demolition of old facilities that are no longer fit for use
3. Realignment of the camping and caravan sites to meet compliance requirements.
4. Realignment of internal roads and improved traffic control
5. Installation of new ablutions, laundry and kitchen facilities to meet the requirements of the Local Government (Manufactured Home Estates, Caravan Parks, Camping Grounds and Moveable Dwellings) Regulation 2005
6. Replacing the 12 existing cabins and the installation of an additional 18 cabins
7. Installation of recreational facilities

Based on the above the proposed works include:

- Civil Works
 - Power upgrades (removal of overhead lines, installation of new switch boards and site powerheads) \$490,000
 - Water and Sewer main replacement \$340,000
- Site works \$520,000
 - Raising ground level to above 1 in 20 flood level
 - Reconfiguration of sites
 - Reconfiguration of Internal Roads
- Fire Safety Upgrades \$42,000
- Realignment of front entry and installation of Boom gates \$195,000
- New Amenity Block \$475,000
- New Camp Kitchen \$200,000

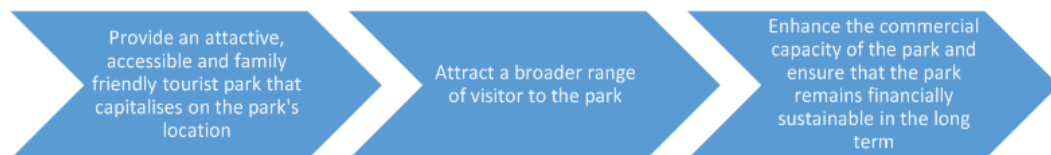
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| • Installation of Recreational Facilities | \$250,000 |
| • 30 New Cabins | \$4,200,000 |

The estimated cost of the entire redevelopment is \$6,712,000. Council as the Crown Land Manager will be responsible for all of the civil infrastructure assets (power, water, sewer, and internal roads) and fixed assets (office, amenities block, camp kitchen etc.) of the reserve. The estimated cost of these works is \$2,312,000. The caravan park business will be responsible for the new cabins at an estimated cost of \$4,200,000. This allows the business to determine the style and timing of the delivery of the upgraded accommodation. The accommodation then becomes the property of the business and will improve the value of the business if Council ever decided to sell it.

The current fee structure of the park is unsustainable and struggles to cover the full costs of running the park. These costs will only continue to increase if improvements to the park are not made. Given the current state of the park it would be very difficult to justify any large increases in fees, doing so would more than likely result in a reduction in patronage.

The redevelopment will provide an accommodation mix and price structure that will cover the costs of operating and managing the park, ensuring its long term sustainability.

The objectives of the redevelopment is to rectify the issues listed above, and achieve the following outcomes:



Upon completion of the redevelopment the new site utilisation will be as follows:

- 30 x on-site cabin site
- 5 x permanent cabin sites
- 65 x powered sites
- 15 unpowered camping sites

This equates to 115 sites. Redesigning the site to make better use of the available space will result in a loss of only one site, however the layout and functionality of the park will greatly improve the amenity and financial sustainability of the park.

The location of the park means that it is landlocked therefore there is no ability to expand the footprint of the park and increase the number of sites. This has resulted in the need to increase the number of sites that have the ability to produce a high annual yield. In this case there has been a significant reduction of low occupancy, low yield unpowered sites, to be replaced with high yield cabin accommodation sites.

While a key focus for the operation of the park relates to commercial viability there is a range of wider land management responsibilities to be addressed. In this context the operational and administrative framework established by Council in its role as the appointed Crown Land Manager must be structured to ensure that:

- ✓ The Crown and Community assets are used in accordance with legislative provisions of the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* (NSW) and the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW), policy goals and best practice commercial management;
- ✓ Accurate information is available to the Council on the performance of the park;
- ✓ Financial and human resources are used efficiently;
- ✓ Probity is achieved in the operation of the park;
- ✓ Employees comply with established policies and procedures including legal requirements with respect to workplace health and safety, industrial relations etc;
- ✓ The value of the assets of the Community, Council and the Crown are safeguarded and enhanced; and
- ✓ The administration and management of the park delivers identifiable public benefits.
- ✓ There should be a mix of accommodation types to ensure that all members of the public have the opportunity to stay at the park

Council recognises the economic, environmental and social importance of Crown Land to local communities and to the State. It also recognises the ongoing need to improve existing facilities and develop new ones, providing for the sustainability of Crown Land assets for the benefit of the people of NSW – now and into the future.

This plan details Council's proposal to ensure the sustainability of the Park in the longer term. Improvements have been designed to provide for the longevity of the Park, for the convenience and comfort of its users and to continue to meet safety and other regulatory requirements, as well as recognising the role of the Park in the local community.

BUSINESS CONTEXT

Tourism Industry

The New South Wales government has a long term vision to rebuild the economy, provide quality services, renovate infrastructure, restore government accountability and strengthen local environments and communities. Among the key priorities of this vision, tourism is identified as having a high potential for growth, with a key goal being *“to increase tourism in NSW with double the overnight visitor expenditure by 2020”*.

When compared to other Australian states, New South Wales continues to attract the highest number of domestic overnight visitors, receiving 32.5% of the market share. Over half of expenditure by domestic overnight visitors occurs in regional areas of New South Wales, contributing \$9.9 billion to regional communities across the state.

The visitor economy supply chain generates added economic multipliers, which means for every dollar spent of tourism generates an additional 87 cents in economic benefits flows to other parts of the economy. This greater than retail trade and mining.

Over the last 10 years, the overnight domestic tourism market has been steadily evolving in response to a variety of economic and employment factors, as well as significant shift in the accessibility and take-up of information systems such as the internet and mobile technologies.

There is now a desire to enjoy more breaks per year of shorter duration and in different locations. The time when families spent four weeks a year at their annual holiday destination is quickly becoming a thing of the past.

Improved road transport infrastructure, on a national level, is a major factor in the resurgence of the caravan and the use of other registered recreational vehicles. Improved accessibility has opened new markets, however fuel prices may impact the rate of future growth.

There has also been an emergence of new consumer markets and their particular needs such as environmental and technological considerations as well as a willingness for travellers to spend more money to achieve a higher “quality” holiday experience with many of the comforts of home.

Larger family groups are holidaying together and looking for opportunities to stay together. Intergenerational holidays are becoming more common. There is a growing expectation for high quality facilities as an essential part of the holiday experience. In relation to caravan parks, facilities that are in demand include:

- Swimming pools
- Camp kitchens/communal areas/bbq facilities
- Playgrounds and children’s activities
- New/clean amenities
- Wi-fi

Caravan Park Industry

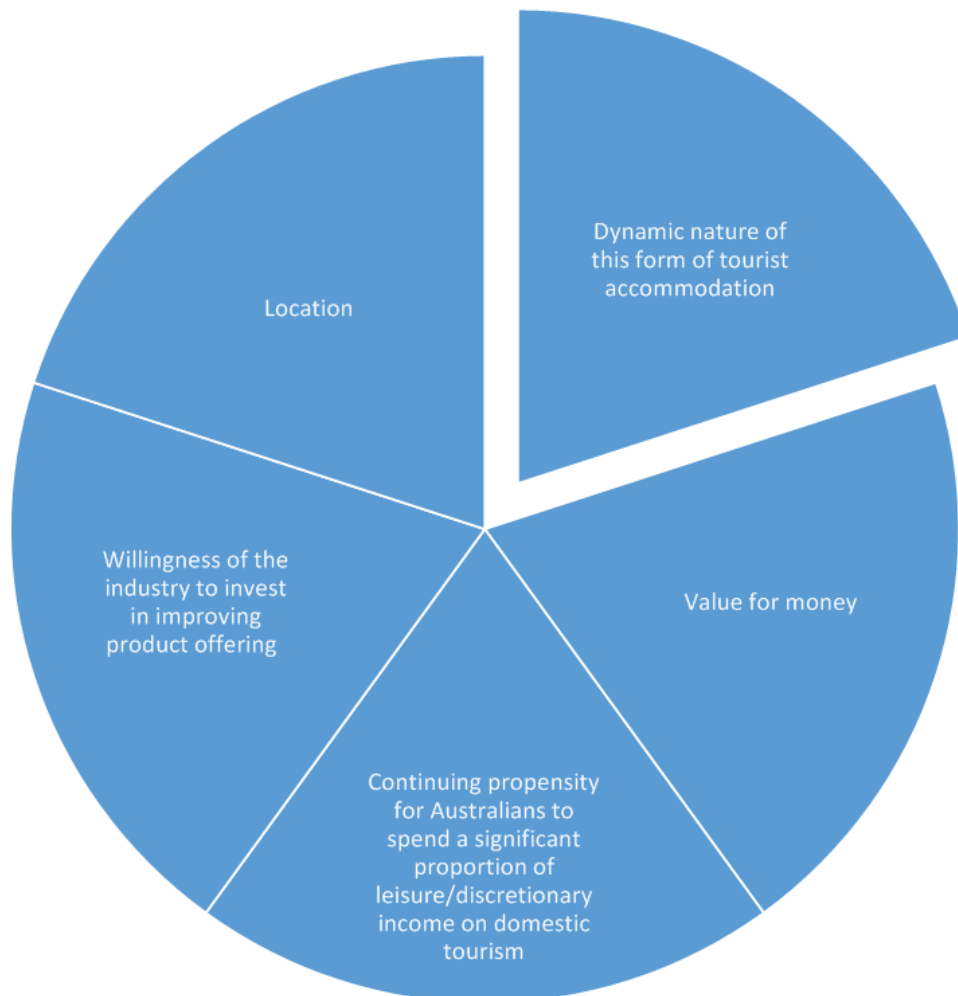
There are approximately 900 caravan parks in New South Wales. This is a decline of 10% compared to the early 1990’s. In many areas, there is development pressure on existing caravan parks on freehold land and, in many instances, the strategic value of the land has increased significantly. This

has often resulted in rezoning and redevelopment for residential or other forms of commercial or tourist land use. The number of sites in the remaining caravan parks is also decreasing. The design parameters from the 1960's and earlier are no longer appropriate for large, self-contained caravans, fifth wheelers, motor homes, large tents and cabins. Consequently, redesign and improvements to existing properties to meet consumer expectation and regulatory requirements usually result in a reduction in the total number of sites available in any given park.

The caravan and camping industry continues to be one of the fastest growing domestic tourism sectors in Australia. NSW is Australia's favourite State for caravanning and camping with 34% of all caravan and camping visitors in Australia heading to NSW. Most importantly, the caravan and camping industry accounts for 31% of holiday visitor nights to NSW regional and rural areas, making them a vitally important part of the State's tourism infrastructure.

Recent years have seen significant growth in the caravan, camper trailer and campervan marketplace, with around 20,000 new units being registered each year. Recreational vehicles represents an increasing market segment, with over 330,000 such vehicles now registered Australia-wide. At any one time, there are in the order of 90,000 caravans on Australian roads. Consequently, the industry has continued to experience consistent growth in the face of variable economic circumstances.

The ability of the caravan park and camping industry to thrive over recent years can be traced to a number of key factors including:



The majority of caravan parks in New South Wales are located close to, if not adjoining, a body of water, be it the sea, a lake or a river. Often caravan parks are situated in regional or local corridors of public or private open space. Because caravan parks often occupy prime sites, other forms of tourist development struggle to match their environmental attribute and facilities.

Motels, for example, are frequently located in purely urban locations or on major transport routes. Such locations are highly accessible and attractive to business travellers but less attractive to recreational travellers. Similarly, serviced apartments and units provide essentially an insular urban experience compared to the non-urban, communal experience of a caravan park

Caravan parks can best be described as villages without fences. One of the major reasons visitors choose to stay at a caravan park is the opportunity to interact with other campers and holidaymakers in a village like setting.

Unlike the dwellings visitors come from in an urban setting, sites at caravan parks are small and unfenced, visitors share their amenities with strangers in a way they would not normally do at home. Cooking is often communal along with the use of recreation and community facilities.

The caravan park industry has been willing to invest in upgrading facilities not just to meet regulatory compliance but because there is a sound economic basis to do so. The result has been increased profits for operators and value for money for the visitor. These investments in facility upgrades have been undertaken in an incremental fashion, allowing parks to be improved gradually, rectifying mistakes from the past on a progressive basis without the need for massive injections of capital.

The main areas of focus for facility upgrades include:

- New internal layouts. Layouts have been updated to allow more imaginative environments, to improve amenity and cater for new forms of accommodation.
- The provision of larger sites to cater for modern caravans and motorhomes.
- Caravan parks have replicated many of the features of resorts, particularly in terms of swimming pools and recreational facilities such as tennis courts. Facilities such as camp kitchens and community buildings have also been installed in order to enhance the communal nature of caravan parks
- Greater attention being paid to the visual qualities of parks, for example in terms of creating a sense of arrival, this has led to substantial improvements in landscaping on entrances and sites. In many cases innovative designs have resulted in a range of environmental benefits such as lower water consumption and better heat control.
- The environmental impacts of recreation and tourism are now better understood and appreciated. Potential impacts on adjoining waterways and habitat are now of greater concern with greater emphasis placed on upgrading sewerage systems and stormwater control.
- Improving equity of access to accommodation and facilities for caravan park guests.
- Maintaining and improving the financial performance of caravan parks by expanding the range of accommodation provided and exploring market opportunities particularly in the shoulder and low seasons

Caravan parks have the potential to make major contributions to regions given their location and economic performance. They are recognised as an integral component of the broader tourist accommodation market. As a consequence Willow Bend Caravan Park is in direct competition with hotels, motels and other caravan parks in the Local Government Area and in the broader Sunraysia region. This results in higher benchmarks and expectations in relation to the quality of infrastructure and delivery of services.

The increased demand for Caravan and Camping holidays in Australia by domestic and international markets is largely being driven by the decreasing value of the Australian dollar, global security fears and increased demand for unique outdoor experiences. As such, consumers are seeking holidays that provide value for money at various price points, experiences that help them get away from their busy urban lifestyles, and to undertake holidays in destinations that are far away from perceived security issues faced in many popular overseas tourist destinations.

The design of new facilities needs to continue to be focused on the development of a family friendly holiday destination that also caters effectively for groups and older travellers, consequently the

facilities that are provided must be able to safely accommodate high levels of use and well as how the Park interacts with adjoining public open spaces.

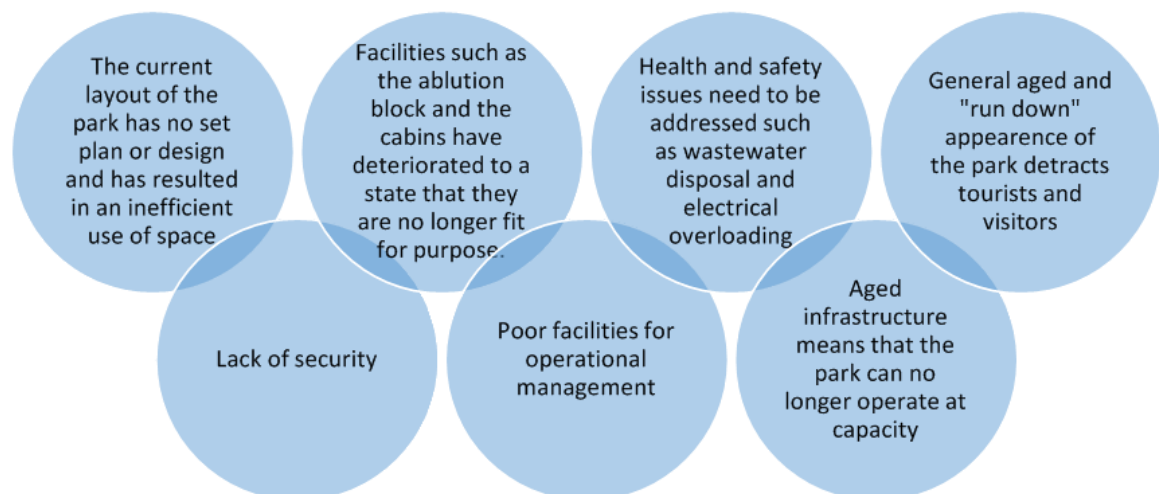
PROJECT SCOPE

Details of the Proposed Redevelopment

Since commencing management and operations of the park, gradual improvements have been implemented to the point where there is now a strong platform for the next phase of investment which can consolidate and enhance the quality of the park and further improve financial outcomes.

This is required in order to keep pace with evolving market trends, changing consumer expectations and contemporary land management imperatives. This combined with the location and environmental attributes of the park provide a sound basis for continuing improvement.

Wentworth Shire Council intends to undertake a multi stage redevelopment of the Willow Bend Caravan Park. The redevelopment will address a number of critical issues which affect the ongoing operation and viability of the facility including:



In order to allow the park to continue operating and generate revenue it is proposed that the redevelopment be undertaken in stages dependent on the availability of funding.

The design of the master plan was based on the following objectives:

- To ensure the park complies with all applicable statutory requirements of the Local Government (Manufactured Home Estates, Caravan Parks, Camping Grounds and Moveable Dwellings) Regulation 2005
- To provide and maintain facilities in a manner which minimises risk to park users and staff
- To design a facility which ensures commercial viability and is responsive to environmental, legal, social and technological imperatives
- To ensure that the environment of the park is managed and protected in accordance with sound ecological principles and for the enjoyment of guests.
- That sound environmental and ecological sustainable principles are incorporated into the design and management of the accommodation, facilities and infrastructure within the park
- To optimise park income by providing a range of quality tourist accommodation including opportunities for families, couples and groups within the construct of ecological sustainable development.

The redevelopment will build on the natural attributes of the park in order to achieve better utilisation of the available space, with an emphasis on a mix of high quality cabins as well as sites catering for modern larger caravans and motorhomes.

In terms of the future financial performance of the Willow Bend Caravan Park the proposed improvement program has been formulated with four principal aims:

- To create an appropriate balance between the provision of public open space and achieving profit outcomes from a business enterprise on public land;
- To maintain and improve the family focus of the accommodation, facilities and management of the Park;
- To enable Willow Bend to capture a fair share of the existing overnight tourist visitation to the region at tariff levels that are appropriate to the quality of the location; and
- To provide Willow Bend with the opportunity to capture new visitation from recognised growth areas in the caravan park and tourist accommodation marketplace.

This will position the caravan park to better meet the evolving demands of the visitor market. Whilst there is continuing demand for long stay caravan sites, the growth in demand across the industry has been in shorty stays and especially in upmarket cabin accommodation.

An increase in the number of on-site cabins will meet this demand for more upmarket shorty stay accommodation and will generate higher income from the same area of land. Continued provision of a substantial number of caravan and camping sites will satisfy the demand for those travellers seeking an inexpensive holiday option.

The provision of modern amenities and facilities is a critical element of a modern caravan park seeking to attract high levels of patronage, particularly noting that expectations regarding basic levels of services and facilities to be provided have substantially increased in recent decades. To this end the master plan has been designed to include:

- Well-appointed amenities blocks
- Provision of a multi-functional communal camp kitchen
- An appropriate site office which can perform a role as the focal point of the park, providing tourism advice and local insight, as well as creating a positive first impression in regards to the quality of the park and its facilities

- Safe and easy site access, with an entry design that provides for visitor parking as well as caravan and motor home booking and waiting bays. These are located prior to the security boom gates so as to avoid queuing and causing congestion at the main entry to the park.

Works to be undertaken

- ✓ Site works – raising the ground level to the 1 in 20 year flood and realignment of sites
- ✓ Realignment and construction on internal roads
- ✓ Updating internal power supply including distribution boards, cables and power heads to all sites and ancillary buildings
- ✓ Updating of sewerage, filtered water and irrigation systems
- ✓ Updating of fire safety systems
- ✓ Reconfiguration of main entry including addition of lay-by lanes and boom gates
- ✓ Demolition of existing amenities block and replacement with two smaller amenities blocks located at each end of the park
- ✓ Demolition of existing Camp Kitchen and replacement with new facility
- ✓ Installation of 30 new on-site cabins
- ✓ Installation of recreational facilities

All existing cabins have been renovated to extend their economic life and will continue to be used for as long as possible before being replaced with new cabins. When no longer required the older cabins will be sold to help offset costs of the redevelopment.

There is no “do nothing” option. The redevelopment needs to proceed in order to meet consumer expectations, to address deteriorating assets and to increase the future commercial value of the business. Costs will continue to rise if the improvements outlined in this plan are delayed.

The master plan provides for replacement or renewal of all major infrastructure throughout the park and has been designed to be affordable and staged dependant on cash flow availability. Based on customer feedback consideration should be given to installing 2-3 new cabins to meet current demand with additional cabins progressively added as demand dictates and funds become available.

It is expected that cost estimates for the works to be undertaken will be further refined and expanded as better information becomes available over the life of the project. Therefore the above estimates should not be treated as firm budgets, rather they are indicative budgets for the purposes of cost planning, cost control and predicting cash flows

The estimated cost of the entire redevelopment is \$6,712,000. Council as the Crown Land Manager is responsible for all of the civil infrastructure assets (power, water, sewer, internal roads) and fixed assets (office, amenities block, camp kitchen etc.) The estimated cost of these works is \$2,312,000. The caravan park business will be responsible for the new cabins at an estimated cost of \$4,200,000. This allows the business to determine the style and timing of the delivery of the upgraded accommodation. The cabins will then become the property of the business and will enhance its resale value should Council ever decide to sell it.

Council's Community Strategic Plan 2017-2026 recognised that against the backdrop of the Murray and Darling rivers, the Wentworth LGA boasts exceptional tourism opportunities, with outstanding natural assets that provide significant potential to increase the value of tourism to the LGA. The redevelopment of the Willow Bend Caravan Park will address the above priority in the following way:

Goal 2 – Wentworth is a Desirable Shire to Visit, Work and Invest

2.1 – Grow visitation to the shire by developing a quality visitor experience and promoting our destination

2.5 – Maintain/create desirable open spaces and recreation facilities

Goal 3 – Wentworth is a Community that Works to enhance and protect its physical and natural assets

3.2 – Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure

A key theme throughout the Community Strategic Plan is the emphasis placed on quality infrastructure and amenity in the towns and communities. The redevelopment of the Willow Bend Caravan Park will contribute significantly to the beautification of the area and improve the amenity to residents and visitors alike.

PROJECT ASSESSMENT

The caravan park and its operational framework has been investigated and analysed to establish an understanding of the key considerations that will impact on forward planning.

SWOT Analysis

Strengths

- The proposed masterplan is a modern design with a long term legacy which supports economic diversification into the future
- High demand for short term and transient accommodation
- Desirable location – unique and attractive riverfront setting
- The completed development will be compliant with all regulatory requirements
- Unused capacity
- Boat launching facilities are available nearby
- Easy walking distance to town centre and local shopping
- Wentworth is a recognised tourist destination with an established reputation.
- Visitors to the park generates income for the local community

Weaknesses

- Redevelopment will require staging to manage the cash flow demands of the project
- Disruption to park occupants during the construction
- Current fee structure is not sustainable
- Sites are small, below modern standards, therefore not compliant with the requirements of the Local Government (Manufactured Home Estates, Caravan Parks, Camping Grounds and Moveable Dwellings) Regulation 2005
- Underutilised space
- The layout of the park is illogical and internal access is dysfunctional.
- Congested entry area
- Roadways and surfacing are in need of formalisation and upgrade to ensure compliance with the above regulations
- Caravan Park is flood prone and needs to be built up to the 1 in 20 year flood level in order for a greater portion of the park to continue operating during a flood event.

- Although there are high levels of year round demand for cabin accommodation the range and quality of the cabins has not been significantly enhanced in many years and as result the client base is restricted.
- There is no accommodation that complies with requirements for disabled access
- There is no accommodation that address higher end demand for quality cabins
- The camp kitchen requires upgrade and expansion to become the social hub of the park
- Lack of quality recreational facilities commensurate with the size of the Park, the quality of the location or current industry expectations.
- The Park is land locked meaning there is no room to expand therefore improvements and upgrades have to be done within existing Park footprint.

Opportunities

- Create local job opportunities through long term staffing requirements
- Support local investment
- Growth in local economy
- Increase year round occupancy
- Attract new markets
- Improved accommodation standard
- Support tourism
- Demonstrate investment into the town by Council and upkeep of facilities
- Build upon the natural attributes of the park
- Improve the range and quality of Park facilities

Threats

- Cost blow-outs or Tenders higher than budgeted may require value management
- Unexpected changes to occupancy levels may cause disruption to project and dissatisfaction by clientele.
- Ongoing costs of improvements will be significant as park facilities continue to decline
- Other parks in the region provide superior facilities and accommodation at competitive prices.

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

A range of measures have been identified as required to implement this plan to ensure the Willow Bend Caravan Park is improved and managed in accordance with the Principles of Crown Land Management.

Objective One: To ensure the park complies with all applicable statutory standards.

Strategy	Actions
Sites and facilities to conform to relevant regulations.	➤ Ensure sites are sized, located and provided with utility services and amenities in accordance with the Local Government (Manufactured Home Estates, Caravan Parks, Camping Grounds and Moveable Dwellings) Regulation 2005.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Progressively implement the proposed Improvement Program to provide the mix of sites and facilities indicated in the plan. ➤ Comply with the conditions of the current Section 68 Approval to operate a Caravan Park.
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Objective Two: To provide and maintain facilities in a manner which minimises risk to park users and staff.

Strategy	Actions
Ensure the park, cabins and facilities are maintained to appropriate standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The design complies with the conditions of the Section 68 of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> Approval to operate a caravan park. ➤ Redevelopment has been designed to reduce or eliminate current risk issues using sound WHS principles

Objective Three: To design a facility which ensures commercial viability and is responsive to environmental, legal, social and technological imperatives.

Strategy	Actions
Ensure the commercial viability of the park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Redevelopment has been designed so that construction of on-site accommodation can be staged in line with budgetary constraints and operational considerations. ➤ The concept plan is flexible so as the redevelopment progresses there is the ability to review and update fees which reflect the market potential for the level of accommodation being offered. ➤ The design is contemporary and flexible that will allow the park to respond to emerging trends in the tourism industry. ➤ Establish tariffs for sites which reflect the market potential for the form of accommodation being offered.

Objective Four: To ensure that the environment of the park is managed and protected in accordance with sound ecological principles and for the enjoyment of guest.

Strategy	Actions
Maintain environmental integrity whilst at the same time improving visual amenity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Where possible existing native vegetation in the park will be preserved and protected. ➤ Allowance has been made for the replacement of any trees that are required to be removed as part of the redevelopment works. ➤ Vehicle and Pedestrian access has been carefully designed to ensure minimal environmental impact. ➤ Additional landscaping has been incorporated to improve the overall amenity of the park. ➤ Native species will be used for landscaping and tree replacement ➤ Non-invasive grass species will be used for turfing. ➤ Define buffer areas and protect vegetation through mulching, edge planting and/or fencing as appropriate

Objective Five: That sound environmental and ecological sustainable principles are incorporated into the design and management of the accommodation, facilities and infrastructure within the park

Strategy	Actions
Sustainable Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Concept plan has been designed based on best practice approaches to design and construction focusing on sustainable development and resource management.

Objective Six: To optimise income to the park by providing a range of quality tourist accommodation including opportunities for families, couples and groups within the construct of ecological sustainable development.

Strategy	Actions
Improve the mix of accommodation and site types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The master plan will increase the number and quality of cabins from 12 to 30 and has been designed to complement the character of the river setting. Additional quality cabins will meet the demand for more upmarket short stay accommodation whilst generating higher income from the same area of land. ➤ Powered sites have been designed and laid out so that they are capable of

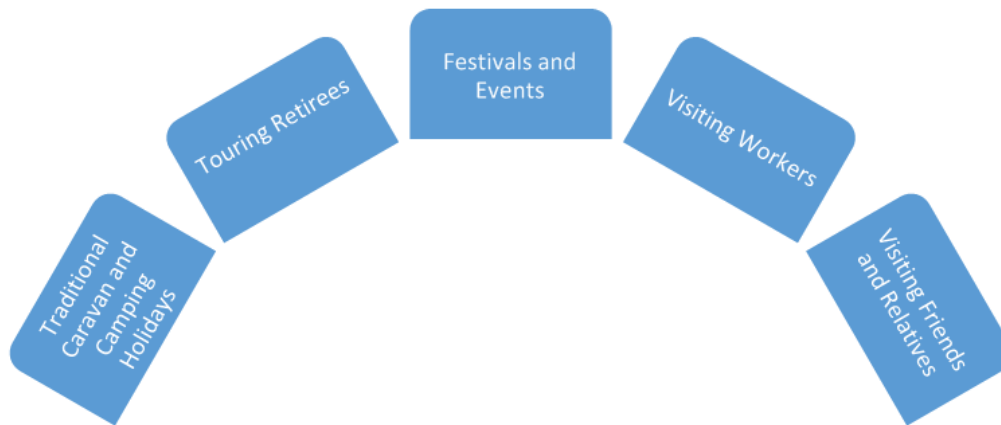
	<p>accommodating larger modern vans and motorhomes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ As many of the powered sites as possible have been made drive through which allows easier access to the sites. ➤ Provide communal facilities within the Park in accordance with relevant regulations and progressively expand and improve ancillary facilities for guests. ➤ Remove inefficient and redundant facilities to improve amenity for guests. ➤ Provide facilities that facilitate equity of access
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Currently the caravan park derives accommodation revenue from holiday-makers, weekend stays, festivals/events and general visitors to the region. While the location of Willow Bend Caravan Park will always be attractive to visitors, it is responsible risk management to maximise the market potential of the park's accommodation and provide facilities to attract a wider range of guests, increase demand and subsequently revenue through dynamic pricing.

Unfortunately the declining condition of the park, and in particular facilities such as the ablutions block and the cabins has turned regular tourists away from the park and the town. This has had a detrimental impact on the volume of tourists that visit the town each year with flow on effects to local shops and services, and the economy in general.

Improving the quality and mix of accommodation offered and upgrading the ancillary facilities at the caravan park will be a positive step forward in attracting tourists back to Wentworth, encouraging them to extend their stay and support the local economy.

The travel mindset of domestic visitors is also an important consideration when establishing the types of accommodation and recreational facilities appropriate for visitors to the region. The caravan park aims to cater for:



To maximise the caravan park's contribution to the local tourism offering and, in turn, to the broader local economy the caravan park must meet consumer demand in terms of accommodation choice, park amenity and the overall visitor experience.

Furthermore the park is in a position where it is difficult to compete effectively with other properties in the region that do offer a comprehensive range of ancillary facilities. These parks are close to or adjacent to riverfront locations and local attractions and draw their guests from the same source markets as Willow Bend Caravan Park. In addition these parks offer such facilities as:

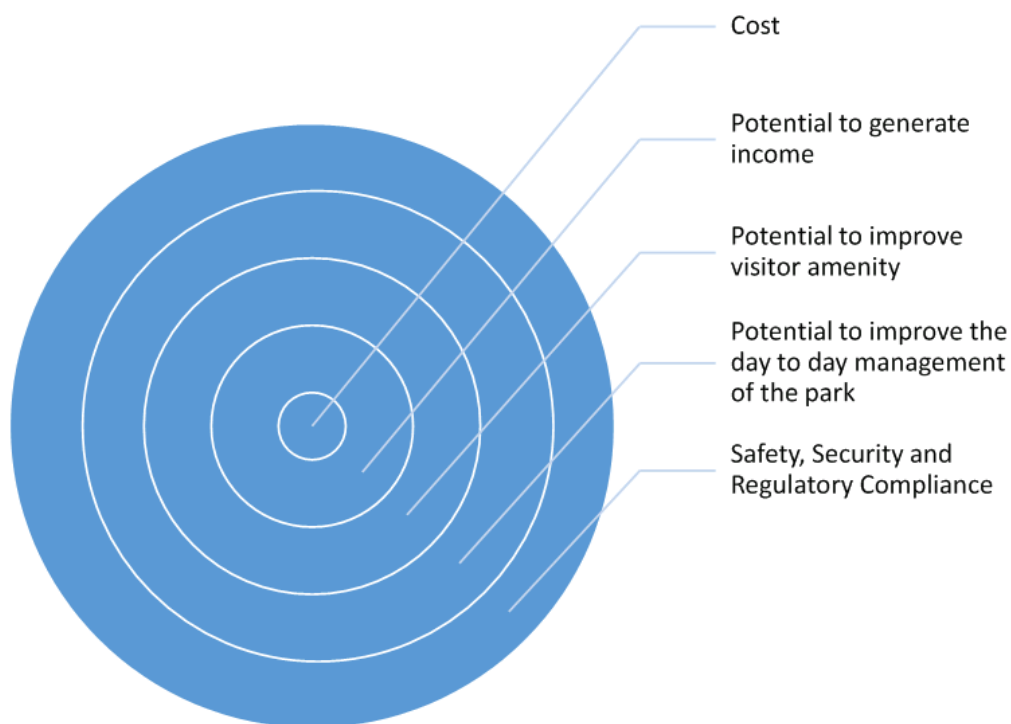
- Swimming pools
- Splash Parks
- Games rooms
- Internet Access; and
- Other contemporary leisure facilities.

Implementation

The redevelopment of the Willow Bend Caravan Park presents an exciting opportunity for the Wentworth Shire Council and the broader community of the Wentworth Region. The park is located in a unique location alongside the Darling River and is only a short walk from the centre of town.

This business plan provides a detailed analysis of existing park performance, site constraints, compliance, current and potential markets and development opportunities to optimise revenue from the park as a sustainable business. Existing non-compliance within the park has been identified, and measures to address this have been included in the proposed works.

The identified improvements have been assessed against their potential contribution based on the following factors:



The below table lists the works to be undertaken assessed against the above factors and assigns a respective priority to the works to be taken into consideration when planning the staging of the works.

Nature of Improvements	Potential to Generate Income	Improve Visitor Amenity	Improve Management of the Park	Regulatory Compliance
Site Works	Low	High	Medium	High
Internal Roads	Low	High	Medium	High
Internal Power	Medium	High	High	High
Civil Works	Medium	High	High	High
Fire Safety	Low	Medium	Medium	High
Main Entry	Medium	High	High	Medium
New Amenities Blocks	Medium	High	Medium	Low
New Camp Kitchen	Medium	High	Medium	Low
New On-site Cabins	High	High	Medium	Low
Swimming Pool and Recreational Facilities	Medium	High	Medium	Low

The above considerations are not mutually exclusive. It is possible for an improvement to contribute to the operation of the park in a number of ways. Some improvements have been identified as fundamental improvements that need to be addressed given the importance of the safety of patrons and the need to minimise Council's potential liabilities.

Some improvements may be highly desirable but their completion may be dependent on the completion of other programmed items. Given budgetary constraints and operational considerations, the redevelopment will take many years to complete.

The location of the park relative to the river, public open spaces, local facilities and tourist attractions results in every site having a high commercial value. This value should be reflected in the arrangement of all essential elements – roads, cabins, sites, recreation facilities, amenities, landscaping etc, and in the quality of what is offered. Currently a range of matters in the park fall short of this approach. The planned improvements seek to target these matters to ensure guests are offered an accommodation and holiday experience of a high quality representing value for money.

The staging of the redevelopment of the park has been designed to implement improvements in a way that will progressively enhance the income earning capacity and profitability of the business. The revitalisation of infrastructure and addition of facilities will create a platform from which to increase occupancy, revenue and profit.

The improvements identified in the plan have been grouped under the headings of short term, medium term and long term priority and are presented as a recommended staging plan for the redevelopment

Short Term – Years 1 – 3 (Stage 1 – Western Section of the Park)

Works	Cost
Power Upgrades	\$350,000
Civil Works – Water & Sewer	\$200,000
Site Works and Internal Roads	\$330,000
Fire Safety System Upgrades	\$25,000
Realigned Park Entry and installation of Boom Gates	\$195,000
Installation of 6 new on-site cabins	\$840,000
TOTAL COST	\$1,940,000
Funded by Council	\$1,100,000
Funded by Park Operations	\$840,000

Medium Term – Years 4 – 7 (Stage 2 – Eastern Section of the Park)

Works	Cost
Power Upgrades	\$140,000
Civil Works – Water & Sewer	\$140,000
Site Works and Internal Roads	\$190,000
Fire Safety System Upgrades	\$17,000
Installation of New Amenity Blocks	\$475,000
Installation of New Camp Kitchen	\$200,000
Installation of 12 new on-site cabins	\$1,680,000
TOTAL COST	\$2,842,000
Funded by Council	\$1,162,000
Funded by Operations	\$1,680,000

Long Term – Years 8+

Works	Cost
Installation of Recreational Facilities	\$250,000
Installation of remaining 12 new on-site cabins	\$1,680,000
TOTAL COST	\$1,930,000
Funded by Council	\$250,000
Funded by Park Operations	\$1,680,000

Total Cost of the Redevelopment	\$6,712,000
Funded by Council	\$2,512,000
Funded by Park Operations	\$4,200,000

OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT CAPITAL EXPENDITURE REVIEW REQUIREMENTS

In December 2010 pursuant to section 23A of the Local Government Act 1993 the Office of Local Government issued guidelines relating to capital expenditure to assist councils in the preparation and review of certain expenditure projects. Capital expenditure is incurred when a council spends money to buy, construct, renovate or acquire an asset.

The Guidelines have been designed to:

- encourage councils to evaluate major capital expenditure by means of a consistent methodology
- improve the quality of council's analysis performed in supporting all forms of project funding and capital expenditure, and
- enable the financial impact of projects on a council to be quantified, identified and controlled.

The guidelines aim to ensure that a council's evaluation of a proposed capital expenditure is consistent and rigorous, the merits of each project can be compared and resource allocation can be made on an informed basis. It is important that the evaluation of the project is carried out in a clear, transparent and systematic way.

As councils are responsible for the prudent management of community resources, it is important that as part of council's normal planning process, council undertakes a capital expenditure review before committing to any major capital project.

This applies to capital projects for infrastructure facilities, including renovations and extensions that are expected to cost more than \$1,000,000.

This Plan has been developed in such a way in order to satisfy the requirements of the capital expenditure review.

Council's Community Strategic Plan 2017-2026 details a number of major capital works projects which will be delivered during the life of the plan to provide a range of recreational, sports, leisure and learning opportunities to the community.

Council has a comprehensive internal skill base and where it lacks the skills and expertise to directly undertake elements required to complete this project, it will either employ additional staff with the expertise for the duration of the project or will outsource those elements to contractors and specialist project management staff.

The final accountability for the authorisation of the redevelopment, all contracts and works associated with it rests with the Council of Wentworth Shire. Project governance, overall cost control, project timing and quality control sits with the MANEX (Management Executive) Team which consists of the General Manager and 3 Directors.

Project timelines, costs and quality will be managed internally by the Director Finance and Policy. Construction activity, contractor performance and management will be undertaken by contracted business with this service being procured through an open tender process.

Council has established an advisory committee for the Caravan Park, consisting of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, two Councillors, the General Manager, the Director Finance and Policy and the park Managers who will also have an oversight function on behalf of the Council.

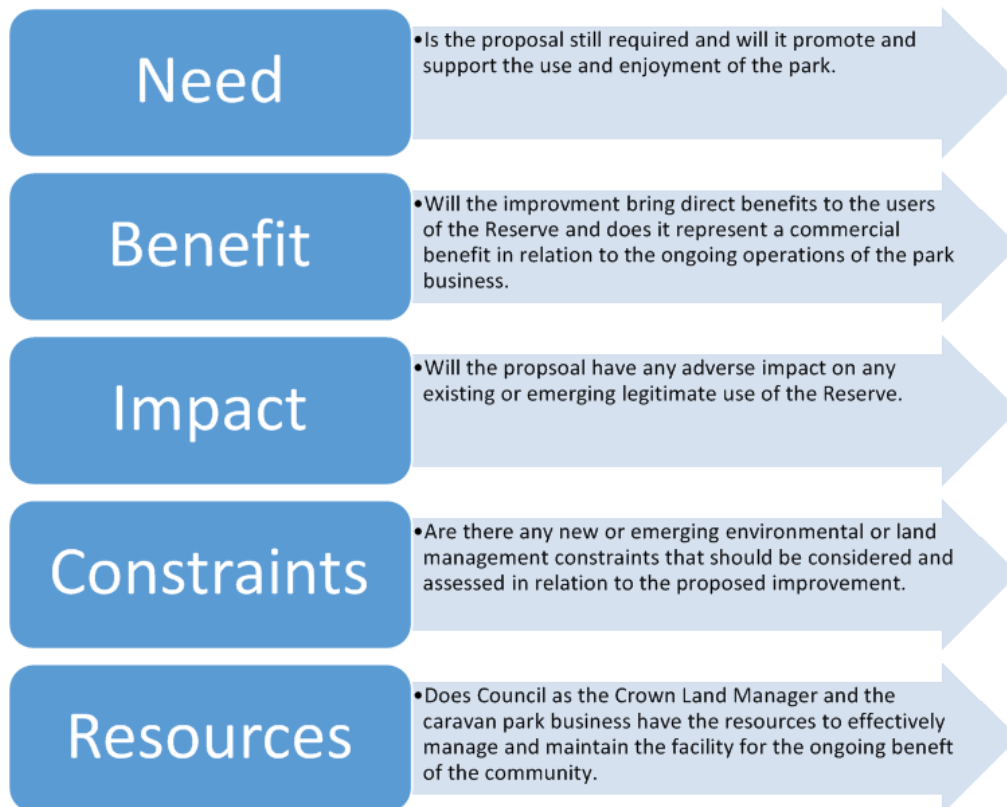
In accordance with the OLG capital expenditure review guidelines, Council will put mechanisms in place to report on all aspects of the project. Minimum report requirements will include:

- Quarterly reporting to the Council on the progress of the redevelopment;
- Quarterly reporting to the Council on the costs and budget variances regarding the project;
- Any issues that may have an adverse impact on the project (this may include monetary and non-monetary inputs and outcomes); and
- Reporting capital works project in Council's annual report.

Assessing the Proposed Improvements

The proposed redevelopment involves a comprehensive range of upgrades and improvements involving significant capital expenditure which will be undertaken over a period of 5 to 10 years. The improvement to the layout of the park will change the capacity of the business to meet the expectations of existing and potential guests. There has been wide ranging analysis and consideration of this proposal during the preparation of this plan, however, caravan parks operate in a dynamic commercial environment and the plan should be regularly reviewed and updated.

There are a number of questions that should be considered when deciding whether a particular land use or development is to proceed at any particular time:



The proposed improvements and changes to the park will create an environment where the park has a renewed capacity to attract new business. The park will offer holiday opportunities to a wide cross section of the tourist market. While there is a heavy focus on the development of new facilities and

improvements to infrastructure, approximately 60% of the proposed expenditure will address the replacement of the 12 existing cabins in the park and the introduction of a further 18 cabin sites.

The following tables provides a comparison of potential revenue for sites and accommodation as it currently stands and potential revenue at the completion of the proposed redevelopment based on 2018/2019 prices.

Current Status

Site Type	Number of Sites	Revenue per site per year	Revenue
Powered Sites	71	\$10,950	\$777,450
Permanent Sites	5	\$5,200	\$26,000
On-site Cabin Accommodation	12	\$29,200	\$350,400
Unpowered Camping	28	\$3,650	\$102,200
Total/Average	116	\$10,823	\$1,256,050

Upgraded status

Site Type	Number of Sites	Revenue per site per year	Revenue
Powered Sites	65	\$10,950	\$711,750
Permanent Sites	5	\$5,200	\$26,000
On-site Cabin Accommodation	30	\$29,200	\$876,000
Unpowered Camping	15	\$3,650	\$54,750
Total/Average	115	\$14,510	\$1,668,500

With an increase in fees to match the improved park facilities, the potential revenue for the park is as follows:

Site Type	Number of Sites	Revenue per site per year	Revenue
Powered Sites	65	\$14,600	\$949,000
Permanent Sites	5	\$6,240	\$31,200
On-site Cabin Accommodation	30	\$73,000	\$2,190,000
Unpowered Camping	15	\$3,650	\$54,750
Total/Average	115	\$28,000	\$3,224,950

The above tables have been compiled using the basic fee for each site and assumes 100% occupancy and has not factored in peak periods or additional guests.

The tables show that at the completion of the proposed development there will be potential for substantial growth in revenue based on the fundamental changes to the structure of the park. These changes are aimed at achieving gains that will only be fully realised over a longer time frame.

The national average for caravan park occupancy is approximately 54%. Based on that figure the information provided in the above tables can be adjusted accordingly:

- Current Status – Potential Revenue at 54% occupancy **\$678,300**
- Upgraded Status – Potential Revenue at 54% occupancy **\$900,990**
- Upgraded Status with adjusted price increase – potential Revenue at 54% occupancy **\$1,741,473**

Council has only been running the caravan park for 24 months and is still assessing the total operating costs of the park. Due to the poor condition of the park when Council took it over there has been a level of expenditure that has been required to resolve a number of issues. It is anticipated that this could continue for at least another 12 months.

Going forward it is anticipated that total operational costs (excluding any finance costs) to operate and maintain the caravan should be approximately 65-70% of operational revenue.

Funding for the redevelopment program can be made from four sources:

- Net profit of the business
- Councils cash reserves set aside to fund the replacement of capital assets;
- Borrowings
- Grants and/or external contributions.

As the caravan park is located on Crown Land, Council as appointed Crown Land Manager, has access to loans from the Crown Land Improvement Fund at concessional rates of interest. Those rates vary depending on the nature of the works being funded.

Based on the projected future revenues the business should be in a position to put funds aside to help fund parts of the project. It would also be in a position to repay any borrowings, this option could be pursued to source the required additional funds for these projects.

There may also be scope to fund certain components of the redevelopment from Council's annual capital works program. This will be dependent each year on the availability of cash reserves.

This document has also been prepared so that it can be used as a catalyst for Council to apply for grant funding as opportunities arise

If the Council is unable to secure any financial contributions for the redevelopment via capital grants, consideration will need to be given to taking out a loan to finance the works. If this were to occur the additional financing costs based on the following assumptions:

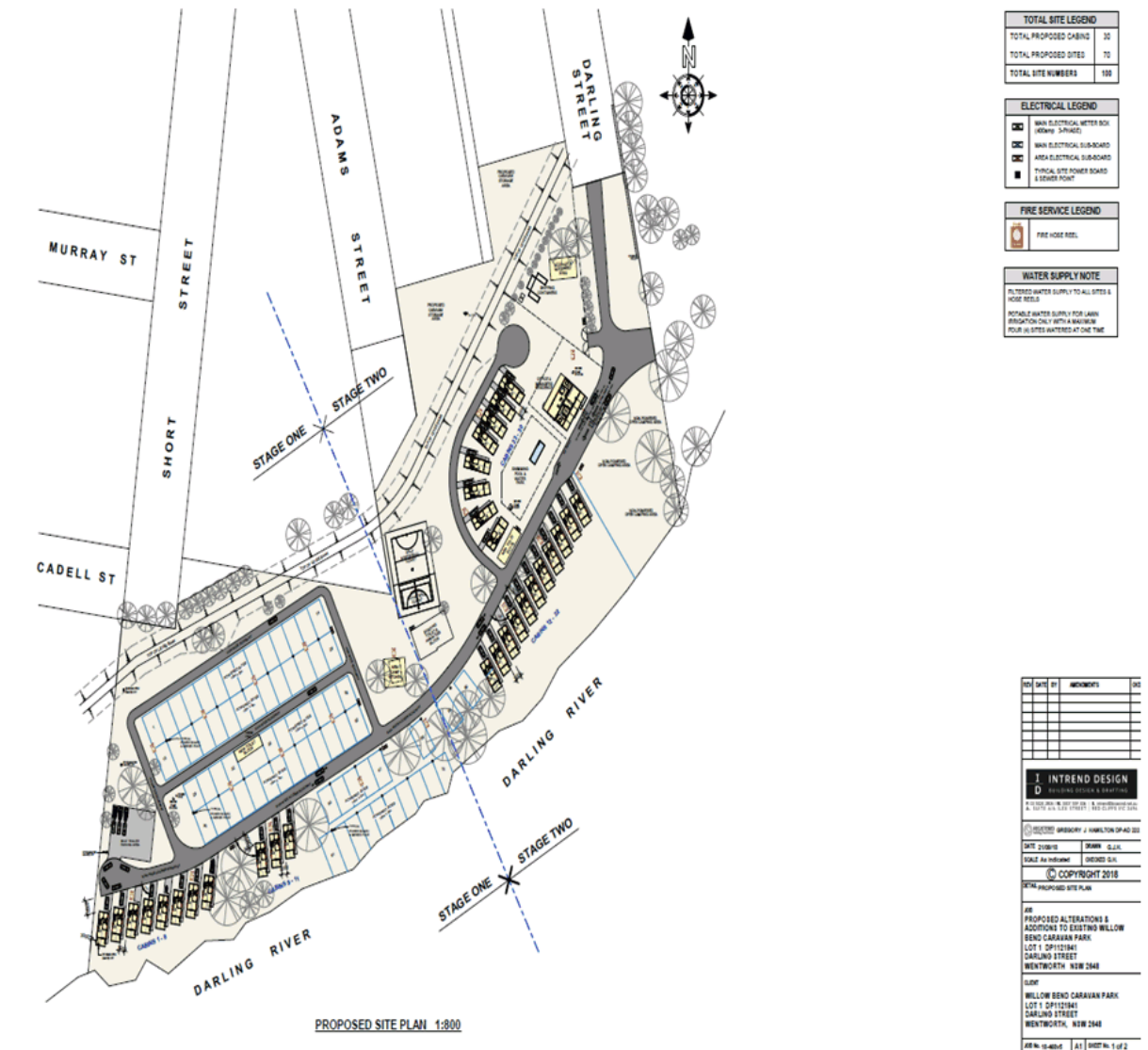
- ≈ Total Council loans - \$2,262,000
- ≈ Life of Loans – 20 years
- ≈ Interest Rate – 5%
- ≈ Total Caravan Park loans - \$4,200,000
- ≈ Life of Loans – 10 years
- ≈ Interest Rate – 5%

are outlined in the table below.

Proposed future Loan Commitments

	Council		Caravan Park	
	Principal	Interest	Principal	Interest
Year 1	\$25,931	\$40,946	\$0	\$0
Year 2	\$36,113	\$53,138	\$24,778	\$15,443
Year 3	\$37,953	\$51,397	\$59,285	\$34,564
Year 4	\$64,435	\$92,820	\$95,550	\$51,927
Year 5	\$76,105	\$103,776	\$133,663	\$67,442
Year 6	\$79,982	\$99,915	\$173,717	\$81,016
Year 7	\$84,057	\$95,862	\$215,812	\$92,549
Year 8	\$88,339	\$91,592	\$260,053	\$101,937
Year 9	\$92,840	\$87,109	\$306,545	\$109,072
Year 10	\$97,569	\$82,399	\$355,407	\$113,838
	\$683,324	\$798,954	\$1,624,810	\$667,788

APPENDIX A – Approved Redevelopment Concept Plan



SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The objective of the redevelopment of the Willow Bend Caravan Park is to create improved financial returns in the context of an appropriate, sustainably responsible improvement program. The program of expenditure will result in a major upgrade of on-site accommodation options, it will also provide updated and new ancillary recreational facilities that will provide guests with value for money and add to their holiday experience. Funds will also be committed to the resolution of issues where the existing operation does not address current regulatory requirements.

Measures with respect to sustainability and the prudent use of resources, particularly energy and water have been fundamental to all aspects of the detailed designs of the improvements. The proposed redevelopment requires Council, the Land Manager and the Caravan Park business to undertake an investment of \$6,712,000 over a period of up to 10 years.

As such the Willow Bend Caravan Park will offer holiday opportunities to a wide cross section of the tourist accommodation market. The redevelopment will not only enhance the capacity of the park to satisfy the requirements of the holidaymakers who already come to Wentworth but also allow the park to target new and emerging market opportunities with the potential to grow occupancy and revenue.

At the completion of the improvement program the caravan park will supply the following mix of sites and accommodation:

- 30 x on-site cabin site
- 5 x permanent cabin sites
- 65 x powered sites
- 15 unpowered camping sites

The key outcomes that will be achieved as a result of the redevelopment are;

- Social equity – the improvement will provide an increased variety of types of sites and accommodation at a range of affordable price points. This will add to the choice for people who visit Wentworth and add to the provision of facilities in the area. New cabins installed in the park will include units specifically designed to accommodate people with restricted mobility or a disability.
- Environmental Quality – the design of facilities and cabins has incorporated the principles of ecological sustainability and responsibility in order to minimise the use of water, energy and non-renewable resources
- Economic growth – the redevelopment will bring the caravan park into the modern age with a focus on providing a quality visitor experience at an affordable price, this will generate spending that will bring “new” money to the local economy.

Potential Future Financial Performance – Caravan Park

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Income	\$678,267	\$427,950	\$498,906	\$912,816	\$960,120	\$1,226,205	\$1,320,813	\$1,415,421	\$1,510,029	\$1,620,405
Operating Expenses	\$524,285	\$537,395	\$550,850	\$564,650	\$578,795	\$664,470	\$732,550	\$810,865	\$893,435	\$975,315
Interest Expense	\$0	\$15,443	\$34,564	\$51,927	\$67,442	\$81,016	\$92,549	\$101,937	\$109,072	\$113,838
Total Operating Expense	\$524,285	\$552,838	\$585,414	\$616,577	\$646,237	\$745,486	\$825,099	\$912,802	\$1,002,507	\$1,089,153
Profit/(Loss)	\$153,987	\$(124,888)	\$(86,508)	\$296,239	\$313,883	\$480,715	\$495,715	\$502,219	\$507,522	\$531,252
Principal Repayments	\$0	\$24,778	\$59,285	\$95,550	\$133,663	\$173,717	\$215,812	\$260,052	\$306,545	\$355,407
Cash Result	\$153,987	\$(149,666)	\$(143,793)	\$200,689	\$180,220	\$306,998	\$279,902	\$242,167	\$200,977	\$175,845

9.14 ADDITIONAL REVENUE SOURCE - BURONGA LANDFILL

File Number: RPT/20/30

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Responsible Division: Finance and Policy

Reporting Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

The strategic review of the landfill identified sourcing additional revenue/waste streams as an avenue to help improve the financial sustainability of the landfill.

A trial between Council and Waste Management Services (the Contractor) to accept waste from South Australia at the Buronga Landfill was established late last year, whereby the contractor was offered an interim rate, that was consistent with the council approved discounted rate offered to other selected contractors.

The Contractor is seeking to continue utilizing the Buronga Landfill and approval is being sought to add this contractor to the list of approved contractors receiving a discounted rate for access to the Buronga Landfill.

Recommendation

That Council approves the addition of Waste Management Services to the list of approved contractors receiving a discounted rate for access to the Buronga Landfill.

Detailed Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to add Waste Management Services to the list of approved contracts receiving a discounted rate for access to the Buronga Landfill.

Matters under consideration

Council has been trialing receiving waste at the Buronga Landfill from South Australia. All waste is being received in accordance with NSW EPA guidelines and requirements.

Based on the trial, the Contractor is confident that the arrangement can continue to be viable for both parties if the arrangement continues at the interim rate.

Conclusion

The strategic review of the landfill identified sourcing additional revenue/waste streams as an avenue to help improve the financial sustainability of the landfill. Adding the new supplier to the list of approved contractors receiving a discounted rate will provide additional revenue to the landfill operations.

Attachments

Nil

9.15 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF COUNCIL'S WASTE FACILITIES

File Number: RPT/20/109

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

At the Council meeting dated 19 December 2019 Council was presented with the independent review of the operations of Council's waste management facilities. The report provided an overview and advice to inform options for the future management of Council's waste management services.

Following discussions Council resolved the following:

That Council authorises the General Manager to investigate options for alternative management of Council's waste services.

In preparing this report Council officers have examined the following two options.

- Option 1 – Council continues to operate waste management services with the engagement of suitably qualified staff and the use of third-party consultants.
- Option 2 – Council prepare a specification to enable a competitive tender process to outsource site operations to a contractor experienced in landfill operations

Having considered the merits of both options it is the recommendation that Council resolves to outsource the management of its waste facilities to an appropriately qualified contractor.

Recommendation

- a) That Council resolves to continue to operate the waste facilities throughout the Shire in the interim period until such time a professional reputable waste management contractor has been procured to manage Council facilities through an open tender process, and
- b) That Council implements the short-term operational recommendations within the independent review of the operations of Council's waste management facilities, and
- c) That Council prepares specification and tender documentation for the open tender process for the operation and management of Council's waste facilities, and
- d) That Council, at the conclusion of the tender period, consider the tender panel assessment report and if deemed acceptable to Council award the tender for the operation of Council's waste facilities.

Detailed Report

Background

At the Council meeting dated 19 December 2019 Council was presented with the independent review of the operations of Council's waste management facilities. As a trigger for the independent review Council had previously acknowledged some shortcomings in the operation of the waste facilities. These shortcomings were in trained and technical staff, financial sustainability, risk incidents and general daily practices. The independent review

report formulated the same conclusions by way offering 31 recommendations for improvement and advice to help guide the future management of Council's sites.

It should be noted that the background and history to the previous reports should be acknowledged as to the catalyst as to why this course of action was implemented by Council. In this

The report highlighted Council's lack of operating experience and indicated that in order for Council to maximise the value of the Buronga Landfill, the level of operational experience at the site needs to be lifted significantly. Such an improvement can be achieved by a number of different means including:

- Engagement with staff as to the outcome of the report and highlight the areas where potential improvements can be achieved (operational)
- Undertake the above but also include training and guidance of site staff using third party consultants (operational)
- Engage appropriate trained staff who have experience in landfill operations (operational and management)
- Outsource site operations to a 3rd party contractor experienced in landfill operations.

The desired approach may well be multifaceted covering one or more of the above options.

Following discussions Council resolved the following:

That Council authorises the General Manager to investigate options for alternative management of Council's waste services.

Matters under consideration

In preparing this report Council officers reviewed the actions outlined above and determined that there were two options offered within the independent review that may be considered further.

- Option 1 – Council continues to operate waste management services with the engagement of suitably qualified staff and the use of third-party consultants.
- Option 2 – Outsource site operations to a 3rd party contractor experienced in landfill operations.

Option 1:

This option would include but not limited to the following:

- Recruitment of an experienced Landfill operator with the appropriate level of waste management knowledge and experience (Already a budgeted position, however there may be additional costs required to entice the right person)
- Invest in and up skill staff (additional staff and training cost approximately \$70,000 pa)
- Invest in new equipment (compactor, excavator, dump truck, water cart – allow \$1,700,000)
- Construction a new cell in 3 to 5 years time (allow minimum of \$2,000,000 depending on the size of the cell)
- On-going consultancy advice and mentoring (allow \$100,000 pa)

The advantages and disadvantages of Council continuing to manage and operate waste services are listed below:

Option 1 Advantages:

Maintaining control – by keeping site activities in house, Council will keep control of how tasks are being monitored and performed.

Known Costs – by controlling all site activities, Council will be fully aware of all costs it is incurring and can budget accordingly. This does not address unforeseen issues that arise at a site, but rather ensuring all recognised costs are identified and covered accordingly.

Maintenance of quality control – By maintaining control, Council will ensure regulatory compliance requirements are a focus and operational costs are less likely to be cut in order to drive a better bottom line.

Community engagement – by maintaining site operations, the community will maintain a sense of ownership of the facility and keeping of jobs (and profits) in the local area.

Maintenance of focus – by having this as the Council's sole waste operation, key staff will be available to address issues that arise at Council's facility. Whilst technical skills may be lacking in specialist areas, by having key staff focused on the issue, necessary expertise can be brought in on an as needs basis to meet the needs of the facility.

Cost of risk transfer – By maintaining control of site operations, elements of risk will be kept under Council's control and the financial impact of managing this risk should be minimised.

Option 1 Disadvantages:

Lack of access to experts - Councils core team is very good at our regular roles, but nobody is an expert at everything. Management of waste facilities requires specialist expertise that Council will not have internally. This expertise may be brought in to complement Council staff but it comes at a cost.

Activities are generally less efficient – With a third party having experience in the waste management space they are able to undertake what they would consider as routine tasks relatively quickly whilst Council would be required to educate itself on what needs to be done, resulting in potentially significant time delays.

Council staff are not able to focus on what matters – Council staff are being called upon on a regular basis to address issues that arise at the Buronga facility. This takes staff away from core activities and can result in a reduced level of service for our ratepayers.

Risk sharing/mitigation - One of the most important factors in any project is risk assessment and analysis. By not having waste management experts in this space, Council will struggle to effectively plan and mitigate potential risks

Cost Increases – based on the inefficiencies Council has previously identified, it is believed that there is the potential that overall site operations will be more expensive than could otherwise be achieved.

Increased management structure requirements – the need for Council to maintain an increased management structure (and associated costs) in order to effectively manage the site.

Maintaining a wide range of work relationships – In order to maintain high levels of operational effectiveness, the site operator is required to manage wide number of business relationships ranging from plant suppliers to labour hire to consumables suppliers.

Limitation of targeted waste streams - A 3rd party operator will have significant experience in the operation and management of waste facilities including the contacts/networks to source additional waste that Council currently lacks.

Regulatory Challenges - Contractors are not constrained by the legislative framework that Council has to adhere to. This allows contractors to be flexible, agile and adaptive in order to react quickly to changes/trends in the industry.

Financial Impact – This approach would require additional significant investment to address issues outlined in the independent review

Option 2:

Under this option Council outsources the operations and management of the waste facilities to a 3rd party via an open tender process. Council would still have an involvement to ensure appropriate contract management.

The advantages and disadvantages of Council outsourcing the operations of the waste facilities to a 3rd party are:

Option 2 Advantages

Access to experts - Council's core team is very good at our regular roles, but nobody is perfect at everything. By outsourcing particular tasks, organisations such as Council's are often able to substantially improve performance by drawing upon the niche skills of experts in the waste management space.

Activities are generally more efficient – With a third-party having experience in the waste management space they are able to undertake what they would consider as routine tasks relatively quickly whilst Council would be required to educate itself on what needs to be done, resulting in potentially significant time delays.

Council staff are able to focus on what matters – Council staff are being called upon on a regular basis to address issues that arise at the Buronga facility. This takes staff away from core activities and can result in a reduced level of service for our ratepayers.

Risk sharing/mitigation - One of the most important factors in any project is risk assessment and analysis. By outsourcing waste management activities to experts in this space, Council will benefit from their enhanced ability to plan and mitigate potential risks

Cost reduction – based on the inefficiencies Council has previously identified, it is believed that there is the potential to achieve cost savings when looking at overall site operations.

Simplification of operations management – whilst there will still be a requirement to manage contractors at the site, this would be significantly reduced when compared to management of the overall facility and all the operational issues it entails.

Simplification of work relationships – instead of having to manage a wide number of business relationships ranging from plant suppliers to labour hire to consumables suppliers, Council's relationship management will be reduced to simple, contractual arrangements.

Broadening of targeted waste streams - The appropriate 3rd party operator will have significant experience in the operation and management of waste facilities including the contacts/networks to source additional waste that Council currently lacks.

Management Simplification - Contractors are not constrained by the legislative framework that Council has to adhere to. This allows contractors to be flexible, agile and adaptive in order to react quickly to changes/trends in the industry.

Option 2 Disadvantages

Loss of control – when outsourcing site activities, Council will be losing control of how tasks are being monitored and performed. This can (however) be overcome through effective contract management.

Hidden Costs - although outsourcing work is generally considered cheaper, Council must also beware of getting caught out in its contractual arrangements. The inclusion of small items in the contract may translate into significant costs later on and as such careful contract establishment would be required.

Risk of reduced quality control – Some contractors are motivated purely by profit and ignore operational and regulatory compliance requirements. A thorough tender assessment and establishment of a series of key performance management measures is required to mitigate such potential impacts.

Risk of community backlash – the transfer of what could be seen as local jobs across to a 'non-local' company may cause disquiet within the community.

Loss of focus – as some companies have multiple clients/operations, key staff may not always be available to address issues that arise at Council's facility. Depending on the issue at hand and how the management arrangements are set up contractually, this may have a detrimental effect on Council.

Cost of risk transfer – Finding a contractor who will take on some of Council's risk may come at a premium.

Conclusion

While the above table of advantages and disadvantages demonstrates some opportunities for both options, the experience of the last five years has indicated that Council is not best placed to operate waste facilities and that the operating practices has not been financially favorable in fact quite the opposite.

Despite investing significant resources Council has lacked the knowledge and experience to make it a sustainable venture.

Contracting out to a 3rd party is essentially going back to what was intention of the 2013/2014 tender process. At that time the tender process demonstrated the possibility of Council outsourcing the operation of the waste facilities and a royalty being paid to Council based on the amount of waste received at Buronga Landfill.

The proposed contract of that time was going to deliver an income stream without the capital investment that Council has undertaken.

It is the recommendation that the form used in the 2013/14 procurement be utilized to guide the future of waste management for Wentworth Shire Council. This form of tender and subsequent contract actually negates most of the disadvantages listed against the outsourcing option.

Separately circulated for the information of Councillors is a summary document prepared by Aurecon during the 2014 procurement negotiations.

As outlined in the independent review there are significant opportunities for Council to improve the performance of its waste management facilities. This report has focused on the two options which are considered the best options for Council to consider for the future operations and management of Council's waste management facilities.

Having considered the merits of both options it is the recommendation that Council resolves to outsource the management of its waste facilities to a professional reputable waste management contractor through an open tender process.

Attachments

1. Aurecon summary Document June 2014 (separately circulated) [⇒](#)

9.16 MAJOR WORKS UPDATE FOR DECEMBER 2019 AND JANUARY 2020

File Number: RPT/20/52

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering

Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering

Reporting Officer: Allan Eastmond - Manager Works

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural assets

Strategy: 3.2 Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure

Summary

This report provides a summary of the major works undertaken by the Roads and Engineering Division which have been completed during the months of December 2019 and January 2020 and the planned works for February 2020.

Recommendation

That Council notes the major works undertaken for December 2019 and January 2020 and the proposed works for February 2020.

Detailed Report

During December and January, the Roads and Engineering Division were unable to perform maintenance grading due to the continued dry conditions.

Other projects – Arumpo Road construction and Curlwaa Boat Ramp retaining wall and turfing have been completed.

Painting and Tiling works on Dareton and Wentworth Pools have also been completed.

Stronger Country Communities Grant Funded projects –

1. Dareton and Wentworth Sewer Upgrades have progressed with completion of rising main pressure test, Pump station slab completed, switch Board and pumps installed and commissioned and Pump station access, hard stand and drainage completion.
2. 52% completion of the Rising Main Pipeline on Pooncarie Road.

Continued carting of water to property owners who do not have access to potable water continues until otherwise advised.

February will see major works continuing on the Gol Gol Water Treatment Plant Electrical and process upgrade, Wentworth and Dareton Sewer Upgrades.

Works are continuing at the Barrett Pavilion and Curlwaa Hall.

Concrete base slab and pavement works will continue at the George Gordon Oval Netball Courts.

Attachments

1. Major Works Report - December 2019 / January 2020 [↓](#)

Roads and Engineering

Major Works Report – December 2019 / January 2020

<p>Works completed December 2019 & January 2020</p>	<p>Roads</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sealing of Twin Isle Drive, Ryans Road, Florence Point and Kelso Road completed January 2020. <p><u>Maintenance Grading</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No maintenance grading has been undertaken due to the continuing dry conditions and works staff Christmas close down. <p><u>Arumpo Road Construction</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All works on the 5km upgrade section including pavement and drainage construction completed with bitumen primer sealing undertaken in last week of January 2020. <p>Projects</p> <p><u>Dareton Sewer Upgrade</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pump station slab completed Installation of pump station air vent Completed rising main pressure test Switch Board and pumps installed and commissioned Rising main air valves and pits installed Pump station access, hardstand and drainage complete <p><u>Wentworth Sewer Upgrade</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rising Main Pipeline Pooncarie Road 52% complete. <p><u>Gol Gol Water Treatment Plant Electrical and Process upgrade</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract PT1819-19 awarded to RDG Electrical Contractor site establishment complete Cable conduits to settled water pumps installed Settled water switch board plinth cast Switch room foundations completed Existing rising main thrust block constructed Rising main isolation valve installed (hot tapping). <p><u>Wentworth and Dareton Swimming Pools</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Painting and tiling works have been completed. <p><u>Curlwaa Boat Ramp</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turf to the seating area has been completed Retaining wall has been completed
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	<p><u>Toilet Upgrades</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strother Park – completed • Wentworth Sporting Complex – Play Ground completed. <p><u>Emergency Water Carting to Property Owners</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency water carting to property owners continues • Claim 4 for reimbursement completed and sent 21/02/2020. <p><u>George Gordon Netball Courts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of electrical conduits and pits • Concrete base slab pavement construction completed • Concrete spoon drains and pits poured. <p><u>Buronga EDS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polystyrene base assembled. • Plastic coating/protection around polystyrene base applied • Electrical and pipe channels cut through pontoon • Electrical conduits placed in slab • Switchboard preparation. <p>Stronger Country Communities Grant Funded</p> <p><u>Wentworth Sporting Complex</u> Playground – completed</p> <p><u>Curlwaa Hall</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framing of all internal walls completed • Internal plumbing and electrical rough-ins completed • Veranda slab and path completed. <p><u>Barrett Pavilion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pine trees removed and roots grubbed out from under building footprint • Existing water main redirected around new building footprint. • Obsolete asbestos cement pipe excavated and removed from the building construction area.
Works ongoing during February 2020	<p>Roads</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RMS rehabilitation for segment 95 Sturt Highway Trentham programmed to commence mid-March • Realignment of the last bend on Pitman Avenue West to commence end February.

	<p>Projects</p> <p><u>Dareton Sewer Upgrade</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repair of defective Namatjira Sewerage lagoon linings, timing unknown due to construction difficulties to achieve successful permeability testing of liners. Permeability testing to date has failed to record a result within the EPA required limit. • Installation of fourth sewerage lagoon lining, delayed due to requirement for repair of other completed defective lagoon linings. • Decommissioning of Dareton Sewerage Treatment works, delayed due to same reason as above. <p><u>Wentworth Sewer Upgrade</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete rising main to Smyth Street • Begin rising main installation at SPS1 • Begin installation of new pumps and switchboard upgrade at SPS 1 • Installation of 4th Lagoon lining. <p><u>Gol Gol Water Treatment Plant Electrical and Process upgrade</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of Switch Room. • Start modifications to Raw Water Pump Station switch room. • Start installation of balance tank drainage and telemetry mast. • Start installation of rising main flow meter. • Start modifications to Inlet works area <p><u>Hendy Road Sewer Upgrade</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project completed, currently in Defect Liability period <p><u>Buronga EDS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pontoon slab to be poured. • Site earthworks to commence. <p><u>Emergency Water Carting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carting to continue to affected property owners. • Submitted Claim 4 for reimbursement
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	<p>Stronger Country Communities Grant Funded Projects</p> <p><u>Curlwaa Hall</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final insulation completed and plastering to toilets and internal linings progressing• Kitchen splashbacks measured for installation and kitchen cupboards under manufacture <p>Plan being prepared to relocate the existing RSL memorial over to the new site in preparation for the 2021 Anzac Day Service</p> <p><u>Barrett Pavilion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preparation of site for floor slab construction including supply and compaction of select fill.• Shed structure fully manufactured and ready for supply after placement of the concrete slab <p><u>George Gordon Netball Courts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Slab to be poured Monday 10th and 11th February• Foundation for lighting poles to be prepared for concrete• Concrete to cure through February• Court finish and line marking to be applied early March• Perimeter works to be undertaken mid to late February.
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9.17 DELEGATED AUTHORITY APPROVALS AS AT END OF DECEMBER 2019

File Number: RPT/20/5

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager

Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager

Reporting Officer: Nicky Meredith - Coordinator Health and Planning

Objective: 1.0 Wentworth is a vibrant, growing and thriving Shire

Strategy: 1.1 Grow the potential for business and industry to develop and expand

Summary

For the month of December 2019, a total of 18 Development Applications and two S4.55 Modification Applications were determined under delegated authority by the General Manager.

The estimated value of the determined developments was \$6,865,687. This brings the year to date total to 156 Development Applications approved and 24 S4.55 Applications approved, with an estimated development value of \$29,623,498.

Recommendation

- a) That Council receives and notes the report for the month of December 2019.
- b) That Council publicly notifies, for the purposes of Schedule 1 Division 4 Section 20 (2) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, the applications as listed in the attachment on the Wentworth Shire Council website.
- c) That a division be called in accordance with S375A of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW).

Detailed Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a list of Development Applications as tabled in Attachment 1, determined under delegated authority by the General Manager for the month of December 2019, hence complying with the requirements under section 3.20 of the Office of Local Government Promoting Better Practice Program.

Conclusion

The total value of determinations was \$6,865,687 for the month of December 2019, which was more than the previous month of \$815,492. The average determination time was 55 days.

Attachments

1. Determination of Development Applications for the month of December 2019 [1](#)

DETERMINATION OF DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2019

File Number	Owner	Location	Description	Value (Ex GST)	Determination Date	Active Days to 31/12/2019
DA2019/106	Wentworth Shire Council	Boeill Creek Road Lot 4 DP 777861 Boeill Creek	Pontoon	\$10,000.00	03/12/2019	63
DA2019/111	Alinga Grove Pty Ltd	Pine Road Lot 6 DP 1253735 Gol Gol	Stage 3 -12 Lot subdivision	\$0.00	17/12/2019	
DA2019/125	Nevan & Maria Johnson	40 Cadell Street Lot 1 Section 1 DP 759074 Wentworth	Extension to carport, modify kitchen & bathroom	\$155,000.00	03/12/2019	51
DA2019/135	Dean & Deidre Cross	9 Perry Street Lot 1 DP 1074371 Wentworth	Dwelling & Carport	\$350,000.00	10/12/2019	38
DA2019/138	Ian Murdoch	Burtundy Street Lot 377 DP 756961, Lot 1 DP 1158152, Lot 711 DP 1216849, Lot 2 DP 123025 Dareton	Two Netball Courts	\$378,631.00	19/12/2019	41
DA2019/139	Windtan Pty Ltd	139 Paringi Road Lot 1 DP 1115254 Paringi	Rural Workers Accommodation	\$200,000.00	03/12/2019	30
DA2019/140	Wentworth Shire Council	Darling Street Lot 5 Section 23A DP 759074 - Lot 1 DP 940039 - Lot 1 Section 23 DP 366258 - Lot 3 DP 667983 Wentworth	Installation of five speakers under eaves overhanging road reserve	\$5,000.00	09/12/2019	30
DA2019/141	Keltren Pty Ltd & Trentham Cliffs Travel Stop Pty Ltd	Sturt Highway Lot 1 DP 1128099, Lot 38 & 42 DP 756936 Trentham Cliffs	Three Lot amalgamation into two Lots and boundary re-alignment	\$0.00	11/12/2019	13
DA2019/142	John O'Connor & Fiona Lavery	176 Pitman Avenue West Lot 407 DP 756961 Buronga	Storage Shed	\$25,000.00	09/12/2019	28

DA2019/143	Gavin & Megan Mickle	55 Moontongue Lot 18 DP 1204878 Gol Gol	Carpport attached to existing shed	\$4,300.00	20/12/2019	36
DA2019/144	Paul & Cindy Heley	5721E Sturt Highway Lot 4 DP 827371 Monak	Change of use storage shed to crushing plant, winery & distillery	\$100,000.00	09/12/2019	26
S4-55/2019/021	Keltren Pty Ltd & Trentham Cliffs Travel Stop Pty Ltd	6603 Sturt Highway Lot 38 & 42 DP 756936 & Lot 1 DP 1128099 Trentham Cliffs	Modify DA2017/114 to include 2 part lots & plan changes	\$0.00	05/12/2019	14
DA2019/147	Dawson Worthington & Emily Taylor	66 Williams Street Lot 3 Section 8 DP 758456 Gol Gol	Storage Shed	\$24,256.00	18/12/2019	24
S4-55/2019/022	Denis & Patricia Rowan	157 Pooncarie Road Lot 3 DP 1239541 Wentworth	Modify DA2018/094 to increase dwelling & verandah dimensions	\$0.00	18/12/2019	22
DA2019/148	Justin Kassulke	2794 Silver City Highway Lot 5 & 6 DP 807826 Curlwaa	2 Lot Boundary Re-alignment	\$0.00	18/12/2019	21
DA2019/150	Kevin & Vicki Watson	21 Modikerr Way Lot 14 DP 1103697 Gol Gol	Dwelling & Storage Shed	\$600,000.00	18/12/2019	19
DA2019/152	Lynne Bentley	4 Tower Court Lot 28 DP 830879 Buronga	Storage Shed	\$13,500.00	12/12/2019	14
DA2019/155	Qualia Wine Company Pty Ltd	Sturt Highway Lot 4 DP 1257282 & Lot 6 DP 1256363 Trentham Cliffs	2 Lot Boundary Re-alignment	\$0.00	12/12/2019	6
DA2019/156	Qualia Wine Company Pty Ltd	Sturt Highway Lot 2 DP 1041994 Lot 13 DP 740929, Lot 14 DP 740929 & Lot 15 DP 756936 Trentham Cliffs	Four Lot amalgamation into two Lots and boundary re-alignment	\$0.00	03/12/2019	4
DA2017/115	Keltren Pty Ltd	Sturt Highway Lot 1 DP 1128099 Trentham Cliffs	Staged Development Caravan RV Park	\$5,000,000	05/12/2019	566

9.18 DELEGATED AUTHORITY APPROVALS AS AT END OF JANUARY 2020

File Number: RPT/20/105

Responsible Officer: Matthew Carlin - Director Health and Planning

Responsible Division: Health and Planning

Reporting Officer: Nicky Meredith - Coordinator Health and Planning

Objective: 1.0 Wentworth is a vibrant, growing and thriving Shire

Strategy: 1.1 Grow the potential for business and industry to develop and expand

Summary

For the month of January 2020, a total of five Development Applications and one S4.55 Modification Applications were determined under delegated authority by the Director Health and Planning.

The estimated value of the determined developments was \$200,739. This brings the year to date total to five Development Applications approved and one S4.55 Applications approved, with an estimated development value of \$200,739.

Recommendation

- a) That Council receives and notes the report for the month of January 2020.
- b) That Council publicly notifies, for the purposes of Schedule 1 Division 4 Section 20 (2) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, the applications as listed in the attachment on the Wentworth Shire Council website.
- c) That a division be called in accordance with S375A of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW).

Detailed Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a list of Development Applications as tabled in Attachment 1, determined under delegated authority by the Director Health and Planning for the month of January 2020, hence complying with the requirements under section 3.20 of the Office of Local Government Promoting Better Practice Program.

Conclusion

The total value of determinations was \$200,739 for the month of January 2020, which was less than the previous month of \$6,865,687. The average determination time was 46 days.

Attachments

1. Determination of Development Applications for the month of January 2020 [1](#)

DETERMINATION OF DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2020

File Number	Owner	Location	Description	Value (Ex GST)	Determination Date	Active Days to 31/01/2020
DA2019/134	Craig Heaysman	Mulga Road Lot 170 DP 756961 Dareton	Ground mounted Solar Power System	\$160,000.00	16/01/2020	66
DA2019/136	Landmark Operations Limited	18 Corbett Avenue Lot 1 DP 822090 Buronga	Three Shade Sails	\$24,000.00	16/01/2020	62
DA2019/146	WSC T/F Alcheringa Preschool	4 Burns Street Lot 7305 DP 1141029 & Lot 211 DP 756946 Gol Gol	Shade Sail	\$6,629.00	16/01/2020	48
S4-55/2019/023	Jodie Madden	34 The Cobb & Co Way Lot 52 DP 1025499 Gol Gol	Modify DA12/104 to amend front fence & gate specifications	\$0.00	08/01/2020	34
DA2019/153	Guiseppe Scopelliti	65-77 Hendy Road Lot 2 DP 1222570 Buronga	Two (2) Lot Subdivision	\$10,000.00	16/01/2020	33
DA2019/157	Garry Phillips	71-73 Wentworth Street Lot 59 DP 756994 Wentworth	Advertising sign for Wentworth Self Storage business	\$110.00	20/01/2020	31

10 NOTICES OF MOTIONS / QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

10.1 WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBERSHIP OF CENTRAL MURRAY REGION TRANSPORT FORUM

File Number: RPT/20/78

Councillor MacAllister has indicated her intention to move the following motion:

Motion

That council withdraw membership from the Central Murray Region Transport forum, effective immediately.

Attachments

Nil

11 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS – ADJOURNMENT INTO CLOSED SESSION

Despite the right of members of the public to attend meetings of a council, the council may choose to close to the public, parts of the meeting that involve the discussion or receipt of certain matters as prescribed under section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act.

With the exception of matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors) (10A(2)(a)), matters involving the personal hardship of a resident or ratepayer (10A(2)(b)) or matters that would disclose a trade secret (10A(2)(d)(iii)), council must be satisfied that discussion of the matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

The Act requires council to close the meeting formonly so much of the discussion as is necessary to preserve the relevant confidentiality, privilege or security being protected. (section 10B(1)(a))

Section 10A(4) of the Act provides that a council may allow members of the public to make representations to or at a meeting, before any part of the meeting is closed to the public, as to whether that part of the meeting should be closed.

Section 10B(4) of the Act stipulates that for the purpose of determining whether the discussion of a matter in an open meeting would be contrary to the public interest, it is irrelevant that:-

- (a) a person may misinterpret or misunderstand the discussion, or
- (b) the discussion of the matter may -
 - (i) cause embarrassment to the council or committee concerned, or to councillors or to employees of the council, or
 - (ii) cause a loss of confidence in the council or committee.

Recommendation

That Council adjourns into Closed Session and members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting of the Closed Session, and that access to the correspondence and reports relating to the items considered during the course of the Closed Session be withheld unless declassified by separate resolution.

This action is taken in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act, 1993 as the items listed come within the following provisions:-**12.1 Plant Replacement - Approval of Tenders for Replacement of Plant 520 - Tipping Truck and Trailer - VR1920/520. (RPT/20/1)**

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

12.2 Wentworth Aerodrome Upgrade - Supply of VIC Roads Class 3 Road Base Material - PT1920/03. (RPT/20/84)

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct)

business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

**12.3 Wentworth Aerodrome Upgrade - Stabilisation Works - PT1920/04.
(RPT/20/92)**

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

12 OPEN COUNCIL - REPORT FROM CLOSED COUNCIL

12.1 PLANT REPLACEMENT - APPROVAL OF TENDERS FOR REPLACEMENT OF PLANT 520 - TIPPING TRUCK AND TRAILER - VR1920/520

File Number: RPT/20/1

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering
 Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering
 Reporting Officer: Allan Eastmond - Manager Works

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural assets

Strategy: 3.2 Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

12.2 WENTWORTH AERODROME UPGRADE - SUPPLY OF VIC ROADS CLASS 3 ROAD BASE MATERIAL - PT1920/03

File Number: RPT/20/84

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering

Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering

Reporting Officer: Tarryn Kampman - Administration Officer

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural assets

Strategy: 3.2 Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

12.3 WENTWORTH AERODROME UPGRADE - STABILISATION WORKS - PT1920/04

File Number: RPT/20/92

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering

Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering

Reporting Officer: Tarryn Kampman - Administration Officer

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural assets

Strategy: 3.2 Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

13 CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

NEXT MEETING

18 March 2020