



# WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL

*Amendments have been made to the Local Government Act 1993 (the Act) allowing councils to meet remotely to assist them to manage the risk of transmission of the COVID-19 virus at their meetings and to ensure compliance with the Public Health Order. The amendments came into effect on 25 March 2020 and will operate for a period of six months, but may be extended to 12 months by regulation if required.*

*The amendment to the Act also provides that the requirement under section 10 for meetings to be open to members of the public is satisfied if a webcast of the meeting is made public.*

***Accordingly this meeting will be livestreamed via council's Facebook page.***

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 at the **MIDWAY CENTRE, MIDWAY DRIVE, BURONGA** for **councillors who wish to attend in person, OR VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE** for those who prefer not to attend in person . The meeting will commence at **10.00AM**.

**KEN ROSS  
GENERAL MANAGER**

## **ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA**

**15 JULY 2020**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

ITEM	SUBJECT	PAGE NO
1	OPENING OF MEETING .....	1
2	PRAYER OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY.....	1
3	APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE .....	1
4	DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS .....	1
5	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES .....	1
6	OUTSTANDING MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS .....	35
6.1	Outstanding matters from previous meetings .....	35
7	MAYORAL AND COUNCILLOR REPORTS .....	42
7.1	Mayoral Report .....	42
7.2	Activity Report - Councillor Jane MacAllister .....	43
8	REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES .....	44
8.1	Murray Darling Association (MDA) Delegates Report June 2020 .....	44
9	REPORTS TO COUNCIL .....	55
9.1	General Manager's Report .....	55
9.2	Murray Darling Association Region 4 Nominations.....	81
9.3	Monthly Finance Report .....	83
9.4	Monthly Investment Report .....	87
9.5	Delegated Authority Approvals as at end of June 2020 .....	92
10	NOTICES OF MOTIONS / QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE .....	95
	Nil	
11	CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS – ADJOURNMENT INTO CLOSED SESSION.....	96
12	OPEN COUNCIL - REPORT FROM CLOSED COUNCIL .....	98
12.1	Wentworth Aerodrome Upgrade - Bitumen, Asphalt and Linemarking Works PT1920/07 .....	98
13	CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING .....	99
	NEXT MEETING .....	99

**1 OPENING OF MEETING**

The Mayor will invite the General Manager to provide information regarding the live-streaming of the meeting

**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 24 June 2020 be confirmed as circulated.



# **WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL**

## **ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES**

**24 JUNE 2020**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

ITEM	SUBJECT	PAGE NO
1	OPENING OF MEETING .....	1
2	PRAYER OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY.....	1
3	APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE.....	1
4	DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS .....	1
5	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES .....	1
6	OUTSTANDING MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS .....	2
6.1	Request for information regarding hiring of Midway Centre .....	2
6.2	Listing of outstanding matters .....	3
7	MAYORAL AND COUNCILLOR REPORTS .....	4
7.1	Mayoral Report .....	4
7.2	Activity Report - Councillor Jane MacAllister .....	5
8	REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES .....	6
8.1	Murray Darling Association (MDA) Delegates Report May 2020 .....	6
9	REPORTS TO COUNCIL .....	7
9.1	General Manager's Report .....	7
9.2	Adoption of the 2020/21 Operational Plan.....	8
9.3	Trentham Cliffs Development - Provision Of Water and Sewer .....	12
9.4	2020 LGNSW Water Management Conference.....	13
9.5	Monthly Finance Report .....	14
9.6	Monthly Investment Report .....	15
9.7	Determination of Councillor Remuneration for 2020/2021 .....	16
9.8	Managing Financial Hardship from COVID-19 for Regular User Group Agreements.....	17
9.9	Delegated Authority Approvals as at end of May 2020 .....	18
9.10	Draft Policies for Public Exhibition .....	19
9.11	Projects and Works Report Update - June 2020 .....	20
10	NOTICES OF MOTIONS / QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE .....	21
10.1	Notice of Motion from Councillor Wheeldon .....	21
11	CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS – ADJOURNMENT INTO CLOSED SESSION.....	22
12	OPEN COUNCIL - REPORT FROM CLOSED COUNCIL .....	24

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12.1	Plant Replacement - Approval of Tenders for Replacement of plant 645 - Super Cab Tipping Body 4x2 Utility.....	24
12.2	Wentworth Aerodrome Upgrade - Supply and Installation of the Aerodrome Lighting PT1920/06.....	24
12.3	Easement Acquisition for the Buronga Sewer Pump Station #1 and Hendy Road Sewer Stage 1 and 2 Upgrade Works.....	25
<b>13</b>	<b>CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING .....</b>	<b>26</b>
	<b>NEXT MEETING .....</b>	<b>26</b>

## 1 OPENING OF MEETING

At the invitation of the Mayor the General Manager provided information regarding the live-streaming of the meeting.

## 2 PRAYER OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Mayor opened the meeting with a prayer at 10.07am

### PRESENT:

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

**STAFF:** Ken Ross (General Manager)  
Matthew Carlin (Director Health and Planning)  
Geoff Gunn (Director Roads and Engineering)  
Simon Rule (Director Finance and Policy)  
Paula Mastrippolito (Manager Organisational Support)

## 3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

The Mayor requested a Leave of Absence from 6 August to 14 August 2020.

### Council Resolution

That Council grants the Leave of Absence Request from Mayor Hederics.

**Moved Cr. Wheeldon, Seconded Cr. Elstone**

**CARRIED**

## 4 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

Nil

## 5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

### Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 13 May 2020 be confirmed as circulated.

### Council Resolution

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 13 May 2020 be confirmed, subject to the resolution in item 9.7 being amended to reflect that events must proceed for requests to be granted.

Moved Cr. Wheeldon, Seconded Cr. Nichols

CARRIED



## 6 OUTSTANDING MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

### 6.1 REQUEST FOR INFORMATION REGARDING HIRING OF MIDWAY CENTRE

File Number: RPT/20/329

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Responsible Division: Finance and Policy

Reporting Officer: Hodi Beauliv - Manager Finance

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**

At the May 2020 Council meeting Cr Nichols requested a list of Midway Centre hirers in the last 12 months, other than those who have Regular User Agreements.

#### **Recommendation**

That Council notes the hirers of the Midway Centre during 2019 calendar year, other than those with Regular User Agreements.

#### **Council Resolution**

That Council notes the hirers of the Midway Centre during 2019 calendar year, other than those with Regular User Agreements.

**Moved Cr. Nichols, Seconded Cr. Nunan**

**CARRIED**

**6.2 LISTING OF OUTSTANDING MATTERS**

File Number:	RPT/20/343
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**

The Outstanding Matters Listing provides a summary of items raised at previous Council meetings that remain outstanding.

**Officer Recommendation**

That Council notes the list of outstanding matters as at 15 June 2020.

**Council Resolution**

That Council notes the list of outstanding matters as at 15 June 2020.

**Moved Cr. Nunan, Seconded Cr. MacAllister**

**CARRIED**

## **7 MAYORAL AND COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

### **7.1 MAYORAL REPORT**

File Number: RPT/20/321

#### **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. Heywood**

**CARRIED**

**7.2 ACTIVITY REPORT - COUNCILLOR JANE MACALLISTER**

File Number: RPT/20/335

**Summary**

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of meetings, conferences and appointments undertaken by Councillor Jane MacAllister for the period 1 January 2020 – 31 March 2020.

**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. Heywood**

**CARRIED**

## 8 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

### 8.1 MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION (MDA) DELEGATES REPORT MAY 2020

File Number: RPT/20/324

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**

At the 20 April 2020 Murray Darling Association (MDA) Board meeting it was resolved that a monthly Delegate's Report be forwarded to all member Councils & delegates.

There is also a call for motions for the Murray Darling Association AGM.

#### **Recommendation**

1. That Council notes the Delegate's Report for May 2020 from the Murray Darling Association.
2. That Council formalises motions for submission to the Murray Darling Association AGM.

#### **Council Resolution**

That Council notes the Delegate's Report for May 2020 from the Murray Darling Association

**Moved Cr. MacAllister, Seconded Cr. Nichols**

**CARRIED**

## 9 REPORTS TO COUNCIL

### 9.1 GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

File Number: RPT/20/322

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 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 20-16 to 20-20

Details of General Circular GC-149

2. Meetings

As listed

3. Upcoming meetings or events

As listed

4. Other items of note

Nil

#### **Recommendation**

That Council notes the information contained within the report from the General Manager.

#### **Council Resolution**

That Council notes the information contained within the report from the General Manager.

**Moved Cr. Evans, Seconded Cr. MacAllister**

**CARRIED**

## 9.2 ADOPTION OF THE 2020/21 OPERATIONAL PLAN

File Number: RPT/20/325

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

Following the presentation of the Draft 2020/21 Operational Plan to the 13 May 2020 council meeting, the draft plan was placed on public exhibition for 28 days as required under the Local Government Act.

Council is now required to consider all submissions received prior to adopting the 2020/21 Rates and Charges. This includes the following:

- The 2020/21 Annual Statement of Revenue and the annual fees and charges.
- The making and levying of rates and charges including:
  - 2.60% increase in the Ordinary rate for 2020/21.
  - 2.60% increase in Sewer Access Charges for 2020/21.
  - 2.60% increase in Water Access Charges for 2020/21.
  - 2.60% increase in Domestic Waste Charges for 2020/21.
  - No increase to Water Consumption Charges for 2020/21.
  - Charge the maximum 0.00% interest on overdue rates and charges for the period 1 July 2020 – 31 December 2020 and 7.00% for the period 1 January 2021 – 30 June 2021.

### Recommendation

- a) That Council adopts the 2020/21 Operational Plan, as amended, having considered submissions received.
- b) That Council resolves to increase the rate income for the 2020/21 year by the maximum 2.60% rate pegged amount determined by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of NSW (IPART).
- c) That Council resolves to make and levy an ordinary rate to comprise of a base rate and an ad valorem rating structure for Residential, Business and Farmland categories of rates under Section 534, 535 & 537 of the Local Government Act 1993 for the 2019/20 year including:

#### ***FARMLAND CATEGORY***

Includes all of the lands within the local government area of Wentworth categorised as Farmland except those parcels of rateable land sub categorised as Farmland, Dry Land Grazing and Farmland, Licence/Pump Site/Pipeline

#### **Farmland**

An ordinary rate of 0.00309165 cents in the dollar on the land value of all rateable lands within Wentworth Shire Council categorised as Farmland, in accordance with Section 515 of the Local Government Act, 1993 be now made for the 2020/21 rating period, subject to a base amount of (\$510.00) for each assessment. The base amount accounts for 33.36% of the estimated yield for this category. The estimated yield for this rate is \$1,108,302

**Farmland, Dry Land Grazing**

An ordinary rate of 0.00252606 cents in the dollar on the land value of all rateable lands within Wentworth Shire Council categorised as Farmland, in accordance with Section 515 of the Local Government Act, 1993 be now made for the 2020/21 rating period, subject to a base amount of (\$510.00) for each assessment. The base amount accounts for 19.06% of the estimated yield for this category. The estimated yield for this rate is \$661,041

**Farmland, Licence/Pump Site/Pipeline**

An ordinary rate of 0.03653814 cents in the dollar on the land value of all rateable lands within Wentworth Shire Council categorised as Farmland, sub categorised Licence/Pump Site/Pipeline, in accordance with Section 515 of the Local Government Act, 1993 be now made for the 2020/21 rating period, subject to a base amount of (\$95.00) for each assessment. The base amount accounts for 42.19% of the estimated yield for this category. The estimated yield for this rate is \$16,886.16

***RESIDENTIAL CATEGORY*****Wentworth**

An ordinary rate of 0.00409093 cents in the dollar on the land value of all rateable lands with Wentworth Shire Council categorised as Residential, sub categorised Wentworth, in accordance with Section 516 of the Local Government Act, 1993 be now made for the 2020/21 rating period, subject to base amount of (\$230.00) for each assessment. The amount accounts for 45.75% of the estimated yield for this category. The estimated yield for this rate is \$308,178.79

**Buronga**

An ordinary rate of 0.00363459 cents in the dollar on the land value of all rateable lands within Wentworth Shire Council categorised as Residential, sub categorised Buronga, in accordance with Section 516 of the Local Government Act, 1993 be now made for the 2020/21 rating period, subject to a base amount of (\$260.00) for each assessment. The base amount accounts for 31.51% of the estimated yield for this category. The estimated yield for this rate is \$405,929

**Gol Gol**

An ordinary rate of 0.00389402 cents in the dollar on the land value of all rateable lands within Wentworth Shire Council categorised as Residential, sub categorised Gol Gol, in accordance with Section 516 of the Local Government Act, 1993 be now made for the 2020/21 rating period, subject to a base amount of (\$260.00) for each assessment. The base amount accounts for 27.30% of the estimated yield for this category. The estimated yield for this rate is \$523,897

**Gol Gol East**

An ordinary rate of 0.00439115 cents in the dollar on the land value of all rateable lands within Wentworth Shire Council categorised as Residential, sub categorised Gol Gol East, in accordance with Section 516 of the Local Government Act, 1993 be now made for the 2020/21 rating period, subject to a base amount of (\$360.00) for each assessment. The base amount accounts for 23.96% of the estimated yield for this category. The estimated yield for this rate is \$338,072

**Pooncarie**

An ordinary rate of 0.01332810 cents in the dollar on the land value of all rateable lands with Wentworth Shire Council categorised as Residential, sub categorised Pooncarie, in accordance with Section 516 of the Local Government Act, 1993 be now made for the 2020/21 rating period, subject to a base amount of (\$185.00) for each assessment. The base amount accounts for 46.40% of the estimated yield for this category. The estimated yield for this rate is \$21,131

**Dareton**

An ordinary rate of 0.01572021 cents in the dollar on the land value of all rateable lands within Wentworth Shire Council categorised as Residential, sub categorised Dareton, in



accordance with Section 516 of the Local Government Act, 1993 be now made for the 2020/21 rating period, subject to a base amount of (\$185.00) for each assessment. The base amount accounts for 48.40% of the estimated yield for this category. The estimated yield for this rate is \$76,450

#### **Rural Residential**

An ordinary rate of 0.00373314 cents in the dollar on the land value of all rateable lands within Wentworth Shire Council categorised as Residential, sub categorised Rural, in accordance with Section 516 of the Local Government Act, 1993 be now made for the 2020/21 rating period, subject to a base amount of (\$170.00) for each assessment. The base amount accounts for 24.14% of the estimated yield for this category. The estimated yield for this rate is \$437,290

#### **BUSINESS CATEGORY**

Includes all of the lands within the local government area of Wentworth categorised as Business except those parcels of rateable land sub categorised as Business, Mourquong; Business, Trentham Cliffs; Business, Arumpo; Business, Wentworth; Business, Pooncarie (including all of the lands within the locality of Pooncarie sub categorised as Business Pooncarie except those lands within the township of Pooncarie).

#### **Business**

An ordinary rate of 0.00659508 cents in the dollar on the land value of all rateable lands within Wentworth Shire Council categorised as Business, in accordance with Section 518 of the Local Government Act, 1993 be now made for the 2020/21 rating period, subject to a base amount of (\$270.00) for each assessment. The base amount accounts for 21.38% of the estimated yield for this category. The estimated yield for this rate is \$244,994

#### **Business, Wentworth**

An ordinary rate of 0.00950742 cents in the dollar on the land value of all rateable lands within Wentworth Shire Council categorised as Business, sub categorised Wentworth, in accordance with Section 518 of the Local Government Act, 1993 be now made for the 2020/21 rating period, subject to a base amount of (\$270.00) for each assessment. The base amount accounts for 38.26% of the estimated yield for this category. The estimated yield for this rate is \$39,518

#### **Business, Mourquong**

An ordinary rate of 0.29338897 cents in the dollar on the land value of all rateable lands within Wentworth Shire Council categorised as Business, sub categorised Mourquong, in accordance with Section 518 of the Local Government Act, 1993 be now made for the 2020/21 rating period, subject to a base amount of (\$100.00) for each assessment. The base amount accounts for 0.12% of the estimated yield for this category. The estimated yield for this rate is \$241,172

#### **Business, Trentham Cliffs**

An ordinary rate of 0.00817110 cents in the dollar on the land value of all rateable lands within Wentworth Shire Council categorised as Business, sub categorised Trentham Cliffs, in accordance with Section 518 of the Local Government Act 1993, be now made for the 2020/21 rating period, subject to a base amount of (\$120.00) for each assessment. The base amount accounts for 3.49% of the estimated yield for this category. The estimated yield for this rate is \$10,329

#### **Business, Arumpo**

An ordinary rate of 0.06246807 cents in the dollar on the land value of all rateable lands within Wentworth Shire Council categorised as Business, sub categorised Arumpo, in accordance with Section 518 of the Local Government Act, 1993 be now made for the 2020/21 rating period, subject to a base amount of (\$210.00) for each assessment. The base amount accounts for 1.17% of the estimated yield for this category. The estimated yield for this rate is \$71,679

#### **Business, Pooncarie**

An ordinary rate of 0.09382097 cents in the dollar on the land value of all rateable lands with Wentworth Shire Council categorised as Business, sub categorised Pooncarie, in accordance with Section 518 of the Local Government Act, 1993 be now made for the

2020/21 rating period, subject to a base amount of (\$100.00) for each assessment. The base amount accounts for 0.02% of the estimated yield for this category. The estimated yield for this rate is \$955,767

- d) That Council resolves to make and levy fees and charges for Sewer Services for 2020/21 year as set out in the annual statement of revenue.
- e) That Council resolves to make and levy fees and charges for Water Services for 2020/21 year as set out in the annual statement of revenue.
- f) That Council resolves to make and levy a Domestic Waste Management charge for 2020/21 year under Section 496 of the Local Government Act 1993 on each parcel of rateable land of which the service is available as set out in the annual statement of revenue.
- g) That Council resolves to fix the fees and charges schedule for 2020/21 year as set out in annual statement of revenue.
- h) That Council resolves to charge the maximum 0.00% interest on overdue rates and charges for the period 1 July 2020 – 31 December 2020 and 7.00% 1 January 2021 – 30 June 2021 as determined by the Minister for Local Government.
- i) That Council resolves to approve Appendix A – Bodies Granted Exemptions automatic fee waiver as part of the 2019/2020 Donations, Grants and Contributions Program as set out in the schedule of fees and charges.
- j) That Council resolves to approve Borrowings for 2020/21 of up to \$7,000,000 as outlined in the Annual Statement of Revenue.

**Council Resolution**

That council adopts recommendations a) to j).

**Moved Cr. Evans, Seconded Cr. Heywood**

**CARRIED**

**9.3 TRENTHAM CLIFFS DEVELOPMENT - PROVISION OF WATER AND SEWER**

File Number: RPT/20/302

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**

This report should be read in conjunction with one with the same title which was deliberated with the following resolution of Council being carried at the 18 December 2019 meeting.

*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.*

Since the December meeting of Council the final costing has been prepared for the delivery of the project which equates to \$1,841,106.00

Under the terms of the agreement the Council contribution is capped at \$1,500,000.00 in line with the December Report.

This report now seeks Council endorsement of the agreement.

**Recommendation**

That Council authorises the Mayor and General Manager to attach the common seal of the Wentworth Shire Council to the agreement pertaining to the provision of water and sewer infrastructure to Trentham Cliffs and beyond, noting that the agreement caps the Council contribution at \$1,500,000.00.

**Council Resolution**

That Council authorises the Mayor and General Manager to attach the common seal of the Wentworth Shire Council to the agreement pertaining to the provision of water and sewer infrastructure to Trentham Cliffs and beyond, noting that the agreement caps the Council contribution at \$1,500,000.00.

**Moved Cr. Heywood, Seconded Cr. Elstone**

**CARRIED**

**9.4 2020 LGNSW WATER MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE**

File Number: RPT/20/338

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 annual Local Government NSW (LGNSW) Water Management Conference will be held from 6-8 October 2020 in Narrabri (in person). A broad range of information from a local government perspective on water management, issues associated with water supply and sewerage services provided by water utilities are presented at the conference.

**Recommendation**

That Council nominates delegates to attend the 2020 LGNSW Water Management Conference to be held in Narrabri from 6 -8 October 2020.

**Council Resolution**

That Council nominates the Director Roads and Engineering and Councillor Heywood as its delegates to attend the 2020 LGNSW Water Management Conference to be held in Narrabri from 6 -8 October 2020.

**Moved Cr. Heywood, Seconded Cr. MacAllister**

**CARRIED**

**9.5 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT**

File Number: RPT/20/327

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 May 2020 were \$1,239,975.63. After allowing for pensioner subsidies, the total levies collected are now 85.91%. For comparison purposes 88.16% of the levy had been collected at the end of May 2019. Council currently has \$30,662,651.07 in cash and investments.

**Recommendation**

That Council notes the monthly finance report.

**Council Resolution**

That Council notes the monthly finance report

**Moved Cr. Nichols, Seconded Cr. MacAllister**

**CARRIED**

**9.6 MONTHLY INVESTMENT REPORT**

File Number: RPT/20/333

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 May 2020 Council had \$26,000,000.00 invested in term deposits and \$2 million in a cash at call account. Council received \$30,915.07 from its investments for the month of May 2020.

In May 2020 Council investments averaged a rate of return of 1.45% and it currently has \$8,466,832.09 of internal restrictions and \$17,345,479.43 of external restrictions.

**Recommendation**

That Council notes the monthly investment report.

**Council Resolution**

That Council notes the monthly investment report.

**Moved Cr. MacAllister, Seconded Cr. Evans**

**CARRIED**

**9.7 DETERMINATION OF COUNCILLOR REMUNERATION FOR 2020/2021**

File Number: RPT/20/225

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****Recommendation**

That Council sets the level of fees to be paid to the Councillors and Mayor in accordance with the schedule of fees determined by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal.

**Council Resolution**

That Council sets the remuneration for Councillors at the maximum fee allowable for Councillors and the Mayor in line with the schedule of fees determined by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal.

**Moved Cr. Nunan, Seconded Cr. Heywood**

**CARRIED**

Cr MacAllister; Cr McKinnon and Cr Elstone requested that their vote against the motion.

**9.8 MANAGING FINANCIAL HARDSHIP FROM COVID-19 FOR REGULAR USER GROUP AGREEMENTS**

File Number: RPT/20/330

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**

For Council to consider options for providing relief for Regular User Groups experiencing hardship due to the current COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic.

**Recommendation**

That Council delegates authority for the General Manager to waive or reduce fees to more accurately reflect the utilisation of Council's facilities by Regular User Groups during the coronavirus pandemic. Fee relief will be determined by a proportionate reduction in rent payable as a result of the impact of COVID-19 and provided in the form of:

- 1) a fee waiver or
- 2) a fee deferral, amortised over a period of 24 months

**Council Resolution**

That Council delegates authority for the General Manager to waive or reduce fees to more accurately reflect the utilisation of Council's facilities by Regular User Groups during the coronavirus pandemic. Fee relief will be determined by a proportionate reduction in rent payable as a result of the impact of COVID-19 and provided in the form of a fee waiver.

**Moved Cr. Nunan, Seconded Cr. MacAllister**

**CARRIED**



**9.9 DELEGATED AUTHORITY APPROVALS AS AT END OF MAY 2020**

File Number: RPT/20/345

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 May 2020, a total of seven 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 \$298,024.00. This brings the year to date total to 58 Development Applications approved and 15 S4.55 Applications approved, with an estimated development value of \$14,524,643.00.

**Recommendation**

- a) That Council receives and notes the report for the month of May 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)*.

**Council Resolution**

- a) That Council receives and notes the report for the month of May 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)*.

**Moved Cr. Nunan, Seconded Cr. Heywood**

**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.***

**9.10 DRAFT POLICIES FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION**

File Number: RPT/20/318

Responsible Officer: Matthew Carlin - Director Health and Planning

Responsible Division: Health and Planning

Reporting Officer: Matthew Carlin - Director Health and Planning

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**

To further strengthen and improve Councils operational service capabilities, two policies are presented to Council for endorsement to go to public exhibition. The policies are: Control of Frost Fans Policy and Mobile Food Vendor Policy.

**Recommendation**

That Council approves, for public exhibition, the draft Control of Frost Fans Policy and the revised Mobile Food Vendor Policy Policies, with both policies to be placed on Public exhibition for a period of 28 days.

**Council Resolution**

That Council approves for public exhibition, the draft Control of Frost Fans Policy and the revised Mobile Food Vendor Policy Policies, with both policies to be placed on Public exhibition for a period of 28 days once the suggested amendments have been included.

**Moved Cr. Nunan, Seconded Cr. MacAllister**

**CARRIED**

**9.11 PROJECTS AND WORKS REPORT UPDATE - JUNE 2020**

File Number: RPT/20/334

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 May 2020 and the planned works for June 2020.

At 11:18 am Councillor Susan Nichols left the Council Chambers as she had a conflict of interest in questions that were being raised in relation to works at the Wentworth Bowling Club.

At 11:20 am Councillor Susan Nichols returned to Council Chambers.

**Recommendation**

That Council notes the major works undertaken for May and the proposed works for June 2020.

**Council Resolution**

That Council notes the major works undertaken for May and the proposed works for June 2020.

**Moved Cr. Nichols, Seconded Cr. Nunan**

**CARRIED**

## **10 NOTICES OF MOTIONS / QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE**

### **10.1 NOTICE OF MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR WHEELDON**

File Number: RPT/20/347

#### **Motion**

That council writes to state government representatives in the Agriculture and Planning portfolios requesting that all allotments in the Rural Zones identified within the maps of WLEP 2011 previously categorised as prime horticultural land, but in reality have little or no horticultural benefit, with an area of less than 10 hectares be given the entitlement to build a dwelling thereon.

#### **Motion**

That council writes to state government representatives in the Agriculture and Planning portfolios requesting that all allotments in the Rural Zones identified within the maps of WLEP 2011 previously categorised as prime horticultural land, but in reality have little or no horticultural benefit, with an area of less than 10 hectares be given the entitlement to build a dwelling thereon.

**Moved Cr Wheeldon, Seconded Cr Nunan**

**LOST**

### **10.2 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE**

Cr Nunan asked about a WSC car being parked on the highway during a staff members day off.

#### **10.2.1 USE OF WSC VEHICLES**

Cr Peter Nunan asked why there continues to be a WSC vehicle parked outside a staff members place of residence, when the employee is clearly not at work.

#### **10.2.2 TRAFFIC CONTROL STAFF**

Cr Peter Nunan asked why a council employee needs to sit in a truck talking to another staff member on traffic control duties.

The Director Roads and Engineering believed that there was a requirement to have two controllers in order to cover required breaks.

#### **10.2.3 SMOKING ON JOB SITES**

Cr Melisa Hederics about what the policy was about outdoor workers smoking whilst undertaking their duties.

The Director Roads and Engineering advised that each of the matters raised would be taken up with the relevant team leaders and managers.

**10.2.4 TIMING OF ROAD WORKS**

Cr Susan Nichols asked why road works on the Silver City Highway were left to the week before the new supermarket was set to open.

The General Manager advised that the road works were not being undertaken by council, but as he understood it there had been numerous design changes which held up the commencement of those works.

**10.2.5 CURLWAA BACK-PACKERS ACCOMODATION**

Cr Steve Heywood requested a further report on the Curlwaa backpackers accommodation.

**10.2.6 CREATION OF NEW FOOTPATH**

Cr Steve Heywood asked if a footpath could be put along the Silver City Highway, from the Club to School Road.

**10.2.7 DRONES**

Cr Susan Nichols asked if council has drones, and whether staff are trained in their use.

The Director Finance and Policy advised that there were 3 drones in use, and staff were properly trained.

**10.2.8 INSTALLATION OF SOLAR POWER ON COUNCIL FACILITIES**

Cr Susan Nichols asked for a report on what council buildings would benefit from having solar energy installed.

**10.2.9 REMOVAL OF DEAD TREES AND VINES**

Cr Susan Nichols, referring to properties in Curlwaa, asked whether Council has the ability to order the clean-up of dead citrus trees and vines

**10.2.10 NEW SIGNAGE AT MIDWAY CENTRE**

Cr Susan Nichols asked if a new sign could be erected at the Midway Centre advertising all the services that are being provided at the centre.

**10.2.11 NEW FOOTPATH AT MIDWAY CENTRE**

Cr Melisa Hederics asked if a footpath could be installed to connect the top carpark at the Midway Centre with the Midway Function Centre.

At 11.53 am Councillor Tim Elstone left the video conference.

**10.2.12 SEALING OF GOLF COURSE ROAD, DARETON**

Cr Don McKinnon asked if there are any plans for Golf Course Road to be sealed.

**10.2.13 WASTE MANAGEMENT CONTRACTS**

Cr Jane MacAllister enquired about the progress with the tender for waste management services.

The General Manager advised that as recently as this week information had been received from the consultant working on the tender process.

**10.2.14 PLACING OF A NEW DRIVEWAY ON POONCARIE ROAD**

Cr Greg Evans asked about a new driveway that had been created in the spoon drain outside a property on the Pooncarie Road, which he believes to be very dangerous.

**10.2.15 WELCOME TO WENTWORTH SIGNAGE - WENTWORTH**

Cr Bill Wheeldon asked if the Welcome to Wentworth sign (on the Silver City Highway on the north side of Wentworth) could be replaced.

## 11 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS – ADJOURNMENT INTO CLOSED SESSION

### 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 645 - Super Cab Tipping Body 4x2 Utility. (RPT/20/326)**

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 and Installation of the Aerodrome Lighting PT1920/06. (RPT/20/336)**

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 Easement Acquisition for the Buronga Sewer Pump Station #1 and Hendy Road Sewer Stage 1 and 2 Upgrade Works. (RPT/20/340)**

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 (a) personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors) and (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.

**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. MacAllister**

Council moved into closed session at 11.59am

Council reconvened into open session at 12.17pm, noting that Councillor McKinnon left the meeting at 12.01pm.



## 12 OPEN COUNCIL - REPORT FROM CLOSED COUNCIL

At the Mayor's request the General Manager reported on the following items from the Closed session of Council.

### 12.1 PLANT REPLACEMENT - APPROVAL OF TENDERS FOR REPLACEMENT OF PLANT 645 - SUPER CAB TIPPING BODY 4X2 UTILITY

File Number: RPT/20/326

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

The General Manager advised that during the closed session Council accepted the tender from Davison Ford for the supply of one Ford Ranger 2020 Super CC XL for the sum of \$44,710.00 incl. GST, and accept the trade price of \$22,210.00 incl. GST for the Council owned Ford Ranger, plant item 645 with a changeover price of \$22,500.00 incl. GST.

### 12.2 WENTWORTH AERODROME UPGRADE - SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF THE AERODROME LIGHTING PT1920/06

File Number: RPT/20/336

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

The General Manager advised that during the closed session Council accepted the tender from Advanced Airport Lighting to carry out the supply and installation of the Aerodrome Lighting for Contract PT1920/06, in the amount of \$1,667,651.70 including GST and authorised the Mayor and General Manager to sign the contract documentation and affix the council seal.

**12.3 EASEMENT ACQUISITION FOR THE BURONGA SEWER PUMP STATION #1  
AND HENDY ROAD SEWER STAGE 1 AND 2 UPGRADE WORKS**

File Number: RPT/20/340

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: 3.1 Promote the efficient delivery of water supply, sewer and drainage services for the long term interests of future generations

The General Manager advised that during the closed session Council provided consent to Council officers to consult with impacted residential property owners along Hendy Road to finalise the acquisition of an easement.

### **13 CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING**

The Mayor declared the meeting at closed at 12.19pm

### **NEXT MEETING**

15 July 2020

.....  
**CHAIR**

## 6 OUTSTANDING MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

### 6.1 OUTSTANDING MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

File Number: RPT/20/381

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 Outstanding Matters report provides details of activities raised at previous Council meetings that remain outstanding.

#### **Officer Recommendation**

That Council notes the list of outstanding matters as at 8 July 2020.

#### **Additional Information**

Nil

#### **Attachments**

1. Outstanding matters listing [↓](#)

<b>Outstanding</b> Division: Ordinary Council Committee: Officer: <b>Outstanding Action Items Report</b>				Date From: 9 Jul 2020 4:12:32 PM Date To: Printed: Thursday, 9 July 2020 4:12:32 PM	
Meeting	Item	Title	Item	Action Record (latest first)	
Ordinary Council 19/02/2020	9.15	Alternative Options for the Management of Council's Waste Facilities	<b><u>Council Resolution</u></b> 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. <b>Moved Cr. MacAllister, Seconded Cr. Heywood</b> <b><u>CARRIED</u></b>	9 Jul 2020 - 3:29 PM - Gayle Marsden Seeking external quotation to oversee this matter	
Ordinary Council 22/04/2020	8.1	Formal Request of a Review of Gol Gol Speed Zone	<b><u>Council Resolution</u></b> That Council requests a formal speed zone review by Transport for NSW of a 1.2km section of the Sturt Highway south east of the Gol Gol township, between Wilga Road and beyond Native Ridge Road. <b>Moved Cr. Nichols, Seconded Cr. Heywood</b> <b><u>CARRIED</u></b>	9 Jul 2020 - 3:56 PM - Gayle Marsden Advised Transport for NSW will undertake a Speed Zone Review - Completed	
Ordinary Council 22/04/2020	9.5	State Government Funding for NSW Public	<b><u>Council Resolution</u></b> 1. That Council makes representation to the local State Member, Helen Dalton (MP), in relation to the need for a sustainable state funding	9 Jul 2020 - 4:11 PM - Gayle Marsden NSW Public Libraries have noted Councils endorsement - Completed	

<b>Outstanding</b> Division: Ordinary Council Committee: Officer:		<b>Outstanding Action Items Report</b> Date From: Thursday, 9 July 2020 4:12:32 PM Date To: Printed:	
	<i>Libraries</i>	model for the ongoing provision of public library services.  2. That Council writes to the Premier and the Hon. Walt Secord, Shadow Minister for the Arts, calling for bi-partisan support for Consumer Price Index (CPI) indexation of state funding for NSW public libraries, as well as legislation of all elements of the 2019-20 to 2022-23 NSW state funding model.  3. That Council takes a leading role in lobbying for sustainable state government funding for libraries.  4. That Council endorses the distribution of the NSW Public Libraries Association NSW library sustainable funding advocacy information in Council libraries, as well as involvement in any actions proposed by the Association.  <b>Moved Cr. MacAllister, Seconded Cr. Heywood</b>  <b><u>CARRIED</u></b>	
Ordinary Council 22/04/2020	10.2 <i>Dareton main street lights</i>	Cr Don McKinnon asked why there are still no lights in the main street of Dareton.	6 Jul 2020 - 5:05 PM - Tarryn Kampman Audit has been conducted on lighting 26/06/20 found 10 lights not working on highway. This has been reported to Essential Energy as interim measure until upgrade of lighting can be made possible.
Ordinary Council 22/04/2020	10.3 <i>Recompense for land use</i>	Cr Bill Wheeldon asked about the transmission line that is going to go through the Wentworth Shire, and whether council would be recompensed for the use of its land.	6 Jul 2020 - 8:08 PM - Gayle Marsden Council will not be directly recompensed however, Transgrid may support community / council projects - Completed
Ordinary Council 22/04/2020	10.5 <i>Buronga Wetlands</i>	Cr Susan Nichols asked whether a solid base could be put under around the water tap at the Buronga Wetlands so that trucks filling with water do no damage the ground underneath. (corrected as per minutes OC 13/05/20).	6 Jul 2020 - 4:15 PM - Tarryn Kampman COMPLETED - upgrade works confirmed in 2020/21 works program.

Division: Committee: Ordinary Council Officer:				Date From: Date To:	
Outstanding Action Items Report				Printed: Thursday, 9 July 2020 4:12:32 PM	
Ordinary Council 22/04/2020	10.6	Tour of the Shire	Cr Susan Nichols requested that a tour of the projects undertaken be arranged for councillors once the COVID 19 restrictions are lifted so that all councillors can see the progress with works around the shire.	28 Apr 2020 - 5:07 PM - Gayle Marsden To be planned after COVID -19 restrictions lifted	
Ordinary Council 13/05/2020	9.3	Proposed purchase of transportable buildings	<b>Council Resolution</b> 1. That Council approves the purchase of 4 relocatable buildings for the price of \$165,000, which includes the acquisition of a camp kitchen and ablution block buildings with the purchase price being offset via a \$65,000 grant application through the Federal Drought Extension Fund. 2. That Council approves a budget variation of \$100,000 in the current financial year to fund the shortfall between the purchase price and Federal Drought Extension Fund. <b>Moved Cr. Nichols, Seconded Cr. Wheelodon</b> <b>CARRIED</b>	6 Jul 2020 - 8:18 PM - Gayle Marsden Purchase finalised - Completed	
Ordinary Council 13/05/2020	10.2	Rubbish bins and BBQ facilities	Cr Susan Nichols requested that there be rubbish bins placed in close proximity to BBQ facilities in public parks.	6 Jul 2020 - 4:16 PM - Tarryn Kampman COMPLETED	
Ordinary Council 13/05/2020	10.5	Sealing of the road from Pooncarie to Menindee	Cr Jane MacAllister requested a progress update on the application to seal the road from Pooncarie to Menindee.	6 Jul 2020 - 8:19 PM - Gayle Marsden Additional information regarding hardship has been sent as requested by Infrastructure NSW. No further feedback from Infrastructure NSW at this stage - Completed	
Ordinary Council 13/05/2020	10.8	Skip Bins	Cr Greg Evans asked if Council Skip bins could have lids put on them so they can't be used for dumping large household items.	6 Jul 2020 - 4:19 PM - Tarryn Kampman singage and CCTV camera options being investigated for JKP.	
Ordinary Council	9.3	Trentham Cliffs	<b>Council Resolution</b>	25 Jun 2020 - 9:34 AM - Paula Matrippolito	









Outstanding	Division: Committee: Officer:	Ordinary Council	Date From: Date To:	Printed: Thursday, 9 July 2020 4:12:32 PM
Outstanding Action Items Report				
			<u>CARRIED</u>	

## 7 MAYORAL AND COUNCILLOR REPORTS

### 7.1 MAYORAL REPORT

File Number: RPT/20/358

#### **Summary**

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of meetings, conferences and appointments undertaken by the Mayor for the period 13 June 2020 – 3 July 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 (13 June 2020 – 3 July 2020)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Location</b>
16 Jun 2020	Mayoral Meeting	Wentworth
19 Jun 2020	FWJO Board Meeting	Buronga
23 June 2020	Barkandji Meeting	Wentworth
24 June 2020	Council meeting Briefing	Buronga
24 June 2020	Ordinary Council Meeting	Buronga
30 June 2020	Mayoral Meeting	Wentworth
1 July 2020	JO Board Meeting	Broken Hill
1 July 2020	JO Tourism Meeting	Broken Hill

#### **Attachments**

Nil

## 7.2 ACTIVITY REPORT - COUNCILLOR JANE MACALLISTER

File Number: RPT/20/357

### Summary

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of meetings, conferences and appointments undertaken by Councillor Jane MacAllister for the period 1 April 2020 – 30 June 2020.

### Recommendation

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

### Report

The following table lists the meetings attended by Councillor Jane MacAllister for the period 1 April 2020 – 30 June 2020.

Date	Meeting
3 Apr 2020	Lower Darling Critical Water Advisory Panel meeting
9 Apr 2020	Lower Darling Critical Water Advisory Panel meeting
9 Apr 2020	Council Videoconferencing
14 Apr 2020	Australian Inland Botanic Gardens Board Meeting
17 Apr 2020	Lower Darling Critical Water Advisory Panel meeting
20 Apr 2020	Murray Darling Association Board Meeting
21 Apr 2020	Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage Advisory Committee
21 Apr 2020	Regional Water Strategies Stakeholder consultation
22 Apr 2020	Ordinary Council Meeting
24 Apr 2020	Lower Darling Critical Water Advisory Panel meeting
24 Apr 2020	NorthWest Rail Alliance Committee Meeting
28 Apr 2020	Internal Audit & Risk Committee Meeting
12 May 2020	MDBA Lower Lakes Review findings webcast
12 May 2020	Murray Darling Association AGM motions workshop
12 May 2020	Australian Inland Botanic Gardens Board Meeting
13 May 2020	Ordinary Council Meeting
18 May 2020	Murray Darling Association Board Meeting
18 May 2020	Lower Darling Community Stakeholders Environmental Watering Meeting
21 May 2020	Federal Water Minister, Keith Pitt address and Q&A – Victoria Press Club
22 May 2020	Barwon-Darling & Lower Darling Joint Critical Water Advisory Committee
22 May 2020	NorthWest Rail Alliance Committee Meeting
26 May 2020	Bottlebend Reserve Land Manager Committee Meeting
28 May 2020	Far West Primary Health Network Community Advisory Council Meeting
29 May 2020	Food Next Door Community Water Bank Project Committee Meeting
1 June 2020	Lower Darling Community Stakeholders Environmental Watering Meeting
9 June 2020	Murray Darling Association Region 4 Delegates Meeting
9 June 2020	Australian Inland Botanic Gardens Board Meeting
10 June 2020	Bottlebend Reserve Land Manager Committee Extraordinary Meeting
15 June 2020	Murray Darling Association Board Meeting
16 June 2020	Menindee Water Savings Project Stakeholder Advisory Group Pooncarie
18 June 2020	Wentworth Shire Interagency Meeting
23 June 2020	Barkandji Native Title Group Aboriginal Corporation Board Meeting
24 June 2020	Ordinary Council Meeting
26 June 2020	Murray Darling Association Region 8 delegates meeting (invitation to speak)
27 June 2020	Murray River Resnagging Project Information Tour

### Attachments

Nil

## 8 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

### 8.1 MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION (MDA) DELEGATES REPORT JUNE 2020

File Number: RPT/20/363

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**

At the 20 April 2020 Murray Darling Association (MDA) Board meeting it was resolved that a monthly Delegate's Report be forwarded to all member Councils & delegates.

There is also a call for motions for the Murray Darling Association AGM.

#### **Recommendation**

1. That Council notes the Delegate's Report for June 2020 from the Murray Darling Association.
2. That Council formalises motions for submission to the Murray Darling Association AGM.

#### **Detailed Report**

##### Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a summary of the activities for June 2020 of the Murray Darling Association of which Council is member.

##### Background

The Murray Darling Association (MDA) is Australia's peak body representing local government across the Murray-Darling Basin. Wentworth Shire Council is part of MDA Region 4 and Cr MacAllister is the Chair of Region 4.

##### Report Detail

The attached report gives detail of the activities of the MDA for June 2020.

#### **Attachments**

1. MDA Report June 2020 [📄](#)

# MDA Delegate's Report for tabling at council

## June 2020



The Murray Darling Association (MDA) is Australia's peak body representing local government across the Murray-Darling Basin. The following delegate's report provides a detailed report for tabling at council, including a summary of MDA Board Meeting 398, MDA reports, CEO's report, region meetings and the latest edition of the Basin Bulletin.

### 1. MDA Board Meeting 398

The Murray Darling Association held its Ordinary Meeting of the Board Meeting 398 on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> of May 2020. The minutes are now available [here](#).

#### Key motions include:

##### **Motion 6.3:** That the Board

- a) Note the Lower Lakes Independent Science Review
- b) Provide the [following feedback](#) on the Lower Lakes Independent Science Review for public distribution

J MacAllister / P Miller

Carried

##### **Motion 7.4:** That the board approves the delivery of the 2020 National Conference and AGM as a virtual event to be held in the 2nd week in September.

D Thurley / D Patterson

Carried

### 2. Communication reports

The following reports have been prepared for MDA members, the board and the broader Basin community throughout May.

Date	Report No	Topic	Author	Approved
05/05/2020	<a href="#">200504</a>	Briefing paper: The Lower Lakes Independent Science Review	James Marshall	E. Bradbury
28/05/2020	<a href="#">200525</a>	MDA welcomes Lower Lakes Independent Science Review	Jessica Maher	E. Bradbury
02/06/2020	<a href="#">200302</a>	MDA calls on Basin governments to ensure reliable and transparent systems of compliance to address Floodplain Harvesting	Jessica Maher	E. Bradbury

### 3. CEO's Report

During the past few months, the MDA's Chief Executive Officer Emma Bradbury has actively engaged with MDA members, stakeholders and key partner organisations to work on the following projects:

- Local Government Centre of Excellence**  
 Following the MDA's Strategic Planning Workshop in March 2020, the MDA executive has been in discussion with several partner organisations for the development of a Murray-Darling Local Government Centre of Excellence. The Centre of Excellence will lead Basin communities in education, science, leadership, policy, agricultural innovation, regional and economic development.
- MDA Vision 2025**  
 Following 18 months of extensive consultation, the MDA's Vision 2025 is nearing completion, and is due to be released to the Board and members within the coming month.
- Basin Communities Leadership Program**  
 Following the easing of restrictions on COVID-19, the MDA is preparing for its first Basin Communities Leadership Program face-to-face workshop in Mildura on August 27 and 28. Applications are still open, and can be accessed via our website [here](#).

For more information, a comprehensive CEO's report is available [here](#).

### 4. Region Meetings

Region meetings are an important platform for Basin communities to collaborate and work together within and across their regions. The following region meetings were held throughout the March – April 2020 period:

Region	Meeting Type	Date	Minutes
Region 6	Ordinary Meeting	15 May 2020	<a href="#">Available here</a>
Region 2	Ordinary Meeting	27 May 2020	Available soon
Region 5	Ordinary Meeting	1 June 2020	Available soon
Region 4	Ordinary Meeting	9 June 2020	Available soon
Region 11	AGM & Ordinary Meeting	11 June 2020	Available soon

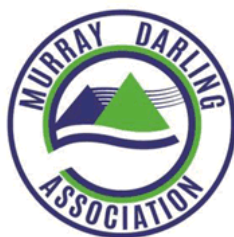
### 5. Basin Bulletin Issue 34 – May Newsletter

The MDA publishes the Basin Bulletin newsletter monthly. This month's newsletter (Issue 34) included the following stories:

- Welcoming incoming Region 12 Chair Cr Samantha O'Toole, Balonne Shire council
- MDA's response to the Lower Lakes Independent Science Review
- Welcoming our first BCLP cohort from the Lower Lakes
- Basin News Snapshot – round-up of the latest Basin news

Basin Bulletin Issue 34 can be accessed [here](#).

To receive the next edition of the Basin Bulletin, please register on the MDA website ([www.mda.asn.au](http://www.mda.asn.au)) or [email](#) MDA Comms and Engagement Officer Jess to request to be added to the distribution list.



## Murray Darling Association Inc.

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### Ordinary Meeting of the Board

#### Meeting 398

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86048592852?pwd=Q2E1T1lGWXcwclldLTN6bEEwbDA5dz09>

### MINUTES - MEETING No. 398

#### 1. ATTENDANCE

##### 1.1. Present

Cr David Thurley	Albury City Council	Region 1
Cr Denis Patterson	City of Greater Shepparton	Region 2
Cr Jane MacAllister	Wentworth Shire Council	Region 4
Cr Peter Raison	Mid Murray Council	Region 5
Cr Andrew Tilley	City of Mitcham	Region 7
Cr Brian Lockyer	Barunga West Council	Region 8
Cr Paul Maytom	Leeton Shire Council	Region 9
Cr Phyllis Miller	Forbes Shire Council	Region 10
Cr John Campbell	Gunnedah Council	Region 11
Cr Samantha O'Toole	Balonne Shire Council	Region 12
Pete George	M&S Group	Treasurer
Emma Bradbury	MDA	CEO
Jessica Maher	MDA	Minute Taker

##### 1.2. Apologies:

Cr Melissa Rebbeck                      Alexandrina Council                      Region 6

##### 1.3. Declarations

J MacAllister declared her interest in Item 7.2.

#### 2. PREVIOUS MINUTES

2.1. [Meeting 397](#) held via Zoom Calendar Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020

**Motion:** That the minutes of board meeting 397 are approved as an accurate record of that meeting.

J Campbell / D Patterson

Carried

#### 3. REPORTS

##### 3.1. Chairman's report

D Thurley noted his attendance at the MDA's meeting with Minister Pitt.

##### 3.2. [Finance Report:](#)



P George provided a summary of the finance reports.

*“Legislation was passed to provide temporary cash flow support to small and medium businesses and not-for-profit organisations that employ staff and have been affected by the economic downturn associated with COVID-19 (novel coronavirus). Eligible businesses and not-for-profit (NFP) organisations receive between \$20,000 to \$100,000 in cash flow boost amounts by lodging their activity statements up to the month or quarter of September 2020.*

*The cash flow boosts, delivered as credits in the activity statement system, are equivalent to the amount withheld from wages paid to employees for each monthly or quarterly period from March to June 2020.*

*An additional cash flow boost will be applied when activity statements for each monthly or quarterly period from June to September 2020 are lodged. These credits are equal to the total boosts credited for March to June 2020. They will be paid out in either two or four instalments depending on your reporting cycle.*

*On 29<sup>th</sup> April, the MDA received a cash flow boost of \$37,836 via the ATO, with \$33,627 credited to the bank account being \$37,836 less March BAS \$4,209”*

E Bradbury thanked P George for his proactive approach to the MDA financials and his assistance in applying for government support regarding COVID-19.

P Miller noted that councils are currently working on budgets and recommended that the MDA inform councils about upcoming membership invoices as soon as possible.

J Campbell suggested sending a copy of the delegate’s report out with the invoices.

E Bradbury agreed to both suggestions, noting that the MDA executive will send out membership invoices by end of May.

*B Lockyer joined the meeting at 10.15am*

3.3. [Chief Executive Officers report](#)

E Bradbury noted that May has been an incredibly busy month, as reflected in the CEO’s report.

E Bradbury also noted that significant alignments are starting to emerge out of long-term projects and the MDA is working towards including greater partnerships with regional groups of councils, providing an opportunity to commence the realignment of the MDA boundaries.

E Bradbury recommended that this matter be referred to the Strategic Advisory Group for their recommendation on progress.

**ACTION:** MDA Executive refer realignment of the MDA boundaries to the Strategic Advisory Group

E Bradbury noted the meeting with Minister Pitt, and discussed projects, information, and beyond 2024.

**Motion:** That the Finance and Chief Executive Officers report are noted.

P Miller / Paul Maytom

Carried

*A Tilley joined meeting at 10.21am*

3.4. [Region reports](#)**Region 1**

Cr D Thurley noted that the Region 1 meeting has been postponed until 3<sup>rd</sup> week of June.

**Region 2**

Cr Dennis Patterson noted that Region 2 will be having their next meeting on 27 May.

**Region 7**

Cr A Tilley noted that Region 7 originally had a meeting scheduled for 27 May, which has been rescheduled until next month with the hope of having it face-to-face.

## 3.5. Communication and Briefing reports

3.5.1. [Lifeblood Alliance Briefing Paper](#)

3.5.2. [The Lower Lakes Independent Science Review](#)

3.5.3. Delegates Report

**Motion:** That the reports are noted.

J Campbell / B Lockyer

Carried

**4. CORRESPONDENCE****4.1. Correspondences Out**

4.1.1 [Queensland Local Government Mayoral Elections.](#)

Letters of Congratulations to all newly and re-elected Mayors in Queensland Basin footprint

4.1.2 City of Port Adelaide Enfield

Letter to City of Port Adelaide Enfield Council clarifying MDA Membership fee structure.

4.1.3 The Hon [Minister Pavey](#)

Invitation extended to The Hon. Melinda Pavey to meet with MDA's Region 10 Chair and Executives.

**4.2 Correspondences In**

4.2.1 [The Hon Michael McCormack MP](#)

Response from The Hon Michael McCormack regarding feasibility investigations into David Coffey's Clarence River Diversion Scheme and the New Bradfield Scheme.

4.2.2 [Queensland Local Government Mayoral Elections](#)

Response letters from Queensland May

4.2.3 [The Hon Melinda Pavey MP](#)

Response from the Hon Melinda Pavey regarding temporary water restrictions in the Northern Basin and the approval to take water for the purposes of floodplain harvesting.

4.2.4 [The Hon Keith Pitt](#)

Response from the Hon Keith Pitt on his appointment as Minister for Resources, Water And Northern Australia.

P Maytom asked for further information about the National Water Grid Authority and opportunities to receive updates on progress and process.

E Bradbury noted the MDA's relationship with the authority.

A Tilley asked if there was any further response from City of Port Adelaide Enfield. E Bradbury noted that Region 7

and MDA executive would discuss engagement further.

**ACTION:** MDA Executive and Region 7 to discuss membership engagement

**Motion:** That the Board receive correspondence.  
P Raison / B Lockyer

Carried

## 5 BUSINESS ARISING

### 5.1 Review of actions table

#### [MDA Matters in Progress arising from previous Meetings](#)

E Bradbury provided a summary of the motions arising and actions completed in detail from previous board meetings

P Maytom spoke about the position paper currently being developed by RAMJO, and explained to the board his next steps following its release in relation to region 9.

E Bradbury spoke to Item 6.2, and updated the board about the MDA's meeting with RAMJO last week, where RAMJO sought feedback from the MDA for their draft position statement.

*B Lockyer left the meeting at 10.37am due to technical issues.*

### 5.2 Strategic Advisory Committee

The SAC met on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2020. The board received and noted the most recent Strategic Advisory Committee minutes.

#### 5.2.1 Matters for referral to SAC

J MacAllister recommended to the board and Strategic Advisory Committee the *Climate Change Risk to Australia's Built Environment* report.

J MacAllister also suggested that the report's authors would be great speakers at this year's national conference.

J MacAllister noted the report contains a really useful score card which measures LGAs against the report's five risks and vulnerabilities.

D Patterson noted that this is a very good document, which has insights into impacts on local government.

D Thurley also agreed, and recommended every council to look at it.

E Bradbury said the report would be a good basis for the second stream of the conference.

**Motion:** That the Board note updates and receive minutes.  
P Miller / P Raison

Carried

## 6 GENERAL BUSINESS

### 6.1 Basin Communities Leadership Program— opportunities for collaboration

E Bradbury provided an update to the board about the Basin Communities Leadership Program, and discussed opportunities for collaboration with partners, particularly in the delivery component.

The board discussed the advantages and risks of these opportunities, with further work to be done.

D Patterson suggested that a briefing paper be developed prior to the next meeting including more detailed options and timelines.

**ACTION:** MDA executive to develop a briefing paper with BCLP delivery options and timeline

## 6.2 Development of MDA Position Statement

The development and articulation of a position paper is a valuable tool in communicating the position of the MDA on key issues. The position paper will be an ongoing living document available for constant updating, and a platform to tie in other regional positions.

**Motion:** That the board refer the matter to the Strategic Advisory Group for their consideration and recommendation

D Thurley / D Patterson

Carried

## 6.3 Lower Lakes Independent Science Review

The Lower Lakes Independent Science Review was released on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020. Summary of the findings and the full report can be found [here](#).

P Maytom noted concerns regarding the report voiced within his region.

Following a robust discussion among the board, D Thurley noted his support for the draft statement, and stated that as a peak body for local government throughout the Basin, the statement is an appropriate response.

P Miller agreed, and noted that it is not the MDA's place to get involved in arguments within papers.

J MacAllister noted that it is an excellent opportunity to state the case for the benefits of MDA membership, including representation of regional views.

**Motion:** That the Board

- a) Note the Lower Lakes Independent Science Review
- b) Provide the following feedback on the Lower Lakes Independent Science Review for public distribution.

*The MDA has reviewed the report and we are pleased that the findings affirm a consistency in the scientific assumptions underpinning the Basin Plan.*

*These findings should build confidence across the Basin that the hard work and reforms our communities have navigated to date are based on sound and consistent science.*

*We support the statements from MDBA Chief Executive Phillip Glyde, about the need to leave behind any debate on the freshwater history of the Lower Lakes and to refocus our efforts on adapting to the challenges of changing water availability, changing weather patterns, changing technologies and changes to our farming and land management practices to create a healthy vibrant future for Basin communities.,*

*The MDA acknowledges the challenge ahead of reduced inflows and we recognise that this will mean greater challenges for all.*

*The MDA is developing a framework for our communities to be climate ready. This pathway must consider not just the environmental values of the region but also the social, economic, and cultural values. Local communities and traditional owners MUST be involved at the centre of this process.*

*The findings of the Lower Lakes Independent Science Review also reaffirm that agricultural communities throughout the whole Basin, including ours, will need ongoing assistance to adapt to a warmer, dryer climate.*

*State and Federal Governments must work in partnership with industry to invest in R&D to help the agricultural sector adjust to a hotter, drier, more variable climate. Agricultural productivity for the future and a healthy river system must go hand in hand.*

J MacAllister / P Miller

Carried

## 7. Items from the Regions.

A new initiative inviting Regions to contribute items for inclusion in the Board Agenda. Items from the Region will now be a standing Agenda Item.

### 7.1 Board Sitting Fees

Item from Region 7 – Cr Andrew Tilley

A Tilley introduced the agenda item, noting the extensive work involved in being an MDA Region Chair.

D Patterson noted his concern regarding complications around governance and state legislations, as well as where the funds would originate from.

P Miller agreed and noted that each state might have different legislations.

E Bradbury noted that any consideration of introducing a sitting fee would require a change to the constitution.

#### **MDA constitution:**

*Part 36. Not-for-profit clause*

*(2) The Members of the Board will not be entitled to receive fees for their service on the Board (eg: sitting fees).*

J MacAllister said a sitting fee would speak to value, but also potentially an inequity within the regions themselves.

**ACTION:** Board to ask their governance officers regarding provisions for rules in their respective states.

**Motion:** That the matter of the board member sitting fees be referred to the strategic advisory group for their consideration and advice.

A Tilley / J Campbell

Carried

### 7.2 Lifeblood Alliance

**Region 4 -** At Board Meeting 397 – Item 3.4 Cr MacAllister requested that the MDA consider a request from the [Lifeblood Alliance](#) to support its buy backs campaign, noting

*"The lifeblood alliance, of which the Nature Conservation Council of NSW is a member, has put out a campaign for buying back more water seeing as how there is still 47.4 GL under the cap available for purchase legally and the money is still there to do that. At the last meeting, there was a question put, would the MDA support this buybacks campaign?"*

A briefing report was provided, noting that at the 2015 AGM the MDA passed a motion stating "That the Murray Darling Association continues to advocate strongly for legislation for a 1500 gigalitre cap on water purchases in the Basin to be passed in the Parliament."

In a submission to the Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications regarding the proposed Water Amendment Bill 2015 the MDA stated that "The Murray Darling Association emphasizes that the cap should be regarded as a ceiling, and not as a target."

The MDA made representation in 2016 to the then Deputy Secretary for Water Hon Bob Baldwin



emphasising that water buy backs create vastly different impacts on different communities, delivering some positive and many adverse social and economic impacts, and should be managed and applied selectively and with great caution and community consultation.

This principle formed the basis of the MDA's commitment to ensuring governments have a detailed understanding social and economic impacts of different water recovery methods across Basin communities.

A robust discussion followed regarding buybacks.

P Miller spoke about the negative consequences of buybacks historically in the Lachlan region and also emphasised the importance of strategic buybacks.

P Maytom noted that the MDA had worked hard to ensure that buybacks were capped, and that a moratorium had been placed on broadscale buybacks.

D Patterson reflected on his first-hand experience of witnessing the impacts of water buybacks at the Cubbie Station study tour last year in Dirranbandi.

S O'Toole said that in no way could Region 12 support the call for further buybacks due to the economic impacts on the communities.

E Bradbury noted that the board should reflect on the relationship and context of buybacks on variable social and economic impacts. Pre 2015, and since the MDA receives a lot of feedback from members who were in dire straits as a result the direct impacts of buybacks, including Deniliquin, Shepparton and Balonne.

A Tilley noted that the impacts of water buybacks are localised and the effects are so varied depending on region, and expressed concern over the state of the Darling River system.

D Patterson suggested that buybacks are discussed further at the upcoming AGM providing members with an opportunity to discuss.

P Maytom and A Tilley agreed.

**Motion:** That the MDA remain silent and does not articulate a position either way regarding the Lifeblood Alliance buy backs campaign.

P Miller / D Patterson

Carried

### 7.3 Regional Water Strategies NSW Government

#### Region 4 – Regional Water Strategies NSW [Fact Sheet](#)

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment is working in partnership with Water NSW, local councils and Aboriginal communities to develop 12 regional water strategies across New South Wales.

Region 4 Chair, Cr MacAllister, indicated that the MDA consider making submission, and to also look at NSW State Infrastructure Plan.

J MacAllister noted that at this stage DPIE is identifying key businesses and infrastructure within each NSW region that require water going into the future, so region by region water needs are noted, and once regional strategies are informed and rolled out, then there will be an overarching NSW water strategies.

The MDA has sought support from DPIE to develop and resource a consultation framework, which would provide resourcing for the MDA to contribute to WRP, CWAPs etc. The request was well received, but to date no funding or framework has been forthcoming. Development of a submission should be considered in

Page 7 of 8

the contest of current strategic priorities and available resources.

D Thurley suggested that we continue to have contact with DPIE and encouraged regions to provide feedback during this process.

**Motion:** That the board note the NSW Regional Water Strategies process

P Miller / D Thurley

Carried

#### 7.4 2020 National Conference

E Bradbury provided an update and briefing to the board regarding planning and consultation around the MDA's 2020 National Conference.

E Bradbury requested the board's feedback and approval for a virtual conference format and experience.

D Patterson agreed with the virtual conference format and emphasised that the MDA needs to produce a high-quality product.

P Miller agreed and noted that the MDA doesn't have a choice but to do a virtual conference this year. P Miller said the MDA needs to think about registration fees to ensure it is economically viable. P Miller also suggested that this would be a great opportunity to have ministers attend.

D Thurley agreed with P Miller, noting that a virtual conference may result in greater attendance from Ministers.

J MacAllister suggested that the structure of the virtual conference is important to keep participants engaged, suggesting that two x 2.5 hour blocks may be useful, with a 10 minute coffee break in the middle of it.

Reflecting on attendance to a prior virtual conference, P Miller suggested that participants could receive a gift box prior to the virtual conference.

D Patterson suggested engaging professional expertise to help with the facilitation and running of the AGM to ensure that it is a professional and clear experience.

S O'Toole agreed, noting that an AGM can be done successfully online.

**Motion:** That the board does approves the delivery of the 2020 National Conference and AGM as a virtual event as per the attached proposal to be held in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in September.

D Thurley / D Patterson

Carried

**ACTION:** MDA executive to develop a detailed briefing for meeting 399, outlining the virtual conference platform, and how it will work.

#### 8. CLOSE at 11.57am

## 9 REPORTS TO COUNCIL

### 9.1 GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

File Number: RPT/20/356

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 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 20-21 to 20-28
2. Meetings  
 As listed
3. Upcoming meetings or events  
 As listed
4. Other items of note  
 Nil

#### **Recommendation**

That Council notes the information contained within the report from the General Manager.

#### **Detailed Report**

1. OLG Circulars
  - 1.1 OLG Circular 20-21
    - Councillors and council staff may attend council and committee meetings in person. However, councils must allow councillors and staff to attend and participate in meetings by audio visual links where it is reasonably practicable to do so.
    - More than 20 councillors and staff may attend meetings subject to appropriate social distancing.
    - Where councils exclude members of the public from meetings, they must livestream their meetings using audio-visual links to satisfy the requirement under section 10 of the Local Government Act 1993 for members of the public to be permitted to "attend" meetings.
    - Councils must not allow persons to attend meetings if the size of the meeting venue is insufficient to ensure there is 4 square metres of space for each person attending the meeting.

- 1.2 OLG Circular 20-22



- The NSW Government recognises that councils are playing a critical role in protecting the community from the transmission of COVID-19. Central to this has been their ongoing engagement and education of the community in relation to COVID-19 restrictions in public spaces and council-owned facilities.
- As restrictions ease and the focus moves towards recovery, the NSW Government is requesting that councils build on their community safety role by engaging with local businesses that need assistance in complying with COVID-19 Public Health Orders.
- The NSW Government has developed the COVID Safe Check app, which provides a way for customers to give feedback in real time to businesses and to regulators for action where necessary.
- In some cases, feedback about businesses who may not be fully complying with the Public Health Order may be provided to councils through the Office of Local Government (OLG).
- Councils are asked to engage with identified businesses through targeted site visits, the primary purpose of which will be to guide and assist business operators towards compliance with the Public Health Orders.
- All enforcement action will remain a matter for the NSW Police Force.

#### 1.3 OLG Circular 20-23

- Sections 248 and 249 of the Act require councils to fix and pay an annual fee based on the Tribunal's determination for the 2020/21 financial year.
- While there is to be no increase in fees paid for the 2020/21 financial year, mayors and councillors in some councils may receive an increase as a result of a change to their council's categorisation.
- At the Ordinary Council meeting held on 24 June 2020 councillors elected to increase their remuneration to the maximum amount determined by the Tribunal.

#### 1.4 OLG Circular 20-24

- Until 31 December 2020, councils will not be required to tender when entering into contracts with a value of up to \$500,000 that are primarily for the purpose of bushfire-related response and recovery.
- After 31 December 2020, the usual \$250,000 tendering exemption threshold will apply.
- Councils should continue to apply appropriate standards of probity in their procurement for bushfire response and recovery work and should continue to ensure that the contracts they enter into represent best value for money.

#### 1.5 OLG Circular 20-25

- The orders made under section 318B suspend the election requirements of the Act including the requirement to hold by-elections to fill vacancies for the period specified in the orders.
- Current councillors and popularly elected mayors will continue to hold their civic offices until council elections are held on 4 September 2021.
- Councils will not be required to hold by-elections to fill vacancies or to apply to the Minister to dispense with the requirement to hold a by-election during the period specified in the orders.
- The making of the orders will not affect the requirement to hold mayoral elections. Mayoral elections must be held for mayors elected in September 2018 when their two year-terms expire in September 2020.

- Mayors elected in September 2019 will continue to hold office until council elections are held on 4 September 2021.
- The composition of joint organisation boards may need to change in September 2020 if mayors of member councils elected by councillors are not re-elected.
- The postponement of the next ordinary local government elections will not affect the timing of future council elections, and the subsequent ordinary local government elections will still proceed in September 2024.

#### 1.6 OLG Circular 20-26

- New Guidelines for Registration Agents have been issued and partially replace the Guidelines on the Exercise of Functions under the Companion Animals Act.
- The Guidelines, issued under clause 13 of the Companion Animals Regulation 2018, outline the mandatory roles and responsibilities of registration agents appointed under the Companion Animals Act 1998.
- From 1 July 2020 the NSW Government will introduce annual permits for owners of non-desexed cats, restricted dog breeds, and dogs declared to be dangerous.

#### 1.7 OLG Circular 20-27

- Annual permit requirements for dangerous and restricted dogs and for cats not desexed by four months of age commenced on 1 July 2020. Transitional arrangements provide pet owners with additional time to comply.
- The new lifetime registration fees are listed in the attached summary of amendments. This includes changes to registration categories as well as to the registration fees that apply from 1 July 2020.
- Councils should update their systems to accommodate the new registration, annual permit and penalty fees and categories.

#### 1.8 OLG Circular 20-28

- Councillors and council staff may attend council and committee meetings in person. However, councils must continue to allow councillors and staff to attend and participate in meetings by audio visual links where it is reasonably practicable to do so.
- Members of the public are permitted to attend meetings. However, councils must not allow persons to attend a meeting if the size of the meeting venue is insufficient to ensure there is 4 square metres of space for each person attending the meeting.
- Councillors and council staff are not to be counted when calculating the space available for each person at the meeting venue and the number of persons who are attending a meeting.
- Where councils exclude members of the public from meetings, they must livestream their meetings using audio-visual links to satisfy the requirement under section 10 of the Local Government Act 1993 for members of the public to be permitted to “attend” meetings.

## 2. Meetings

Following is a list of meetings or events attended by the General Manager for the period 12 June 2020 – 3 July 2020.

Date	Meeting	Location
16 Jun 2020	Mayoral Meeting	Wentworth
19 Jun 2020	Far West Joint Organisation Meeting	Buronga
22 Jun 2020	Transport for NSW Meeting	Video Conference
23 Jun 2020	Barkandji Meeting	Wentworth
24 Jun 2020	Council Briefing Meeting	Buronga
24 Jun 2020	Ordinary Council Meeting	Buronga
1 Jul 2020	Far West Joint Organisation Extraordinary Meeting	Broken Hill
1 Jul 2020	Far West Joint Organisation Tourism Meeting	Broken Hill
6 Jul 2020	Extraordinary Local Emergency Management Committee	Video Conference

### 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
15 July 2020	Lock 8 & 9 Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting	Apology sent clashes with Council meeting	Video Conferencing
25 July 2020	Launch 2020 Wentworth Shire Official Visitors Guide	Councillors and General Manager	Australian Inland Botanical Gardens
27 July 2020	Bottle Bend Reserve - Reserve Land Manager Meeting	Cr MacAllister	Video Conferencing
28 July 2020	Internal Audit & Risk Management Committee Meeting	Cr Hederics, Nunan, Nichols, MacAllister, Evans and General Manager	Video Conference
12 Aug 2020	Local Emergency Management Meeting	General Manager	Dareton
14 Aug 2020	Far West Joint Organisation Tourism Meeting	Mayor and General Manager	Buronga

### 4. Other items of note

Nil

### Attachments

1. OLG Circular 20-21[↓](#)
2. OLG Circular 20-22[↓](#)
3. OLG Circular 20-23[↓](#)

4. OLG Circular 20-24 [↓](#)
5. OLG Circular 20-25 [↓](#)
6. OLG Circular 20-26 [↓](#)
7. OLG Circular 20-27 [↓](#)
8. OLG Circular 20-28 [↓](#)



Office of  
Local Government

## Circular to Councils

<b>Circular Details</b>	20-21 / 16 June 2020 / A706741
<b>Previous Circular</b>	20-17 <i>Relaxation of some restrictions on the attendance by councillors and staff at council and committee meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic</i>
<b>Who should read this</b>	Councillors / General Managers / Council governance staff
<b>Contact</b>	Council Governance Team/ 02 4428 4100/ <a href="mailto:olg@olg.nsw.gov.au">olg@olg.nsw.gov.au</a>
<b>Action required</b>	Council to Implement

### Further relaxation of restrictions on attendance at council and committee meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic

#### What's new or changing

- The Minister for Health and Medical Research, the Hon. Brad Hazzard MP (the Minister), made the *Public Health (COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement) Order (No 3) 2020* on 12 June 2020.
- The new Public Health Order increases the number of persons who can attend council and committee meetings in addition to councillors and staff.

#### What this will mean for your council

- Councillors and council staff may attend council and committee meetings in person. However, councils must allow councillors and staff to attend and participate in meetings by audio visual links where it is reasonably practicable to do so.
- Members of the public are not permitted to attend meetings (other than for the purposes of work) if this means that the total number of people attending meetings (including councillors and staff) exceed 20. More than 20 councillors and staff may attend meetings subject to appropriate social distancing.
- Where councils exclude members of the public from meetings, they must livestream their meetings using audio-visual links to satisfy the requirement under section 10 of the *Local Government Act 1993* for members of the public to be permitted to "attend" meetings.
- Councils must not allow persons to attend meetings if the size of the meeting venue is insufficient to ensure there is 4 square metres of space for each person attending the meeting.

#### Key points

- A failure to comply with a direction in a Public Health Order is an offence under Section 10 of the *Public Health Act 2010* that carries a maximum penalty of imprisonment for 6 months or a fine of up to \$11,000 (or both) plus a further \$5,500 fine each day the offence continues.

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**Where to go for further information**

- For further information please contact the Council Governance Team on 02 4428 4100 or by email at [olg@olg.nsw.gov.au](mailto:olg@olg.nsw.gov.au).
- More information on the new Public Health Order is available [here](#).
- For more specific guidance on compliance with the Public Health Order, contact the NSW Police Force.



**Tim Hurst**  
**Deputy Secretary**  
**Local Government, Planning and Policy**

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Office of  
Local Government

## Circular to Councils

<b>Circular Details</b>	20-22 / June 2020 / A707074
<b>Previous Circular</b>	N/A
<b>Who should read this</b>	General Managers / Council public health and enforcement staff
<b>Contact</b>	Council Engagement Team / 02 4428 4100 / <a href="mailto:olg@olg.nsw.gov.au">olg@olg.nsw.gov.au</a>
<b>Action required</b>	Action by relevant staff

### Supporting local businesses to comply with COVID-19 restrictions

#### What's new or changing

- The NSW Government recognises that councils are playing a critical role in protecting the community from the transmission of COVID-19. Central to this has been their ongoing engagement and education of the community in relation to COVID-19 restrictions in public spaces and council-owned facilities.
- As restrictions ease and the focus moves towards recovery, the NSW Government is requesting that councils build on their community safety role by engaging with local businesses that need assistance in complying with COVID-19 Public Health Orders.
- The NSW Government has developed the COVID Safe Check app, which provides a way for customers to give feedback in real time to businesses and to regulators for action where necessary.
- In some cases, feedback about businesses who may not be fully complying with the Public Health Order may be provided to councils through the Office of Local Government (OLG).
- Councils are asked to engage with identified businesses through targeted site visits, the primary purpose of which will be to guide and assist business operators towards compliance with the Public Health Orders.
- All enforcement action will remain a matter for the NSW Police Force.

#### What this will mean for your council

- OLG will refer relevant COVID Safety Check app feedback to the appropriate council based on the location of the business. OLG will establish a point of contact in each council to ensure consistency in the referral process.
- Councils are asked to review the feedback and respond within available resourcing. However, site visits to businesses to provide information about restrictions and encourage compliance are likely to be the most effective approach.
- To assist councils, an information pack including a standardised site visit checklist and an online training presentation will be available on the OLG webpage in the coming days. This will include links to relevant information which councils can provide to businesses as part of the education and engagement process.



- Where a site visit is undertaken, council officers should consider:
  - (a) Alerting the business that the council has received information the business may not be in compliance with the Public Health Order.
  - (b) Explaining the importance of the Public Health Order restrictions and seek their cooperation by providing education material in the standard information pack.
  - (c) Advising that if council or the NSW Government receives information about further breaches from the business, the matter may be escalated to the NSW Police Force for enforcement.
- Councils are asked to report back to OLG on any action taken. OLG will provide a streamlined reporting tool for this purpose.
- Councils are also encouraged where possible to take proactive action by providing relevant information to local businesses even if a complaint has not been received.

#### Key points

- Businesses have an obligation to comply with the Public Health (COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement) Order (No 3) 2020 in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Under the Public Health Orders, businesses have been allowed to open to the public for limited purposes and subject to the conditions set out in the Public Health Orders. These conditions can include the development of and compliance with a COVID-19 Safety Plan that address the matters in the published checklist relevant to that industry or venue type.
- Councils can build on their well-established public health community engagement processes to encourage local businesses to comply with the Public Health Orders.
- An overview of the roles and responsibilities of councils and other NSW Government agencies in relation to the Public Health Orders is contained in Attachment 1.

#### Where to go for further information

- OLG's Council Engagement Managers will contact councils in the coming days to develop a database of relevant officers and answer any questions councils may have about the process.
- Further information (including resources such as a standardised checklist and reporting tools) will be available on the OLG's COVID-19 webpage.



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**Attachment 1 - Overview of the role and responsibilities of councils and other NSW Government agencies:**

<b>Business type</b>	<b>Council role</b>	<b>Other agency role</b>
<b>Restaurants, food courts and cafes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow-up any initial complaints referred from Service NSW.</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>NSW Food Authority</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proactive engagement in industrial areas, Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority (SHFA) and Unincorporated areas.</li> <li>Follow-up initial complaints referred from Service NSW in industrial areas, SHFA and Unincorporated areas.</li> </ul>
<b>Pubs, clubs, casino, microbreweries, producer/wholesaler, small bars, nightclubs, karaoke bars, vessels and racecourses</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None.</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Liquor &amp; Gaming</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proactive engagement and follow-up initial complaints referred from Service NSW in most metro areas.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>NSW Police Force</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proactive engagement and follow-up initial complaints referred from Service NSW in most regional and some metro areas.</li> </ul>
<b>All other business (retail, gyms, beauty salon, tattoo parlours etc)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow-up any initial complaints referred from Service NSW.</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>NSW Health EHOs</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proactive engagement in all council areas (except retail).</li> <li>Follow-up initial complaints referred from Service NSW in all council areas (including retail).</li> </ul> <p><b><u>SafeWork</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will proactively promote work health and safety in retail business and will advise relevant councils when focussing on particular areas.</li> </ul>
<b>All business types</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No enforcement role.</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>NSW Police Force</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enforcement of all escalated incidents.</li> </ul>



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## Circular to Councils

<b>Circular Details</b>	20-23 / 22 June 2020 / A707486
<b>Previous Circular</b>	19-07 2019/20 <i>Determination of the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal</i>
<b>Who should read this</b>	Councillors / General Managers
<b>Contact</b>	Council Governance Team/ 02 4428 4100/ <a href="mailto:olg@olg.nsw.gov.au">olg@olg.nsw.gov.au</a>
<b>Action required</b>	Councils to Implement

### 2020/21 Determination of the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal

#### What's new or changing

- The Local Government Remuneration Tribunal (the Tribunal) has determined that there will be no increase in mayoral and councillor fees for the 2020/21 financial year.
- The Tribunal is required to determine the remuneration categories of councils and mayoral offices at least once every 3 years under section 239 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act). The Tribunal last undertook a significant review of the categories in 2017 and has undertaken a review as part of its 2020 determination.
- For the Metropolitan group the Tribunal has determined to retain the existing categories and has amended the population criteria applicable to Metropolitan Large and Metropolitan Medium.
- For the Non-Metropolitan group, the Tribunal has determined to:
  - create two new categories - Major Strategic Area and Regional Centre
  - rename one category - Regional City to Major Regional City, and
  - revise the criteria for some of the existing categories to account for the new categories.
- The Tribunal has determined the following categories:

Metropolitan	Non-Metropolitan
Principal CBD	Major Regional City
Major CBD	Major Strategic Area
Metropolitan Large	Regional Strategic Area
Metropolitan Medium	Regional Centre
Metropolitan Small	Regional Rural
	Rural

- Each council is allocated into one of these categories based on criteria identified by the Tribunal in Appendix 1 of its determination.

#### What this will mean for your council

- Sections 248 and 249 of the Act require councils to fix and pay an annual fee based on the Tribunal's determination for the 2020/21 financial year.
- While there is to be no increase in fees paid for the 2020/21 financial year, mayors and councillors in some councils may receive an increase as a result of a change to their council's categorisation.

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**Key points**

- The level of fees paid will depend on the category the council is in.
- A council cannot fix a fee higher than the maximum amount determined by the Tribunal.
- If a council does not fix a fee, the council must pay the minimum fee determined by the Tribunal.

**Where to go for further information**

- The Tribunal's report and determination is available at [www.remtribunals.nsw.gov.au/local-government](http://www.remtribunals.nsw.gov.au/local-government).
- For further information please contact the Council Governance Team on 02 4428 4100 or by email at [olg@olg.nsw.gov.au](mailto:olg@olg.nsw.gov.au).



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## Circular to Councils

<b>Circular Details</b>	20-24 / 26 June 2020 / A708194
<b>Previous Circular</b>	20-03 Amendments to the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 to increase the tendering exemption threshold for contracts for bushfire recovery and operations
<b>Who should read this</b>	Councillors / General Managers / Staff involved in bushfire recovery and procurement
<b>Contact</b>	Council Governance Team/ 02 4428 4100/ <a href="mailto:olg@olg.nsw.gov.au">olg@olg.nsw.gov.au</a>
<b>Action required</b>	Council to Implement

### Extension of increased tendering exemption threshold for contracts for bushfire response and recovery to 31 December 2020

#### What's new or changing

- The NSW Government is committed to helping local councils and their communities recover and rebuild in the wake of the recent bushfire emergencies.
- The Government recognises that recovery efforts have been made more challenging as a result of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In recognition of these challenges, the temporary higher \$500,000 tendering exemption threshold prescribed under the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* (the Regulation) for contracts for the purpose of bushfire-related response and recovery work has been extended for a further six months to 31 December 2020.

#### What this will mean for your council

- Until 31 December 2020, councils will not be required to tender when entering into contracts with a value of up to \$500,000 that are primarily for the purpose of bushfire-related response and recovery.
- After 31 December 2020, the usual \$250,000 tendering exemption threshold will apply.
- Councils should continue to apply appropriate standards of probity in their procurement for bushfire response and recovery work and should continue to ensure that the contracts they enter into represent best value for money.

#### Key points

- The Regulation was amended in January to temporarily increase the tendering exemption threshold to \$500,000 for contracts that are entered into primarily for the purpose of bushfire-related response and recovery work before 1 July 2020.
- A further amendment has been made to the Regulation to extend this period to 31 December 2020.

#### Where to go for further information

- For further information please contact the Council Governance Team on 02 4428 4100 or by email at [olg@olg.nsw.gov.au](mailto:olg@olg.nsw.gov.au).

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## Circular to Councils

<b>Circular Details</b>	20-25 / 29 June 2020 / A706318
<b>Previous Circular</b>	20-10 <i>Postponement of the September 2020 Local Government Elections</i>
<b>Who should read this</b>	Councillors / General Managers / All council staff
<b>Contact</b>	Council Governance Team/ 02 4428 4100/ <a href="mailto:olg@olg.nsw.gov.au">olg@olg.nsw.gov.au</a>
<b>Action required</b>	Information

**The date of the next ordinary local government elections is 4 September 2021**

### What's new or changing

- The Minister for Local Government has published orders in the Gazette under section 318B of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act) postponing the next ordinary local government elections in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The next local government elections will be held on 4 September 2021.
- The decision to postpone the elections until September 2021 has been made in consultation with and on the advice of the NSW Electoral Commissioner.

### What this will mean for your council

- The orders made under section 318B suspend the election requirements of the Act including the requirement to hold by-elections to fill vacancies for the period specified in the orders.
- Current councillors and popularly elected mayors will continue to hold their civic offices until council elections are held on 4 September 2021.
- Councils will not be required to hold by-elections to fill vacancies or to apply to the Minister to dispense with the requirement to hold a by-election during the period specified in the orders.
- The making of the orders will not affect the requirement to hold mayoral elections. Mayoral elections must be held for mayors elected in September 2018 when their two year-terms expire in September 2020.
- Mayors elected in September 2019 will continue to hold office until council elections are held on 4 September 2021.
- The composition of joint organisation boards may need to change in September 2020 if mayors of member councils elected by councillors are not re-elected.
- The postponement of the next ordinary local government elections will not affect the timing of future council elections, and the subsequent ordinary local government elections will still proceed in September 2024.

### Key points

- The Act was amended in March 2020 to confer on the Minister for Local Government a time-limited power to postpone council elections in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The amendment allows the Minister by an order published in the Gazette, to postpone elections for 12 months from the date of the order. The order may be extended for an additional period to 31 December in the year after the order is made.

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**Where to go for further information**

- For further information please contact the Council Governance Team on 02 4428 4100 or by email at [olg@olg.nsw.gov.au](mailto:olg@olg.nsw.gov.au).



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## Circular to Councils

<b>Circular Details</b>	20-26 / 30 June 2020/ A637765
<b>Previous Circular</b>	Circular 18-26
<b>Who should read this</b>	General Managers / Rangers / Pounds / Finance
<b>Contact</b>	Program Delivery Team / 02 4428 4100 / <a href="mailto:olg@olg.nsw.gov.au">olg@olg.nsw.gov.au</a>
<b>Action required</b>	Council to Implement

### New guidelines for registration agents

#### What's new or changing?

- New *Guidelines for Registration Agents* have been issued and partially replace the *Guidelines on the Exercise of Functions under the Companion Animals Act*.
- The Guidelines, issued under clause 13 of the *Companion Animals Regulation 2018*, outline the mandatory roles and responsibilities of registration agents appointed under the *Companion Animals Act 1998*.
- From 1 July 2020 the NSW Government will introduce annual permits for owners of non-desexed cats, restricted dog breeds, and dogs declared to be dangerous.

#### Key points

- The new Guidelines partially replace the Guidelines on the Exercise of Functions Guidelines in relation to:
  - identification information (Chapter 4)
  - registration information and fees (Chapter 5)
  - changing the Register (part of Chapter 8)
  - greyhounds and dingoes (part of Chapter 14), and
  - paying and reconciling fees (Chapter 15).
- The attached table shows which chapters from the Exercise of Functions Guidelines have been replaced by the new Guidelines.
- The Guidelines reflect the NSW Pet Registry and legislative changes made since 2018.
- In 2018, the *Companion Animals Act 1998* and the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979* were amended by the *Companion Animals and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2018*.
- Circular 18-26 advised councils about amendments that took effect in 2018.
- A new requirement for vets to ear-mark or tattoo desexed female cats and dogs took effect on 1 July 2019.
- The remaining amendments will come into effect from 1 July 2020, including:
  - requiring annual permits for cats that are not de-sexed
  - requiring annual permits for restricted and dangerous dogs.
- Also from 1 July 2020, a one-off \$10 reduction in registration fees for cats will be made together with annual adjustments to reflect the Consumer Price Index.
- The Guidelines (at 5.5.28) advise that eligible pensioners that buy a pet from an eligible pound or shelter are entitled to access the cheapest registration fee.
- To the extent that the new Guidelines are inconsistent with the Exercise of Functions Guidelines, registration agents should apply the new Guidelines.

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**Where to go for further information**

- New Guidelines for Registration Agents may be viewed at [www.olg.nsw.gov.au/councils/responsible-pet-ownership/nsw-pet-registry/the-cat-and-dog-register/](http://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/councils/responsible-pet-ownership/nsw-pet-registry/the-cat-and-dog-register/).
- The *Companion Animals and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2018* is at [www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/act/2018/27](http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/act/2018/27)
- The *Companion Animals Regulation 2018* may be viewed at [www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/regulation/2018/441](http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/regulation/2018/441)



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## Attachment

## Exercise of Functions Guidelines replaced by new Guidelines for Registration Agents

Reference	Title
<b>Chapter 4</b>	<b>Handling identification information</b>
4.1	Identification information (in part)
4.4	Inconsistent records (in part)
4.5	Animals with pre-existing microchips (in part)
4.6	Animals with more than one microchip (in part)
4.7	Microchips that cannot be read (in part)
4.8	Incorrect 'duplicate' microchip numbers (in part)
4.9	Removing an incorrect record (in part)
<b>Chapter 5</b>	<b>Dealing with registrations</b>
5.1	<i>Companion Animals Amendment Act 2013</i> - Registrations
5.2	Council responsibilities
5.3	Registration categories
5.4	De-sexed animals
5.5	De-sexed animals sold by an eligible pound or shelter - 50% discount
5.6	When to flag an animal as eligible for pound/shelter discount registration...
5.7	Pensioner discounts
5.8	Recognised breeders
5.9	Assistance animals
5.10	Working dogs
5.11	Loss of registration exemption
5.12	Processing registration information
5.13	Correcting or removing a registration
5.14	Registration tags
5.16	Request for refunds
<b>Chapter 8</b>	<b>Changing information on the Register</b>
8.1	Possible reasons to change information
8.2	Who is responsible for changing information?
8.4	Receiving and processing requests
8.5	Correcting minor errors
8.6	Change of ownership or contact details
8.7	Deleting records
8.8	Missing and found animals
8.9	Notifications of dangerous or menacing dog declaration and death of animal
8.10	The recorded owner has not notified change of contact details
8.11	Change of ownership is not notified and recorded owner does not know new owner...
<b>Chapter 14</b>	<b>Other dog management issues</b>
14.1	Greyhound micro-chipping
14.3	Dingoes
<b>Chapter 15</b>	<b>Paying and reconciling registration fees</b>
15.1	Overview
15.2	What are councils required to do?
15.3	The reconciliation process
15.4	Reimbursing fees to councils
15.5	Audit process



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## Circular to Councils

<b>Circular Details</b>	20-27 / 1 July 2020/ A708906
<b>Previous Circular</b>	<i>Not applicable</i>
<b>Who should read this</b>	General Managers / Companion Animals Compliance and Enforcement Officers / Pounds / Customer Service Officers
<b>Contact</b>	Policy Team / 02 4428 4100 / <a href="mailto:olg@olg.nsw.gov.au">olg@olg.nsw.gov.au</a>
<b>Action required</b>	For Information

### Amendments to the *Companion Animals Regulation 2018*

#### What's new or changing

- The NSW Government is introducing annual permits for non-desexed cats and restricted and dangerous dogs as part of its commitment to promoting responsible pet ownership and improving animal welfare standards.
- From 1 July 2020 cat and dog lifetime registration fees increased in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI).
- The *Companion Animals Regulation 2018* (the Regulation) has been amended to clarify certain aspects of these changes.
- Further changes to the Regulation also came into effect from 1 July 2020 as indicated below.

#### What this will mean for your council

- Annual permit requirements for dangerous and restricted dogs and for cats not desexed by four months of age commenced on 1 July 2020. Transitional arrangements provide pet owners with additional time to comply.
- The new lifetime registration fees are listed in the attached summary of amendments. This includes changes to registration categories as well as to the registration fees that apply from 1 July 2020.
- Councils should update their systems to accommodate the new registration, annual permit and penalty fees and categories.

#### Key points

- Changes to the Regulation, which are set out in more detail in the attachment, include:
  1. a 21-day transition period within which pet owners can comply with new annual permit requirements after 1 July 2020
  2. an annual permit exemption for recognised breeders for cats kept for breeding purposes
  3. a definition of "recognised breeder" for annual permit purposes
  4. an annual permit exemption for cats that cannot be de-sexed, either temporarily or permanently, until they can be de-sexed, where a vet has certified that in writing before the cat is four months of age
  5. abolishing the additional fee payable when registering a dog de-sexed after the age of six months if the dog was adopted from a rehoming organisation

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6. enabling notices for the seizure or surrender of animals to be served by email where an email address was provided upon registration
  7. changing the registration fee category for cats so that the additional registration fee for cats not de-sexed by the age of four months is removed, to reflect the introduction of annual permits
  8. reducing registration fees for all cats by \$10 from 1 July 2020
  9. prescribing fees payable for the 2020-21 year, and
  10. creating new penalty notices for offences that relate to annual permits.
- The Companion Animals Register and NSW Pet Registry have been modified to allow councils to apply the new lifetime registration fees from 1 July 2020 and to incorporate the other changes to the Regulation.
  - Both the old and new registration fee structures will be maintained on the Companion Animals Register to allow councils to correct registration details for existing records and catch up on data entry backlogs (i.e. where fees have been received before 1 July 2020 but not entered on the Register).
  - The current R2 – Lifetime Registration form can continue to be used.

#### Where to go for further information

- Further information about annual permits is available on the Annual Permits page of OLG's website at <https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/councils/responsible-pet-ownership/nsw-pet-registry/annual-permits/>.
- While the Pet Registry and Companion Animals Register are temporarily unavailable to allow urgent maintenance and upgrading work, councils should process any applications by way of paper forms and hold on to these forms until further notice. Further advice on processing of companion animal matters will be issued shortly.
- Further information will also be provided directly to councils and other registration agents about registration and annual permit processes.



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## Circular Attachment

### Summary of amendments to the *Companion Animals Regulation 2018 (the Regulation)*

#### 1) Annual permits transition period for compliance and enforcement

From 1 July 2020 owners of:

- cats not desexed by four months of age will be required to pay an \$80 annual permit in addition to their one-off lifetime pet registration fee, and
- dogs of a restricted breed or declared to be dangerous will be required to pay a \$195 annual permit in addition to a one-off lifetime pet registration fee.

The amendment provides for a 21-day transition period to provide affected pet owners with additional time to update their animal's records and pay for an annual permit.

The transition period will also assist local councils, rehoming organisations and the Office of Local Government to manage requests for support and advice as the new annual permit requirements are introduced.

#### 2) Exemption for recognised breeders from needing annual permits for cats

Members of recognised breeder organisations are currently exempt from paying higher registration fees for a cat or dog that has not been desexed by the relevant desexing age, if the animal is kept for breeding purposes.

The amendment provides for a similar exemption to apply to the annual permit requirement for cats kept for breeding purposes by recognised breeders.

#### 3) Definition of 'recognised breeder' for annual permits purposes

The *Companion Animals Act 1998* (Act) contains a definition for "recognised breeders organisation" for the purposes of issuing a Breeder Identification Number.

To provide for an exemption from holding an annual permit, this amendment includes the addition of a similar definition of 'recognised breeder' under clause 3(1) of the Regulation:

**recognised breeder**, in relation to a species of companion animal, means a person who is a member of a recognised breeders' organisation (within the meaning of Part 9 of the Act) for the species of companion animal.

#### 4) Excluding cats that cannot be desexed, either temporarily or permanently, from permit requirements

The Regulation provides for an exemption to the requirement to pay the annual permit fee for a cat if a vet has specified in writing, before the cat reaches four months of age, that the cat should not be desexed:

- until it reaches an age specified (a temporary exemption), or
- that desexing the cat at any time of its life would constitute a serious health risk to the cat (a permanent exemption).



**5) Abolishing the additional fee payable when registering dogs desexed after the age of six months if the dog was adopted from a rehoming organisation**

The Regulation provides for a 50 per cent discount on registration fees for desexed animals sold by rehoming organisations. Many dogs sold by rehoming organisations are not desexed until they come into the custody of the organisation and are often older than the relevant desexing age.

This amendment provides for an exemption to the requirement to pay the additional registration fee for desexed animals, including those desexed after the relevant desexing age, when sold by a rehoming organisation.

**6) Enabling notices for the seizure or surrender of animals to be served by email where an email address was provided upon registration**

Where an animal is seized or surrendered, sections 63(1) and 63(1A) of the Act require that a notice of the fact be given to the owner of the animal. This amendment enables notices, required by section 63 of the Act, to be served by email to the owner's email address specified in the Companion Animals Register.

**7) Changing the registration fee category for cats so that the additional registration fee for cats not de-sexed by the age of four months is removed, to reflect the introduction of annual permits**

The annual permit requirements for non-desexed cats, commencing on 1 July 2020, replace the one-off additional fee requirement for cats that are not de-sexed by the age of four months (entire cats).

This amendment removes the additional registration fee for entire cats. The additional registration fee will only continue to apply to dogs not desexed by six months of age.

**8) Reducing registration fees for all cats by \$10 from 1 July 2020**

In 2018 the Government committed to making a one-off \$10 reduction in lifetime registration fees for cats, reducing the cost of registration for owners who do the right thing and desex their cats, to coincide with the introduction of annual permits.

The Regulation has been amended to specify that the registration fee for cats is to be \$10 less than the registration fee for dogs that are de-sexed. In future, this registration fee for cats will be applied following the annual adjustment for inflation, which will keep it consistent in subsequent years at \$10 less for cats.

### 9) Prescribing fees payable for the 2020-21 year

Registration related fees prescribed in the Regulation are to be adjusted annually for inflation before the commencement of each financial year. A formula is prescribed for this purpose.

The adjusted fees are usually notified annually by way of a notice made under the Regulation. However, as the Regulation has been amended at the same time, the fees for the 2020-21 financial year have been prescribed in the Regulation itself to reduce any confusion.

The 2020-21 registration categories and corresponding fee amounts from 1 July 2020 are as follows:

Registration Category	Fee Amount
Dog – Desexed (by relevant age)	\$60
Dog – Desexed (by relevant age eligible pensioner)	\$26
Dog – Desexed (sold by pound/shelter)	\$30
Dog – Not Desexed or Desexed (after relevant age)	\$216
Dog – Not Desexed (not recommended)	\$60
Dog – Not Desexed (recognised breeder)	\$60
Dog – Working	\$0
Dog – Service of the State	\$0
Assistance Animal	\$0
Cat – Desexed or Not Desexed	\$50
Cat – Eligible Pensioner	\$26
Cat – Desexed (sold by pound/shelter)	\$25
Cat – Not Desexed (not recommended)	\$50
Cat – Not Desexed (recognised breeder)	\$50

### 10) Creating new penalty notices for offences that relate to annual permits

A number of offences for annual permits have been established and penalties can be applied by a court for failure to comply.

To enable council rangers and other authorised officers to issue penalty notices (on the spot fines), these offences are set out in Schedule 2 of the Regulation together with the maximum penalty notice that may be issued, as below:

Section	Offence and penalty	Penalty amount	notice
11B	Requires cats over the age of 4 months to have an annual permit from 6 months of age unless that cat is de-sexed (with exceptions). It is an offence if a permit is not in force. Maximum penalty of 50 penalty units (\$5,500).	\$400	

Section	Offence and penalty	Penalty amount	notice
11C	Requires dangerous dogs to have an annual permit from 7 days from the declaration date if declared after 6 months of age. It is an offence if a permit is not in force. Maximum penalty of 60 penalty units (\$6,600). <b>Note:</b> two permits are required if a dog is restricted and dangerous.	\$700	
11D	Requires restricted dogs to have an annual permit from 6 months old. If a dog is of a breed that is restricted in future, the permit is due 21 days after the breed is listed as restricted. It is an offence if a permit is not in force. Maximum penalty of 60 penalty units (\$6,600). <b>Note:</b> two permits are required if a dog is restricted and dangerous.	\$700	
11E (2)(a), and (2)(b)	Enables councils to issue a notice that requires a pet owner to apply for a permit within 14 days. It is an offence if a notice is not complied with. (a) Maximum penalty of 50 penalty units (\$5,500) in relation to a cat, or (b) Maximum penalty of 60 penalty units (\$6,600) in relation to a dog. <b>Note:</b> Under section 377 of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> , the governing body of council may choose to delegate this power. These notes may be given more than once to a pet owner, but only every three months at most.	For (a) \$400 For (b) \$700	
11K	Conditions may be imposed on the holder of the permit. It is a \$220 offence to not comply with any conditions. Maximum penalty of 20 penalty units (\$2,200)	\$220	



Office of  
Local Government

## Circular to Councils

<b>Circular Details</b>	20-28 / 3 July 2020 / A709308
<b>Previous Circular</b>	20-21 <i>Further relaxation of restrictions on attendance at council and committee meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic</i>
<b>Who should read this</b>	Councillors / General Managers / Council governance staff
<b>Contact</b>	Council Governance Team/ 02 4428 4100/ <a href="mailto:olg@olg.nsw.gov.au">olg@olg.nsw.gov.au</a>
<b>Action required</b>	Council to Implement

### Rules on attendance at council and committee meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic as of 1 July 2020

#### What's new or changing

- The Minister for Health and Medical Research, the Hon. Brad Hazzard MP (the Minister), made the *Public Health (COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement) Order (No 4) 2020* on 30 June 2020.
- The new Public Health Order further relaxes restrictions on attendance at meetings by persons other than councillors and staff.

#### What this will mean for your council

- Councillors and council staff may attend council and committee meetings in person. However, councils must continue to allow councillors and staff to attend and participate in meetings by audio visual links where it is reasonably practicable to do so.
- Members of the public are permitted to attend meetings. However, councils must not allow persons to attend a meeting if the size of the meeting venue is insufficient to ensure there is 4 square metres of space for each person attending the meeting.
- Councillors and council staff are not to be counted when calculating the space available for each person at the meeting venue and the number of persons who are attending a meeting.
- Where councils exclude members of the public from meetings, they must livestream their meetings using audio-visual links to satisfy the requirement under section 10 of the *Local Government Act 1993* for members of the public to be permitted to "attend" meetings.

#### Key points

- A failure to comply with a direction in a Public Health Order is an offence under Section 10 of the *Public Health Act 2010* that carries a maximum penalty of imprisonment for 6 months or a fine of up to \$11,000 (or both) plus a further \$5,500 fine each day the offence continues.

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**Where to go for further information**

- For further information please contact the Council Governance Team on 02 4428 4100 or by email at [olg@olg.nsw.gov.au](mailto:olg@olg.nsw.gov.au).
- More information on the new Public Health Order is available [here](#).
- For more specific guidance on compliance with the Public Health Order, contact the NSW Police Force.



**Tim Hurst**  
**Deputy Secretary**  
**Local Government, Planning and Policy**

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## 9.2 MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION REGION 4 NOMINATIONS

File Number: RPT/20/366

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**

Wentworth Shire Council continues to be a member of the Murray Darling Association (MDA); a membership-based organisation representing local government and communities across the Murray-Darling Basin since 1944.

The MDA works with and for member councils, in collaboration with state based local government associations such as Local Government NSW, Joint Organisations and other local government affiliations.

Wentworth Shire Council sits within Region 4, out of a total of 12 regions.

The MDA Region 4 Annual General Meeting is scheduled to be held on 8 September 2020 at the Midway Centre, Buronga.

Nominations are now being called for the position of Chair and executive committee members.

### **Recommendation**

1. That Council nominates delegate(s) for positions on the Executive Committee of MDA Region 4, and in doing so acknowledges its commitment to the nomination.
2. That Council nominates its preferred delegate to the position of Chair of MDA Region 4, and in doing so acknowledges the obligations of the Region Chair and commits to providing the resources required to support the role of Chair.

### **Detailed Report**

Wentworth Shire Council continues to be a member of the Murray Darling Association (MDA), a membership-based organisation representing local government and communities across the Murray-Darling Basin.

The purpose of the association is to provide effective representation of local government and communities at state and federal level in the management of Basin resources by:

- Providing information,
- Facilitating debate, and
- Seeking to influence government policy.

The MDA works with and for member councils, in collaboration with state based local government associations such as LG NSW, Joint Organisations and other local government affiliations.

Wentworth Shire Council sits within Region 4, out of a total of 12 regions.

The MDA Region 4 Annual General Meeting is scheduled to be held on 8 September 2020 at the Midway Centre, Buronga. Nominations are now being called for the position of Chair and executive committee members. Nominations must be lodged by COB Thursday 27 August 2020.

Council is requested to:

1. Nominate delegate(s) for positions on the Executive Committee of MDA Region 4, and in doing so acknowledges its commitment to the nomination.
2. Nominate its preferred delegate to the position of Chair of MDA Region 4, and in doing so acknowledges the obligations of the Region Chair and commits to providing the resources required to support the role of Chair.

The obligations of the Region Chair under Part 5, 16 (5) of the MDA Constitution (for nominations to Regional Chair) are as follows:

*The chair of the Region Executive is the chair of the Region, provided further:*

*(a) the chair must demonstrate both the initial and ongoing capacity to provide secretariat support for the activities of the Region;*

*(b) when the position of the chair becomes vacant for any reason, the Region Executive may appoint a temporary chair and a new chair must be appointed at the next Region Meeting;*

*(c) the chair must ensure minutes and other necessary records of Region Executive and Region Meetings are taken, kept and provided regularly to the MDA Board.*

### **Attachments**

Nil

### 9.3 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT

File Number: RPT/20/370

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 June 2020 were \$482,572.96. After allowing for pensioner subsidies, the total levies collected are now 89.82%. For comparison purposes 90.55% of the levy had been collected at the end of June 2019. Council currently has \$27,874,688.11 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 30 June 2020

The reconciliation has been carried out between the Cash Book of each fund and the Bank Pass Sheet as at 30 June 2020.

	Combined Bank Account
<b>Cash Balance as at 1 June 2020</b>	<b>\$ 2,662,651.07</b>
Add: Receipts for the Period Ending 30 June 2020 Rates, Debtors, Miscellaneous	\$ 5,084,056.48
Less: Payments for the Period Ending 30 June 2020 Cash Book entries for this Month	\$ 5,872,019.44
<b>Cash Balance at at 30 June 2020</b>	<b>\$ 1,874,688.11</b>
<b>Investments</b>	
Total Investments as at 30 June 2020	\$ 26,000,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 27,874,688.11</b>

Collection of Rates and Charges

Rates and Charges collections for the month of June 2020 were \$482,572.96. After allowing for pensioner subsidies, the total levies collected are now 89.82%. A summary of the Rates and Charges situation as at 30 June 2020 is as follows:

	Rates and Charges	
<b>Levies</b>		
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	877,372.40	
+ Supplementary Rates and Charges	108,330.33	
+ Additional Charges	108,740.60	
- Credit Adjustments	12,843.56	
- Abandonments	1,516.30	\$ 11,850,715.86
<b>Deductions</b>		
- Payments	10,474,466.07	
- Less Refunds of Payments	15,094.60	\$ 10,459,371.47
		\$ 1,391,344.39
- Pensioner Subsidy		
Government Subsidy	101,429.40	
Council Subsidy	82,987.69	\$ 184,417.09
Total Rates/Water Charges Outstanding		\$ 1,206,927.30

Note: For comparison purposes 90.55% of the levy had been collected at the end of June 2019.

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	\$ 477,446.54	30/01/2025
Loan 202	ANZ Bank	Civic Centre	3.470% Fixed	\$ 850,000.00	\$ 712,187.40	21/10/2026
Loan 203	National Australia Bank	Midway Centre	3.586% Fixed	\$ 1,900,000.00	\$ 1,745,638.09	28/04/2023
Loan 204	Bendigo Bank	Buronga Landfill	5.290% Fixed	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,355,905.10	12/05/2037
				<b>TOTAL</b>	\$ 4,291,177.13	

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 June 2020.

Account	Date	Amount	Comment
Debtor: MILDURA COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL	9/08/2019	228.00	Use of Darling Street- 29 September 2019 / Hire of 6 Bins - Payment was not received prior to event and DCG was not submitted
Debtor: BEC Business Advice	11/03/2020	88.00	Cancelled Hire of Memorial Room - 22 April 2020 ( during COVID-19)
Debtor: St Johns Anglican Church Ladies Guild	19/02/2020	44.00	Cancelled Hire of Memorial Room - 2 May 2020 ( during COVID-19)
Debtor: Greater Western Area health Service		235.06	Balance of account that is unable to be reconciled
Debtor: MG & JA Waters	12/07/2012	110.00	Hire of water tanker - Not viable to recover debt
Debtor: Trisate Car Club	18/06/2020	198.00	Cancellation of Licence agreement
Debtor: Breastscreen NSW	16/06/2020	44.00	Hire of Memorial Rooms - Cancelled due to COVID19
Debtor: Buronga St Rocco	3/06/2020	1412.50	Hire of Midway Complex - Cancelled due to COVID19
Debtor: P Swarbrick	1/05/2020	500.00	Credit May lease of Old Wentworth Gaol due to COVID19
Debtor: P Swarbrick	1/06/2020	500.00	Credit June lease of Old Wentworth Gaol due to COVID19
Rate Account 707.52	3/06/2020	63.34	Interest between 603 Cert and Settlement
Rate Account 203.6	18/05/2020	17.13	Interest - Ratepayer did not receive rate notice
Rate Account 1394	15/05/2020	9.38	Hardship
Rate Account 1339	14/05/2020	4.41	Ratepayer paid into rates instead of water through BPAY

Overtime and Travelling

<b>Month</b>	Jun-19	<b>Pay Periods</b>	26 & 1			
<b>Overtime</b>						
	<b>Time and a Half</b>		<b>Double Time</b>		<b>Double Time and Half</b>	
<b>Department</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Animal Services	3.50	\$ 158.48	1.00	\$ 60.37		
Civil Works	11.00	\$ 499.12	8.50	\$ 597.39		
Finance	4.50	\$ 345.01	8.50	\$ 941.46		
Parks & Gardens	6.00	\$ 256.33	11.50	\$ 651.36		
Roads - Council	253.50	\$ 11,500.43	198.00	\$ 12,563.96		
Roads - RMS	73.50	\$ 3,252.04	115.50	\$ 6,405.15		
Roads & Eng - Indoor	2.00	\$ 103.32				
Waste Management	18.50	\$ 845.16	13.50	\$ 818.57		
Water & Waste Water	54.00	\$ 2,684.13	65.50	\$ 4,304.87	3.00	\$ 314.26
Workshop			4.00	\$ 221.27		
<b>Total</b>	426.50	\$ 19,644.02	426.00	\$ 26,564.40	3.00	\$ 314.26
<b>Travel Allowance</b>						
<b>Department</b>	<b>Kms</b>	<b>Amount</b>				
Health & Planning	1,003.00	\$ 782.34		Kms for Health Inspector to drive to work		
Water & Waste Water	237.00	\$ 184.86		Kms for Meter Reader		
<b>Total</b>	1,240.00	\$ 967.20				
<b>Grand Total</b>		47,489.88				

Conclusion

The report indicates to Council that its finances are in a favourable position.

Attachments

Nil

## 9.4 MONTHLY INVESTMENT REPORT

File Number: RPT/20/373

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 30 June 2020 Council had \$24,005,304.11 invested in term deposits and \$2 million in a cash at call account. Council received \$37,089.04 from its investments for the month of June 2020.

In June 2020 Council investments averaged a rate of return of 1.27% and it currently has \$8,466,832.09 of internal restrictions and \$16,781,984.70 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 30 June 2020 Council had \$28,720,533.41 invested with seven financial institutions.

#### Breakdown of Total Funds Available

Financial Institution	Amount	Percentage of Available Funds
AMP	\$ 6,000,000.00	20.89%
Bank of Queensland	\$ 4,000,000.00	13.93%
Bendigo Bank	\$ 5,715,229.30	19.90%
IMB Bank	\$ 1,000,000.00	3.48%
Macquarie Bank	\$ 3,000,000.00	10.45%
Members Equity Bank	\$ 5,005,304.11	17.43%
National Australia Bank	\$ 4,000,000.00	13.93%
	\$ 28,720,533.41	100.00%

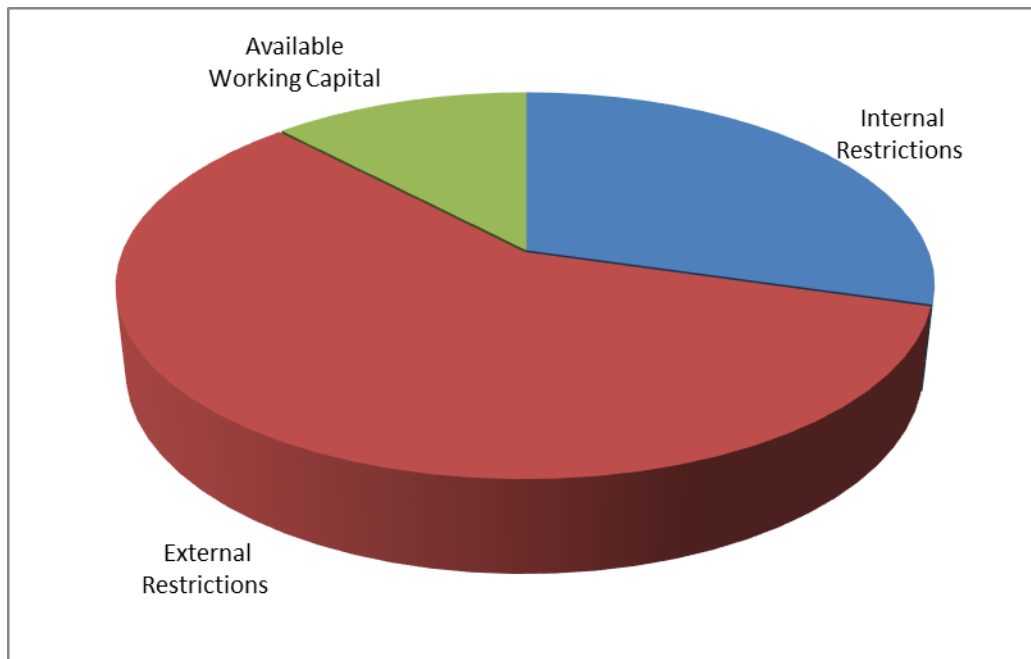


Investments on Hand as at 30 June

Wentworth Shire Council						
Investments on Hand as at 30 June 2020						
Investee	Date Invested	Date of Maturity	Effective Interest Rate	Investment Type	Amount Invested	Rating
AMP (10)	9/04/2020	7/01/2021	1.85%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB+
AMP (2)	7/05/2020	5/11/2020	1.65%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB+
AMP (5)	24/03/2020	22/09/2020	1.80%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB+
AMP (6)	14/04/2020	13/10/2020	1.85%	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)	13/05/2020	9/12/2020	1.65%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB+
Bank of Queensland (6)	23/04/2020	22/10/2020	1.50%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB+
Bank of Queensland (7)	17/03/2020	13/08/2020	1.45%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB+
Bank of Queensland (8)	3/06/2020	2/09/2020	0.85%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB+
Bank of Queensland (9)	26/02/2020	26/08/2020	1.55%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB+
Bendigo Bank (10)	3/04/2020	31/07/2020	1.55%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB+
Bendigo Bank (7)	29/04/2020	29/09/2020	0.95%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB+
Bendigo Bank (9)	21/02/2020	19/08/2020	1.45%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB+
IMB Bank	9/06/2020	9/09/2020	1.05%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB+
Macquarie Bank	10/06/2020	8/10/2020	0.85%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A1/A+
Macquarie Bank (2)	5/03/2020	2/07/2020	1.70%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A1/A+
Macquarie Bank (3)	16/04/2020	16/07/2020	1.60%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A1/A+
Members Equity Bank	24/06/2020	24/08/2020	0.85%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,005,304.11	A2/BBB
Members Equity Bank (2)	20/05/2020	16/09/2020	1.20%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB
Member Equity Bank (3)	26/05/2020	Ongoing	0.85%	Cash at Call A/c	\$ 2,000,000.00	A2/BBB
Members Equity Bank (10)	16/06/2020	15/12/2020	0.85%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB
National Australia Bank (1)	9/06/2020	9/07/2020	0.45%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A1+/AA-
National Australia Bank (3)	30/06/2020	28/10/2020	0.85%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A1+/AA-
National Australia Bank (6)	29/05/2020	28/07/2020	0.65%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A1+/AA-
National Australia Bank (7)	29/05/2020	28/09/2020	0.96%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A1+/AA-
Total					\$ 26,005,304.11	
Operating Account					\$ 2,715,229.30	
<b>Total Funds Available</b>					<b>\$ 28,720,533.41</b>	
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				\$ 9,102,296.71		
- Sewer Fund				\$ 2,306,999.47		
- Developer Contributions Reserve				\$ 619,065.20		
- Domestic Waste Management Reserve				\$ 104,796.78		
- Unexpended Grants				\$ 3,804,457.85		
- Crown Reserves Reserve				\$ 333,116.80		
- Loan Guarantee Reserve				\$ 10,774.04		
- Prepayments Cemeteries				\$ 500,477.85	\$ 16,781,984.70	
- Day to Day Liquidity					\$ 3,471,716.62	
<b>Total Funds Available</b>					<b>\$ 28,720,533.41</b>	

Note: Ratings provided are from Moody's and Standard & Poors Rating Agencies

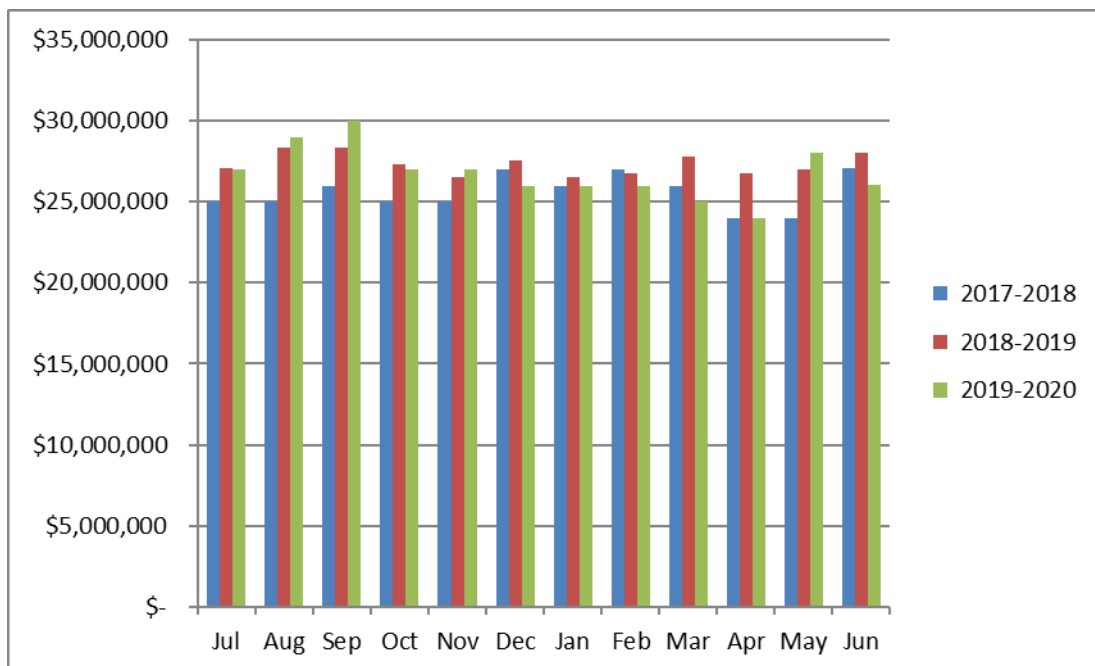
Breakdown



Summary – Unexpended Grants as at 30 June 2020

Grant	Amount
Block Grant	\$88,535.13
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	\$3,323,376.00
Drought Communities Programme	\$1,988.58
Stronger Country Communities Fund	\$51,889.14
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,804,457.85</b>

Total funds invested

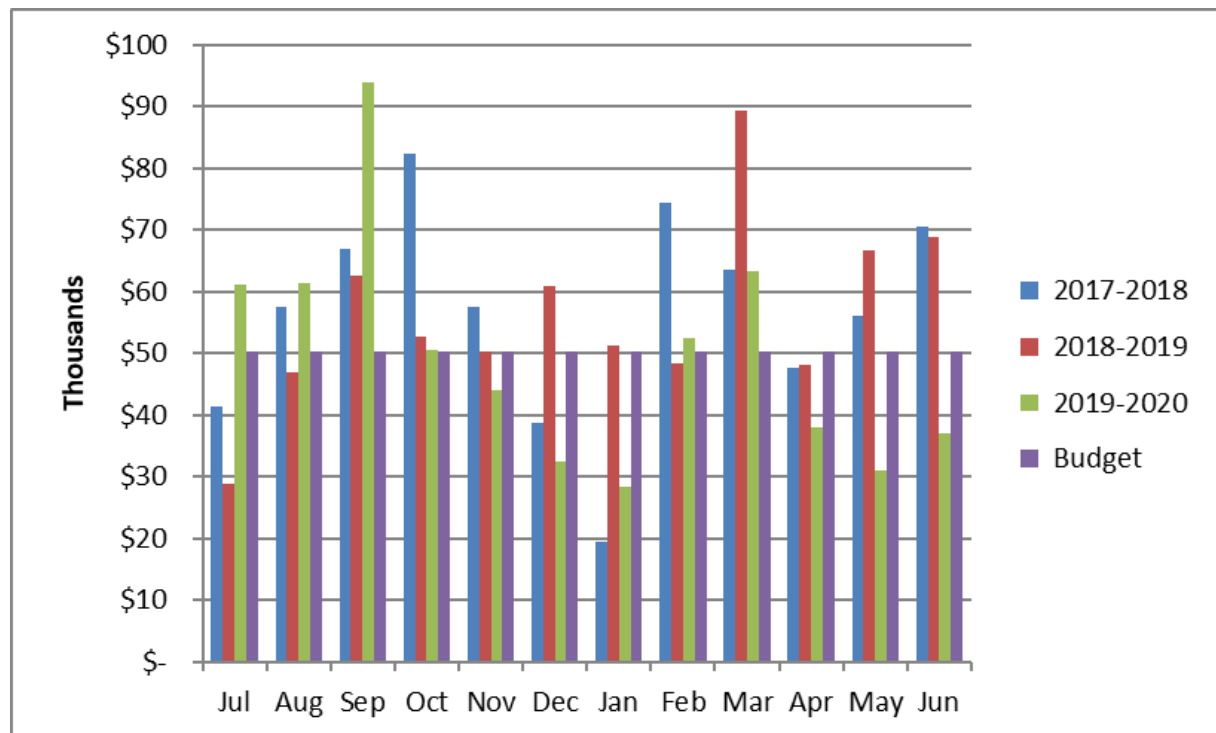


Eight term deposits matured in June earning Council \$37,089.04 in interest. The budget for June was \$50,212.50. Year to date Council has received \$593,425.95 in interest. The year to date budget was \$602,550.00.

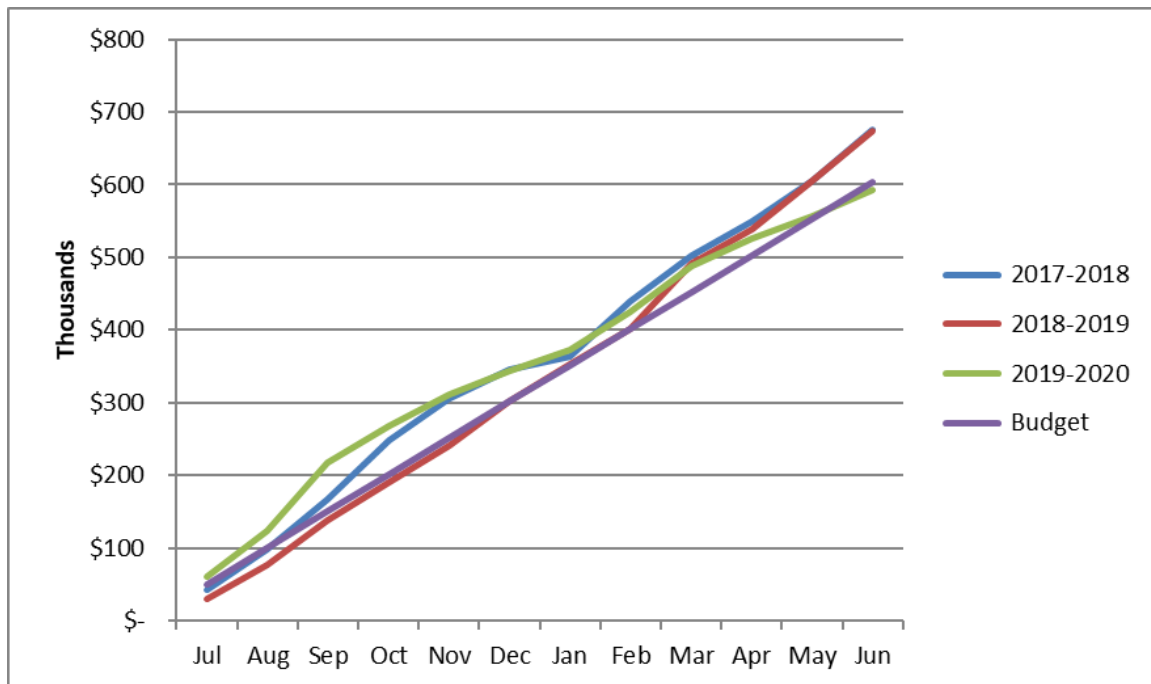
Investments maturing in June 2020

Investee	Date Invested	Date of Maturity	Effective Interest Rate	Investment Type	Amount Invested	Interest Earned
Bank of Queensland (8)	4/02/2020	3/06/2020	1.48%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 4,865.75
IMB Bank	6/03/2020	9/06/2020	1.50%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 3,904.11
Macquarie Bank	12/02/2020	10/06/2020	1.60%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 5,216.44
Members Equity Bank (10)	15/01/2020	16/06/2020	1.55%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 6,497.26
National Australia Bank (1)	9/03/2020	9/06/2020	1.40%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 3,528.77
National Australia Bank (3)	2/03/2020	30/06/2020	1.40%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 4,602.74
National Australia Bank (5)	11/03/2020	9/06/2020	1.37%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 3,378.08
Westpac Banking Corporation	20/02/2020	19/06/2020	1.55%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 5,095.89
Total						<b>\$ 37,089.04</b>

Interest received June 2020

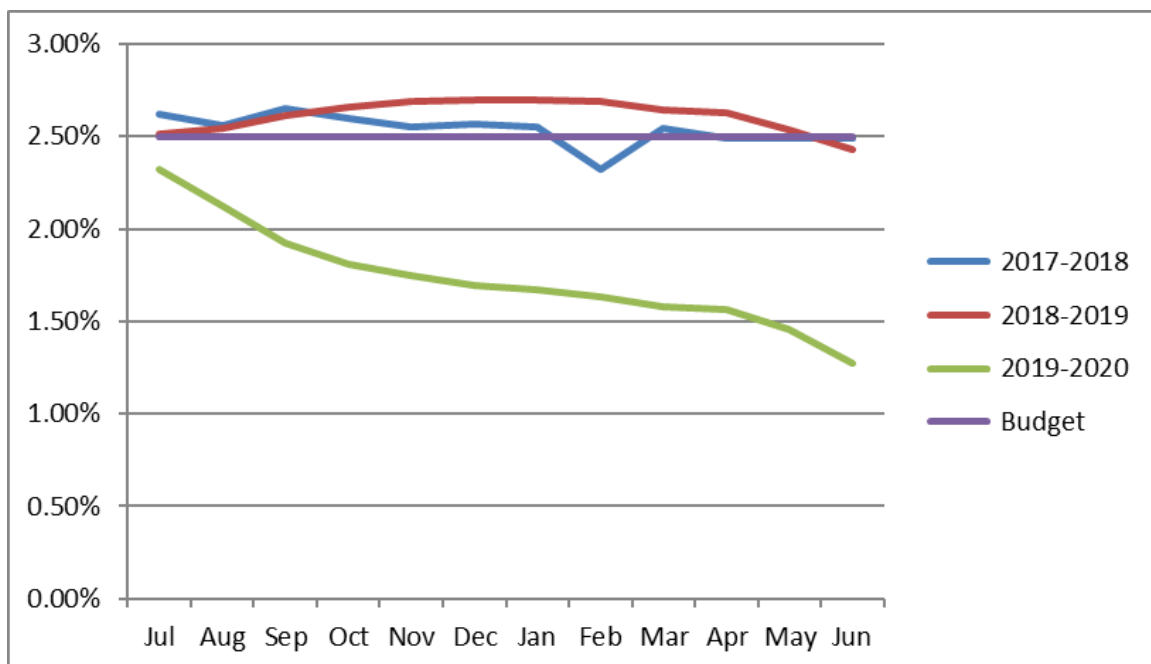


Total Interest received July 2019 – June 2020



For June 2020 Council's investments returned an effective average rate of 1.27%. Year to date the effective average rate has been 1.73%. The budget for 2019-2020 was 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

## 9.5 DELEGATED AUTHORITY APPROVALS AS AT END OF JUNE 2020

File Number: RPT/20/379

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 June 2020, a total of 14 Development Applications and four S4.55 Modification Applications were determined under delegated authority by the Director Health and Planning.

The estimated value of the determined developments was \$3,255,151.00. This brings the year to date total to 72 Development Applications and 19 S4.55 Applications approved, with an estimated development value of \$17,779,794.00.

### Recommendation

- a) That Council receives and notes the report for the month of June 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 June 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 \$3,255,151.00 for the month of June 2020, which was more than the previous month of \$298,024.00. The average determination time was 30 days.

### Attachments

1. Determination of Development Applications for the month of June 2020 [1](#)

## DETERMINATION OF DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2020

FILE NUMBER	OWNER	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	VALUE (EX GST)	DETERMINATION DATE	ACTIVE DAYS TO 30/06/2020
DA2020/043	Gregg & Sons (Steel) Pty Ltd	5-7 Grace Crescent Lot 883 DP756961 102-106 Silver City Highway Lots 995 & 992 DP 756961 & Lot 2 DP 1258550 Buronga	Warehouse & retail development	\$1,000,000.00	16/06/2020	48
DA2020/044	Geoffrey & Cynthia Cupper	34 Thomas Street Lot 29 DP 1259103 Gol Gol	Storage shed	\$38,000.00	1/06/2020	31
S4-55/2020/014	Des Allen	151 Pooncarie Road Lot 2 DP 1239541 Wentworth	Modify DA2017/150 Amend dwelling design	\$0.00	11/06/2020	38
DA2020/047	Richard & Lynette Williamson	57 Carramar Drive Lot 23 DP 240719 Gol Gol	Shade sail	\$8,530.00	1/06/2020	29
DA2020/048	Colin & Heather Seddon	6 Panuccio Rise Lot 3 DP 1167396 Gol Gol	Two storey dwelling & garage	\$1,100,000.00	9/06/2020	34
DA2020/049	Shaun & Angela Ristrom	Charon Drive Lot 35 DP 1242927 Gol Gol	Storage shed	\$19,840.00	9/06/2020	32
DA2020/050	Peter Donaldson	169 Darling Street Lot 3 DP 528940 Wentworth	Storage shed & awning	\$16,292.00	11/06/2020	32
S4-55/2020/015	BSFW Investments Pty Ltd	34A Carramar Drive Lot 1 DP 1226451 Gol Gol	Modify DA2018/159 amend implement shed design & size	\$0.00	12/06/2020	29
DA2020/052	Damien Murphy & Petra Johansson	Waratah Court Lot 12 DP 1248641 Gol Gol	Storage shed	\$48,000.00	16/06/2020	27
DA2020/053	Brian Lapthorne & Jacqueline Bertalli	8 Wadsworth Drive Lot 48 DP 1009699 Gol Gol	Storage shed	\$16,399.00	17/06/2020	27

DA2020/054	Alysa Knoll	Ashen Court Lot 17 DP 1242927 Gol Gol	Dwelling & garage	\$512,995.00	17/06/2020	27
DA2020/055	Jake Hill-Ford	21 Casuarine Way Lot 29 DP 1098922 Buronga	Dwelling & garage	\$400,000.00	18/06/2020	27
S4-55/2020/017	Barbara Worrell	28 Helena Street Lot 1 DP 207632 Wentworth	Modify DA2020/037 amend distance of storage shed from boundary	\$0.00	23/06/2020	27
DA2020/057	Guisepppe & Karlle Brigante	Waratah Court Lot 6 DP 1248641 Gol Gol	Storage shed	\$19,495.00	22/06/2020	25
S4-55/2020/018	Via Vai Nominees Pty Ltd	Gunya Road Lot 485 DP 756961 Coomaella	Modify DA2017/051 Amend location of staff amenities & addition of electrical room	\$0.00	24/06/2020	27
DA2020/058	Daniel MacLeod & Demmi Andriske	Wurlong Drive Lot 8 DP 1251134 Gol Gol	Storage shed	\$60,000.00	23/06/2020	25
DA2020/059	Cheney Compt	Nix Court Lot 29 DP 1242927 Gol Gol	Establish boundary fencing	\$6,700.00	29/06/2020	28
DA2020/061	Paulette Beechey	95 Cadell Street Lot 4 Section 6 DP 759074 Wentworth	Carport extension	\$8,900.00	29/06/2020	26

**10 NOTICES OF MOTIONS / QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE**

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 for only 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, the recording of the meeting be suspended, and members of the press and public be excluded from 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 Wentworth Aerodrome Upgrade - Bitumen, Asphalt and Linemarking Works PT1920/07. (RPT/20/372)**

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 WENTWORTH AERODROME UPGRADE - BITUMEN, ASPHALT AND LINEMARKING WORKS PT1920/07

File Number: RPT/20/372

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**

19 August 2020