



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

19 AUGUST 2020

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1 OPENING OF MEETING

THE MAYOR REQUESTS THAT THE GENERAL MANAGER MAKES
ANNOUNCEMENTS 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 15 July 2020 be confirmed as
circulated.



WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL

ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES

15 JULY 2020

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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 10am.

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS: Councillor Melisa Hederics (Mayor)
Councillor Tim Elstone (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor Steve Heywood
Councillor Jane MacAllister
Councillor Don McKinnon (via Video Link)
Councillor Susan Nichols
Councillor Peter Nunan

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)
Gayle Marsden (Executive Assistant)

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Cr Wheeldon is an apology and has requested a leave of absence for this meeting

Cr Evans is an apology and has requested a leave of absence for this meeting.

Council Resolution

That Council notes the apologies from Cr Wheeldon and Cr Evans and grants the Leave of Absence requests from Cr Wheeldon and Cr Evans for this meeting.

Moved Cr. Nunan, Seconded Cr. Elstone

CARRIED

4 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

Nil

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 24 June 2020 be confirmed as circulated.

Council Resolution

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 24 June 2020 be confirmed as amended.

Moved Cr. MacAllister, Seconded Cr. Elstone

CARRIED

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.

Council Resolution

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

Moved Cr. Nichols, Seconded Cr. Heywood

CARRIED

7 MAYORAL AND COUNCILLOR REPORTS

7.1 MAYORAL REPORT

File Number: RPT/20/358

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. McKinnon, Seconded Cr. Elstone

CARRIED

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.

Council Resolution

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

Moved Cr. MacAllister, Seconded Cr. Elstone

CARRIED

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.

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.

Council Resolution

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

Moved Cr. MacAllister, Seconded Cr. Heywood

CARRIED

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.

Council Resolution

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

Moved Cr. Elstone, Seconded Cr. MacAllister

CARRIED

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.

Council Resolution

1. That Council nominates Cr MacAllister, Cr Elstone, Cr Heywood for positions on the Executive Committee of MDA Region 4, and in doing so acknowledges its commitment to the nomination.
2. That Council nominates Cr MacAllister 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.

Moved Cr. Elstone, Seconded Cr. Nichols

CARRIED

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.

Council Resolution

That Council notes the monthly finance report.

Moved Cr. MacAllister, Seconded Cr. Nunan

CARRIED

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.

Council Resolution

That Council notes the monthly investment report.

Moved Cr. Elstone, Seconded Cr. MacAllister

CARRIED

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)*.

Council Resolution

- 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)*.

Moved Cr. Elstone, 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, Hederics, Heywood, MacAllister, McKinnon, Nichols, and Nunan.***

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

10 NOTICES OF MOTIONS / QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE**10.1 PLANTINGS ON SILVER CITY HIGHWAY DARETON**

Cr Peter Nunan asked about plans for plantings on Silver City Highway, Dareton.

10.2 DARETON TOWN PLAN

Cr Peter Nunan asked about the progress of the Dareton Town Plan

Director of Roads and Engineering advised that it was a works in progress. An audit on the street lights has been undertaken. The Director of Health and Planning advised that his team are working on the strategic component of the Dareton Town Plan.

10.3 REQUEST TO REVISIT SPEED HUMPS IN DARETON

Cr Peter Nunan requested a review of speed humps at Davenport Street past Mallee Family Care, at Millie Street and adjacent to pool.

Councillors questioned why there has not been meetings of the Roads and Road Safety Committee.

10.4 UPDATE ON FLATS AT DARETON

Cr Melisa Hederics requested an update on a clean-up order that has been issued to the owner of flats in Dareton.

Director of Health and Planning gave a verbal update.

10.5 MIDWAY CENTRE OPENING LIBRARY OPENING HOURS

Cr Susan Nichols questioned why a Google search shows that the Midway Service Centre Library and Customer Service opening hours are showing open on a Saturday when the centre is no longer open on a Saturday.

10.6 CURLWAA HALL DEMOLITION

Cr Susan Nichols asked why the old Curlwaa Hall hasn't been removed.

Director of Health and Planning advised that the hall was listed as a Local Heritage item in the LEP. He will arrange for the building to be inspected by a qualified person and a decision of Council would be required in order to remove the hall as a Local Heritage item. Only after this has happened can the building be demolished.

10.7 CURLWAA HALL FURNISHINGS AND RAINWATER TANK

Cr Susan Nichols asked what the plans are for furnishing the Curlwaa Hall and if a rainwater tank will be installed.

10.8 INSPECTION OF SEWER PIPES IN DARLING, ADAMS AND BEVERLEY STREETS

Cr Susan Nichols asked how long has it been since there was an inspection of the sewer pipes in Darling, Adams and Beverley Streets, Wentworth.

Director of Roads and Engineering provided a verbal response and advised that he will follow up on the particular locations mentioned.

10.9 POPILTAH ROADSIDE STOP

Cr Steve Heywood asked about the accumulation of rubbish at the Popiltah roadside stop near Coombah. Who has the responsibility for this roadside stop because it is not in the Wentworth Shire area.

The General Manager advised it is in the Unincorporated area and as such he thinks there would be a highway maintenance contract through Transport for NSW.

10.10 BOTTLEBEND RESERVE ROAD EGRESS

Cr Jane MacAllister asked if a response has been forthcoming from Transport for NSW regarding the turning lanes in and out of Bottlebend Reserve onto the highway.

11 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS – ADJOURNMENT INTO CLOSED SESSION

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.

Move into Closed Session

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

Moved Cr. Nunan, Seconded Cr. Elstone

The meeting moved into closed session at 11:02am.

Council reconvened into open session at 11:34am.

12 OPEN COUNCIL - REPORT FROM CLOSED COUNCIL

At the Mayors request the General Manager reported on the following items from the closed session of 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

The General Manager advised that during the closed session Council accepted the tender from Primal Surfacing to carry out the supply, delivery and placement of Bitumen, Asphalt and Linemarking for contract PT1920/07, in the amount of \$1,023,599.50 including GST and Council authorised the mayor and general manager to sign the contract documentation and affix the council seal.

12.2 Mayoral Minute

The General Manager advised that the Mayor put forward a Mayoral Minute. The resolution of Council is as follows:

- That the resolution regarding the Wentworth Doctor Proposal dated 22 April 2020 be recognised as the direction of Council
- That Council provide funding of up to \$170,000 to enable CHAC to establish an operating medical clinic in Wentworth in line with the proposals as presented to Council.
- That this additional allocation be funded from savings within the salaries budget

13 CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

Meeting Closed 11.36am

NEXT MEETING

19 August 2020

.....
CHAIR

6 OUTSTANDING MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

6.1 OUTSTANDING MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

File Number: RPT/20/404

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 10 August 2020.

Additional Information

Nil

Attachments

1. Outstanding Action Items Report [↓](#)

Outstanding Outstanding Action Items Report				Division: Ordinary Council Committee: Officer:		Date From: Date To: Printed: Tuesday, 11 August 2020 4:22:56 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	Council Resolution 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. Moved Cr. MacAllister, Seconded Cr. Heywood CARRIED	10 Aug 2020 - 2:01 PM - Gayle Marsden Report to Council 19 August 2020		
Ordinary Council 22/04/2020	10.2	Dareton main street lights	Cr Don McKinnon asked why there are still no lights in the main street of Dareton.	11 Aug 2020 - 1:05 PM - Tarryn Kampman Essential Energy provided with details for maintenance repairs and WSC electrical contractors engaged to assess requirements for decorative lighting repairs. Action Complete		
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.	11 Aug 2020 - 2:06 PM - Tarryn Kampman CCTV cameras and signage installed at JKP. The contractor and waste services company have responded and advised		

Outstanding

Division:

Committee:

Officer:

Ordinary Council

Date From:

Date To:

Printed:

Tuesday, 11 August 2020 4:22:56 PM

Outstanding Action Items Report

Ordinary Council 24/06/2020	9.3	<div>Trentham Cliffs Development - Provision Of Water and Sewer</div> <div> <div>Council Resolution</div> <div>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.</div> <div>Moved Cr. Heywood, Seconded Cr. Elstone</div> <div>CARRIED</div> </div>	that they are now unable to retrofit a modified bin lid to previously advised - Action Complete	29 Jul 2020 - 4:58 PM - Gayle Marsden Contract signed and seal affixed - Action completed
Ordinary Council 24/06/2020	10.2.8	<div>Installation of solar power on council facilities</div> <div>Cr Susan Nichols asked for a report on what council buildings would benefit from having solar energy installed.</div>		10 Aug 2020 - 2:42 PM - Tarryn Kampman Under investigation, Council looking for grant funding - Action Complete
Ordinary Council 24/06/2020	10.2.10	<div>New signage at Midway Centre</div> <div>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.</div>		11 Aug 2020 - 1:03 PM - Tarryn Kampman Sign and frame being refurbished and quotes being obtained for new details and artwork, to be completed October - Action Complete
Ordinary Council 24/06/2020	10.2.11	<div>New footpath at Midway Centre</div> <div>Cr Melisa Hederics asked if a footpath could be installed to connect the top carpark at the Midway Centre with the Midway Function Centre.</div>		10 Aug 2020 - 2:43 PM - Tarryn Kampman Engineering staff still investigating proposed options and include in 2020/21 works program.

<div> <div>Outstanding</div> <div> <div>Division: Committee: Officer:</div> <div>Ordinary Council</div> </div> </div> <div> <div>Date From: Date To:</div> <div>Printed: Tuesday, 11 August 2020 4:22:56 PM</div> </div>				Outstanding Action Items Report	
Ordinary Council 24/06/2020	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 Aug 2020 - 2:45 PM - Tarryn Kampman Project listed on the 2020/21 works program funded under 'local roads and community infrastructure'. Subject to finalisation of Road Reserve Acquisition - Action Complete	
Ordinary Council 15/07/2020	9.2	Murray Darling Association Region 4 Nominations	<p>Council Resolution</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Council nominates Cr MacAllister, Cr Elstone, Cr Heywood for positions on the Executive Committee of MDA Region 4, and in doing so acknowledges its commitment to the nomination. 2. That Council nominates Cr MacAllister 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. <p>Moved Cr. Elstone, Seconded Cr. Nichols</p> <p><u>CARRIED</u></p>	29 Jul 2020 - 4:59 PM - Gayle Marsden MDA advised of nominations for delegates and Chair - Action complete	
Ordinary Council 15/07/2020	10.1	Plantings on Silver City Highway Dareton	Cr Peter Nunan asked about plans for plantings on Silver City Highway, Dareton.	7 Aug 2020 - 12:54 PM - Tarryn Kampman The section between Pump Station Rd and Hawdon St along the Silver City Hwy is being investigated by TL Parks for street scaping options. These options are not necessarily trees due to the area being unlit and subject to vandalism.	
Ordinary Council 15/07/2020	10.2	Dareton Town Plan	Cr Peter Nunan asked about the progress of the Dareton Town Plan	11 Aug 2020 - 1:07 PM - Tarryn Kampman Works in progress, H&P working on the strategic component of the Dareton Town Plan.	

Outstanding

Division:

Committee:

Officer:

Ordinary Council

Date From:

Date To:

Printed:

Tuesday, 11 August 2020

4:22:56 PM

Outstanding Action Items Report

<div>Ordinary Council</div> <div>15/07/2020</div>	10.3	<div>Request to Revisit Speed Humps in Dareton</div>	<div>Cr Peter Nunan requested a review of speed humps at Davenport Street past Mallee Family Care, at Millie Street and adjacent to pool. Councillors questioned why there has not been meetings of the Roads and Road Safety Committee.</div>	<div>7 Aug 2020 - 12:24 PM - Tarryn Kampman</div> <div>Site visit undertaken by RSO and Cr Nunan. Matter to be discussed at Local Traffic Committee on 13/08/20. Roads & Road Safety Committee was developed by Simon Pradhan, and was a recap/summary of the Local Traffic Committee and roads report from DRE. The Local Traffic Committee meeting is a legislative requirement for all NSW councils and is held quarterly - Action Complete</div>
<div>Ordinary Council</div> <div>15/07/2020</div>	10.4	<div>Update on flats at Dareton</div>	<div>Cr Melisa Hederics requested an update on a clean-up order that has been issued to the owner of flats in Dareton.</div>	<div>11 Aug 2020 - 1:10 PM - Matthew Carlin</div> <div>A Notice of Intention to Serve and Order was issued on 7 June 2020 with an expiry of 2 July 2020. The owner of the units contacted Council to advise he could not leave Melbourne to attend to the Notice due to COVID-19 restrictions and lockdowns. Regardless of the timeframes, the Order will be issued and Council Officers will continue to monitor the situation.</div>
<div>Ordinary Council</div> <div>15/07/2020</div>	10.6	<div>Curlwaa Hall demolition</div>	<div>Cr Susan Nichols asked why the old Curlwaa Hall hasn't been removed.</div>	<div>10 Aug 2020 - 2:57 PM - Matthew Carlin</div> <div>A Notice of Determination was issued in November 2018 for DA2018/126. The demolition of the old hall was subject to a deferred commencement condition that required certain heritage work to be carried out. With this work complete, the demolition of the hall can now proceed. The Roads and Engineering Directorate will seek quotations for the demolition.</div>

<div> <div> Outstanding </div> <div> Division: Committee: Officer: </div> <div> Ordinary Council </div> </div>				Date From: Date To: Printed: Tuesday, 11 August 2020 4:22:56 PM
Outstanding Action Items Report				
Ordinary Council 15/07/2020	10.7	Curlwaa Hall furnishings and rainwater tank	Cr Susan Nichols asked what the plans are for furnishing the Curlwaa Hall and if a rainwater tank will be installed.	11 Aug 2020 - 1:09 PM - Tarryn Kampman Due to health requirements/rules rainwater tanks cannot be installed in public buildings. Furnishings to be considered further with budget implications - Action Complete
Ordinary Council 15/07/2020	10.8	Inspection of Sewer Pipes in Darling, Adams and Beverley Streets	Cr Susan Nichols asked how long has it been since there was an inspection of the sewer pipes in Darling, Adams and Beverley Streets, Wentworth.	10 Aug 2020 - 2:15 PM - Tarryn Kampman Inspections with camera have been undertaken within the last 6 months. Team leader Water confirmed no ongoing issues that he is aware of with Council Infrastructure - Action Complete
Ordinary Council 15/07/2020	10.9	Poplatah Roadside stop	Cr Steve Heywood asked about the accumulation of rubbish at the Poplatah roadside stop near Coombah. Who has the responsibility for this roadside stop because it is not in the Wentworth Shire area.	5 Aug 2020 - 9:09 PM - Gayle Marsden Contacted Transport for NSW who are going to contact the Contractor to clean up the area - Action Complete
Ordinary Council 15/07/2020	10.10	Bottlebend Reserve Road egress	Cr Jane MacAllister asked if a response has been forthcoming from Transport for NSW regarding the turning lanes in and out of Bottlebend Reserve onto the highway.	11 Aug 2020 - 12:52 PM - Belinda Fitzgerald Response emailed to Bottle Bend Landcare Chairperson - Action Complete

7 MAYORAL AND COUNCILLOR REPORTS

7.1 MAYORAL REPORT

File Number: RPT/20/403

Summary

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of meetings, conferences and appointments undertaken by the Mayor for the period 4 July 2020 – 7 August 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 4 July 2020 – 7 August 2020.

Date	Meeting	Location
7 Jul 2020	Cross Border Commissioner	Video Conference
7 July 2020	Inspection Bridge Closure Sites – NSW Police	George Chaffey & Abbotsford Bridges
7 July 2020	Mayoral Meeting	Wentworth
8 Jul 2020	LGNSW & NSW Police Commissioner	Video Conference
10 Jul 2020	Cross Border Commissioner	Video Conference
13 Jul 2020	Cross Border Commissioner	Video Conference
13 Jul 2020	FWJO Mayors & GM's Meeting	Video Conference
14 Jul 2020	Cross Border Commissioner	Video Conference
14 Jul 2020	Mayoral Meeting	Wentworth
15 Jul 2020	Ordinary Council Meeting	Buronga
17 Jul 2020	Cross Border Commissioner	Video Conference
21 Jul 2020	Cross Border Commissioner	Video Conference
21 Jul 2020	Mayoral Meeting	Wentworth
21 Jul 2020	ClubGrants Local Committee meeting	Wentworth
22 Jul 2020	FWJO Board meeting	Video Conference
24 Jul 2020	Cross Border Commissioner	Video Conference
27 July 2020	Cross Border Commissioner	Video Conference
28 July 2020	Cross Border Commissioner	Video Conference
28 July 2020	Internal Audit and Risk Management Committee Meeting	Wentworth
28 July 2020	Mayoral Meeting	Wentworth
30 Jul 2020	Cross Border Commissioner	Video Conference
31 Jul 2020	Cross Border Commissioner	Video Conference

3 Aug 2020	Cross Border Commissioner	Video Conference
3 Aug 2020	Meeting Minister Brad Hazzard	Teleconference
4 Aug 2020	Cross Border Commissioner	Video Conference
4 Aug 2020	Mayoral Meetings	GM Office
5 Aug 2020	Cross Border Commissioner	Video Conference

Attachments

Nil

8 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

8.1 INTERNAL AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

File Number: RPT/20/412

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

A meeting of the Internal Audit and Risk Management Committee was held on 28 July 2020. The Minutes of the meeting are attached to this report for the information of Councillors.

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

- approval of the Quarterly Budget Review Statement
- adoption of the various policies (attached) endorsed by the committee

The Committee has also requested Council notes:

- the six-monthly Operational Plan progress report
- the interim management letter presented to the committee by the Audit Office of NSW and Council's auditors, Nexia Australia

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. approves the variations to the 2019/20 Operational Plan adopted at the Council meeting on 26 June 2019
2. adopts the recommended changes to the following policies:
 - a. Deferred Payment Arrangements
 - b. Donations, Contributions and Grants
 - c. Private Works
 - d. Rates – reduction of Developer Costs
 - e. Rating Sewerage Service
 - f. Capital Contributions towards sporting facilities and community
 - g. Asset Accounting
 - h. Asset Disposal
 - i. Media Statements
3. notes the six-monthly progress report against the 2019/20 Operational Plan
4. notes the interim management letter from the Audit Office on Council's interim audit

Additional Information

June Quarterly Budget Review

The report and attachments presented to the Committee on the June Quarterly Budget Review are attached to this report. If approved, the net result of variances for the June 2020 quarterly review is an unfavorable operational variance of \$2,315,000 and a favorable capital variance of \$4,384,000. A total favorable variance of \$2,069,000.

Policies for approval

The following policies have been reviewed by the committee and endorsed by the committee for Council approval:

Policy	Trim ref	Summary of Amendments
AF001 – Deferred Payment Arrangements	DOC/16/8368	No changes
AF003 – Donations, Contributions and Grants Policy	DOC/16/9323	No changes
AF006 – Private Works Policy	DOC/20/679	No changes
AF007 – Rates – reduction of Developer Costs	DOC/20/686	Formatting changes only
AF008 – Rating Sewerage Service Policy	DOC/20/690	Formatting and spelling corrected
AF009 – Capital Contributions towards sporting facilities and community	DOC/20/700	Formatting updates
AF018 – Asset Accounting Policy	DOC/20/813	Policy updated to include wording from the Asset Disposal Policy
GOV006 – Asset Disposal Policy	DOC/19/9543	Policy recommended for rescission as it has been combined with the Asset Accounting Policy
CC002 – Media Statements Policy	DOC/20/820	Updated reference to Model Code of Conduct; re-worded statement in relation to the activation of the Business Continuity Plan

The Acknowledgement of Country policy was also tabled at the meeting for endorsement. The committee requested this be submitted separately for Council's consideration. A separate Council report has been tabled on the Acknowledgement of Country policy.

Six-monthly Operational Plan Progress Report

This quarter the June Quarterly Budget Review report also included the six-monthly progress report against the Operational Plan. This is based on feedback previously provided by Councillors to trial a new format. Feedback on the format is welcome so the report can continue to be improved to assist Councillors with decision making. It is anticipated this report will continue to be included each quarter with the Quarterly Budget Review to make it easier to track progress.

Interim Audit

At the July meeting representatives of the Audit Office of NSW and Nexia Australia attended to answer any questions regarding the findings of the interim audit. The audit was conducted remotely during May and June 2020. The findings from the audit are included in the interim management letter, which is attached for Council's information.

The Audit Office and/or Nexia Australia will also make a presentation to the Ordinary Council meeting in November 2020 following the finalisation of the 2019/20 audit. This will allow Council to ask any questions prior to the approval of the Independent Auditor's report.

Attachments

1. Minutes of Internal Audit & Risk Management Meeting held 28 July 2020[↓](#)
2. June Quarterly Budget Review Report including attachments[↓](#)
3. AF001 Deferred Payment Arrangements Policy Working Document[↓](#)
4. AF003 Donations, Contributions & Grants Policy Working Document[↓](#)
5. AF006 Private Works Policy Working Document[↓](#)
6. AF007 Rates - Reduction of Developer Costs Policy Working Document[↓](#)
7. AF008 Rates - Sewerage Service Policy Working Document[↓](#)
8. AF009 Capital Contributions towards Sporting Facilities and Community Policy Working Document[↓](#)
9. AF018 Asset Accounting Policy Working Document[↓](#)
10. GOV006 Asset Disposal Policy Working document[↓](#)
11. CC002 Media Statements Policy Working Document[↓](#)
12. Audit Office of NSW Interim Management Letter[↓](#)



WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL

INTERNAL AUDIT & RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

28 JULY 2020

INTERNAL AUDIT & RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 28 JULY 2020

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INTERNAL AUDIT & RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 28 JULY 2020

1 OPENING OF MEETING

The Mayor opened the meeting at 10.19 am.

2 PRESENT

COUNCILLORS

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

STAFF (non- voting members)

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

3 APOLOGIES

Cr Peter Nunan

4 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None declared

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Internal Audit & Risk Management Committee Meeting held 28 April 2020 be confirmed as circulated.

Committee Resolution

That the Minutes of the Internal Audit & Risk Management Committee Meeting held 28 April 2020 be confirmed as circulated.

Moved Cr. MacAllister, Seconded Cr. Evans

CARRIED

At 10:21 representatives from Nexia Australia and the Audit Office of NSW addressed the meeting via video conference in relation to Item 6.5. This presentation conclude at 10:23am.

At 10:34 am Damien O'Connell addressed the meeting via video conference in relation to Item 6.3. This presentation concluded at 11:00am.

INTERNAL AUDIT & RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 28 JULY 2020

6 REPORTS

6.1 POLICY REVIEWS

File Number: RPT/20/355

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Responsible Division: Finance and Policy

Report Author: Paula Matrippolito - Manager Organisational Support

Summary

The listed policies have been reviewed and are presented to the committee for endorsement to Council.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends that Council endorses the listed policies.

Committee Resolution

The Internal Audit & Risk Management Committee recommends that Council endorses the listed policies, with the exclusion of CC004 which is to be revised for presentation to Council for consideration.

Moved Cr. Nichols, Seconded Cr. Evans

CARRIED

INTERNAL AUDIT & RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 28 JULY 2020

6.2 STORES ANNUAL STOCK-TAKE AS AT 30 JUNE 2020

File Number: RPT/20/383

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

To advise Council of surpluses of \$21,404.79 and deficiencies of \$22,108.77 from the Stores Stocktake undertaken on 30 June 2020. Council's total stock on hand as at 30 June 2020 is \$202,152.61.

Recommendation

That Council write off the deficiencies of \$22,108.77 and add on the surpluses of \$21,404.79 from the Stores Masterfile respectively indicating a net total of \$703.98.

Committee Resolution

The Internal Audit & Risk Management Committee recommends that Council writes off the deficiencies of \$22,108.77 and add on the surpluses of \$21,404.79 from the Stores Masterfile respectively indicating a net total of \$703.98.

Moved Cr. Evans, Seconded Cr. Nichols

CARRIED

INTERNAL AUDIT & RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 28 JULY 2020

6.3 PRESENTATION OF CIP WORKBOOK BENCHMARKING - STATEWIDE MUTUAL REPRESENTATIVE.

File Number: RPT/20/389

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Responsible Division: Finance and Policy

Report Author: David Young - Work Health and Safety Officer

Summary

The 2019-2020 CIP workbooks have been submitted to Statewide Mutual for review and their report received. The continuous improvement programs this year covered: -

- Sporting Facilities
- Contractor Management
- Risk Culture
- Information Security

Statewide Mutual Regional Risk Manager, Damien Connell, will attend the meeting via video conference to report on the findings from the completion of the 2019-2020 Continuous Improvement benchmarking workbooks.

Recommendation

That the Internal Audit and Risk Management Committee notes the presentation from Statewide Mutual.

Committee Resolution

That the Internal Audit and Risk Management Committee notes the presentation from Statewide Mutual.

Moved Cr. MacAllister, Seconded Cr. Evans

CARRIED

INTERNAL AUDIT & RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 28 JULY 2020

6.4 JUNE QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW

File Number: RPT/20/395

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

Summary

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

	YTD Actual (30-Jun-2020)	% of Original Budget	% of Revised Budget
Revenue	\$32,926,420	102.6%	99.5%
Operational Expenditure	\$25,217,144	105.6%	100.5%
Capital Expenditure	\$15,804,457	69.4%	100.0%

If approved, the net result of variances for the June 2020 Quarter is an unfavourable operational variance of \$2,315,000 and a favourable capital variance of \$4,384,000. A total favourable budget variation of \$2,069,000.

This report also includes a progress report on the implementation of the annual operational plan, detailing each of the activities that were to be undertaken in the current financial year against each of the Delivery Program strategies.

Recommendation

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

That the Internal Audit and Risk Management Committee recommends that Council notes the six monthly Operational Plan progress report.

Committee Resolution

The Internal Audit and Risk Management Committee recommends that Council approves the variations to the 2019/20 Operational Plan adopted at the Council Meeting on 26 June 2019 and that Council notes the six monthly Operational Plan progress report.

Moved Cr. Nichols, Seconded Cr. MacAllister

CARRIED

INTERNAL AUDIT & RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 28 JULY 2020

6.5 VIDEOCONFERENCE WITH AUDIT OFFICE OF NSW AND COUNCIL'S AUDITOR NEXIA AUSTRALIA

File Number: RPT/20/396

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Responsible Division: Finance and Policy

Report Author: Hodi Beauliv - Manager Finance

Summary

The Audit Office of New South Wales and Council's Auditor, Nexia Australia, will address the committee to discuss the recent interim audit and the findings from the Interim Management Letter.

Recommendation

That the Internal Audit and Risk Management Committee recommends that Council notes the report.

Committee Resolution

That the Internal Audit and Risk Management Committee notes the presentation from Nexia Australia and the Audit Office of New South Wales.

Moved Cr. MacAllister, Seconded Cr. Evans

CARRIED

INTERNAL AUDIT & RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 28 JULY 2020

7 NEXT MEETING

27 October 2020

8 CLOSURE

The meeting was declared closed at 11:41am.

Internal Audit & Risk Management Committee Meeting AGENDA

28 July 2020

6.4 JUNE QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW

File Number: RPT/20/395

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Responsible Division: Finance and Policy

Report Author: Hodi Beauliv - Manager Finance

Summary

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

	YTD Actual (30-Jun-2020)	% of Original Budget	% of Revised Budget
Revenue	\$32,926,420	102.6%	99.5%
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Capital Expenditure	\$15,804,457	69.4%	100.0%

If approved, the net result of variances for the June 2020 Quarter is an unfavorable operational variance of \$2,315,000 and a favorable capital variance of \$4,384,000. A total favorable budget variation of \$2,069,000.

This report also includes a progress report on the implementation of the annual operational plan, detailing each of the activities that were to be undertaken in the current financial year against each of the Delivery Program strategies.

Recommendation

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

That the Internal Audit and Risk Management Committee recommends that Council notes the six monthly Operational Plan progress report.

Detailed Report**Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to review the financial performance of Council for the quarter ending 30 June 2020 in accordance with S407 (1) of the Local Government Act 1993 and Council's 2019/20 Operational Plan.

Report Detail

The Quarterly Budget Review Statement is attached for your information identifying the Adopted Budget, Recommended Changes for Council Resolution, Projected Year End Budget, June 2020 Quarterly Review Changes, Year to Date Actual Revenue and Actual Expenditure to 30 June 2020.

It should be noted that we have tried to account for the majority of the 2019/20 revenue and expenditure, where known these have been received, processed and accrued back into

Internal Audit & Risk Management Committee Meeting AGENDA**28 July 2020**

2019/20. It is possible, however, that these figures may change due to the audit of the end of financial year statements.

Council has recorded \$32,926,420 in revenue as at 30 June 2020. This equates to 102.6% of the original revenue budget or 99.5% of the revised revenue budget. Notable revenue during this quarter includes:

- Financial Assistance Grant - \$4,107,215
- RMCC Maintenance & Ordered Works Fees - \$1,232,866
- Wentworth Aerodrome Infrastructure Grant - \$1,153,361
- Buronga Landfill Receipts - \$925,985
- Roads to Recovery Programme - \$869,986
- Pooncarie Water Treatment Plant - \$654,129
- Stronger Country Communities Grants – \$591,000
- Gol Gol Water Treatment Plant - \$590,000
- Sewer Rationalisation Project - \$392,273
- Interest on Investments - \$106,110
- Regional Roads Repair Program - \$87,553

Council's total operating expenditure to 30 June 2020 is \$25,217,144. This is 105.6% of the original expenditure budget or 100.5% of the revised expenditure budget. Notable operating expenditure for this quarter includes:

- Roads Maintenance Contract Works - \$1,284,408
- Water Treatment Plant Operational & Maintenance Expenses - \$538,514
- Local Roads Maintenance - \$409,980
- Waste Water Operational & Maintenance Expenses - \$211,015
- Landfill Operations - \$206,403
- Buronga Landfill Equipment & Machinery - \$165,291
- Regional Roads Maintenance - \$121,417

Expenditure on Capital projects to the end of June 2020 has been \$15,804,457. This equates to 69.4% of the original capital budget or 100.0% of the revised capital budget. Notable capital expenditure for this quarter includes:

- Road Renewals - \$1,571,781
- Wentworth Aerodrome - \$1,513,018
- Gol Gol Water Treatment Plant Upgrade - \$717,227
- Capital Plant Replacement Program - \$403,124
- Wentworth Wastewater Rationalisation Project - \$374,454
- Barrett Pavilion - \$337,391
- Amenities Upgrades – \$203,432
- Pooncarie Water Treatment Plant - \$187,568
- Building Purchases - \$172,013
- George Gordon Oval Netball Courts - \$127,198
- Curlwaa Hall Renewal - \$105,536

Delivery Program Progress Update – Reporting against the 2019/20 Operational Plan

Internal Audit & Risk Management Committee Meeting AGENDA**28 July 2020**

A report on the progress with implementing the 4 year Delivery program of council is required to be presented at least every six (6) months (LGA s404(5)). The six monthly progress report on Operational Plan activities for the 2019/20 financial year is attached. This report reflects on all actions up until 30 June 2020.

Based on feedback previously received from councilors, a revised format has been trialed for this report. Please note, as we are improving the process there may be some small errors that will be rectified as we continue to refine the reporting process.

The report is broken down into five different sections, as outlined in the table below.

Section	Categories within that section
Operational Plan	Each of Council's Strategies from the 4-year delivery program
Financial statement category	Capital Project, Operational
Funding Source	Council, Grant, Contributions, User Fees & Charges, Other
Project Status	Not Started, stalled, active, completed
Project Stage	Not started, annual program, planning phase, pre-construction, construction, implementation, legal, close out, completed

The report aims to align with the data provided in the Quarterly Budget Review, but presents it in relation to activities against each of Council's Delivery Program strategies. Specific feedback is provided in the QBRs where there is a change to expenditure or revenue. For those projects that are stalled, or if they are not currently progressing to target, additional information has been provided in the notes to the report.

The report is also designed to complement the existing monthly Capital Works report. Further work will be done to better align with the monthly capital works report, and all other Council reporting, to provide a comprehensive, cohesive overview of Council's actions.

Staff appreciate that this new formatting still requires further work to improve the delivery of this information to councillors. Feedback on the format is welcome, to help continue to improve the delivery of this information to assist with decision making.

Matters under consideration

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

To provide additional information to Councillors to help explain any variances of actuals compared to projected budget, numerical note references have also been included. Comments are provided for any year to date variance of greater than 10% against 100% of the proposed budget, given we are at the end of the financial year.

Conclusion

If approved, the net result for the June 2020 Quarter, after variations have been considered for Revenue and Expenditure including Capital, will be a favorable variance of \$2,069,000, giving a year to date net favorable variance of \$5,739,000 to the original budget.

Attachments

1. June Quarterly Budget Review
2. Progress Report against 2019/20 Operational Plan

Wentworth Shire Council

Quarterly Budget Review Statement
for the period 01/04/20 to 30/06/20

Report by Responsible Accounting Officer

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

30 June 2020

It is my opinion that the Quarterly Budget Review Statement for Wentworth Shire Council for the quarter ended 30/06/20 indicates that Council's projected financial position at 30/6/20 will be satisfactory at year end, having regard to the projected estimates of income and expenditure and the original budgeted income and expenditure.

Signed:



date: 23/7/20

Simon Rule
Responsible Accounting Officer

Item 6.4 - Attachment 1

June Quarterly Budget Review

Quarterly Budget Review Statement
for the period 01/04/20 to 30/06/20

Wentworth Shire Council

Income & Expenses Budget Review Statement

Budget review for the quarter ended 30 June 2020

Income & Expenses - make a choice >>>

(\$'000's)	Original Budget 2019/20	Approved Changes			Revised Budget 2019/20	Variations for this Jun Qtr	Notes	Projected Year End Result	Actual YTD figures	Variance Surplus (Deficit)	Notes	% Actuals by Projected
		Carry Forwards	Other than by QBRs	Sep QBRs	Dec QBRs	Mar QBRs						
Income												
Rates and Annual Charges	8,664	-	-	-	51	-	a	8,715	8,718	3	1	100.0%
User Charges and Fees	4,910	-	-	-	-	-	b	6,278	6,175	(103)	2	98.4%
Interest and Investment Revenues	735	-	-	-	-	(250)	c	485	516	31	3	106.4%
Other Revenues	1,257	-	-	-	-	-	d	1,257	1,057	(200)	4	84.1%
Grants & Contributions - Operating	9,024	-	-	-	451	-	e	10,375	10,571	196	5	101.5%
Grants & Contributions - Capital	7,398	1,544	199	168	101	-	f	5,897	5,889	(8)	6	99.9%
Net gain from disposal of assets	100	-	-	-	-	-	g	100	-	(100)	7	0.0%
Total Income from Continuing Operations	32,088	1,544	199	168	603	(250)		33,107	32,926	(181)		99.5%
Expenses												
Employee Costs	8,853	-	-	-	-	-	h	8,853	7,618	(1,235)	7	86.0%
Borrowing Costs	246	-	-	-	(72)	-	i	174	196	22	8	112.6%
Materials & Contracts	4,473	-	-	-	203	-	j	5,746	7,036	1,290	9	122.5%
Depreciation	7,064	-	-	-	-	-	k	7,064	7,064	-	10	100.0%
Other Expenses	3,251	-	8	-	-	-	l	3,259	3,303	44	11	101.4%
Interest & Investment Losses	-	-	-	-	-	-	m	-	-	-		#DIV/0!
Net Loss from disposal of assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	n	-	-	-		#DIV/0!
Total Expenses from Continuing Operations	23,887	-	8	-	131	-		25,096	25,217	121		100.5%
Net Operating Result from Continuing Operations	8,201	1,544	191	168	472	(250)		8,011	7,709	(60)		96.2%
Discontinued Operations - Surplus/(Deficit)	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		
Net Operating Result from All Operations	8,201	1,544	191	168	472	(250)		8,011	7,709	(60)		96.2%
Net Operating Result before Capital Items	803	-	(8)	-	371	(250)		2,114	1,820	(52)		

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

Item 6.4 - Attachment 1

June Quarterly Budget Review

Wentworth Shire Council

Quarterly Budget Review Statement
 for the period 01/04/20 to 30/06/20

Income & Expenses Budget Review Statement
Recommended changes to revised budget

 Budget Variations being recommended include the following material items: -\$2,315,000

Notes	Details	
b	Additional User Fees & Charges - Buronga Landfill Fees	\$500,000
	Additional User Fees & Charges - State Highways Road Maintenance Contracts	\$868,000
e	Additional Operational Grant - Roads to Recovery funding	\$900,000
f	A number of multi-year capital projects had funding budgeted in 2019/20, that needs to be rolled forward as it will be received in 2020/21 due to the timing of the claims:	
	Wentworth Aerodrome	-\$2,030,000
	Gol Gol Water Treatment Plant	-\$170,000
	Effluent Disposal System	-\$350,000
	Sewer Rationalisation Project	-\$463,000
	Stronger Country Communities Funding	-\$500,000
j	Increased costs related to State Highway Road Maintenance Council Contracts	-\$1,070,000

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

Notes	Details
4	No RFS Reimbursement items this year, but budgeted at \$150,000 income and expenditure
7	Staff vacancy rates have meant employee costs are lower than budgeted, some of this has been offset
9	Contract and material costs have increased due to increased works and revenue associated with State Highways Road Maintenance Contract (\$1,070k), short term requirements for contract staff to fill job vacancies (\$279k) and additional costs in operating the Buronga Landfill (\$620k)

Item 6.4 - Attachment 1

June Quarterly Budget Review

Quarterly Budget Review Statement
for the period 01/04/20 to 30/06/20

Wentworth Shire Council

Capital Budget Review Statement

Budget review for the quarter ended 30 June 2020

Capital Budget - Council Consolidated

	Original Budget 2019/20	Approved Changes				Revised Budget 2019/20	Variations for this Jun Qtr	Notes	Projected Year End Result	Actual YTD figures	Variance Surplus (Deficit)	Notes	Actuals by Projected %
		Carry Forwards	Other than QBRs	Sep QBRs	Dec QBRs								
(\$'000's)													
Capital Expenditure													
New Assets													
- Plant & Equipment	800	28	-	-	-	668	a		668	407	261	1	#DIV/0!
- Land & Buildings	-	53	-	-	(160)	53	b		53	51	2	2	60.9%
- Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	c		-	-	-	3	96.2%
Renewal Assets (Replacement)													
- Plant & Equipment	4,531	-	-	-	(1,300)	2,531	d	(425)	2,106	1,816	290	4	86.2%
- Land & Buildings	5,334	439	-	197	(2,250)	3,370	e	(595)	2,775	2,522	253	5	90.9%
- Roads, Bridges, Footpaths	6,984	436	-	-	-	7,420	f	(1,195)	6,225	6,002	223	6	96.4%
- Other Structures	906	154	-	-	(82)	978	g	(403)	575	578	(3)	7	100.5%
Loan Repayments (Principal)	347	-	-	-	(147)	200	h		200	247	(47)	8	123.5%
Water Infrastructure	1,421	80	199	10	250	1,960	i	(340)	1,620	1,774	(154)	9	109.5%
Sewer Infrastructure	2,447	1,588	-	10	-	4,045	j	(1,426)	2,619	2,407	212	10	91.9%
Total Capital Expenditure	22,770	2,778	199	217	(3,689)	21,225	(4,384)		16,841	15,804	1,037		93.8%
Capital Funding													
Rates & Other United Funding	9,722	1,234	-	49	10	9,965	k	(871)	9,094	11,905	1,940	11	130.9%
Capital Grants & Contributions	7,398	1,544	199	168	101	9,410	l	(3,513)	5,897	3,899	(5,511)	12	66.1%
Reserves:													
- External Restrictions/Reserves	1,500	-	-	-	-	1,500	m		1,500	-	(1,500)	13	0.0%
New Loans	3,800	-	-	-	(3,800)	-	n		-	-	-	14	#DIV/0!
Receipts from Sale of Assets													
- Plant & Equipment	350	-	-	-	-	350	p		350	-	(350)	15	0.0%
- Land & Buildings	-	-	-	-	-	-	q		-	-	-	16	#DIV/0!
Total Capital Funding	22,770	2,778	199	217	(3,689)	21,225	(4,384)		16,841	15,804	(5,421)		93.8%
Net Capital Funding - Surplus/(Deficit)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	(4,384)		

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

Item 6.4 - Attachment 1

June Quarterly Budget Review

Wentworth Shire Council

Quarterly Budget Review Statement
 for the period 01/04/20 to 30/06/20

Capital Budget Review Statement
Recommended changes to revised budget

 Total capital adjustments -\$4,384,000

Budget Variations being recommended include the following material items:

Notes Details

d Renewal Assets - Plant & Equipment	
Capital Plant Purchase delayed by COVID-19, roll forward	-\$410,000
Minor Plant Purchase delayed by COVID-19, roll forward	-\$15,000
e Renewal Assets - Land & Buildings	
George Gordon Oval Netball Court & Lights, roll forward unexpended SCCF grant funds	-\$40,000
Barrett Pavillion, roll forward unexpended SCCF grant funds	-\$45,000
Buronga Riverfront Masterplan, roll forward unexpended SCCF grant funds	-\$150,000
Amenities Upgrade, roll forward unexpended SCCF grant funds	-\$50,000
Wentworth Sporting Complex, roll forward unexpended SCCF grant funds	-\$170,000
Willowbend Caravan Park, roll forward of \$110k for the Power Upgrade and \$30k for the Office relocation of the unspent funds	-\$140,000
f Renewal Assets - Roads, Bridges, Footpaths	
Aerodrome, roll forward unexpended funds to meet grant requirements	-\$1,100,000
Road Renewals, additional income received to fund road renewal projects	\$700,000
Stormwater Drainage, annual program allocation not expended	-\$480,000
Neville Street Stormwater funds to be rolled forward as job delayed as it is dependent on other works	-\$300,000
Wentworth Riverfront BBQ Area, roll forward unexpended SCCF grant funds	-\$15,000
g Other Structures	
Effluent Disposal System, roll forward unexpended funds to meet grant requirements	-\$350,000
Wentworth Pool Tiling, roll forward project delayed by COVID-19	-\$53,000
i Water Infrastructure	
Gol Gol Water Treatment Plant, roll forward unexpended funds to meet grant requirements	-\$160,000
Water Infrastructure Upgrade, annual program not expended	-\$180,000
j Sewer Infrastructure	
Waste Water Rationalisation Project Dareton, roll forward	-\$600,000
Waste Water Rationalisation Project Wentworth, roll forward	-\$600,000
Neville Street Sewer	-\$200,000
Septic Receiving Point	-\$26,000
l Capital Grants & Contributions - as per note (f) in Profit and Loss	

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

Notes Details

2 Savings of \$95k on 100,000 tonnes upgrade at Buronga Landfill, \$80k from Land Acquisitions and \$40k on PS Ruby Capital Expenses

4 Saving of \$250k on new Corporate Information System, which is already budgeted for next year

Item 6.4 - Attachment 1

June Quarterly Budget Review

Wentworth Shire Council

Quarterly Budget Review Statement
for the period 01/04/20 to 30/06/20

Cash & Investments Budget Review Statement**Investments**

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

Cash

The Cash at Bank figure included in the Cash & Investment Statement totals \$1,874,688

This Cash at Bank amount has been reconciled to Council's physical Bank Statements.
The date of completion of this bank reconciliation is 30/06/20

Reconciliation Status

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

\$ 000's

Cash at Bank (as per bank statements)

1,875

Investments on Hand

26,005

less: Unpresented Cheques

(Timing Difference)

(42)

add: Undeposited Funds

(Timing Difference)

1

Reconciled Cash at Bank & Investments

27,839

Balance as per Review Statement:

27,419

Difference:

420

Item 6.4 - Attachment 1

June Quarterly Budget Review

Quarterly Budget Review Statement
for the period 01/04/20 to 30/06/20

Wentworth Shire Council

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

Budget review for the quarter ended 30 June 2020

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

NSW Local Government Industry Key Performance Indicators (OLG):

1. Operating Performance				
Operating Revenue (excl. Capital) - Operating Expenses	7709	28.5 %	100.0 %	45.0 % 0.1 %
Operating Revenue (excl. Capital Grants & Contributions)	27037			

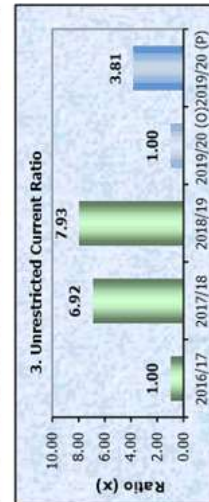
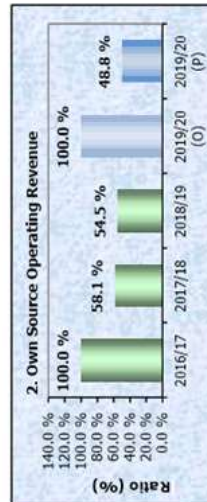
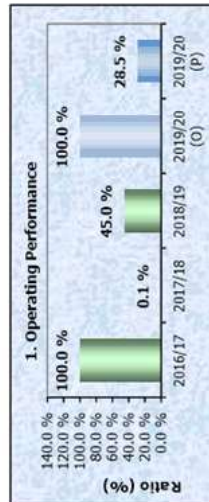
This ratio measures Council's achievement of containing operating expenditure within operating revenue.

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

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

3. Unrestricted Current Ratio				
Current Assets less all External Restrictions	17609	3.81	1.00	7.93 6.92
Current Liabilities less Specific Purpose Liabilities	4625			

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



Item 6.4 - Attachment 1

June Quarterly Budget Review

Quarterly Budget Review Statement
for the period 01/04/20 to 30/06/20

Wentworth Shire Council

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

Budget review for the quarter ended 30 June 2020

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

NSW Local Government Industry Key Performance Indicators (OLG):

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

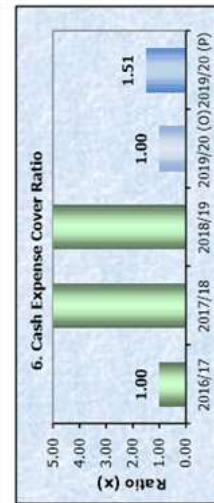
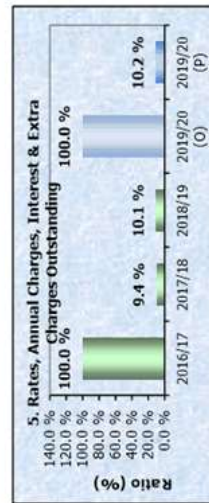
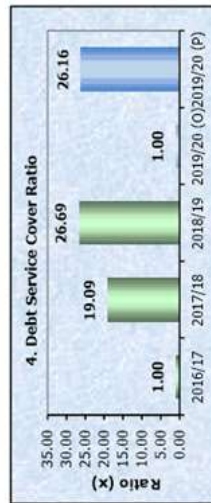
This ratio measures the availability of operating cash to service debt including interest, principal and lease payments.

5. Rates, Annual Charges, Interest & Extra Charges Outstanding					
Rates, Annual & Extra Charges Outstanding	1206	10.2 %	100.0 %	10.1 %	9.4 %
Rates, Annual & Extra Charges Collectible	11850				

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

6. Cash Expense Cover Ratio					
Current Year's Cash & Cash Equivalents (incl Term Deposits)	27839	1.51	1.00	17.28	16.51
Operating & financing activities Cash Flow payments	18400				

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



Item 6.4 - Attachment 1

June Quarterly Budget Review

Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the period 01/04/20 to 30/06/20

Wentworth Shire Council

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

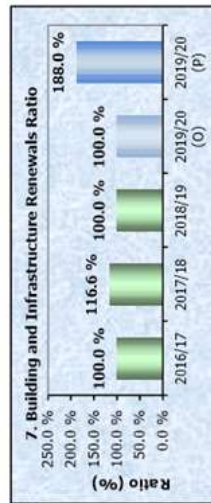
Budget review for the quarter ended 30 June 2020

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

NSW Local Government Infrastructure Asset Performance Indicators (OLG):

7. Building and Infrastructure Renewals Ratio					
Asset Renewals (Building, Infrastructure & Other Structures)	13283	188.0 %	100.0 %	100.0 %	116.6 %
Depreciation, Amortisation & Impairment	7064				

To assess the rate at which these assets are being renewed relative to the rate at which they are depreciating.



8. Infrastructure Backlog Ratio					
Estimated cost to bring Assets to a satisfactory condition		0.0 %	100.0 %	6.8 %	13.3 %
Total value of Infrastructure, Building, Other Structures & depreciable Land Improvement Assets					

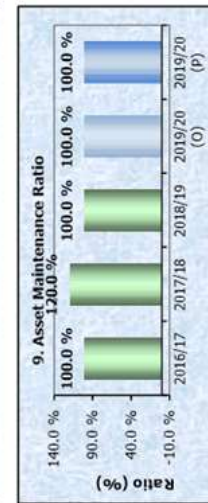


This ratio shows what proportion the backlog is against the total value of a Council's infrastructure.

NOTE: Only valid at end of financial year

9. Asset Maintenance Ratio					
Actual Asset Maintenance	1	100.0 %	100.0 %	100.0 %	120.0 %
Required Asset Maintenance	1				

Compares actual vs. required annual asset maintenance. A ratio above 1.0 indicates Council is investing enough funds to stop the Infrastructure Backlog growing.



Item 6.4 - Attachment 1

June Quarterly Budget Review

Quarterly Budget Review Statement
for the period 01/04/20 to 30/06/20

Wentworth Shire Council

Contracts Budget Review Statement

Budget review for the quarter ended 30 June 2020

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

Contractor	Contract detail & purpose	Contract Value	Start Date	Duration of Contract	Budgeted (Y/N)	Notes
Mildura Truck Centre	Purchase of Flat Bed Truck	130,142	22/04/20	31/12/2020	Y	
Tutt Bryant	Purchase of 4-5 Tonne Traction Mini Excavator	106,700	22/04/20	31/12/2020	Y	
Johnson's Trucks	Purchase of Single Axle Tip Truck	153,500	22/04/20	31/12/2020	Y	
Pioneer Ford	Purchase 4x4 Long Wheel Single Cab Utility	57,883	22/04/20	31/12/2020	Y	
Davison Ford	Purchase of Super Cab Tipping Body 4 x 2 Utility	44,710	24/06/20	30/09/2020	Y	
Advanced Airport Lighting	Supply & Installation of Aerodrome Lighting	1,667,652	24/06/20	30/11/2020	Y	

Notes:

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

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

Wentworth Shire Council

Quarterly Budget Review Statement
for the period 01/04/20 to 30/06/20**Consultancy & Legal Expenses Budget Review Statement**

Consultancy & Legal Expenses Overview

Expense	YTD Expenditure (Actual Dollars)	Budgeted (Y/N)
Consultancies	166,151	Y
Legal Fees	17,055	Y

Definition of a consultant:

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

Item 6.4 - Attachment 2

Progress Report against 2019/20 Operational Plan

Progress Report against 2019/20 Operational Plan

Row Labels	Exp prev Fin Yrs	Original 2019/20 Budget	Amended 2019/20 Budget Mar Qtr	June 2020 YTD	Note
1.1 Grow the potential for business and industry to develop and expand	1,557,401	2,395,061	2,435,061	1,770,095	
Capital & Major Projects	174,909	690,000	730,000	379,033	
Council					
Completed					
<u>Annual Program</u>					
1941-2999-0002 PS Ruby Capital Expenses	3,127	50,000	50,000	9,939	
<u>Completed</u>					
1960-2999-0013 Cabin Bed Replacement	0	0	0	7,855	
1960-2999-0014 Camp Kitchen Modifications	0	0	0	63,044	
Active					
<u>Legal</u>					
1930-2999-0018 Land Acquisitions 17/18	23,659	250,000	250,000	97,354	
1930-2999-1031 A31 + A42 Acquisition	17,273	0	0	1,356	
1930-2999-1035 A35 Acquisition	11,410	0	0	2,594	
1930-2999-1047 A47 Crown Land Acquisition	0	0	0	1,031	
1930-2999-1050 A22 Crown Land Acquisition	0	0	0	4,371	
1930-2999-1051 A26 Crown Land Acquisition	0	0	0	1,588	
<u>Construction Phase</u>					
1960-2999-0003 - Willowbend Caravan Park Redevelopment	0	300,000	400,000	0	
1960-2999-0011 Willowbend Power Upgrade	0	0	0	54,752	
1960-2999-0012 Willowbend Office	67,575	0	0	135,150	
Not Started					
<u>Not Started</u>					
1915-2999-0012 Purchase and Installation of Flagtrax	51,865	60,000	0	0	i
1915-2999-0014 RV Dump Point W/W	0	30,000	30,000	0	ii
Operational	1,382,492	1,705,061	1,705,061	1,391,062	
Council					
Completed					
<u>Annual Program</u>					
Building Control Operational Costs	302,587	299,402	299,402	285,747	
Economic Affairs Operational Costs	1,079,905	1,405,659	1,405,659	1,105,316	
1.2 Encourage and support population growth and resident attraction	1,056,167	1,425,468	1,425,468	983,853	
Operational	1,056,167	1,425,468	1,425,468	983,853	
Council					
Completed					
<u>Annual Program</u>					
1410-2300-0000 Town Planning - Consultancy	36,426	60,000	60,000	691	
1410-2301-0000 T/Planning-Contract Agency Sta	6,536	155,000	155,000	6,081	
Housing & Community Amenities Operational Costs	1,013,205	1,210,468	1,210,468	977,081	
2.2 Enhance access to local health and aged care services	94,612	182,007	182,007	191,298	
Operational	94,612	182,007	182,007	191,298	
Council					
Completed					
<u>Annual Program</u>					
Health Services Operational Costs	94,612	182,007	182,007	116,298	
Stalled					
<u>Completed</u>					
0505-2266-0159 Family Doctors	0	0	0	75,000	iii
2.5 Maintain/create desirable open spaces and recreation facilities	3,467,758	5,556,079	5,470,792	5,092,351	
Capital & Major Projects	1,294,764	3,326,500	3,241,213	2,774,227	
Council					
Completed					
<u>Annual Program</u>					
1555-2999-0008 Shire Wide Post & Rail Replacement	20,866	20,000	20,000	17,913	
<u>Completed</u>					
1535-2999-0003 Wentworth Pool Painting	0	20,000	20,000	18,708	
1535-2999-0005 Wentworth Pool Pump Upgrades	0	10,000	10,000	3,792	
1536-2999-0005 Dareton Pool Pump Upgrade	0	10,000	10,000	7,077	
Active					
<u>Constuction Phase</u>					
1535-2999-0004 Wentworth Pool Tiling	0	120,000	60,000	6,623	
1545-2999-0021 Palm Island Landscaping	0	45,000	45,000	36,725	
1548-2999-0001 Pooncarie Parks Toilet Block	0	0	0	50,379	

Item 6.4 - Attachment 2

Progress Report against 2019/20 Operational Plan

Progress Report against 2019/20 Operational Plan

Row Labels	Exp prev Fin Yrs	Original 2019/20 Budget	Amended 2019/20 Budget Mar Qtr	June 2020 YTD	Note
<u>Planning Phase</u>					
1545-2999-0012 Wentworth Riverfront Wall Remediation	4,069	300,000	50,000	5,148	
<u>Legal</u>					
1541-2999-0015 GGO Land Acquisition #2 Oval	25,919	0	0	0	
<u>Stalled</u>					
<u>Planning Phase</u>					
1520-2999-0005 Midway Centre Road Signage	380	0	10,120	0	iv
1555-2999-0010 Wentworth & Dareton Main Street Upgrade	0	250,000	0	0	v
<u>Not Started</u>					
<u>Annual Program</u>					
1551-2999-0005 Street Furniture	16,014	21,000	21,000	0	vi
1555-2999-0006 Waste Bins Strategy	0	12,500	12,500	0	vii
<u>Completed</u>					
1520-2999-0006 Midway Centre Eastern Side Shade Shutters	91	0	21,638	0	viii
<u>Not Started</u>					
1555-2999-0004 Drinking Fountains in Parks	23,613	0	28,387	0	ix
Stronger Country Communities Fund					
<u>Completed</u>					
<u>Completed</u>					
1526-2999-0001 Curlwaa Hall Renewal	120,508	400,000	400,000	443,024	
1543-2999-0002 Alcheringa Oval Lights	296,612	0	53,000	51,021	
<u>Active</u>					
<u>Pre-construction Phase</u>					
1547-2999-0001 Buronga Riverfront Masterplan	0	225,000	225,000	71,286	
<u>Construction Phase</u>					
1541-2999-0016 GGO Netball Courts & Lights	14,204	440,000	440,000	400,984	
1545-2999-0023 Barrett Pavillion	5,515	675,000	675,000	627,299	
1555-2999-0011 Amenities Upgrade	0	330,000	400,000	345,685	
1557-2999-0001 Wentworth Sporting Complex	108,181	200,000	368,000	195,799	
<u>Planning Phase</u>					
1545-2999-0025 Wentworth Riverfront BBQ Area	0	190,000	30,000	14,111	
Drought Community Extension Fund					
<u>Completed</u>					
<u>Completed</u>					
1527-2999-0001 Pooncarie Hall Upgrade	122,035	0	69,915	83,915	
1528-2999-0001 Anabranch Hall Upgrade	118,199	0	65,502	62,020	
1529-2999-0001 Pomona Hall Upgrade	35,500	0	105,523	123,541	
1530-2999-0001 Wilkinson Hall Upgrade	101,854	0	6,328	47,810	
Library Grant					
<u>Completed</u>					
<u>Annual Program</u>					
1505-2999-0001 New & Replacement Bookstocks	40,003	52,000	52,000	41,175	
<u>Active</u>					
<u>Annual Program</u>					
1505-2999-0014 Library Local Special Project	7,896	6,000	6,000	13,749	
Contributions					
<u>Active</u>					
<u>Close Out</u>					
1550-2999-0002 Curlwaa Riverfront	233,304	0	36,300	106,444	
Operational	2,172,994	2,229,579	2,229,579	2,318,123	
Council					
<u>Completed</u>					
<u>Annual Program</u>					
1555-2999-0003 Tree Replace Under Power Lines	4,596	25,000	25,000	962	
1555-2999-0005 Tree Management Strategy	31,607	30,000	30,000	23,279	
Recreation & Culture Operational Costs	2,136,792	2,174,579	2,174,579	2,293,882	
3.1 Promote the efficient delivery of water supply, sewer and drainage services for the long term interests of future generations	5,624,100	8,713,254	11,632,824	8,264,919	
Capital & Major Projects	2,175,886	4,964,862	7,478,432	4,415,024	
Council					
<u>Completed</u>					
<u>Annual Program</u>					
1436-2999-0001 Stormwater Drainage	0	250,000	250,000	0	
2005-2999-0050 Water Stop Valves and Fire Plugs	6,800	10,000	10,000	6,814	

Item 6.4 - Attachment 2

Progress Report against 2019/20 Operational Plan

Progress Report against 2019/20 Operational Plan

Row Labels	Exp prev Fin Yrs	Original 2019/20 Budget	Amended 2019/20 Budget Mar Qtr	June 2020 YTD	Note
2005-2999-0101 Infrastructure Upgrade	0	241,862	241,862	0	
2005-2999-0232 Water Infrastructure Development Strategy	4,107	50,000	50,000	5,100	
3005-2999-0127 Sewer Pit Lids	0	10,000	10,000	4,832	
3005-2999-0136 Sewer Design Works	0	50,000	50,000	0	
Completed					
2005-2999-0216 - Water Facilities - WHS Upgrade	0	0	75,000	0	
2005-2999-0229 Midway Water Tower Electrical & Communication	64,972	0	5,000	1,389	
2005-2999-0250 Pump Station Standards	0	0	9,500	8,640	
2005-2999-0251 Gol Gol Raw PLC Installation	15,866	0	0	16,740	
3005-2999-0117 Sewer Facilities WHS Upgrade	0	0	65,000	0	
3005-2999-0123 Hendy Road Main Replacement	225,656	132,000	601,344	561,999	
3005-2999-0250 Pump Station Standards	0	0	9,500	8,640	
Active					
Pre-construction Phase					
1436-2999-0013 Buronga/Gol Gol Stormwater Constraints	1,923	250,000	250,000	17,161	
Constuction Phase					
2005-2999-0109 -Raw Water Main Replacement W/W	0	20,000	20,000	0	
3005-2999-0113 Neville Street Sewer	0	200,000	215,000	16,506	
Planning Phase					
2005-2999-0218 Integrated Water Cycle MP	0	75,000	75,000	206	
3005-2999-0121 Integrated Water Cycle MS	0	75,000	75,000	2,501	
Legal					
2005-2999-1016 A16 Crown Land Acquisition	0	0	0	45,147	
3005-2999-0047 Acqu'n - East WW Sewer Works	7,619	0	0	594	
3005-2999-1031 Acquisition East Wentworth	1,887	0	0	9,761	
3005-2999-1032 Acquisition East Wentworth A31, A42, A32	8,211	0	0	4,534	
3005-2999-1038 Acquisition A32 Ryder Cres	8,208	0	0	1,589	
3005-2999-1041 Acquisition East Wentworth Sewerage A41	1,675	0	0	130	
Stalled					
Planning Phase					
3005-2999-0135 Septic Waste Receivable Upgrade	0	30,000	30,000	3,750	x
Not Started					
1436-2999-0014 Neville Street Stormwater	14,250	0	295,750	0	xi
Infrastructure NSW					
Active					
Constuction Phase					
1440-2999-0002 EDS Facilities	89,191	496,000	577,000	225,853	
2005-2999-0113 Gol Gol WTP - Lagoons	221,491	150,000	150,000	56	
2005-2999-0207 -Gol Gol WTP - Process Upgrade	59,189	675,000	874,693	861,287	
3005-2999-0043 Waste Water Rationalisation Project Wentworth	252,966	1,000,000	1,975,765	1,392,924	
3005-2999-0044 Waste Water RationalisationProject Dareton	1,183,142	1,000,000	1,063,018	399,206	
Other					
Active					
Close Out					
2005-2999-0242 - Pooncarie WTP	8,733	250,000	500,000	819,663	
Operational	3,448,214	3,748,392	4,154,392	3,849,895	
Council					
Completed					
Annual Program					
Environment 3.1 Operational Costs	287,601	377,340	377,340	221,628	
Sewer Administration Operational Costs	1,135,514	1,404,212	1,404,212	1,148,135	
Water Supplies Operational Costs	1,945,891	1,911,840	2,114,840	2,218,491	
Stalled					
Legal					
1440-2300-0001 Floodplain Management Study -	0	55,000	55,000	21,200	xii
Contributions					
Completed					
Completed					
2005-2383-0008 Pooncarie Water Carting	79,207	0	203,000	240,441	
3.2 Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure	13,299,662	17,147,108	17,289,867	18,520,044	
Capital & Major Projects	2,496,616	6,245,924	6,388,683	5,941,900	
Council					
Completed					
Annual Program					
1865-2999-0010 - Sharedways	0	50,000	50,000	55,209	

Item 6.4 - Attachment 2

Progress Report against 2019/20 Operational Plan

Progress Report against 2019/20 Operational Plan

Row Labels	Exp prev Fin Yrs	Original 2019/20 Budget	Amended 2019/20 Budget Mar Qtr	June 2020 YTD	Note
Completed					
1805-2999-0018 Road Infrastructure Renewals	0	400,000	400,000	18,084	
1825-2999-0001 19/20 Rd Inf Renewal -Kelso Rd	0	0	0	50,786	
1825-2999-0002 19/20 Rd Inf Renewal -Ryans Rd	0	0	0	70,901	
1825-2999-0003 19/20 Rd Inf -Twin Isles Drive	0	0	0	27,621	
1825-2999-0004 19/20 Rd Inf -Florence Point	0	0	0	33,842	
1865-2999-0008 - Darling St Footpath	0	0	30,300	34,076	
1865-2999-0009 - Pitman Ave Shared Path & Ramps	219	0	9,181	5,618	
1875-2999-0001 Village Signage Update	24,963	0	0	18,800	
Infrastructure NSW					
Completed					
Completed					
1885-2999-0001 Log Bridge Rd Boat Ramp Upgrades	84,617	0	47,188	23,558	
1885-2999-0002 Ski Reserve Boat Ramp Upgrades	40,955	0	56,090	4,668	
Active					
Construction Phase					
1870-2999-0001 Aerodrome - Capital Works	4,156	3,000,000	3,000,000	263,825	
1870-2999-0003 Aerodrome Fencing	0	42,000	42,000	42,000	
1870-2999-1001 Aerodrome Design - Project Mgt	0	0	0	130,540	
1870-2999-1002 Aerodrome Earthworks	0	0	0	319,744	
1870-2999-1003 Aerodrome Drainage	0	0	0	287,227	
1870-2999-1004 Aerodrome Construction	0	0	0	629,583	
1870-2999-1005 Aerodrome Lighting &Electrical	0	0	0	129,479	
1870-2999-1007 Aerodrome Airside Infrastructu	0	0	0	106,330	
Drought Community Extension Fund					
Completed					
Completed					
1885-2999-0003 Modifications Pooncarie Weir	0	0	0	40,676	
Other					
Completed					
Annual Program					
Road Renewals Included in Operating expenditure Operational Costs	2,341,704	2,753,924	2,753,924	3,649,332	
Operational	10,803,047	10,901,184	10,901,184	12,578,144	
Council					
Completed					
Annual Program					
Transport Operational Costs	10,803,047	10,901,184	10,901,184	12,578,144	
3.3 Prepare for natural disasters, biosecurity risks and climate change	69,953	71,000	71,000	75,602	
Operational	69,953	71,000	71,000	75,602	
Council					
Completed					
Annual Program					
Environment 3.3 Operational Costs	69,953	71,000	71,000	75,602	
3.4 Reduce, reuse and recover waste	1,807,869	3,118,547	1,630,072	2,261,214	
Capital & Major Projects	142,482	1,724,540	236,065	203,067	
Council					
Active					
Constuction Phase					
1420-2999-0006 Transfer Station Site Huts	0	100,000	0	60,000	
Planning Phase					
1421-2999-0019 100,000 Tonnes Upgrade	16,375	100,000	100,000	6,625	
Implementation					
1421-5100-0001 Landfill Capital Loan Repayments	84,179	88,009	88,009	88,009	
1421-5100-0002 Landfill Capital Loan Repayments #2 Loan	41,929	48,056	48,056	48,433	
1421-5100-0003 Landfill Capital Lease Payments	0	88,475	0	0	
Not Started					
Not Started					
1421-2999-0023 Buronga Landfill Machinery	0	1,300,000	0	0	xiii
Operational	1,665,387	1,394,007	1,394,007	2,058,147	
Council					
Completed					
Annual Program					
Environment 3.4 Operational Costs	1,665,387	1,394,007	1,394,007	2,058,147	

Item 6.4 - Attachment 2

Progress Report against 2019/20 Operational Plan

Progress Report against 2019/20 Operational Plan

Row Labels	Exp prev Fin Yrs	Original 2019/20 Budget	Amended 2019/20 Budget Mar Qtr	June 2020 YTD	Note
4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery	4,872,326	10,752,196	7,929,718	6,276,923	
Capital & Major Projects	639,473	5,918,716	3,159,758	1,929,644	
Council					
Completed					
Annual Program					
1005-2999-0014 Office Equipment	0	10,000	10,000	0	
1007-2999-0001 Computer Replacement	58,488	200,000	200,000	182,787	
Completed					
1010-2999-0015 Asbestos Management Plan	0	60,000	60,000	25,842	
1010-2999-0231 Holden Utility Plant 661	0	0	0	106	
1010-2999-0246 Replace Plant 647	0	0	0	53,111	
1010-2999-0247 Replace Plant 396	0	0	0	60,416	
1010-2999-0248 Replace Plant 47 Loader	246,112	0	0	212	
1010-2999-0249 Replace Plant 729 RideOn Mower	46,430	0	0	287	
1010-2999-0250 Replace Plant 655	0	0	0	67,857	
1010-2999-0251 Replace Plant 75 - Low Loader	0	0	0	178,531	
1010-2999-0252 Replace Plant 507 - Prime Mover	0	0	0	204,567	
1010-2999-0253 Replace Plant 493 - Verge Mower	0	0	0	25,400	
1010-2999-0255 New tray attachment Plant 665	0	0	0	23,088	
1010-2999-0256 Replace Plant 254	0	0	0	63,900	
1010-2999-0257 Replace Plant 287	0	0	0	63,900	
1010-2999-0258 Replace Plant 641	0	0	0	46,785	
1010-2999-0259 Replace Plant 361	0	0	0	44,754	
1010-2999-0260 Replace Plant 638	0	0	0	28,292	
1010-2999-0261 Replace Plant 639	0	0	0	28,292	
1010-2999-0263 New Plant Single Axle TipTruck	0	0	0	139,545	
1010-2999-0266 Replace Plant 309 Sgl Cab Ute	0	0	0	52,579	
1010-2999-0267 Replace Plant 70 TrailerSglAxl	0	0	0	32,841	
1010-2999-0268 Plant 324 Hino Cap Dump Truck	0	0	0	58,110	
1010-2999-0269 Replace Plant 761 JD Mower	0	0	0	108,709	
1010-2999-0270 Replace Plant 93 Plant Trailer	0	0	0	11,340	
1014-2999-0009 W/W Depot Upgrades	13,342	10,000	10,000	19,664	
1016-2999-0001 Buronga Depot Office Upgrade	0	15,000	15,000	14,399	
Active					
Implementation					
1005-5100-0005 Loan Repayments - Midway	52,332	73,705	73,705	69,970	
1005-5100-0015 Loan Repayments WWCC - Loan \$850k	30,656	41,053	41,053	41,053	
1005-5100-0016 Loan Repayments WWCC - Loan \$3.3m	0	58,958	0	0	
1007-2999-0014 Integrated Management System	149,399	500,000	500,000	245,910	
Stalled					
Planning Phase					
1005-2999-0017 Wentworth Civic Centre	11,420	2,500,000	500,000	13,623	xiv
Annual Program					
1010-2999-0001 Capital Plant Replacement	0	2,400,000	1,700,000	0	xv
1010-2999-0012 Minor Plant Purchases	31,294	50,000	50,000	23,777	xvi
Operational	4,232,853	4,833,480	4,769,960	4,347,279	
Council					
Completed					
Annual Program					
Community Services Operational Costs	100,207	91,466	91,466	74,548	
Finance and Policy Administration Operational Costs	1,509,079	1,898,005	1,834,485	1,956,697	
Governance & GMO Administration Operational Costs	2,246,873	2,329,498	2,329,498	2,101,267	
Public Order & Safety Operational Costs	846,657	891,286	891,286	850,896	
Roads & Engineering Administration Operational Costs	-469,964	-376,775	-376,775	-636,129	
Grand Total	31,849,848	49,360,719	48,066,808	43,436,299	

Wentworth Shire Council		Progress Report against Operational Plan for the period 1 January to 30 June 2020
Notes to provide additional information on stalled or not started projects:		
Notes	Details	
i	No further work required on this project, budget variation made in December Quarterly Budget Review	
ii	Delayed due to identification of appropriate location, concept plans drafted	
iii	Contract discontinued as contractor unable to provide local Doctor in Wentworth	
iv	Project stalled as unable to reach consensus with key stakeholders, will be re-budgeted once project fully scoped	
v	Unable to complete in 2019/20 due to additional resources required for grant funded projects, budget variation made at March Quarterly Budget Review	
vi	Annual Council Program to cover anticipated costs, but no expenditure required in 2019/20	
vii	Annual Council Program to cover anticipated costs, but no expenditure required in 2019/20	
viii	Decided not to progress with project as Shade Shutters determined inappropriate solution, re-budget if alternative solution identified	
ix	No further water fountains required in 2019/20, project complete	
x	Design works only completed late in 2019/20, implementation to commence in 2020/21	
xi	Project timeline dependent on Sewer Rationalisation Project, which was delayed impacting start date	
xii	Final draft of Floodplain Management Plan due by end of July	
xiii	Landfill Machinery not purchased while awaiting decision on the future operation and management of Council's waste facilities	
xiv	Finalisation of specifications and tender currently being developed prior to commencement of project	
xv	Some capital plant purchase deliveries delayed due to COVID-19 including Tipping Truck & Dog Trailer, Truck and Mini Excavator	
xvi	Minor plant purchase of new spray unit for weeds vehicle delayed due to COVID-19	

DOCUMENT SUMMARY

This Official Council Policy deals with developer contributions and the arrangements that can be entered into for deferred payment.

1. STATEMENT OF POLICY INTENT

The intent of this policy is establish the parameters for deferred payment arrangements for developer contributions.

2. POLICY SCOPE

This policy is applicable to developer contributions only.

3. DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS (used in this policy)

This table summarises the main definitions and abbreviations contained within this policy.

Developer	The term developer is used to describe the person who would be responsible for the payment of rates for property being developed
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4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Council wishes to encourage development within the Shire and is happy to enter into negotiations to defer the payment of charges that might be seen as an impediment to development.

5. POLICY

It is the policy of this Council that:-

- Developer contributions required under any Council policy can be paid in full or by instalments over a maximum period of three years.
- Interest will be charged on balances owing at the statutory rate until paid in full.
- All agreements must be in writing between the Council and the Developer.

6. ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

Approved by Council and signed by
General Manager of Wentworth Shire Council

Signed & Dated

DOCUMENT SUMMARY

This Official Council Policy deals with the way in which Council contributes money or grants financial assistance to individuals and groups.

1. STATEMENT OF POLICY INTENT

The intent of this policy is to establish clear guidelines for the provision of Council assistance to the community through cash donations, sponsorships & grants, fee waivers, rate reductions, rate exemptions and in-kind support.

2. POLICY SCOPE

This policy applies to all requests for cash donations, sponsorships, grants, fee waivers, rate reductions, rate exemptions and in-kind support.

3. DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS (used in this policy)

This table summarises the main definitions and abbreviations contained within this policy.

The Act	Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)
Regulations	Local Government Act (General) Regulations 2005 (NSW)
GM	General Manager

4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Wentworth Shire Council is accountable to the community for the management and disbursement of its funds, and is compelled to ensure that this is done in a manner that maximizes the benefits to the community. Additionally, Council's ability to make financial and/or in-kind contributions is set out in Sections 356 and 377 of the Local Government Act 1993.

Section 356 allows Council, in accordance with a resolution of the Council, to contribute money or otherwise grant financial assistance to persons for the purpose of exercising its functions. Section 377 stipulates that Council cannot delegate the decision to contribute or otherwise grant financial assistance to the GM or any other person or body.

In establishing this policy Council is seeking to:-

- demonstrate financial prudence by adopting a strategic approach to the amount allocated to donations and contributions; and
- provide a process which nominated organisations can be assisted, without the need to make application to Council; and
- provide an application-based process to enable Council to consider all requests for financial assistance from Council, enabling fair and equitable distribution of funding throughout the community.

5. POLICY

It is the policy of this Council that in accordance with Section 377 of the Act, all requests for financial assistance from Council will be dealt with in the following manner:-

- an **Annual Budget Allocation** will be made by Council each year (during the budget process) for the provisions of financial assistance to the community through cash donations, sponsorships & grants, fee waivers, rate reductions, rate exemptions and in-kind support.
- an **Application Process** will be established to enable Council to fairly and reasonably consider all requests for financial assistance that are made of it. Council will determine how often it wishes to consider these applications.

- an **Annual list of exemptions** will be approved by Council each year when determining the Annual Fees and Charges, enabling named organisations to be exempt from the application process for specific nominated purposes.

6. ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

Approved by Council and signed by
General Manager of Wentworth Shire Council

Signed & Dated

DOCUMENT SUMMARY

This Official Council Policy deals with the ability for members of the public to hire Council's plant and equipment items for private purposes.

1. STATEMENT OF POLICY INTENT

The intent of this policy is to promote the full utilization of Council's plant items.

2. POLICY SCOPE

This policy is applicable to the hiring of plant items listed within the Operational Plan - Annual Fees and Charges.

3. DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS (used in this policy)

This table summarises the main definitions and abbreviations contained within this policy

Private Works	The undertaking of agreed works for private purposes.
Fees & Charges	Fees and Charges listed in the Operational Plan – Annual Fees and Charges.

4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Council has a substantial investment built up in its extensive fleet of plant and equipment items, and associated staff resources to undertake Council related activities. There are times however when various items of plant and equipment are not being used within Council's operations. As a service to customers and in order to ensure full utilization of Council's Labour, Plant and Equipment resources, Council is willing to consider undertaking Private Works.

5. POLICY

It is the policy of this Council that:-

- 5.1 Council is prepared to allow nominated items of Plant and Equipment and nominated resources to be hired out to members of the public, however it is not the intention of Council to enter into competition with local suppliers in undertaking Private Works.
- 5.2 Private works are to be carried out on a full cost recovery basis, including appropriate overheads for staff time and administrative costs. These costs are reflected in the Annual Fees and Charges.
- 5.3 Private Works will only commence after the signing of an agreement between Council and the person responsible for paying the applicable fees to Council. The agreement will establish a payment schedule for the payment of the applicable fee.
- 5.4 No Private Works agreement will be entered into if the person responsible for paying the applicable fees has outstanding monies that it owes to the Shire.
- 5.5 All Workplace Health and Safety standards must be adhered to at all times.

Approved by Council and signed by
General Manager of Wentworth Shire Council

Signed & Dated

DOCUMENT SUMMARY

This Official Council Policy deals with how Wentworth Shire Council will behave when rating unsold lots within a subdivision.

1. STATEMENT OF POLICY INTENT

The intent of this policy is to outline clear and appropriate procedures which will be undertaken by Wentworth Shire Council when rating unsold lots within a subdivision.

2. POLICY SCOPE

This policy applies to Wentworth Shire Council's unsold lots within a subdivision.

3. DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS (used in this policy)

This table summarises the main definitions and abbreviations contained within this policy

LGA 1993	Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)
GM	General Manager
Regulations	Local Government (General) Regulations 2005 (NSW)

4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Nil.

5. POLICY

It is the policy of this Council that:-

- 5.1 Council will comply with the LGA 1993 and Regulations in order to rate General Rates, Sewerage and Water Access Charges on unsold lots held by a developer within a subdivision.
- 5.2 All unsold lots will be rated a General Rate only on separate rate assessments until sold, then Water and Sewerage Charges are added and applicable to the next financial year.
- 5.3 If a developer builds spec homes on a parcel of land, Water, Sewerage and Garbage become rateable from the time of connection to water supply and sewerage.
- 5.4 The rating concessions to the developer will cease three years after the sale of the first lot within the subdivision, or if in the case where the subdivision has been divided into parts, the sale of the first lot within the part.
- 5.5 Council opposes rate exemptions for Aboriginal Land Councils or any other specific cultural or ethnic group, other than those already provided by Statute.

Approved by Council and signed by
General Manager of Wentworth Shire Council

Signed & Dated

DOCUMENT SUMMARY

This Official Council Policy deals with rating sewerage services.

1. STATEMENT OF POLICY INTENT

The intent of this policy is to outline clear and appropriate procedures which will be undertaken by Wentworth Shire Council when rating sewerage services.

2. POLICY SCOPE

This policy is applicable to Council's sewerage services.

3. DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS (used in this policy)

This table summarises the main definitions and abbreviations contained within this policy.

LGA 1993	Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)
Regulations	Local Government (General) Regulations 2005 (NSW)

4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Nil.

5. POLICY

It is the policy of this Council that:-

- 5.1 Council will comply with the LGA 1993 and Regulations in order to rate sewerage charges on every property as outlined below:
 - a) Residential flats (not strataed) are charged one sewerage charge plus 50% of a charge for each additional flat.
 - b) Non-rateable properties are charged a full sewerage charge for the first two pedestals and thereafter an additional pedestal and urinal charge will apply as determined in Council's Management Plan.
 - c) For all other properties a sewerage charge will apply for the first two pedestals and thereafter an additional pedestal and urinal charge will apply as determined in Council's Management Plan.

6. ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

Approved by Council and signed by
General Manager of Wentworth Shire Council

Signed & Dated

DOCUMENT SUMMARY

This Official Council Policy deals with the requirements of council before capital contributions toward sporting facilities and community can be made.

1. STATEMENT OF POLICY INTENT

The intent of this policy is to minimise Council's risk in the recovery of capital contributions toward community and sporting facilities.

2. POLICY SCOPE

This policy is applicable to Council's capital contributions.

3. DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS (used in this policy)

Nil

4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Nil.

5. POLICY

It is the policy of this Council that:-

- 5.1 The scope and intent of the works must be clearly identified in a signed agreement before construction commences.
- 5.2 Where it is agreed between Council and a community group or sporting club that a capital or financial contribution is payable towards the construction of any community or sporting facility within the Shire, the contribution or an agreed financial guarantee from a recognised financial institution must be paid prior to any work on the project being commenced.

6. ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

Approved by Council and signed by
General Manager of Wentworth Shire Council

Signed & Dated

DOCUMENT SUMMARY

This Official Council Policy deals with complying with International and Australian Accounting Standards to classify the non-current assets of the Wentworth Shire Council, and to provide guidance on the disposal of assets in an open, transparent and accountable manner.

1. STATEMENT OF POLICY INTENT

The intent of this policy is to provide guidance in complying with International and Australian Accounting Standards to classify the non-current assets of the Wentworth Shire Council.

2. POLICY SCOPE

Unless otherwise stated, this policy is applicable to non-current assets recorded in the financial statements.

3. DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS (used in this policy)

This table summarises the main definitions and abbreviations contained within this policy.

Asset	An asset is a future economic benefit controlled by the entity as a result of a past transaction or other past events.
Carry amount	Carrying amount includes to mean: (a) In relation to an asset, the amount at which the asset is recorded in the accounting records as at a particular date. (b) In application to a depreciating asset, carrying amount means the net amount after deducting accumulated depreciation; and In relation to a class of assets, the sum of the carrying amounts of the assets in the class.
Componentisation	Componentisation is the segment of complex assets into identifiable components that have varying useful lives.
Depreciation	Depreciation is an expense representing the using up of an asset overtime in providing services. It is recognised systematically for the purpose of allocating the depreciable amount of a depreciable asset over its useful life.
Impairment loss	Impairment loss is the amount by which the carrying amount of an asset exceeds its recoverable amount.
Land under roads	Land under roads includes land under roadways and road reserves, including land under footpaths, nature strips and median strips.
Maintenance expenditure	Maintenance expenditure is a component of operating expenditure, specifically on an asset, which is periodically required as part of the anticipated schedule of works needed to ensure that the asset achieves its estimated useful life, and is normally relatively low cost compared to the asset value. Maintenance expenditure includes reactive maintenance and repair, or planned maintenance.
Materiality	Information is material if its omission, misstatement or nondisclosure has the potential, individually or collectively, to influence the economic decisions made by the users on the basis of the financial statements.
Minor assets	Minor assets are those items acquired for a cost less than the capital threshold for that applicable category.

Operating expenditure	Operating expenditure is a recurrent expenditure such as power, fuel, telephone, employee's costs, materials, cleaning, minor equipment, overheads, maintenance and depreciation. These costs are the day to day expenses associated with providing the service during the year of operations.
Recognition	Recognition is the decision to include an asset as capital expenditure.
Useful life	Useful life is the time period in which an asset is expected to be available for use.

4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

All Council assets are to be consistently recognised in the financial statements by adhering to International and Australian Account Standards and relevant legislation.

5. POLICY

It is the policy of this Council that:-

5.1 Classification of Councils Non-Current Assets

Councils Non-Current Assets are classified by Land / Buildings / Infrastructure / Plant & Equipment / Furniture & Fittings in accordance with Schedule 1.

5.2 Acquisition of Council's Non-Current Assets

- i. Councils Non-Current Assets may be acquired by purchase, construction, donation or received free of charge (as in the case of infrastructure assets received from developers in new land divisions).
- ii. In all cases of acquisition by purchase or construction, the requirements of Council's separate purchasing policy must be followed.
- iii. Assets constructed by Council will include, where relevant, an appropriate internal allocation amount to represent indirect labour overheads and the use of Council's internal plant & machinery on the job. Labour overheads to be based on outdoor labour hours worked and plant & machinery allocation to be based on usage (either kilometers or hours).

5.3 Capitalisation of Council's Non-Current Assets

- i. A capitalisation policy sets the threshold or materiality value for recognizing capital expenditure. Expenditure below the capital threshold is expensed in the period in which it is incurred. The policy is important towards ensuring that intergenerational equity is maintained whereby the expenses of capital acquisitions is spread over their useful life, through the mechanism of depreciation, so that those who have the benefit of the assets can be charged, through rates or fees and charged for their use.
- ii. Capital expenditure threshold limits are defined in Schedule 2.

5.4 Depreciation of Council's Non-Current Assets

- i. Non-Current assets are depreciated monthly on a straight-line basis over their expected useful life. The useful life of an asset will vary based on the nature of the asset.
- ii. Assets will be depreciated in accordance with the useful life ranges outlined in Schedule 3.

5.5 Revaluation of Council's Non-Current Assets

- i. Pursuant to the Australian Accounting Standard (AASB) 116 section 31-42 asset revaluations must be made with sufficient regularity to ensure that the carrying amount of each Asset in the class does not differ materially from its fair value at the reporting date.
- ii. All assets will be revalued at their fair value, which is defined in AASB13
- iii. Consideration is also given to Circulars released by the Office of Local Government.
- iv. Comprehensive revaluations of Assets will be carried out at least every 5 years for selected asset classes and will be independently revalued where required, including the use of industry unit costs where relevant and available.
- v. More frequent revaluations may be undertaken (via an indexation rate equivalent to the annual movement in the Local Government Cost Index, or in the case of land, annual movements in property valuations as provided by the Valuer General and/or qualified valuers) in instances where there is a material movement in the Fair Value of a class of Assets.

5.6 Impairment

- i. A Non-current Asset is impaired if its Carrying Amount exceeds the amount to be recovered through use or sale of the asset. In such instances, the asset is described as impaired and AASB 136 requires the Council to recognise an impairment loss.
- ii. An assessment of asset impairment will be undertaken on an annual basis as at the reporting date (30 June) in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards including where previously recognised asset impairments no longer exist.
- iii. An impairment loss on a non-revalued asset is recognised as an impairment loss in the Statement of Comprehensive Income. An impairment loss on a revalued asset is recognised directly against any revaluation reserve for the asset to the extent that the impairment loss does not exceed the amount in the revaluation reserve for that same class of asset.

5.7 Disposal of Assets and Write Offs

- i. The sale of Land and building assets must be authorised by Council.
- ii. The sale and/or trade-in of infrastructure/equipment/furniture and fittings is subject to budget approval from Council.
- iii. An asset disposal worksheet will be completed for each asset sold/auctioned/traded-in, reconciling the gain/loss on disposal, and authorized by the Manager Finance.
- iv. An asset is written off when:
 - The asset is obsolete and/or beyond economic repair and cannot be sold;
 - A physical stock take fails to locate the asset;
 - The asset is known to be stolen;
 - The asset has been demolished.
- v. Authority to process asset write-offs is restricted to the General Manager (or his delegate).

- vi. A “good” is of value to Council; only in so much as it continues to cost effectively support the delivery of the Council’s services. Goods that are no longer needed should be disposed of promptly. The “disposal” must achieve best value for money such that Council obtains the best possible return for the goods it sells.
- vii. The disposal method that is chosen must promote fair and effective competition to the greatest extent possible, and disposals should be conducted in an ethical manner. The disposal process should be as follows:
- Decision to dispose
 - Estimate the value
 - Factors to consider in disposal
 - Select the appropriate disposal method
 - Obtain approval for disposal process
 - Effect disposal
 - Evaluate the disposal process
- viii. Council staff should check and declare that there is no conflict of interest on their behalf prior to the commencement of each disposal activity. If there is a conflict of interest the staff member should seek advice from their Departmental Director or Manager.
- ix. Before any disposal action can be taken, it is necessary to seek approval that goods are appropriate for disposal from the Departmental Director. Council staff must consider the following common criteria for determining whether assets may be suitable for disposal:-
- No longer required;
 - Unserviceable or beyond economic repair;
 - Technologically obsolete;
 - Surplus to current or immediately foreseeable needs;
 - Part of an asset replacement program; and/or
 - Contains any environmentally sensitive or hazardous material.
- x. The disposal method chosen must be appropriate to the value, nature, quantity and location of the goods, and to promote fair and effective competition to the greatest extent possible. Negotiated assets sales and internal expressions of interest for sales of asset to staff will not be allowed. To help achieve these objectives the following methods are to be utilised:
- a) Destruction / Land filling – where items are of no value.
 - b) Verbal quotes – Goods valued up to \$5,000 excl. GST may be disposed of by verbal quotes. A minimum of 3 quotes must be obtained.
 - c) Written quotes - Goods valued up to \$50,000 excl. GST may be disposed of by written quotes. Trade-ins are considered as equivalent in process to written quotes. A minimum of 3 quotes must be obtained.
 - d) Auction – Goods valued up to \$150,000 excl. GST may be disposed of by public auction.
 - e) Tender – Goods over \$150,000 exc GST. The tendering process must be utilised pursuant to the Local Government Act and Regulation.
- xi. Having chosen the most appropriate method of disposal, the council officer must seek approval from the appropriate Director or manager for permission to proceed with the disposal. This must be in writing via an appropriate email or memo.

- xii. Regardless of the method of disposal, probity must be maintained and any changes to the disposal process, terms and conditions must be communicated to all potential participating parties.

5.8 Donations to Community Groups/Charities

- i. This method of disposal may not be used for assets with an estimated value of more than \$5,000. All donations of assets with a value exceeding \$5,000 are to be reported to Council for approval before any transfer of ownership.
- ii. Donations of assets with a value of less than \$5,000 may only be made with the authority of the relevant Director and only after exploring all avenues for recouping a fair value for Council. Council staff should only consider donations in response to a formal written request. In considering any request, staff should keep in mind the following:
 - Community groups should receive equitable treatment to avoid possible claims of bias.
 - A check should be made to ensure the group is not a disguised business operation providing funds or remuneration to the principals.
 - A check should be made to ensure the group is non-profit and that the intended use of the asset is non-commercial (i.e. non-profit)
 - Where the donation is seen as appropriate but there is a potential claim of bias the matter should be referred to the General Manager.
- The charity/community group must remove the asset themselves and at no cost to the Council.
- iii. Irrespective of the disposal method applied, all prospective buyers must be advised in writing that items disposed of, at the buyer's risk ('buyer beware'). Buyers are to rely on their own investigations regarding the condition and workability of the items and Council will not be responsible for any repairs or maintenance of the asset.
- iv. For all disposals, irrespective of whether the goods are written off, the asset registers must reflect the relevant details and the accounting records must be adjusted.

5.9 Physical Inspection / Safekeeping

- i. All members of staff to whom assets are assigned are responsible for the safeguarding of assets provided for their use. The person responsible for the asset is required to notify the Manager Assets of any movement of, damage to, or loss of assets.
- ii. A physical Stocktake of Plant & Equipment and Furniture & Fitting assets is undertaken periodically. Such stocktakes ensure that such assets continue to be appropriately accounted for.

5.10 Insurance

- i. Council will ensure that its Non-current Assets are appropriately insured
- ii. The Director Finance and Policy will ensure that asset acquisitions and disposals are accurately accounted for in Council's asset insurance schedule.
- iii. The Director Finance and Policy is responsible for negotiating appropriate insurance values with Council's insurers.

6. ATTACHMENTS

Schedule 1 - Classification of Non-Current Assets

Schedule 2 - Capital Expenditure Threshold Limits
Schedule 3 - Depreciation Schedule

Approved by Council and signed by
General Manager of Wentworth Shire Council

Signed & Dated

Schedule 1

CLASSIFICATION OF NON-CURRENT ASSETS

Asset Class	Asset Groups within Class
Transport	Sealed and Unsealed Roads, Footpaths, Kerb and Gutters, Street Furniture, Sharedways, Bridges and Major Culverts
Stormwater	Drainage Pits and Pipes
Water and Sewer	Above and Underground assets
Buildings	Community and Operational buildings
Other Assets	Land Improvements, Other Structures
Plant and Equipment	Plant and Equipment, Furniture and Fittings, Office Equipment

Schedule 2

TABLE OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE THRESHOLD LIMITS

Asset Type	Capital
Sealed Roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All resealing • All other reconstruction and renewal work > \$10,000 • Any new assets acquired (e.g. from land developments)
Unsealed Roads – Road shoulders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimated work > \$10,000
Unsealed Roads – Patch / Repairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects requiring > 200 tonnes of materials
Unsealed Roads – Resheeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All resheeting
Footpaths / Kerbs / Stormwater / Drainage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All (re)construction work > \$10,000 • Any new assets acquired (e.g. from land developments)
Street Furniture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Bus shelter >\$10,000 • All Guard rails >\$10,000 • All Cattle grids >\$10,000
Water Supply and Sewer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All reconstruction / replacement work on existing assets > \$10,000 • Any new assets acquired (e.g. from land developments)
Bridges and Culverts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction work > \$20,000 • All bridge barrier replacement is deemed to be maintenance
Parks, Gardens & Reserves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All development of existing reserves > \$10,000 • Value of all new assets acquired (e.g. from land developments)
Buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New buildings • Replacing whole of a building • Replacing a component of a building (e.g. roof, ceiling replacement) > \$10,000 • All repainting is deemed to be maintenance
Plant & Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual assets > \$5,000
Streetscaping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual assets > \$5,000
Furniture & Fittings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual assets > \$5,000
Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landfill > \$10,000 • Improvement > \$10,000 • Value of all new assets acquired (e.g. from land developments)
All Other Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swimming Pools > \$10,000 • Fences >\$10,000 • Other Open space / Recreational Assets >\$10,000

NB: All expenditure on assets not meeting the above criteria will be treated as maintenance and expensed to Council's Income Statement.

Schedule 3

DEPRECIATION SCHEDULE

Sch	Asset Type	Useful Life	Determining Factor
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No.		Range	
1	Transport		
	Sealed Pavement	Up to 100 years	Road Hierarchy and Construction Type
	Unsealed Pavement	Up to 100 years	Road Hierarchy and Construction Type
	Sealed Surface	15 to 25 years	Road Hierarchy and Construction Type
	Formation (Sealed & Unsealed)	infinite	
	Footpaths / Sharedpaths	Up to 60 years	Construction Type
	Kerb and Gutters	Up to 100 years	Construction Type
	Bridges - Concrete	80 to 100 years	Construction Type
	Bridges - Others	Up to 50 years	Construction Type
	Culverts	60 to 80 years	Construction Type
	Cattle Grids	Up to 50 years	Construction Type
	Bus shelters	25 to 40 years	Construction Type
	Guard Rails	Up to 30 years	Construction Type
2	Stormwater Drainage		
	Drainage Pits	Up to 100 years	Construction Type
	Drainage Pipes	Up to 100 years	Construction Type
3	Water Supply and Sewer		
	Dams and Reservoirs	80 to 100 years	Construction Type
	Bores	20 to 40 years	Construction Type
	Reticulation pipes	25 to 80 years	Construction Type
	Trunk mains	Up to 80 years	Construction Type
	Pumps and telemetry	15 to 20 years	Construction Type
	Stand pipes	Up to 20 years	Construction Type
	Rising Mains	Up to 70 years	Construction Type
	Treatment Plants	Up to 50 years	Construction Type
4	Buildings		
	Council owned / controlled buildings	20 to 100 years	Construction Type
5	Other Infrastructure Assets		

	Landfill Sites	50 to 100 years	Construction Type
	Land Improvements	10 to 100 years	Construction Type
	Swimming Pools	30 to 40 years	Construction Type
	Playground equipment	5 to 15 years	Construction Type
	Fences	Up to 40 years	Construction Type
	Other Structures	10 to 50 years	Construction Type
6	Plant and Equipment		
	Motor vehicles (sedans, utes, vans trucks etc.)	Up to 10 years	Asset Type
	Minor plants	Up to 10 years	Asset Type
	Major Plants (Grader, backhoe, loaders etc.)	5 to 10 years	Asset Type
	Computer Equipment	3 to 5 years	Asset Type
	Office furniture and fittings	Up to 10 years	Asset Type
	Communication equipment	2 to 10 years	Asset Type

Document Approval

This document is the latest version of the official policy of the Wentworth Shire Council, as adopted by Council on the 28/06/2017. All previous versions of this policy are null and void.

This policy may be amended or revoked by Council at any time.

DOCUMENT SUMMARY

This Official Council Policy deals with the disposal of Council assets in an open, transparent and accountable manner.

1. STATEMENT OF POLICY INTENT

The intent of this policy is to establish a policy for Wentworth Shire Council to openly and transparently dispose of its assets surplus to Council's needs.

2. POLICY SCOPE

This policy is applicable to councillors, administrators, members of staff of council, independent conduct reviewers, members of council committees including the conduct review committee and delegates of the council.

3. DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS (used in this policy)

This table summarises the main definitions and abbreviations contained within this policy

Act	Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)
Assets	Applies to the terms 'asset(s)', 'stores', 'item(s)', 'equipment', 'furnishings' and 'goods' as used throughout this policy and refers to items with an original purchase value of more than \$5,000 (excl. GST) or an estimated residue value of more than \$1,000 (excl. GST) at the time of disposal. It does not include real property (building and land) but may include fittings attached to the property.
Regulations	Local Government (General) Regulations 2005 (NSW)

4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Nil.

5. POLICY

It is the policy of this Council that:-

- 5.1 A "good" is of value to Council; only in so much as it continues to cost effectively support the delivery of the Council's services. Goods that are no longer needed should be disposed of promptly. The "disposal" must achieve best value for money such that Council obtains the best possible return for the goods it sells.
- 5.2 The disposal method that is chosen must promote fair and effective competition to the greatest extent possible, and disposals should be conducted in an ethical manner. The disposal process should be as follows:
 - Decision to dispose
 - Estimate the value
 - Factors to consider in disposal
 - Select the appropriate disposal method
 - Obtain approval for disposal process
 - Effect disposal
 - Evaluate the disposal process
- 5.3 Council staff should check and declare that there is no conflict of interest on their behalf prior to the commencement of each disposal activity. If there is a conflict of interest the staff member should seek advice from their Departmental Director or Manager.
- 5.4 Before any disposal action can be taken, it is necessary to seek approval that goods are appropriate for disposal from the Departmental Director. Council staff must consider the following common criteria for determining whether assets may be suitable for disposal:

- a) No longer required;
 - b) Unserviceable or beyond economic repair;
 - c) Technologically obsolete;
 - d) Surplus to current or immediately foreseeable needs;
 - e) Part of an asset replacement program; and/or
 - f) Contains any environmentally sensitive or hazardous material.
- 5.5 The disposal method chosen must be appropriate to the value, nature, quantity and location of the goods, and to promote fair and effective competition to the greatest extent possible. Negotiated assets sales and internal expressions of interest for sales of asset to staff will not be allowed. To help achieve these objectives the following methods are to be utilised:
- a) Destruction / Land filling – where items are of no value.
 - b) Verbal quotes – Goods valued up to \$5,000 excl. GST may be disposed of by verbal quotes. A minimum of 3 quotes must be obtained.
 - c) Written quotes - Goods valued up to \$50,000 excl. GST may be disposed of by written quotes. Trade-ins are considered as equivalent in process to written quotes. A minimum of 3 quotes must be obtained.
 - d) Auction – Goods valued up to \$150,000 excl. GST may be disposed of by public auction.
 - e) Tender – Goods over \$150,000 exc GST. The tendering process must be utilised pursuant to the Local Government Act and Regulation.
- 5.6 Having chosen the most appropriate method of disposal, the council officer must seek approval from the appropriate Director or manager for permission to proceed with the disposal. This must be in writing via an appropriate email or memo.
- Regardless of the method of disposal, probity must be maintained and any changes to the disposal process, terms and conditions must be communicated to all potential participating parties.
- 5.7 **Donations to Community Groups/Charities**
- This method of disposal may not be used for assets with an estimated value of more than \$5,000. All donations of assets with a value exceeding \$5,000 are to be reported to Council for approval before any transfer of ownership.
- Donations of assets with a value of less than \$5,000 may only be made with the authority of the relevant Director and only after exploring all avenues for recouping a fair value for Council. Council staff should only consider donations in response to a formal written request. In considering any request, staff should keep in mind the following:
- Community groups should receive equitable treatment to avoid possible claims of bias.
 - A check should be made to ensure the group is not a disguised business operation providing funds or remuneration to the principals.
 - A check should be made to ensure the group is non-profit and that the intended use of the asset is non-commercial (i.e. non-profit)
 - Where the donation is seen as appropriate but there is a potential claim of bias the matter should be referred to the General Manager.
 - The charity/community group must remove the asset themselves and at no cost to the Council.
- 5.8 Irrespective of the disposal method applied, all prospective buyers must be advised in writing that items disposed of, at the buyer's risk ('buyer beware'). Buyers are to rely on their own investigations regarding the condition and workability of the items and Council will not be responsible for any repairs or maintenance of the asset.

- 5.9 For all disposals, irrespective of whether the goods are written off, the asset registers must reflect the relevant details and the accounting records must be adjusted.

6. ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

Approved by Council and signed by Ken Ross
General Manager of Wentworth Shire Council

Signed & Dated

DOCUMENT SUMMARY

This Official Council Policy deals with Media Statements.

1. STATEMENT OF POLICY INTENT

The intent of this policy is to ensure that a coherent and united approach is displayed by Council at all times when engaging the media, while maintaining the rights of elected members to both express their personal opinions and to represent the ratepayers of the Shire.

2. POLICY SCOPE

This policy is applicable to Councillors and all staff.

3. DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS (used in this policy)

This table summarises the main definitions and abbreviations contained within this policy

Act	Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)
GM	General Manager
Code of Conduct	The model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW 2018
Regulations	Local Government (General) Regulations 2005 (NSW)

4. POLICY

Council can promote itself, its views and its various projects and initiatives to the community.

5.1 Principles

- a) That the Mayor and/or the GM, or in their absence, the Deputy Mayor or Acting GM, be authorised to make statements to the media on behalf of Council.
- b) Where appropriate, and subsequent to previous authorisation by the GM, or in their absence, the Acting GM, the Director of a department, or an appropriate Manager, is authorised to make statements to the media on behalf of Council relating to issues concerning their specific department.
- c) Individual councillors may make a statement to the media, which may include a comment on or express their disassociation from a Council decision. The councillor in question should advise the Mayor of their action. The councillor should also make it quite clear to the media that the comment or opinion expressed is a personal one and may not be the opinion of Council.
- d) Any councillor or staff member making a statement to the media should always do so with the best interests of the organisation in mind and must not undermine councillors or staff members or past Council, councillors or staff in a negative light. To this end, councillors and staff should be mindful of the General Conduct Provisions of the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW .
- e) Any media releases promoting Council projects and initiatives should be for the benefit or information of the community and not the aggrandisement of any individual.
- f) The general rule that council has in place is that there is a single point of contact for enquiries from journalists.

- g) Copies of press releases are to be provided to the elected members prior to publication.
- h) Where possible the elected members are to be provided with prior notice of the mayor, deputy mayor, general manager, any councillor or senior council employee participating in a radio interview.
- i) During activation of council's Business Continuity Plan the General Manager will determine who is the most appropriate Single Point of Contact for Customers and for Staff.

5. ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

Approved by Council and signed by
General Manager of Wentworth Shire Council

Signed & Dated



Mr Ken Ross
General Manager
Wentworth Shire Council
PO Box 81
WENTWORTH NSW 2648

Contact: Manuel Moncada
Phone no: 02 9275 7333
Our ref: D2015487/1806

22 July 2020

Dear Mr Ross

**Management Letter on the Interim Phase of the Audit
for the Year Ended 30 June 2020**

The interim phase of our audit for the year ended 30 June 2020 is complete. This letter outlines:

- matters of governance interest I identified during the current audit
- unresolved matters identified during previous audits
- matters I am required to communicate under Australian Auditing Standards.

I planned and carried out my audit to obtain reasonable assurance the financial statements are free from material misstatement. Because my audit is not designed to identify all matters that may be of governance interest to you, there may be other matters that did not come to my attention.

The Management Letter may be sent to the Minister, if the Minister requests it.

For each matter in this letter, I have included my observations, risk assessment and recommendations. The risk assessment is based on my understanding of your business. Management should make its own assessment of the risks to the organisation.

I have kept management informed of the issues included in this letter as they have arisen. This letter includes management's formal responses, the person responsible for addressing the matter and the date by which this should be actioned.

If you would like to discuss any of the matters raised in this letter, please contact me on 02 9275 7333 or Brett Hanger on 02 9251 4600.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Manuel Moncada".

Manuel Moncada
Delegate of the Auditor-General of New South Wales

cc: Councillor Melisa Hederics, Mayor



Interim management letter

for the year ended 30 June 2020

Wentworth Shire Council



FINANCIAL AUDIT

INSIGHTS FOR BETTER GOVERNMENT

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I have rated the risk of each issue as 'Extreme', 'High', 'Moderate' or 'Low' based on the likelihood of the risk occurring and the consequences if the risk does occur.

The risk assessment matrix used is consistent with the risk management framework in [TPP12-03](#) 'Risk Management Toolkit for the NSW Public Sector'.

This framework may be used as better practice for councils.

		CONSEQUENCE			
		Low	Medium	High	Very high
LIKELIHOOD	Almost certain	M	M	H	E
	Likely	L	M	H	H
	Possible	L	M	M	H
	Rare	L	L	M	M

The risk level is a combination of the consequences and likelihood. The position within the matrix corresponds to the risk levels below.

RISK LEVELS	MATRIX REFERENCE
⊗ Extreme:	E
! High:	H
— Moderate:	M
✓ Low:	L

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For each issue identified, I have used the consequence and likelihood tables from [TPP12-03](#) to guide my assessment.

Consequence levels and descriptors

Consequence level	Consequence level description
Very high	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affects the ability of your entire entity to achieve its objectives and may require third party intervention; Arises from a fundamental systemic failure of governance practices and/or internal controls across the entity; or May result in an inability for the auditor to issue an audit opinion or issue an unqualified audit opinion.
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affects the ability of your entire entity to achieve its objectives and requires significant coordinated management effort at the executive level; Arises from a widespread failure of governance practices and/or internal controls affecting most parts of the entity; or May result in an inability for the auditor to issue an unqualified audit opinion.
Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affects the ability of a single business unit in your entity to achieve its objectives but requires management effort from areas outside the business unit; or Arises from ineffective governance practices and/or internal controls affecting several parts of the entity.
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affects the ability of a single business unit in your entity to achieve its objectives and can be managed within normal management practices Arises from isolated ineffective governance practices and/or internal controls affecting a small part of the entity.

Likelihood levels and descriptors

Likelihood level	Frequency	Probability
Almost certain	The event is expected to occur in most circumstances, and frequently during the year	More than 99 per cent
Likely	The event will probably occur once during the year	More than 20 per cent and up to 99 per cent
Possible	The event might occur at some time in the next five years	More than 1 per cent and up to 20 per cent
Rare	The event could occur in exceptional circumstances	Less than 1 per cent

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Summary of issues

Issue	Detail	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk assessment
1	<u>Information Technology general controls (partial repeat)</u>	Possible	Medium	⚠ Moderate
2	<u>Master-file maintenance (partial repeat)</u>	Possible	Medium	⚠ Moderate
3	<u>Excessive annual leave balances (repeat)</u>	Possible	Medium	⚠ Moderate
4	<u>Security of payment file</u>	Possible	Medium	⚠ Moderate
5	<u>Contract Management Policy</u>	Possible	Medium	⚠ Moderate
6	<u>Improvement opportunities – governance and cyber security (partial repeat)</u>	Possible	Medium	⚠ Moderate
7	<u>Account reconciliations (partial repeat)</u>	Possible	Low	✓ Low
8	<u>Receipting procedures (partial repeat)</u>	Possible	Low	✓ Low
9	<u>Mail remittances</u>	Possible	Low	✓ Low


Appendix

Review of Matters Raised in Prior Years

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Issue 1: Information Technology general controls (partial repeat)

Likelihood	Consequence	Systemic issue	Category	Risk assessment
Possible	Medium	Yes/No	IT	 Moderate

Observation

Our review of the information technology general control environment identified the following issues:

1. Audit logs of privileged users:
We noted that several privileged users had access to the key system (Practical Plus). Audit logs of privileged IT access activities within the system exist. However, the log has not been produced and independently reviewed.
2. Conflicting system access levels
During our audit, we reviewed user access levels to major modules of the financial management software, Practical Plus, including general ledger, accounts payable, and bank reconciliations. We noted staff with conflicting access levels. Two Finance officers are set up as system administrators for Practical Plus, which allows full access to major modules including general ledger, accounts payable, and bank reconciliations. They are also authorised cheque signatories.
Lack of formal process for changes to existing access profiles; email or verbal instructions are used.
3. Other:
 - Council does not have an Incident & Problem Management policy; and
 - Council does not have an IT risk register;

Implication

1. If audit logs of privileged IT access activities are not maintained and secured from amendment, there is an increased risk of inappropriate activities or transactions occurring, which may go undetected.
2. Inappropriate system access increases the risk of fraud, creating opportunities for both erroneous and inappropriate actions. For example, unauthorised changes may be processed by staff with conflicting access levels.
3. Informal user access provisioning controls increase the likelihood of users (including contractors and service providers) gaining/retaining unnecessary and inappropriate system access.
4. Council may be exposed to a greater risk of issues with IT.

Recommendations

1. For those users assigned administrator IT access privileges, we recommend Council consider the following controls:
 - audit logs maintained for an appropriate period of time
 - Privileged access audit logs reviewed regularly by a suitably independent and qualified individual, with appropriate action taken when required.
2. Segregation of duties is critical to effective internal control. To reduce the potential risk of fraud, system access levels of system users should be reviewed and altered as appropriate.
3. For changes in user access profiles for existing users, the process should be formalised whereby a documented form with approval from a responsible manager being used.
4. Council should implement an IT Incident & Problem Management Policy;
5. An IT risk register should be established and included in Council's strategic risk register.

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Management response

Agree

With the implementation of our new finance system, all current finance processes are being reviewed. Where appropriate, audit processes will be implemented to support these process and address recommendations 1, 2 & 3. This will include reviewing roles across the Finance team to better segregate duties and other internal controls where possible, given the small size of our finance team.

The following actions address Recommendation 4:


- an IT Incident and Problems Management Policy has been drafted and is awaiting feedback from Stakeholder - anticipated completion date is end of August 2020
- a review of IT risks was undertaken over the past 3 months and Council is currently prioritising the major risks and responses

Person responsible:	Date to be actioned:
Simon Rule, Director Finance & Policy	Recommendations 1, 2 & 3 – 31 January 2021
Hodi Beauliv, Manager Finance	Recommendation 4 – 31 August 2020

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Issue 2: Master-file maintenance (partial repeat)

Likelihood	Consequence	Systemic issue	Category	Risk assessment
Possible	Medium	No	Operational	 Moderate

Observation

Accounts Payable and Payroll staff are responsible for the maintenance of all details within their respective sub-systems including bank account details, creation of new suppliers/employees and in the case of payroll changes to pay rates. Similarly, the Rates Officer is responsible for all maintenance within the rates system, such as classification changes, write-offs and abandonments.

There is a process to validate changes in master-files whereby supporting documentation is provided by the preparer to another officer for review. However, the audit report from the subsystem listing all changes made to master-files is not generated. There is risk that changes not advised by the preparer (by error or fraud) are not independently reviewed. The control implemented by management addresses the accuracy of the changes, but not the completeness of changes.

Implications

Unauthorised changes may be processed without review.

Recommendation

The review of the master-file maintenance audit report is an important internal control function to ensure that changes made to bank account details, creation of new suppliers and employees, and changes to pay rates are correct and appropriate. In the case of rates, it is important that critical changes including property reclassifications and abandonments are reviewed.

Audit reports listing key changes in master-files are available for the accounts payable and payroll systems. In respect to the rates system, critical changes are included in both master-file and transaction listings. These reports should be generated and reviewed on a regular basis by an officer independent of the respective sub-systems and evidenced by way of signature.

Management response

Agree

Council's process will be amended to include the audit log from the system.

Person responsible:	Date (to be) actioned:
Hodi Beauliv, Manager Finance	31 July 2020

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Issue 3: Excessive annual leave balances (repeat)

Likelihood	Consequence	Systemic issue	Category	Risk assessment
Possible	Medium	No	Operational/ Compliance	 Moderate

Observation

We identified 23 employees with accrued annual leave balances in excess of 300 hours (i.e. 40 days). The total headcount for staff eligible for annual leave was 111 as at 28 April 2020.

Council should aim for employees to have, as a minimum, less than 40 days of accrued annual leave at any point in time in accordance with the Local Government Award.

Implications

Excessive annual leave balances can result in:

- higher future employee liabilities as a result of salary increases. This means that accrued leave will be paid at higher rates
- increased risk that staff performing key control functions are not rotated. It may also conceal fraud or further inefficiencies
- work, health and safety implications and reduced productivity.

Recommendation

Council should monitor and manage excessive annual leave balances on a regular basis and establish individual leave management plans to reduce the leave balances over time.

Management response

Agree

Concerted effort was made in the last 12 months to reduce leave balances, but in order to maintain continuity of service due to operational requirements, it will take a number of years for some staff to be able to reduce their balances.

Some examples of actions taken to address issue include:

- Monthly reports provided to Managers, highlighting excess leave
- Leave management plans in place for 2 staff, resulted in a reduction of 732 for one staff member and 144 hours for the other, with both staff no longer having excess annual leave
- Appointment of Assistant Team Leader role in Water to allow Team Leader to take leave and reduce excess leave balances.

Additional actions to be implemented over the next 4 months to address the issue include:


- KPIs to be developed for Directors to reduce excess leave by 20% each quarter
- New Award allows leave to be taken at double-pay or cashed out, which will assist Directors to manage the excess leave balances
- Continue to develop leave management plans for staff with leave in excess of 300 hours, where possible.

Person responsible:	Date (to be) actioned:
Ken Ross, General Manager	30 June 2021
Simon Rule, Director Finance & Policy	
Glen Norris, Manager Human Resources	

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Issue 4: Security of payment file

Likelihood	Consequence	Systemic issue	Category	Risk assessment
Possible	Medium	No	Operational	 Moderate

Observation

The electronic funds transfer (EFT) payment files are un-encrypted files, meaning the data can be altered before being remitted to the relevant financial institution. It is also noted that the EFT file is accessible by accounts payable and payroll officers after creation.

Implications

There is a higher risk of fraud.

Recommendation

Management should:

- encrypt the electronic funds transfer files to prevent unauthorised changes
- ensure file location is restricted to authorised users
- regularly review access to the drive and remove terminated users.

Management response

Agree.

Limited to capabilities of existing financial system with respect to encryption of file. Exploring issue with new software provided to ensure secure mechanism in place for electronic funds transfer.

File locations already restricted to finance personnel and accesses managed appropriately, with staff removed when they change roles or are no longer employed.


Audit process for IT access to be developed in line with the new process for user access profiles identified under Issue 1, Recommendation 3.

Person responsible:	Date (to be) actioned:
Simon Rule, Director Finance & Policy	31 January 2021
Hodi Beauliv, Manager Finance	

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Issue 5: Contract Management Policy

Likelihood	Consequence	Systemic issue	Category	Risk assessment
Possible	Medium	No	Operational	 Moderate

Observation

Council does not have a contract management policy.

Implications

There is an increased risk of non-compliance with key contractual terms, which may result in unnecessary variations to contracted prices.

Recommendation

We recommend that Council develop a contract management policy and train key staff members involved in the contract management process.

Management response

Agree


1. Currently have commenced a review of our tendering and contract management processes following the recommendations of an ICAC enquiry involving Sydney University and issues identified in Council's self-assessment under the Statewide Mutual Continuous Improvement program 2019–20.
2. Contract Management Policy to be developed based on findings of review.

Person responsible:	Date (to be) actioned:
Simon Rule, Director Finance & Policy	1) 30 September 2020
Hodi Beauliv, Manager Finance	2) 31 March 2021

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Issue 6: Improvement opportunities – governance and cyber security (partial repeat)

Likelihood	Consequence	Systemic issue	Category	Risk assessment
Possible	Medium	No	Operational	 Moderate

Observation

We have previously collected data on several key areas across the Council sector to be incorporated into the Auditor-General's Report to Parliament for Local Government. Our findings included:

Governance

- Council does not have a documented legislative compliance policy;
- Council has an enterprise risk register. Council is in process of reviewing the enterprise risk management framework to ensure the risks link with the strategic objectives of Council;
- Council does not have a Fraud Control Plan. We have been advised that there is a draft plan to be formalised. Council does not perform a fraud control health check (within the last three years). Council does not conduct fraud awareness training for all staff at regular intervals (at least every 2-3 years). New starters do not complete a conflicts of interest declaration and existing staff do not complete a conflicts of interest declaration annually. Existing staff do not sign off on the code of conduct annually. Council does not report on fraud control activities in their annual report. Council does not include information (e.g. on its website) so the public know how to report suspected fraud; and
- Council has a gift and benefits policy. However, the policy does not address conflicts of interest and it does not outline measures to be taken when an employee breaches the policy. The gifts and benefit register does not capture whether there have been any gifts exceeding the value of \$50 accepted and whether there have been any 'cash-like' gifts. We have been advised that the policy has been reviewed and updated during the year.

Cyber security

- Council's risk register does not include the risk of a cyberattack. This will be reviewed as Council updates the risk register;
- Council did not perform penetration testing during 2019–20;
- Council does not have a separate budget to spend on cyber security;
- Council does not have a central register of cyber incidents.

Implications

Council may be exposed to a greater risk of non-compliance and issues with governance processes and cyber security.

Recommendation

Management should assess the risks arising from the observations above and prioritise the implementation of relevant policies and procedures.

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Management response

Agree

Already started to address a number of these issues and will continue to prioritise them over the next 12 months, including:

- Draft Fraud Control Plan developed awaiting finalisation
- Enterprise-wide risk management framework currently under review in line with the new Australian Standard for Risk Management
- External penetration testing performed on 15 July, currently reviewing the results prior to development of an action plan.

Person responsible:	Date (to be) actioned:
Simon Rule, Director Finance & Policy	30 June 2021
Hodi Beauliv, Manager Finance	

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Issue 7: Account reconciliations (partial repeat)

Likelihood	Consequence	Systemic issue	Category	Risk assessment
Possible	Low	No	Operational/Reporting	Low

Observation

The following reconciliation is not performed on a regular basis:

- Reconciliation between tipping fees raised in the general ledger and sales recorded in the operating system at tipping sites.

Implications

A lack of reconciliation between the general ledger and sub-systems may result in transactions being incorrectly recorded. Without independent review of reconciliations performed, errors may not be detected on a timely manner.

Recommendation

Reconciliations should be performed on a regular basis, ideally monthly. They should be formally documented and signed by the preparer and reviewer certifying to their correctness.

Management response

Agree

Banking file reconciled daily and tipping fees currently reconciled annually. Will review suitable process for more regular reconciliation.

Person responsible:	Date (to be) actioned:
Simon Rule, Director Finance & Policy	30 September 2020
Hodi Beauliv, Manager Finance	
Vanessa Lock, Revenue Officer	

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Issue 8: Receipting procedures (partial repeat)

Likelihood	Consequence	Systemic issue	Category	Risk assessment
Possible	Low	No	Operational/Reporting	Low

Observation

We have reviewed customer service receipting procedures. Our findings include:

- Customer Service staff have the option to use receipting codes or general ledger accounts for receipting. Receipting codes are three to four letter/number codes with mapping to general ledgers. General ledger accounts are twelve number codes;
- In the event that the computerised receipting system is unavailable, receipts are issued from manual receipt books. However, manual receipts books are not reviewed to ensure that all manual receipts are processed into system;
- We have been advised that cancelled receipts are not independently reviewed as part of end of day closing procedures.

Implications

- Compared with receipting codes, general ledger accounts are longer and more complicated, which increases the risk of human error by selecting incorrect account numbers;
- Without review of manual receipts, receipts may be omitted from the receipting system. Potential misappropriation of Council funds;
- Without independent review of cancelled receipts, unauthorised cancellations may be processed in the receipting system.

Recommendation

- Receipting codes should be used to minimise risk of human error;
- An officer independent of the receipting function should periodically review the manual receipt books ensuring that all manual receipts are accounted for and correctly processed in the receipting system. This review should be evidenced by way of signature;
- As part of the daily end of day close procedures, a cancelled/voided transactions report should be generated for review by an officer independent of the receipting function. This review should be evidenced by way of signature.

Management response

Agree

1. Reviewing all current processes prior to implementation of new finance system. Will include this issue in developing new process for receipting in the new system.
2. Develop a process to review manual receipts each time one is issued. Once entered into Practical, Practical Receipt Number recorded on carbon copy of manual receipt. Monthly process to check receipts issued in Practical.

Person responsible:	Date (to be) actioned:
Hodi Beauliv, Manager Finance	1) 31 January 2021
Annette Fraser, Team Leader Customer Service	2) 31 August 2020

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Issue 9: Mail remittances

Likelihood	Consequence	Systemic issue	Category	Risk assessment
Possible	Low	No	Operational	Low

Observation

During our review of mail remittances, it was observed that only one officer opens the mail. Remittances are then handed over to a second officer for recount and receipting.

Implications

With only one officer opening the mail, there is a risk of cheques being misappropriated or misused.

Recommendation

Two officers should be involved in opening the mail and recording the number and value of mail remittances. Both officers should sign the mail remittance slip confirming to the total number and value of the remittances received.

Management response

Agree

Council only receives on average 6 cheques per week made out to Wentworth Shire Council. Given that cheques are being phased out in Australia this will become even less of an issue.

Due to our small staffing numbers, the cost associated with implementing this process would outweigh the benefits.

Duties are already segmented with cheques being received by our records staff member, presented to a customer service staff member for processing.

Person responsible:	Date (to be) actioned:
No action	Not applicable

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Appendix

Review of matters raised in prior year management letters

The issues in this appendix were raised in previous management letters. For each of these issues, I have determined:

- how management has addressed the issue in the current year
- what management still needs to do to address unresolved issues.

Prior issues raised	Risk assessment	Assessment of action taken	Recommendation
Information technology general controls	— Moderate	Matter has been partially addressed by management	Refer to issue 1
Master-file maintenance	— Moderate	Matter has been partially addressed by management	Refer to issue 2
Excessive annual leave balances	— Moderate	Matter remains unresolved	Refer to issue 3
Improvement opportunities – governance and cyber security	— Moderate	Matter has been partially addressed by management	Refer to issue 6
Account reconciliations	✓ Low	Matter remains unresolved	Refer to issue 7
Review of non-rateable properties	✓ Low	Matter has been addressed by management	Not applicable
Senior staff contract reconciliations	✓ Low	Matter has been addressed by management	Not applicable
Receipting procedures	✓ Low	Matter has been partially addressed by management	Refer to issue 8

8.2 MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION (MDA) DELEGATES REPORT JULY 2020

File Number: RPT/20/429

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.

Recommendation

1. That Council notes the Delegate's Report for July 2020 from the Murray Darling Association.

Detailed Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a summary of the activities for July 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 July 2020.

Attachments

1. MDA Delegates Report - July 2020 [↓](#)

MDA Delegate's Report for tabling at council

July 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 399, MDA reports, CEO's report, region meetings and the latest edition of the Basin Bulletin.

1. MDA Board Meeting 399

The Murray Darling Association held its Ordinary Meeting of the Board Meeting 399 on Monday 15th of June 2020. The minutes are now available [here](#).

Key motions include:

Motion 6.5: That the MDA write to the Basin Official Committee requesting that the Ministerial Council

- a) Ratify the office of the Inspector General
- b) Urge the NSW Government to complete its floodplain harvesting policy and submission of water resource plans immediately
- c) Invite the Basin Ministers to attend and present as a group at the MDA 76TH MDA National Conference

D Thurley / J Campbell

Carried

Outcome: The NSW submitted its nine final Water Resource Plans at the end of June 2020. Read the MDA's statement welcoming the submission of final NSW Water Resource Plans [here](#).

Motion 7.1: That the Board

- a) write to DPIE and support Region 11's call to extend the closing date of the Regional Water Strategy
- c) Seek clarification on relationship and purpose with NSW Water Resource Plans
- c) Seek better consultation overall between DPIE and local government

J Campbell / M Rebbbeck

Carried

Outcome: Following this motion, the MDA met with DPIE and urged the department to revise its Water Stakeholder and Community Engagement Policy to more actively involve and collaborate with communities, as described in the IAP2 Spectrum.

2. 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:

- **Murray-Darling Basin Roundtable**

As previously reported the Murray Darling Association will host the first in a series of Murray Darling Basin Roundtable events, initiated by the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists.

Hosted by the Murray-Darling Association, this iterative event is by invitation-only and will bring together key stakeholders to address immediate and long term challenges of water security and river health in the Basin. The preliminary webinar was held on Wednesday 10th of June.

The Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists describes the event as an opportunity for communities, businesses, and scientists to come together to address these challenges and opportunities.

There are many actions which we believe we might all support that could have widespread benefits. The Roundtable will lay the foundation for a constructive path forward on water reform in the Murray-Darling Basin.

The aim of this roundtable to bring together representatives from across the Basin to work through opportunities for moving forward with water reform which will ensure long term river system health and enhance water security across the Murray-Darling Basin. We seek to:

1. *Reaffirm commitments for a healthy river system with resilient communities, including first nations, and, a prosperous economy in the long term.*
2. *Agree on constructive actions to progress water reform which may also be supported by regional communities, businesses, and governments; and*
3. *Identify important issues that need to be addressed in the future.*

The webinar was lively and constructive with key themes of collaboration, cooperation and opportunity, and an appetite to continue the conversation emerging from the group.

- **Meetings**

E Bradbury and D Thurley met with Federal Water Minister the Hon Keith Pitt. The meeting provided a detailed introduction of the MDA. Emma commended the findings and recommendations of the Inquiry into the management of Murray–Darling Basin water resources by The Interim Inspector-General to the Minister, and invited the Minister to work closely with the MDA and our councils and communities to look beyond the current Basin Plan and ensure robust preparations for the next iteration.

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

3. 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 May – June 2020 period:

Region	Meeting Type	Date	Minutes
Region 6	Ordinary meeting	15 May 2020	Available here
Region 2	Ordinary Meeting	27 May 2020	Available here
Region 5	Ordinary Meeting	1 June 2020	Available here
Region 4	Ordinary Meeting	9 June 2020	Available here
Region 11	AGM & Ordinary Meeting	11 June 2020	Available here
Region 8	Ordinary Meeting	26 June 2020	Available here
Region 9	AGM	26 June 2020	Available soon

4. Basin Bulletin Issue 35 – June Newsletter

The MDA publishes the Basin Bulletin newsletter monthly. This month's newsletter (Issue 35) included the following stories:

- Congratulates the MDA's National President on being awarded the prestigious Order of Australia Medal
- Welcomes the latest Ministerial Council communique
- Provides updates on Basin Communities Leadership Program in the Sunraysia region
- Latest Basin news

Basin Bulletin Issue 35 can be accessed [here](#).

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

8.3 WILLANDRA LAKES REGION WORLD HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT APRIL 2020

File Number: RPT/20/466

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

Cr MacAllister attended a meeting of the Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage Advisory Committee as Councils delegate on 21 and 22 April 2020. The April 2020 report of the Committee is attached.

Recommendation

That the information provided by Cr MacAllister on the activities of the Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage Advisory Committee.

Attachments

1. Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage Advisory Committee Report - April 2020 [u](#)



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Willandra Lakes Region
inscribed on the World
Heritage List in 1981

Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage

Advisory Committee Report April 2020

The Advisory Committee

The key purpose of the Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage Advisory Committee is to provide advice to the NSW Minister for Energy and Environment, the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and the Intergovernmental Management Committee about the protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the World Heritage values of the Willandra Lakes Region.

The agencies responsible for the management of the Willandra Lakes Region are represented on the Intergovernmental Management Committee. These agencies are: NSW NPWS; NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, Crown Lands; and the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and Energy.

The third Advisory Committee meeting was held via videoconference due to COVID-19 restrictions, on 21 and 22 April 2020. The following outcomes are provided as a report to the Willandra Lakes Region community and broader public

New Appointments

The third meeting of the Advisory Committee was chaired by the newly appointed Independent Chair, Mike Williams. Two new appointments to the committee are Cr Jane MacAllister (local government – Wentworth Shire) and Coral Ellis (Ngiyampaa Representative). This was the first full committee meeting since the new governance arrangements were agreed and the committee appointed in November 2018. The.

Work Plan

Three 90-minute videoconference meetings were held over two days. This allowed the Advisory Committee to identify its strategic priorities and develop a Work Plan to November 2021.

Key priorities identified by the Advisory Committee included: the development of a new Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage Strategic Management Plan to replace the current 1996 plan; continued support for the urgent? reburial of the Willandra Ancestral Remains; completion of a research vision and research prospectus with emphasis on co-design, living cultural values, education and biodiversity; and importance of progressing the adaptive re-use of Leaghur Homestead as an on-country shared learning and research centre.

Willandra Ancestral Remains – Update

The Committee was pleased to note the receipt of letters from Minister Kean and Minister Ley, in response to the Advisory Committee's advice that it supported the reburial of the Willandra Ancestral Remains Collection, with each Minister thanking the Committee for its advice.



Willandra Rabbit Control Program

NSW Local Lands Service provided an update on the *National Landcare Program 2* (NLP2) funded Willandra Rabbit Control Program. The Advisory Committee congratulated the Western Local Lands Service on a successful first year of the Willandra Rabbit Control Program that aims to reduce rabbit numbers and grazing pressure across the Willandra Lakes Region. The Advisory Committee noted that reduction in total grazing pressure was a key recommendation of IUCN's 2017 Conservation Outlook Assessment for Willandra.



Leaghur Adaptive Re-use

The Advisory Committee congratulated NSW NPWS for the successful Australian Heritage Grant application for \$400,000 for Stage 1 of the adaptive re-use of Leaghur Homestead as a community, research and teaching centre. The program will be jointly funded by NSW NPWS, the Australian National University and Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and Energy.



Further Information

The Advisory Committee has 18 members including the Independent Chair comprising Traditional Owners, landholders and scientific and technical members appointed by the NSW and Commonwealth Environment Ministers.

For more information contact the Willandra World Heritage Executive Officer at 0417 204 237 or npws.willandalakes@environment.nsw.gov.au

For more information on the Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage Property, go to:

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/parks-reserves-and-protected-areas/types-of-protected-areas/world-heritage-listed-areas/willandra-lakes-region

or

www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/world/willandra

For more information about the Advisory Committee, including membership, go to:

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/parks-reserves-and-protected-areas/types-of-protected-areas/world-heritage-listed-areas/world-heritage-area-advisory-committees

9 REPORTS TO COUNCIL

9.1 GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

File Number: RPT/20/405

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 circular 20-29 to 20-30
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 20-29
 - Schedule 7 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* prescribes three methods of election of mayors:
 - open ballot (eg a show of hands)
 - ordinary ballot, or
 - preferential ballot.
 - Open ballots can be undertaken remotely where a council is conducting its meetings by audio visual link.

- Ordinary and preferential ballots are secret ballots and councillors will need to attend the meeting in person if the election is to be by way of an ordinary or preferential ballot.

1.2 OLG Circular 20-30

- The following documents are now available:
 - Guidelines for the Council Job Retention Allowance Subsidy (JRA Guidelines)
 - Financial Stimulus Eligibility Criteria (Eligibility Criteria) 2020-21; and
 - Financial Stimulus Eligibility Return – 2020-21 (FSER).
- The JRA Guidelines, Eligibility Criteria and FSER provide detailed guidance to assist councils determine their eligibility for the JRA Subsidy for Q1.
- OLG will inform councils of the outcome of its assessment of the FSER.

2. Meetings

Following is a list of meetings or events attended by the General Manager for the period 7 July 2020 – 7 August 2020

Date	Meeting	Location
7 July 2020	Inspection Bridge Closure Sites – NSW Police	George Chaffey & Abbotsford Bridges
7 July 2020	Mayoral Meeting	Wentworth
7 July 2020	Border Commissioner	Webinar
8 July 2020	Dareton Men in the Shed	On site
8 July 2020	Extraordinary LEMC Meeting	Video Conference
13 July 2020	FWJO Mayors & GM Meeting	Video Conference
14 July 2020	Mayoral Meeting	Wentworth
15 July 2020	Ordinary Council Meeting	Buronga
21 July 2020	Mayoral Meeting	Wentworth
21 July 2020	ClubGrants Local Committee meeting	Wentworth
22 July 2020	FWJO Board Meeting	Video Conference
28 July 2020	Internal Audit and Risk Management Committee Meeting	Wentworth
28 July 2020	Mayoral Meeting	Wentworth
3 Aug 2020	Meeting Minister Brad Hazzard	Teleconference
4 Aug 2020	Mayoral Meeting	Wentworth

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
20 Aug 2020	Wentworth Shire	Cr MacAllister &	Video

	Interagency Group meeting	General Manager	Conferencing / Buronga
25 Aug 2020	Regional Emergency Management Meeting	General Manager	Broken Hill
28 Aug 2020	Far West Joint Organisation Tourism Meeting	Mayor and General Manager	Buronga
28 Aug 2020	Far West Joint Organisation Board Meeting	Mayor and General Manager	Buronga
31 Aug 2020	Bottle Bend Reserve Land Manager Meeting	Cr MacAllister	Buronga
8 Sept 2020	MDA Region 4 AGM and Ordinary Meeting	Cr MacAllister, Cr Heywood & Cr Elstone	Buronga

4. Other items of note

Nil

Attachments

1. OLG Circular 20-29[↓](#)
2. OLG Circular 20-30[↓](#)



Office of
Local Government

Circular to Councils

Circular Details	20-29 / 4 August 2020 / A713425
Previous Circular	20-25 <i>The date of the next ordinary local government elections is 4 September 2021</i> 20-28 <i>Rules on attendance at council and committee meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic as of 1 July 2020</i>
Who should read this	Councillors / General Managers / Governance staff
Contact	Council Governance Team/ 02 4428 4100/ olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
Action required	Council to Implement

September 2020 mayoral elections

What's new or changing

- Councils that elected mayors in September 2018 must have mayoral elections in September 2020 when the 2-year term of the current mayor expires. The mayor elected in September 2020 will hold their office until ordinary elections are held on 4 September 2021.
- Councils must also hold an election for deputy mayor if the deputy mayor's term has expired and county councils must elect a chairperson.

What this will mean for your council

- Schedule 7 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* prescribes three methods of election of mayors:
 - open ballot (eg a show of hands)
 - ordinary ballot, or
 - preferential ballot.
- Open ballots can be undertaken remotely where a council is conducting its meetings by audio visual link.
- Ordinary and preferential ballots are secret ballots and councillors will need to attend the meeting in person if the election is to be by way of an ordinary or preferential ballot.

Key points

- In deciding which method to use for the mayoral election, councils should consider the personal circumstances of their councillors to ensure that all councillors can participate in the mayoral election.
- Councillors may attend council meetings in person under the *Public Health (COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement) Order (No 4) 2020* for the purposes of participating in a mayoral election and staff may attend for the purposes of conducting the election.
- Councils should observe appropriate social distancing when conducting mayoral elections and take any other steps necessary to minimise the risk of infection by the COVID-19 virus and to ensure the health and safety of all attendees.

Office of Local Government
5 O'Keefe Avenue NOWRA NSW 2541
Locked Bag 3015 NOWRA NSW 2541
T 02 4428 4100 F 02 4428 4199 TTY 02 4428 4209
E olg@olg.nsw.gov.au W www.olg.nsw.gov.au ABN 20 770 707 468

Where to go for further information

- The Office of Local Government has issued a fact sheet on conducting mayoral elections which is available at <https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/councils/councillors/mayoral-elections/>.
- For further information please contact the Council Governance Team on 02 4428 4100 or by email at olg@olg.nsw.gov.au.



Tim Hurst
Deputy Secretary
Local Government, Planning and Policy

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Office of
Local Government

Circular to Councils

Circular Details	20-30 / 05 August 2020 / A713952
Previous Circular	20-16
Who should read this	General Managers and Responsible Accounting Officer
Contact	Performance Team and Council Engagement Team / 02 4428 4100 / olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
Action required	Information / Council to Implement

COVID-19 Economic Stimulus Package – 2020-21

What's new or changing

- The Office of Local Government (OLG) has released updated resources that will assist councils to apply for the *Council Job Retention Allowance Subsidy* for the first quarter 2020-21 (Q1), a key element of the COVID-19 Economic Stimulus Package.

What this will mean for your council

- The following documents are now available:
 - Guidelines for the Council Job Retention Allowance Subsidy (JRA Guidelines)
 - Financial Stimulus Eligibility Criteria (Eligibility Criteria) 2020-21; and
 - Financial Stimulus Eligibility Return – 2020-21 (FSER).
- The JRA Guidelines, Eligibility Criteria and FSER provide detailed guidance to assist councils determine their eligibility for the JRA Subsidy for Q1.
- Councils are encouraged to submit the FSER to access the JRA Subsidy.
- OLG will inform councils of the outcome of its assessment of the FSER.

Key points

- All councils should have submitted their funding agreement to benefit from the Stimulus Package.
- The JRA Guidelines, Eligibility Criteria and FSER are available for download from the COVID-19 page on OLG's website and the Council Portal page.
- A council's FSER will be its application for the JRA Subsidy.
- The FSER should be completed and emailed to FSER@olg.nsw.gov.au by 14 August 2020. Late submissions will be considered but may delay payment of the JRA Subsidy.
- Councils who do not wish to access the JRA do not need to submit a FSER.

Where to go for further information

- Councils should contact OLG's Performance Team about the Eligibility Criteria and the FSER, and their Council Engagement Manager about the Stimulus Package or in relation to other COVID-19 matters.

Tim Hurst
Deputy Secretary
Local Government, Planning and Policy

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9.2 CALL FOR MOTIONS LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW ANNUAL CONFERENCE

File Number: RPT/20/409

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

At the 19 February 2020 meeting Council endorsed the Mayor and General Manager to represent Council at the Local Government NSW Annual Conference. The conference dates have been changed and it will now occur 22 to 24 November 2020. A call for motions closes 28 September 2020.

Recommendation

That Council nominate motions to be put forward for the Local Government NSW Annual Conference.

Detailed Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the opportunity to put forward motions to the Local Government NSW Annual Conference.

Background

The Local Government NSW Annual Conference is attended by almost all Local Government Councils in NSW. It is an opportunity for Councils to network, speak with Ministers and promote our local Council.

Report Detail

Proposed motions for the conference should be strategic, affect members statewide and introduce new or emerging policy issues and actions. When submitting motions, members are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the existing principles and positions of LGNSW on issues of importance to the sector, as members will be asked to identify if their motion is seeking a change to LGNSW's existing Policy position.

Conclusion

Council consider motions to be put forward to the Local Government NSW Annual Conference taking into consideration the advice provided by LGNSW.

Attachments

Nil

9.3 DPIE ASSESSMENT OF TAKE AND PROTECTION DURING FIRST FLUSH FLOWS IN THE NORTHERN BASIN REPORT

File Number: RPT/20/438

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

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment has released their *Assessment of take and protection during first flush flows in the Northern Basin* report. (attached)

In January and February 2020, the NSW Northern Murray Darling Basin received significant rainfall and inflows, following an extended dry period. These flows were protected from take by section 324 restrictions under the *Water Management Act 2000*, to meet critical human and environmental needs in the northern valleys and the Lower Darling.

Council has also received a related request from Maryanne Slattery of Slattery & Johnson who specialise in water policy and management in the Murray-Darling Basin. This request asks for a financial contribution toward the proposed Floodplain Harvesting Project (attached).

Slattery & Johnson have been engaged by Southern Riverina Irrigators to map and estimate on-farm storages in Northern NSW.

Recommendation

That Council notes the *Assessment of take and protection during first flush flows in the Northern Basin* report.

That Council considers the Floodplain Harvesting Project Proposal from Slattery and Johnson determines a financial contribution to the project.

Detailed Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide information regarding the Assessment of take and protection during first flush flows in the Northern Basin report and how the assessment was completed.

Background

In January and February 2020, the NSW Northern Murray Darling Basin received significant rainfall and inflows, following an extended dry period. These flows were protected from take by section 324 restrictions under the *Water Management Act 2000*, to meet critical human and environmental needs in the northern valleys and the Lower Darling.

Report Detail

The Department used remote sensing technology (satellite imagery) to estimate the volumes of water captured in on-farm storages across the Northern Basin. The department's report provides analyses which enable the volumes of water taken to be compared to the take that

could have occurred without restrictions. Some of the keys takeaways of the report are outlined below.

The key flows and volumes that quantify the impact of take on the first flush are:

- A substantial portion of the inflows were protected from extraction and either replenished northern valley systems or passed through to the Barwon-Darling River. During February 422,000 ML flowed into the regulated tributaries, of which only 31,000 ML (7%) was NSW take and 165,000 ML (39%) flowed to the Barwon-Darling River.
- An estimated increase in stored water of approximately 270,000 ML from early February to April.
- If the restrictions weren't in place and the standard water sharing plan arrangements were followed, an additional 100,000 ML of supplementary water could have been accessed.
- An estimated increase in stored water of approximately 30,000 ML from early to mid-February when temporary exemptions applied.

Slattery & Johnson have been engaged by Southern Riverina Irrigators to map and estimate on-farm storages in Northern NSW. They are seeking a financial contribution from local councils and community groups for work in addition to the mapping being:

- a background and summary of NSW floodplain harvesting policy and implementation,
- a review of research and reports related to floodplain harvesting,
- maps of on-farm storages,
- an estimate of the volume of on-farm storages, and
- estimates of water taken by floodplain harvesting and other take from floodplains.

This project will provide an alternate source of information to help communities scrutinise the process. It will help build understanding among communities and organisations about floodplain harvesting, how the NSW government intends to implement the policy, and how floodplain harvesting will be treated in relation to the Sustainable Diversion Limit. The project proposal is attached.

Conclusion

Council considers the *Assessment of take and protection during first flush flows in the Northern Basin* report content and also the information in the Floodplain Harvesting Project proposal from Slattery & Johnson.

Attachments

1. DPIE Report - Assessment of take and protection during flood first flush flows in the Northern Basin [↗](#)
2. Floodplain Harvesting Project Proposal from Slattery & Johnson [↗](#)
3. Email from Slattery & Johnson [↗](#)



Assessment of take and protection during first flush flows in the Northern Basin

A satellite imagery derived assessment of take and water protected in the Northern Basin first flush flows of February 2020.

July 2020



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Published by NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

dpie.nsw.gov.au

Title: Assessment of take and protection during first flush flows in the Northern Basin

Subtitle: A satellite imagery derived assessment of take and water protected in the Northern Basin first flush flows of February 2020

First published: July 2020

Department reference number: PUB20/730

More information

Danielle Baker/DPIE Water/Water Analytics

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Executive Summary

In late January and throughout February 2020 the New South Wales (NSW) Northern Murray Darling Basin received significant rainfall and inflows, following an extended dry period. These flows were protected from take by s 324 restrictions under the *Water Management Act 2000* to meet critical needs in the northern valleys and to provide an initial target volume of 60,000–70,000 megalitres (ML) at the Menindee Lakes. Restrictions were permanently lifted in the northern valleys by 23 February when this target was assured of being met.

Rainfall and inflows continued beyond what was anticipated, and accordingly in early March the Menindee Lakes target was increased to 200,000 ML to provide a 12-18 month drought reserve for the Lower Darling. When it was clear that this target would be met, restrictions along the Barwon-Darling were progressively lifted.

This report provides the methods and results of three analyses:

- An analysis of water in large on-farm storages using a combination of satellite and aerial survey data and analysis, by a method known as remote sensing. Water in storages may be from active or passive floodplain harvesting, taken from rivers or groundwater and pumped to storage, or from direct rainfall, and on-farm run-off/tailwater capture.
- A water balance that quantifies the inflow to the regulated river systems from catchment run-off (after harvesting) and the take from these flows. The water balance also establishes the volume of water replenishing the natural river environment and the outflows to downstream rivers.
- Comparison of measured supplementary take against the potential supplementary take under standard water sharing plan arrangements.

These analyses combined enable the volumes of water taken to be compared to the take that could have occurred without restrictions. This comparison shows that the restrictions helped protect the first flush flows.

This is a first step in analysing and evaluating the protected first flush flows. This hydrologic assessment characterises the management of the first flush under the Extreme Events Policy (DPI, 2018) as successful, protecting a substantial volume of water critical for achieving public health and environmental outcomes.

Beyond this, future metering, measurement and telemetry will improve how we quantify unregulated and floodplain take, and how we quantify and enforce the protections and the outcomes they deliver.

Key flows and volumes

The key figures that quantify the impact of take on the first flush are:

- A substantial portion of the inflows were protected from extraction and either replenished northern valley systems or passed through to the Barwon-Darling River. During February 422,000 ML flowed into the regulated tributaries, of which only 31,000 ML (7%) was NSW take and 165,000 ML (39%) flowed to the Barwon-Darling River.
- An estimated increase in stored water of approximately 270,000 ML from early February to April.
- If the restrictions weren't in place and the standard water sharing plan arrangements were followed, an additional 100,000 ML of supplementary water could have been accessed.
- An estimated increase in stored water of approximately 30,000 ML from early to mid-February when temporary exemptions applied.

Assessment of take and protection during first flush flows in the Northern Basin

Key findings

The key findings of this assessment are that:

- While remote sensing is a valuable way of capturing data, it has limits as a means of measuring take. There is inherent uncertainty and scientific error in the methods and analysis which limit its use.
- We can characterise the available water and the use of this water to inform managing first flush flows. However, we can't do this with high accuracy or in close to real time until metering, measurement and telemetry are in place.
- We cannot fully quantify the benefits of the restrictions against a scenario without restrictions using the methods in this report.
- Lessons from this assessment will inform the methods for future assessment, as well as future management of flows for critical needs.

Assessment of take and protection during first flush flows in the Northern Basin

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Introduction

From late-January to late-February 2020, substantial rain fell, and rivers flowed in the New South Wales (NSW) Northern Murray Darling Basin. This followed record drought conditions, and severe water shortages for people, animals and the environment. The NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (the Department) restricted water take from rivers and overland flows, under section s324 orders¹ to meet critical human and environmental water needs. These restrictions allowed for the northern tributaries and the Barwon-Darling River to recommence flowing and connect.

The following three temporary water restrictions orders were part of the Northern Basin restrictions:

1. Order prohibiting the take of water by general river pumpers in all the northern valleys and the Barwon-Darling – from 17 January to 31 January, extended to 17 February and then extended again to 28 February;
2. Order prohibiting the take of water from eight designated floodplains in the Gwydir, Namoi (Upper Namoi floodplain, Narrabri-Wee Waa floodplain and the Lower Namoi floodplain), Macquarie (Narromine to Oxley floodplain) and Barwon-Darling Valleys from 7 February, and the Macintyre and the Lower Macquarie from 12 February until 28 February 2020
3. Order prohibiting the take of water by Barwon-Darling river pumpers below Culgoa and from the Barwon-Darling floodplain – from 29 February to 17 April.

The orders allowed for responsive management, that is, for certain limited take to be approved during the period of the orders, and for the progressive lifting of restrictions as sufficient flows passed from upstream areas.

Once it was predicted that flow targets would be met, all restrictions were effectively lifted in the northern valleys and the northern floodplains by 23 February. All restrictions in the Barwon-Darling River above Culgoa were lifted on 27 February and below Culgoa on 6 March, and the Barwon-Darling floodplain by 31 March.

Data from satellite imagery and aerial survey, or remote sensing, was used to estimate the volumes of water taken during the first flush flows. Active and passive water take was estimated based on changes in the presence and surface area of water in large on-farm storages. These are dams primarily used to store floodplain harvesting and unregulated water take, as well as regulated and groundwater take, including supplementary access water. The report includes a February and a February to April water balance for the Northern Basin. This includes an estimation of the regulated river system inflows, as well as licenced take, system replenishments and other losses, and outflows to the Barwon-Darling River. For February, the actual measured take under supplementary access is compared to the potential supplementary take under standard water sharing plan rules. That is, it is compared to the potential take if the s 324 restriction was not in place.

¹ In accordance with the *Water Management Act 2000*

Assessment of take and protection during first flush flows in the Northern Basin

This report presents the:

- timeline of the rain, hydrology, restrictions and supplementary access for the first flush
- characteristics of large on-farm storages in the Northern Basin
- remote sensing method and resulting volumes for active and passive take in large on-farm storages during the first flush
- water balance method and the volumes of water flowing in and out of rivers, and available for system replenishment in rivers
- impact of take on the first flush, and the next steps in monitoring, measurement and management.

This assessment aims to:

- measure take, including passive take, using remote sensing
- characterise available water and use for transparency
- learn lessons to inform future assessment methods, and management to achieve critical public health, environmental and equitable water sharing outcomes.

Background

Regulated rivers and floodplain locations

The major regulated tributaries of the unregulated Barwon-Darling River in the NSW Northern Basin that are presented in this report are the:

- Border Rivers (NSW)
- Gwydir River
- Namoi River (Upper and Lower)
- Macquarie River.

Assessment of take and protection during first flush flows in the Northern Basin

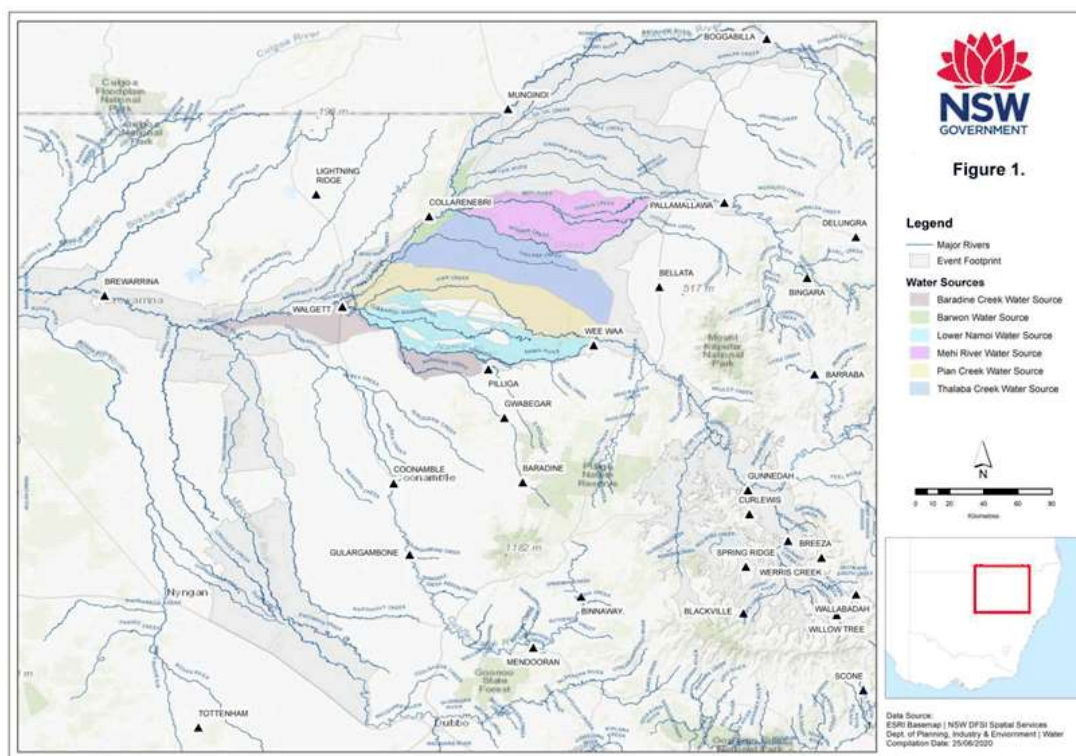


Figure 1: Floodplain locations where restrictions and temporary exemptions were applied

Assessment of take and protection during first flush flows in the Northern Basin

Timeline

During this event rains created flows that restarted and connected the northern tributaries with the Barwon-Darling River. Section 324 orders were made restricting take in the northern and Barwon-Darling rivers and floodplains, with some limited exemptions. Heavy local rain and flooding threatened infrastructure and restrictions were temporarily lifted for four days in some floodplains. By 21 February, the initial target flows of 60,000-70,000 ML were forecast to reach the Menindee Lakes and restrictions began to be permanently lifted in the northern valleys. Some supplementary access was also permitted. The restriction in the Barwon-Darling upstream of Culgoa was lifted on 27 February.

With further substantial rain and inflows from Queensland (QLD), the Barwon-Darling River and the Macquarie River, the volume forecast to reach the Menindee Lakes increased and further supplementary access was announced. The volume forecast to reach the Menindee Lakes became 205,000 – 220,000 ML, meeting the revised target of 200,000 ML and river pumping restrictions in the Barwon-Darling River downstream of Culgoa were lifted on 6 March. By the end of March, the last remaining restriction – the Barwon-Darling floodplain access – was lifted.

From 10 March, the Barwon-Darling River was flowing along its full length from Mungindi on the border, into the Menindee Lakes. Thousands of kilometres of rivers flowed for the first time in many months. Substantial additional rain fell in late-March and April, creating flows in the Marthaguy creek, Castlereagh, Macquarie and Bogan Rivers, and subsequent flows of 480,000 ML at Brewarrina. This was followed by May rainfall of 40-50 mm across central NSW. By the end of June, the Menindee Lakes had received more than 583,000 ML of total inflows, Table 1.

Assessment of take and protection during first flush flows in the Northern Basin

Table 1: Timeline of rain, hydrology, restrictions and supplementary access

Date	Rain and hydrology	Restrictions ² and Supplementary access ³
17 January	Northern Basin rain predicted	Section 324 order restricting river take in the northern valleys and Barwon-Darling
26 January -7 February	High rainfall in specific areas	Approval to pump (exemption to s 324) provided in Quirindi Creek and Mooki River unregulated rivers and Peel River high security for specified periods
7 February		Section 324 order restricting floodplain harvesting take in the Barwon-Darling, Gwydir, Macquarie (Narromine to Oxley Station) and the Upper, Mid (Narrabri to Wee Waa) and Lower Namoi floodplains
8-9 February	Heavy local rain 150 – 200 mm and flooding Lower Gwydir and Namoi floodplains	Approval to pump (temporary exemptions to s 324) for unregulated river users in some sections of the Namoi Valley and the Lower Gwydir Valley (between 8 and 17 February), and approval to take on parts of the Gwydir floodplain (between 9 and 12 February)
10-13 February		Approval to take (temporary exemptions to s 324) extended in the Gwydir floodplain and also applied to parts of the Barwon-Darling and Lower Namoi floodplains (covering Pian Creek, Lower Namoi, Baradine Creek, Mehi River, Barwon River between Collarenebri and Walgett and Thalaba Creek)
12 February	10,000 – 30,000 ML forecast to reach Menindee with restrictions	Section 324 order restricting floodplain harvesting take in the Lower Macintyre, Whalan Creek, Boomi River, and Lower Macquarie floodplains
14 to 16 February		Supplementary access permitted in parts of the Gwydir water source
18-19 February	Rain 25 – 75 mm Northern Basin	

² Temporary water restrictions can be found here <https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/temporary-water-restrictions>

³ Supplementary access announcements can be found here <https://www.water.nsw.gov.au/supply/regional-nsw/supplementary>

Assessment of take and protection during first flush flows in the Northern Basin

Date	Rain and hydrology	Restrictions ² and Supplementary access ³
20 February	60,000 – 80,000 ML forecast to reach Menindee without further restrictions (60,000 – 70,000 target predicted to be met)	Supplementary access permitted in parts of the Macquarie regulated river for 2-3 days
21 -23 February		Section 324 permanently lifted for all northern unregulated rivers and floodplains, but not for the Barwon-Darling River or floodplain
22-23 February	QLD rain 200 mm	
25-26 February	Rain and inflows in QLD, the Barwon-Darling River, and the Macquarie River. 150,000 – 170,000 ML forecast to reach Menindee	Suspension of general security account water lifted so that general security users in the Border Rivers, Upper and Lower Namoi water sources could access limited volumes in suspended carryover accounts from run of the river flows Supplementary access permitted in parts of the Border Rivers, Gwydir, Peel and Lower Namoi catchments for specified number of days
27 February		Section 324 permanently lifted for the Barwon-Darling River water source above Culgoa.
2 March	170,000 – 200,000 ML forecast to reach Menindee	
4 March	New 200,000 ML target set	
6 March	205,000 – 250,000 ML forecast to reach Menindee without further restrictions in the Barwon-Darling above Culgoa (200,000 ML target predicted to be met)	Section 324 permanently lifted for the Barwon-Darling River water source below Culgoa
10 March	Barwon-Darling River was flowing along its full length from Mungindi on the QLD border, into the Menindee Lakes	Various supplementary access during March in parts of Gwydir, Peel and Namoi for specified number of days

Assessment of take and protection during first flush flows in the Northern Basin

Date	Rain and hydrology	Restrictions ² and Supplementary access ³
31 March	Substantial additional rain fell in central NSW, generating a Barwon-Darling River flow of 480,000 ML at Brewarrina	Section 324 lifted for the Barwon-Darling floodplain Various supplementary access during April in parts of Peel, Macquarie, Border Rivers, Gwydir and Namoi
April		Various supplementary access during April in parts of Peel, Macquarie, Border Rivers, Gwydir and Namoi
May	40 – 50 mm rain across central NSW	
Late-June	Menindee Lakes had received more than 583,000 ML of total inflows	

Assessment of take and protection during first flush flows in the Northern Basin

Large on-farm storage characteristics

There are 1,424 large on-farm storages in the Northern Basin floodplains of the Border Rivers, Gwydir, Namoi, Macquarie and Barwon-Darling valleys. We expect that 1074 (1035 with LIDAR storage curve + 39 without) of these storages will be used to store water taken under a floodplain harvesting access licence. These storages can hold a maximum of approximately 1,292,000 ML, but the volume of floodplain take allowed by these storages is governed by Water Sharing Plans, Table 2. The smallest storage we assessed has a surface area of 3,800 m² and is in the Macquarie valley, while the average surface area of storages in the Northern Basin is 540,000 m².

Table 2: Northern Basin storages used for floodplain harvesting

Floodplain valley ⁴	Storages-with LiDAR curves (number)	Storages-without LiDAR curves (number)	Average volume-storages (ML)	Volume-storages (ML)
Border Rivers	108	2	1,600	175,100
Gwydir	318	1	1,600	498,000
Namoi	376	34	800	301,900
Macquarie	144	2	900	126,500
Barwon Darling	89	0	2,300	205,000
Total	1035	39	-	1,292,000

Staff from the Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) rapidly assessed these and other storage locations in the Northern Basin, for notable changes in water surface areas. They developed a shortlist of 250 storages for further investigation. The method is described in the Appendix-Rapid assessment of storage surface area change.

Remote sensing of take method

We assessed whether water was taken from February to April by using remote sensing to determine if and how much water was present in storages in the areas of interest:

- late-January to early-February (23rd-2nd)
 - pre-first flush
- mid-February (circa 18th)
 - during the first flush and following the temporary exemptions
- late-April (circa 27th)
 - post-first flush and when restrictions had been lifted.

If water was taken during these periods, we would expect to see this as an increase in water surface area, and hence volume, in these dams.

⁴ These figures are the best available at June 2020.

Assessment of take and protection during first flush flows in the Northern Basin

To estimate a wet surface area, analysts used cloud-free Sentinel-2 satellite imagery at 10m resolution with a 5-day return interval.

The wet surface areas of storages were calculated and translated into a volume estimate using a validated storage capacity curve. The storage capacity curves were derived from aerial survey (LiDAR) data previously captured during 2016. The curve, Figure 2, matches observed water surface height in accordance with the Australian Height Datum (AHD), to surface area (m²) and volume (ML). In this way, a measured wet surface area is turned into a stored volume of water for each storage.

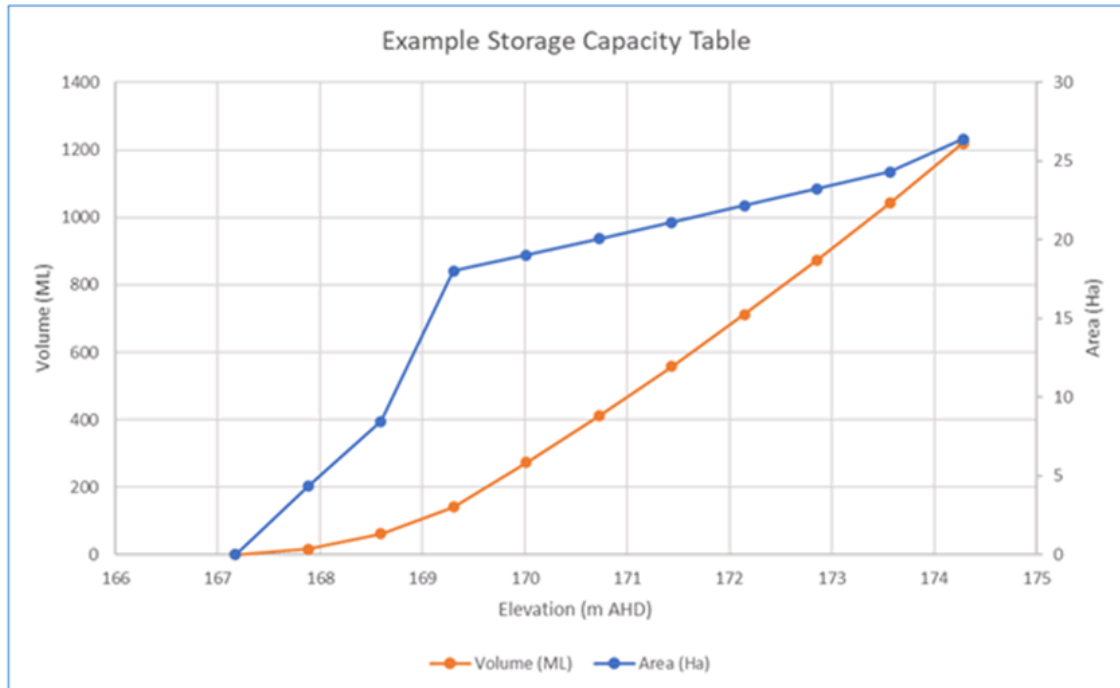


Figure 2: Example Storage Capacity Curve

There are assumptions, limits and uncertainty in this approach:

- The stored volumes are derived from remote sensing information, rather than directly measured. They are estimates only.
- Data derived from satellite imagery is scientifically uncertain and has limits due to image resolution or pixel size, and the image availability or the return interval.
- Our quality assurance indicates a possible error of 5% of Full Supply Volume (FSV) at the upper reaches of the volume estimation curve, and higher errors at lower storage levels. This known error has been factored into our calculations, and data has been presented with upper and lower bounds where volumes are estimated.

Details of how the wet surface area was calculated for the storages and the translation of these surface areas to an equivalent volume is provided in Appendix-Storage volumes limitations and uncertainty.

Assessment of take and protection during first flush flows in the Northern Basin

Remote sensed volume results

We used storages observed in cloud free imagery in the areas of interest as the basis for volume estimates. The total number of on-farm storages, and the number and proportion of these visible in cloud free imagery are summarised in Table 3.

Table 3: Number of visible storages in the area of interest

Location	Number visible pre-first flush	Number visible during-first flush	Number visible post-first flush ⁵
Border Rivers	26	45	79
Gwydir	56	132	205
Upper Namoi	51	40	97
Lower Namoi	154	232	207
Barwon-Darling	3	9	65
Macquarie	5	Not available ⁶	94

The Sentinel volume estimates and confidence ranges for storages in each of these areas is presented in Table 4.

⁵ In all cases only storages that were visible, had an available storage curve and had an observed wet surface area were included in the count

⁶ During-first flush the storages in the Macquarie were not visible due to cloud cover

Assessment of take and protection during first flush flows in the Northern Basin

Table 4: Sentinel estimates and ranges of volumes held in storages

Floodplain	Sentinel volume estimates and ranges ⁷ (ML)			
	Pre-first flush ⁸ (ML)	During-first flush and temporary exemptions (ML)	Volume increase pre to during-first flush (ML)	Post-first flush and restrictions lifted (ML)
Border Rivers	2,800 (1,800-4,000)	2,700 ⁹ (2,000 –3,500)	-100	36408 (24,500-46,700)
Gwydir	9,200 (5,400-13,200)	24,900 (16,700-34,000)	+15,700	85946 (52,300-118,000)
Upper Namoi	3,900 (2,000-6,400)	7,100 (4,700-9,200)	+3,200	15098 (8,900-21,900)
Lower Namoi	13,100 (8,500-17,300) ¹⁰	32,900 (22,600 – 41,000)	+19,800	65091 (44,500-78,300)
Barwon Darling ¹¹	<100	400 ¹²	+300	126,100 (89,100-149,600)
Macquarie	Assessed using Planet	Refer to Table 6	-	-
Total	29,100	68,000	+38,800	328,700

Quality assurance and refinement

We completed a quality assurance process to ensure that the data used was of an appropriate quality. To do so, we obtained a sample of 139 storages in which the satellite images indicated the presence of 50% or greater storage surface area.

Analysts then used Planet satellite imagery at a finer 3m resolution with a daily capture interval, to estimate water surface areas and re-calculate the volumes for the sample storages for the pre and mid-first flush time periods. A comparison of the two sets of volume results is presented in Table 5. At the finer resolution, we typically observed a reduction in wet area and therefore volume. This appears to be due to the finer image resolution, that is, 3m rather than 10m.

⁷ A range is indicated $\pm 20\%$ of Full Supply Volume (FSV), up to FSV or down to 5% FSV, to account for some of the limitations in satellite observations and volume capacity curve calculations.

⁸ Date of image acquisition varies across floodplains due to cloud cover.

⁹ Mid-February observations were constrained for the Border Rivers flood plain at the time of the initial assessment due to cloud cover.

¹⁰ The Lower Namoi was analysed as having 2,700 (1500 - 3800) ML stored on the 23 January.

¹¹ All storages within Barwon Darling floodplain were estimated/observed to hold volume within the storage borrow pit only, therefore no error bands have been calculated or indicated.

¹² The Barwon Darling floodplain was analysed as having 200 ML stored on 10 February.

Assessment of take and protection during first flush flows in the Northern Basin

Table 5: Comparison of Planet and Sentinel volume estimates

Floodplain Valley	Planet volume estimates (ML)	Sentinel volume estimates (ML)	Difference (ML)
Border Rivers			
Pre-first flush	900	800	-100
Mid-first flush	1,300	1,300	0
Gwydir			
Pre-first flush	3,100	4,000	900
Mid-first flush	5,700	12,300	-6,600
Namoi			
Pre-first flush	7,900	12,700	-4,800
Mid-first flush	30,200	37,000	-6,800
Total	49,200	68,200	-19,000

Accordingly, we applied the measured reduction to the results generated with the Sentinel imagery at the coarser scale to modify the floodplain wide estimates. A scaling factor was calculated and applied to the Sentinel wet areas and the storage volumes recalculated. Table 6 shows the recalculated volumes in each of the areas of interest.

Assessment of take and protection during first flush flows in the Northern Basin

Table 6: Scaled estimated total volume for combined storages

Floodplain	Estimated total volume and range for combined storages (ML)			
	Pre-first flush (ML)	During-first flush and temporary exemptions (ML)	Volume increase pre to during-first flush (ML)	Post-first flush and restrictions lifted (ML)
Border Rivers	2,200	Cloud affected ¹³ (2,200)	Not available	26,900
Gwydir	6,800	18,700	+11,900	63,300
Upper Namoi	3,100	5,200	+2,100	11,100
Lower Namoi	9,800	24,500	+14,700	47,400
Barwon Darling	100	400	+300	94,400
Macquarie	900	Cloud affected ¹⁴	Not available	48,600
Total	22,900	51,000	+29,000	291,700

¹³ Mid-February observations were constrained for the Border Rivers flood plain at the time of the initial assessment due to cloud cover, and originally estimated at 2200 ML. Subsequent analysis of curated satellite imagery indicates that the Border Rivers storages may have held as much as 8,200 ML in mid-February (pre-first flush 2200+1100=3,300 ML and during-first flush 2,200+6000=8,200 ML).

¹⁴ Cloud free images were not available over the Macquarie flood plain during the period 12-19 February; therefore, an assessment of surface area or volume was not possible.

Water Balance

To provide some context to the first flush flows, we completed a water balance for the NSW Northern Basin regulated river tributaries. This was based on the following calculation:

[A] Outflows = [B] Total System inflows - [C] System Replenishment - [D] Take

Where:

- **[A] Outflows** = volume estimated to exit the contributing catchment and flow into the Barwon-Darling River
- **[B] Total system inflows** = Northern Basin tributaries inflows including gauged inflows and estimates of ungauged inflows downstream of the major headwater regulating storages¹⁵
- **[C] System replenishment** = system losses including flows to major environmental assets including wetlands, losses to dry riverbeds, underlying aquifers, evapotranspiration, and flow in transit that has not left the river in the defined accounting period. The item also includes use associated with held environmental water access licences and basic landholder rights
- **[D] Licensed Take** = metered regulated river take (including all licenced take for supplementary, high security, general security, local water utility and domestic and stock licences).

Systems replenishment [C] is the balancing item in the water balance. That means it is calculated, not measured. Only inflow entering each regulated river system from catchment run-off, flow exiting each river system, and licenced take is measured. Floodplain harvesting take from catchment run-off prior to the water entering the regulated system is not considered in the balance, but by nature, would reduce inflows.

Total inflows and outflows for the Barwon-Darling River to Wilcannia, including contributions from the tributaries is provided; however, a full water balance is not presented as metering data is not yet available to quantify the licensed take.

The water balance does not consider flow travel times, and some of the February flows from the Border and Namoi Rivers to the Barwon-Darling River were still in transit in these rivers during February. This shows as a higher system replenishment volume for February when compared with the February to April analysis for these water sources. The lag in the geographically large Northern Basin is substantial, with many weeks of travel time in the Barwon-Darling River between Mungindi and Wilcannia.

Table 7 summarises the results of the water balance, including volumes of water flowing in and out of rivers, and available for system replenishment in rivers as a percentage of inflows. These results are detailed in the appendices section of this report.

¹⁵ Significant replenishments to the major storages was also observed during the event with a net increase of 367,000 ML captured to meet future demands (including Glenlyon Dam which is shared with QLD). Releases from storage are allowed for in the water balance (as an inflow) however these were minimal relative to downstream tributary inflows.

Assessment of take and protection during first flush flows in the Northern Basin

Table 7: Inflows, take and water remaining in the northern regulated river systems and contributions to the Barwon-Darling

Water Source	Inflows (ML) ¹⁶	Licensed take (ML) ¹⁷	System replenishment (ML)	Outflows (ML)
Border Rivers February	164,000	8,800 (5%) QLD 27,200 (17%) ¹⁸	77,600 (47%)	50,100 (31%)
Border Rivers Total February-April	200,800	9,900 (5%) QLD 27,200 (14%)	71,100 (35%)	92,500 (46%)
Gwydir February	60,000	5,200 (9%)	16,700 (28%)	38,000 (63%)
Gwydir Total February-April	100,800	17,900 (18%)	30,700 (30%)	52,200 (52%)
Namoi February	122,000	3,700 (3%)	42,300 (35%)	76,100 (62%)
Namoi Total February-April	132,800	10,900 (8%)	26,000 (19%)	96,100 (72%)
Macquarie February	76,000	13,100 (17%)	62,300 (82%)	600 (1%)

¹⁶ Estimated total inflow to the regulated river systems downstream of major storages, 1 to 29 February and 1 February to 28 April for total.

¹⁷ Provides take volumes from the rivers including supplementary water take. Held environmental water usage was 3,700 ML in Gwydir and 4,600 ML in the Macquarie and is included in the system replenishments. The water balance excludes floodplain harvesting activities. That is, any water that was captured on-farm or on the floodplain and did not flow into a river.

¹⁸ Provisional estimate of QLD take for the period 14 to 24 February 2020 supplied by QLD government. No further QLD take volumes are provided.

Assessment of take and protection during first flush flows in the Northern Basin

Water Source	Inflows (ML) ¹⁶	Licensed take (ML) ¹⁷	System replenishment (ML)	Outflows (ML)
Macquarie ¹⁹	235,100	30,800 (13%)	187,800 (80%)	16,500 (7%)
Total February-April				(Bogan²⁰ 41,000) (Marthaguy²¹ 90,000)
Barwon-Darling Total	876,900²² Barwon-Darling inflow from regulated outflows 257,300 Barwon-Darling inflow from other unregulated water sources 619,600	Not available²³	Not available	496,400 (57%)²⁴

Impact of take on the first flush

Stored water

At the start of February, the large on-farm storages held an estimated 23,000 ML, by mid-February 51,000 ML and by the end of April 292,000 ML. We therefore estimate an increase in stored water of approximately 270,000 ML from February to April 2020. This includes an estimated 30,000 ML by mid-February, during which there were four days when restrictions on floodplain harvesting were lifted in specified areas.

Stored water includes floodplain harvesting as well as water actively taken under several different water licence classes including unregulated, supplementary and groundwater and water taken under a basic landholder right. The stored water can also include passive floodplain take i.e. water

¹⁹ Inflows and direct outflows to the Barwon Darling are for the regulated river downstream of Burrendong Dam. The system replenishments presented for the regulated balance are inclusive of flows in Gunningbar Creek (8,000 ML) and Duck Creek (6,000 ML) which connect to the unregulated Bogan River system.

²⁰ Bogan River cumulative flows recorded at Gongolgon 421023.

²¹ Marthaguy Creek cumulative flows recorded at Carinda 421011.

²² Barwon-Darling River inflow estimate includes the outflows from the regulated Border Rivers, Gwydir, Namoi, and Macquarie Rivers together with an estimate of the contribution from all other unregulated inflow sources such as the Culgoa, Moonie, Castlereagh and Bogan Rivers. An estimate for loss processes and extraction was included which will be refined when further information on extraction volumes is available. The minimum volume inflow volume determined allowing for no loss or extraction was 671,000 ML.

²³ The final extraction volumes for the Barwon-Darling were not available at time of publication, due to A class extractions continuing, and the timing of meter reads being scheduled for the end of the water year. The preliminary extraction volume is 230,000 ML. This table will be updated and republished when the final information is available.

²⁴ Barwon Darling River water balance outflows at Wilcannia Main Channel 425008.

entering gravity fed storages that cannot be restricted by a pump, pipe or regulator and rainfall run-off collected in tailwater drains.

It is likely that the total take estimate of 270,000 ML in on-farm storage contains much of the 69,500 ML of licensed take in taken in the regulated tributaries for the full first flush assessment period. Future telemetry and measurement of floodplain harvesting will improve how we quantify floodplain water take and make information more rapidly available.

Take and system replenishment

The water balance shows a substantial portion of the inflows were protected from extraction and either replenished systems or were passed through to the Barwon-Darling River. During February 422,000 ML flowed into the regulated tributaries that connect to the Barwon-Darling River. Of this volume 165,000 ML (39%) flowed to the Barwon-Darling River. Take in NSW was 31,000 ML (7% of the inflow volume). The remaining portion of the inflow is attributed to take in QLD 27,000 ML (6% of the inflow volume), local tributary system replenishment, natural losses, flows to environmental assets such as the Macquarie Marshes and Gwydir wetlands, or water still transitioning to the Barwon-Darling River, as some of the February tributary inflows did not transit to the Barwon-Darling River until March.

Take increased in the northern tributaries when restrictions were permanently lifted in late-February. Inflows lessened, and apart from Marthaguy Creek and the Macquarie and Bogan Rivers, the proportion of water attributed to replenishment and outflows reduced.

For the full first flush assessment period, 670,000 ML flowed into the regulated tributaries, with substantial flows arriving in the Macquarie during April, and moderate increases occurring in the other regulated tributaries. Take in NSW was 70,000 ML (10% of the inflow volume) and the remaining proportion of the inflow is attributed to take in QLD and system replenishment²⁵.

Flows started to reach Wilcannia from 5 March, the Menindee Lakes (Lake Wetherell) by 10 March and a substantial volume flowed beyond Wilcannia by the end of April, being 496,400 ML or 57% of estimated inflows to the Barwon Darling, to replenish the regulated Menindee Lakes system and connecting fish populations previously stranded in refuge pools. Many towns benefited from these flows. Water supplies were secured, and all town weir pools were filled.

The estimated inflow to the Barwon-Darling was 877,000 ML, 257,000 ML (29%) of which came from the regulated tributaries. The remaining inflow is attributed to flows from the unregulated water sources including flow transitioning from QLD (refer to appendices for further detail). A total of 316,000 ML (47%) of the regulated tributaries inflow remained in the tributary to replenish local systems or was in transit to the Barwon-Darling River, achieving outcomes for the environment and groundwater systems.

The water balance analysis was for the Northern Basin regulated rivers, and the impacts on the unregulated tributary rivers were not assessed, due to data limitations. The remote sensed (stored water) analysis does consider unregulated areas.

While only flows directly contributing to the Barwon-Darling were assessed in the water balance for the regulated systems, it is significant that these systems also received a net volume increase of 367,400 ML²⁶ to the major regulating storages during the event. This water provides for critical needs and other system demands ahead.

²⁵ Flows for non-consumptive purposes except for basic landholder rights take and change in storage volume for the river and weirs which were not quantified in the balance.

²⁶ including Glenlyon Dam which is a shared resource with QLD

Assessment of take and protection during first flush flows in the Northern Basin

Supplementary access water

Coinciding with the lifting of other restrictions in the northern valleys mostly from 20 February onwards, supplementary water licence holders in the Border Rivers, Gwydir, Macquarie and Lower Namoi valleys then had periods when access was allowed. Table 8 compares the actual supplementary event take against an estimate of what could have been made available for supplementary licence holders under the relevant water sharing plan rules.

Assessing the rules for distributing supplementary water, and the volume of inflow received in February, up to 132,000 ML could have been announced to supplementary access licence holders (of which 124,000 ML is associated with consumptive water users²⁷). Comparatively, February supplementary take/use was limited to 31,900 ML (24% of the no restriction estimate). Of this volume, 4,823 ML was associated with held environmental water orders, and the remainder taken for consumptive purposes. The difference between the potential and actual take/use, 100,000 ML, is the volume of water that was protected through the management of the first-flush for critical human and environmental needs.

Table 8: Supplementary take in February and non-restricted potential take for February events

Valley	February take/use ²⁸ (ML)	WSP rules potential ²⁹ (ML)	% of potential
Border Rivers ³⁰	8,700	35,000	25%
Gwydir	7,200 ³¹	25,000	29%
Namoi	2,400	57,000	4%
Macquarie	13,600 ³²	15,000	91%
Total³³	31,900	132,000	24%

²⁷ Assumes maximum demand for supplementary access by the environmental water holder. The proportion of held environmental supplementary water to total supplementary water on issue are 1%, 15%, 0% and 25% for the NSW Border Rivers, Gwydir, Namoi and Macquarie (below Burrendong Dam) respectively.

²⁸ Event access is the supplementary licence use including that used by held environmental water licences. Figures represent both the take and the volume announced to supplementary holders as there was 100% demand by holders

²⁹ Estimation of potential supplementary announcements under standard water sharing plan rules without restrictions

³⁰ NSW licence holders only

³¹ Includes 3,448 ML held environmental water

³² Includes 1,375 ML held environmental water

³³ Supplementary access water can be held in large on-farm storages, meaning the remote sensing first flush volume estimates will include some of the supplementary take shown in Table 8

Evaluation of the management of the first flush

The Department has appointed an independent panel to assess the management of the Northern Basin first flush event. Among other concerns, it will review the availability of information communicated to stakeholders and evidence to support decision-making and make recommendations on the changes that would improve the management of future events. The analysis and outcomes presented in this report were provided to panel. More information on the [Northern Basin first flush assessment](#) can be found on the Department's website.

Conclusion

For the first time, DPIE Water analysed and reported the volume of water take and the volume of water protected during a first flush, using a combination of remote sensing and measured and estimated water balance accounting.

Using satellite imagery to identify changes in water surface area is a well-established and effective means to gather data on the whereabouts and use of water in the landscape. By measuring water surface area changes, we were able to estimate the volume of active and passive take in large on-farm storages using aerial survey (LiDAR) derived storage capacity curves.

Remote sensing has its limitations. Our capacity to quantify wet areas is limited by the frequency of satellite passes, cloud cover obstructions, and the resolution of the different available images. The methods and analysis for this report have sought to reduce the impact of these limitations. In particular, the use of higher resolution Planet imagery to correct volume estimations for a sample of storages, and then applying this correction to all storages assessed, has sought to reduce the impact of image resolution. Converting wet surface areas to volume areas is a known point of uncertainty, managed through using a known and validated volume storage capacity curve.

Despite these known issues, remote sensing is a valuable tool in the absence of on-ground measurement. We estimate there was 30,000 ML of take in the first half of February (including the 4 day period when the restrictions were temporarily lifted), and 270,000 ML of take into on-farm storage from February to April.

The information provided by the remote sensing analysis was complemented by an event water balance analysis that quantified the inflow entering the regulated river systems from run-off (after harvesting), the licenced take from these flows, and the volume of event outflows and in system (including environmental) replenishment.

While the water balance had limitations, the simple method was selected to make use of readily available information that could be assessed without difficulty, and to limit calculation assumptions. It was not able to incorporate detail about the overland flow volumes prior to entering rivers, how water was used in the environment, changes to weir storage, basic rights extraction volumes, or determine absolute inflow volumes in the lower catchment areas, where the gain from runoff and loss from extraction and natural processes becomes complex.

It also did not address the travel times in the extensive Northern Basin. However, it has made volume estimates for water take and water protection available to interested parties within a relevant time frame. The active use of operational models by WaterNSW during the event are a better method of modelling water quantities in real time and could also be use in a more detailed post-event analysis.

This report quantifies the supplementary water protected against a scenario without protections in place when compared to standard water sharing plan arrangements. This is a first step in analysing and evaluating the protected first flush. On balance, this hydrologic assessment characterises the management of the first flush under the Extreme Events Policy (DPI, 2018) as

successful, protecting a substantial volume of water for critical human and environmental outcomes.

Beyond this, future improved take metering, measurement and telemetry will improve how we quantify unregulated and floodplain take and how we quantify and enforce the protections and the outcomes they deliver for the people, animals and environment of NSW.

Key findings

The key findings of this assessment are:

- While remote sensing is a valuable way of capturing data, it has limits as a means of measuring take. There is inherent uncertainty and scientific error in the methods and analysis which limit its use.
- We can characterise the available water and the use of this water to inform managing first flush flows. However, we can't do this with high accuracy or in close to real time until metering, measurement and telemetry are in place.
- We cannot fully quantify the benefits of the restrictions against a scenario without restrictions using the methods in this report.
- Lessons from this assessment will inform the methods for future assessment, as well as future of flows for critical needs.

Next steps

The Department, with WaterNSW, will:

- Explore lessons learned from this analysis and the management of the first flush, considering the findings from the independent assessment of the management of the Northern Basin first flush event.
- Use additional available data, and models to analyse volumes of water extracted, flowing in and out of rivers, and available for system replenishment in future first flush flows
- Consider developing new methods to model the full quantum of water in the landscape, the possible extent of unregulated and floodplain take and consider modelling alternate scenarios ranging from no protection to new plan rules, noting some of these analyses take a long time and are resource heavy and costly.

Appendices

Rapid assessment of storage surface area change

The Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) in collaboration with Geoscience Australia and the Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) used satellite imagery to perform a rapid assessment of storages of interest. The approach used a percentage of water pixels method developed by Geoscience Australia for the Digital Earth Australia (DEA) [Waterbodies tool](#), accessible from the Geoscience Australia website. This tool uses satellite imagery to monitor changes in water surface areas using publicly available Landsat satellite imagery and an applied water observation indices.

- Water surface area changes were measured in 3503 on-farm storages larger than 1 hectare (Ha) in the Northern Basin between 17th January – 8th February 2020.
- Of these 2293 were analysed in cloud-free imagery.
- Of these, 250 storages indicated a water surface area increases sufficiently large to be of interest.
- These 250 storages of interest were further assessed by NRAR using higher resolution and return interval Sentinel and Planet satellite imagery to verify and better assess the timing of any water surface area increases.
- Storages of interest were checked against multiple lines of information including rainfall totals, water licensing information, water account information and on-farm water infrastructure plans.
- Similar rapid screening data was supplied by the MDBA and cross-referenced by NRAR against the Geoscience Australia data for quality assurance.

Approximately 89% of storages with cloud-free data showed little or no increases in surface water area.

In comparison, the remote sensing assessment described in the body of this report estimates the change in event volume in floodplain eligible storages both during the temporary exemptions and in April.

Storage volumes limitations and uncertainty

Storage curve accuracy and volume estimation technique

The storage capacity curves developed as part of the Healthy Floodplains Program are known to be inaccurate at low volumes, that is when water only inundates the borrow pit (intentional depression or sink) within storages. It is possible they are inaccurate by a factor of over 100% of estimated volume.

The capacity curves are far more accurate at high volumes, that is when water is around the full supply volume. The high volume estimated error is between 5 and 10%.

Because of this difference, assumptions were made as to whether the water level was constrained to the borrow pit or not, and the calculation method was altered accordingly, Table 9.

Table 9: Volume estimation technique

Wet area percentage of full supply area	Estimated water level	Volume estimation technique
0-10%	Low within the borrow pit	Use 1% of full supply volume
10-50% ³⁴	Within the borrow pit	Use 5% of full supply volume ³⁵
50-100%	Above the borrow pit	Use capacity curve

Figure 3 and Figure 4 show examples of a typical storage borrow pit (orange doughnut shaped borrow) and an atypical borrow pit. In the typical borrow pit, the estimated volume would be inaccurate, in the atypical borrow pit the estimated volume would be far more inaccurate.

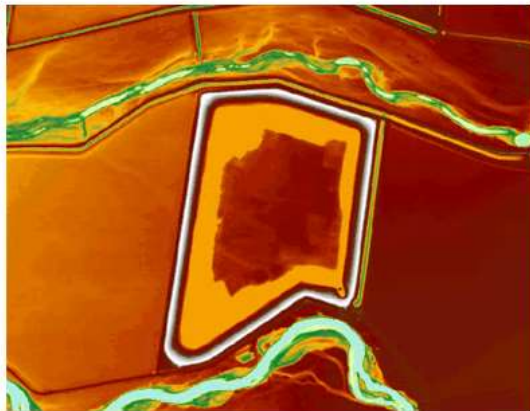


Figure 3: Typical 'donut' borrow pit shape depicted in range shading within a storage.

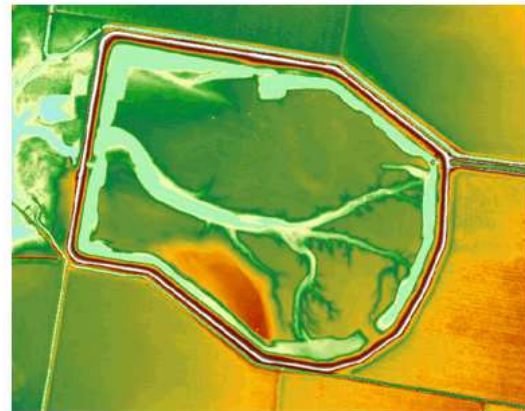


Figure 4: Atypical borrow pit shape made from a mix of excavated area and natural watercourse depression depicted in blue/green shading within a storage.

³⁴ Sensitivity testing was undertaken on this threshold. Varying it between 40-60% has less than 1% impact on the total volume estimated for the February event.

³⁵ The borrow pit volume represents around 5-10% of full supply volume. It was felt that 5% was an appropriate estimation.

Storage capacity curve errors

Many aerial survey (LiDAR) derived capacity curves were field verified by ground survey as part of the Storage Bathymetry Model (SBM) project. The SBM curves were typically within 5% of the ground survey equivalent when approaching full supply level. There was no systematic bias in the curves. There was no over or underpredicting.

One issue is that storages have since been modified (i.e. enlarged, deepened, separated or part decommissioned) after the LiDAR and survey used in the SBM project. In some cases, the capacity curves were developed from LiDAR collected over 12 years ago, so it is likely that there are now some modified storages for which volume conversion will be less accurate.

Storage borrow pit assumed volume error

The volumes assumed within the storage borrow pits are problematic. Sensitivity testing, such as increasing the borrow pit volume to 10% of full supply volume, shows a significant increase in the estimated volume, up to 24% when summing across all storages calculated. This is due to the borrow pit storages representing around 57% of all volume calculations. In short, they are sensitive to the assumptions made and large errors can result.

Approximately 10% of the storages analysed do not currently have a capacity curve and so the volume was not calculated. This is a combination of:

- primarily storages that are not eligible for floodplain harvesting and therefore were not requested or identified
- a small amount that were incorrectly not requested or identified
- a small amount that were not calculated due to data issues.

Given these omissions, the actual volumes are likely to be greater than the estimated volumes. The wet areas of the storages that are missing a capacity curve suggests that they are similar average sizes (90,000 m² for observed storages versus 87,000 m² for those missing a curve), although those without a curve tend to be shallower surge/temporary storage areas that have a lower area to volume ratio than a typical permanent storage.

Put simply, there are unknowns and scientific uncertainty in the method, but no easy way of correcting or quantifying it.

Translating area to volume errors

There are issues with calculating wet surface area from imagery captured during rain and storm events which bring cloud cover. The sensors and spectral bands used in this analysis to observe water cannot penetrate cloud cover. Therefore, storages were omitted where they were not visible in a phase of imagery acquisition, that is pre, mid, or post-first flush. Further, as cloud moves across the landscape and weather patterns change, different storages were obstructed by cloud and omitted in the different phases.

Sentinel satellite imagery is primarily used. This has a pixel resolution of 10m and a return interval of 5 days. This constrains both aligning image acquisition with key dates and the accuracy of surface area estimation, the latter mitigated by factoring after analysing a sample of storages with a higher resolution sensor.

Put simply, satellite imagery has limits due to image resolution or pixel size, and the image availability or the return interval.

Remote sensed components

The following data from each phase of the analysis (pre, mid, post) is available on request:

- Storage ID - Floodplain identifier
- Full supply area – storage curve information
- Full supply volume – storage curve information
- Image – Image date
- Inundated (wet) area – Sentinel observation
- Confirmed to borrow pit – where the area observed is <10% of the full supply volume of the storage
- Estimated volume – Calculation using Sentinel inundated (wet) area
- Revised Planet observation - Calculation using Sentinel inundated (wet) area derived correction factor

This data is available for the floodplains analysed:

- Border Rivers / Macintyre Floodplain
- Gwydir Floodplain
- Upper and Lower Namoi Floodplains
- Macquarie Floodplain
- Barwon-Darling Floodplain.

Water balance - inflow quantification notes

Upper section inflows

Reach section gains were identified to the locations shown in Table 10. These sites were identified as being the last major mainstream site upstream of major diversion and downstream of major tributary inflow. Storage releases are treated as an inflow to the balance.

Table 10: Upper section inflows mainstream gauging sites

Water Source	Site	Mainstream volume (measured)
Border Rivers	Dumaresq River at Glenarbon Weir plus Macintyre River at Holdfast (Yelarbon Crossing)	142,800
Gwydir	Gwydir River at Pallamallawa	81,500
Lower Namoi	Namoi River at Mollee	128,400
Macquarie	Macquarie River at Barooka	235,113 ³⁶

Lower section inflows

Below these measurement points, catchment inflow estimates were provided for Moomin Creek and the Boomi River unregulated systems. The ungauged estimated flow to Boomi Creek is not available to regulated river licence holders, however significant to quantifying total inflows to the Barwon-Darling from the Border Rivers.

Some smaller reach gains were observed in other areas of the catchment from runoff, however in these sections the loss and gain processes both become significant and difficult to individually quantify from flow measurement data.

Some of these observed reach gain observed but not explicitly quantified in the water balance were:

- Namoi water balance: a net gain between Weeta and Bullawa of 4,200 ML was observed (adjusted for Brigalow Creek measured inflow), and a net loss of 1,200 ML between the larger reach of Weeta to Bugilbone. A 1,800 ML net reach gain was observed between Mollee and Gunidgera.
- Gwydir water balance: a net reach gain between Midkin Crossing and Garah of 2,800 ML was observed.

While no direct adjustments were made to the water balance to allow for these gains of smaller magnitude, we recognise a more granular quantification approach to individual reach processes would improve detail for the water balance. As outflows and take are both measured components, any adjustments increasing the inflows presented would also, proportionally increase the system replenishment component as the balancing item.

³⁶ Where flows/volumes are measured and not estimated the full number is reported and not rounded.

Assessment of take and protection during first flush flows in the Northern Basin

Major storage volume increases

Inflows upstream of major storages were not included in the water balance as they did not contribute to the downstream flows being analysed (storage releases were considered). Table 11 provides the increase volumes to each major storage during the period analysed.

Table 11: Changes to major storage volumes during analysis period

Date and volume (ML)	Pindari Dam	Glenlyon Dam	Keepit Dam	Split Rock Dam	Copeton Dam	Burrendong Dam	Windamere Dam
1/02/2020	12,531	8,569	11,835	6,831	112,922	52,131	98,995
28/04/2020	36,118	35,905	64,590	21,162	187,946	224,869	100,606
Volume increase	23,587	27,336	52,755	14,331	75,023	172,738	1,611
Full supply capacity	312,000	254,310	425,510	397,370	1,361,720	1,190,060	368,120
% increase	8%	11%	12%	4%	6%	15%	0%

Barwon-Darling inflow estimation notes

The targeted method for estimating the total inflow (876,900 ML) to the Barwon-Darling system was to use the mainstream gauging sites reach gains, then add back into this volume the measured reach take once meter readings are finalised. Assumptions and potential ranges for transmissions losses occurring in these reaches may also be approximated. As extraction data was unavailable at the time of this assessment, an initial estimate of 30% was assumed to allow for any flow loss processes with the intent to refine this estimate when more information is available.

The absolute reach gains (assuming no loss processes or extraction occurring) between Mogil and Warraweena (last reach gaining site) indicated a minimum of 674,500 ML had entered the system for the period analysed.

The 30% approximation assumed for loss processes was validated by using the tributary gauge measurements on the unregulated systems directly contributing and additionally the outflows from the regulated water sources presented in the water balance. These measurements indicated an inflow volume of 861,575 ML. Tributary measurements on the Warrego (at Dick's Dam) of 43,166 ML and Narran River (Bundah) of 29,295 ML, were excluded for this approximation as significant interception was assumed downstream of these locations prior to meeting the Barwon-Darling system. This approximation from tributary gauging sites also assumes no loss between the gauging measurement and flow entering the Barwon Darling, and does not allow for further contributions from unmeasured tributary flows.

Assessment of take and protection during first flush flows in the Northern Basin

Table 12: Barwon-Darling unregulated tributary flow

Site	Name	Flow	Comment
417001	Moonie River at Gundablouie	75,691	
422031	Narran River @ Bundah	29,295	Significant interception assumed between site and Barwon-Darling River
422005	Bokhara River at Bokhara (Goodwins)	32,206	
422006	Culgoa River at D/S Collierina (Kenebree)	175,871	
423007	Warrego River at Dicks Dam	43,166	Significant interception assumed between site and Barwon-Darling River
420020	Castlereagh River at Gungahman	189,426	
421011	Marthaguy Creek at Carinda	90,203	
421023	Bogan River at Gongolgon	40,905	

Table 13: Barwon-Darling regulated rivers tributary inflow

Water source	Outflow (ML)
Border Rivers (including Boomi River estimate)	92,506
Gwydir	52,210
Namoi	96,093
Macquarie	16,464

Assessment of take and protection during first flush flows in the Northern Basin

Figure 5: Major unregulated catchment inflow to the Barwon Darling

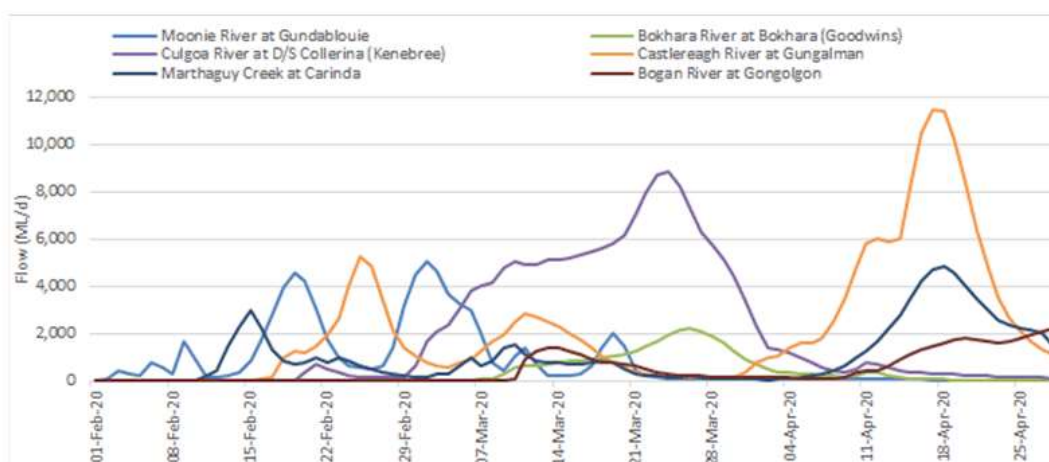


Figure 6: Regulated river inflow to the Barwon-Darling event (including Boomi River estimate)

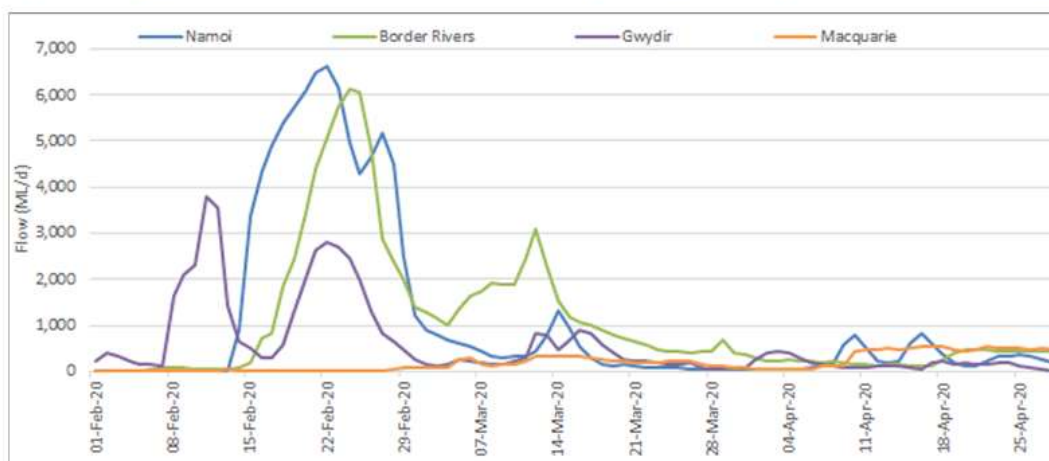


Figure 7: Flow at Wilcannia



Assessment of take and protection during first flush flows in the Northern Basin

Water balance components

Border Rivers water balance components

1 February to 29 February 2020

Inflows		Extractions (NSW)		Extractions (QLD)		Replenishments		Outflows	
ML		ML	% inflow	ML	% inflow	ML	% inflow	ML	% inflow
163,760		8,831	5%	27,200	17%	77,588	47%	50,140	31%

1 February to 28 April 2020

Inflows		Extractions (NSW)		Extractions (QLD)		Replenishments		Outflows	
ML		ML	% inflow	ML	% inflow	ML	% inflow	ML	% inflow
200,781		9,929	5%	27,200	14%	71,146	35%	92,506	46%

Balance inputs

Inflow (estimated)	Component	Flow		Reach gains	
		Feb	Feb-Apr	Feb	Feb-Apr
	Macintyre Catchment				
416067	Severn River at Ducca Marrin	554	1,563		
416006	Severn River at Ashford	6,815	10,491	6,262	8,928
416012	Macintyre River at Holdfast	19,405	26,902	12,590	16,411
	Reach gain total			18,851	25,339
	Measured section inflows			13,386	19,316
	Macintyre estimated inflow	5,465	6,023		
	Dumaresq				
416011	Dumaresq River at Roseneath	74,391	86,104		
416007	Dumaresq River U/S Bonshaw Weir	85,263	103,178	10,872	17,075
416040	Dumaresq River at Glenarbon Weir	97,163	115,905	11,901	12,727
	Reach gain total			22,773	29,802
	Measured section inflows			8,783	13,685
	Dumaresq estimated inflow	13,989	16,116		
	Boomi catchment				
	Unregulated inflow estimate	2,200	7,800 *		
	Total inflow (estimated)	21,655	29,940		

* volume does not contribute to regulated river system

Inflows (measured)	Gauging site name	Feb	Feb-Apr
416415A	Macintyre Brook at Booba Sands	21,125	21,690
416021	Frazers Creek at Westholme (Ashford)	3,906	6,483
416008	Beardy River at Haystack	8,783	13,685
416010	Macintyre River at Wallangra	9,480	12,833
416011	Dumaresq River at Roseneath	74,391	86,104
416067	Severn River at Ducca Marrin	554	1,563
416207A	Weir River at Mascot	23,866	28,483
	Total inflows (measured)	142,105	170,842
	Total inflow (measured and estimated)	163,760	200,781

Outflow (measured)	Gauging Site	Feb	Feb-Apr
416001	Barwon River at Mungindi	40,540	75,806

Outflow (estimated)	Component	Feb	Feb-Apr
	Boomi River	9,600	16,700
	Total outflow estimate	50,140	92,506

Consumptive extractions	Licence Category	Feb	Feb-Apr
	Domestic And Stock	89	177
	Domestic And Stock [Domestic]	0	0
	Domestic And Stock [Stock]	0	10
	Local Water Utility	53	75
	Regulated River (General Security A)	0	12
	Regulated River (General Security B)	2	2
	Regulated River (High Security)	0	0
	Supplementary Water	8,688	9,653
	Total consumptive extractions (NSW)	8,831	9,929
	Total consumptive extractions (QLD)	27,200	27,200
	Total consumptive extractions	36,031	37,129

Held environmental usage	Feb	Feb-Apr
Total held environmental water usage	0	0

Assessment of take and protection during first flush flows in the Northern Basin

Gwydir water balance components

1 February to 29 February 2020

Inflows		Extractions		Replenishments		Outflows	
ML	ML	% inflow	ML	% inflow	ML	% inflow	
60,010	5,202	9%	16,728	28%	38,080	63%	

1 February to 28 April 2020

Inflows		Extractions		Replenishments		Outflows	
ML	ML	% inflow	ML	% inflow	ML	% inflow	
100,825	17,911	18%	30,704	30%	52,210	52%	

Balance inputs

Inflow	Component	Flow		Reach gains	
		Feb	Feb-Apr	Feb	Feb-Apr
Upper Gwydir					
418026	Gwydir River Downstream Copeton Dam	1,193	3,304		
418012	Gwydir River at Pinegrove	6,725	14,305	5,532	11,001
418013	Gwydir River at Gravesend Road Bridge	45,318	66,410	38,593	52,105
418001	Gwydir River at Pallamallawa	50,685	81,511	5,367	15,101
	Reach gain total			49,492	78,207
	Measured section inflows			27,207	36,028
	Ungauged inflow estimate upper Gwydir			22,285	42,179
Moomin catchment					
418048	Moomin Creek at Combadello Cutting	2,451	5,034		
418060	Moomin Creek at Glendello	2,944	6,162	493	1,128
418067	Moomin Creek at Clarendon Bridge (Heathfield)	3,542	7,328	598	1,166
418061	Moomin Creek at Alma Bridge (Derra Road)	8,636	13,362	5,094	6,034
418070	Moomin Creek at Moomin Plains	6,082	9,168	(2,553)	(4,194)
	Moomin inflow estimate			6,185	8,328
	Total inflow (estimated)			28,470	50,508

Inflows	Gauging Site	Feb	Feb-Apr
418025	Halls Creek at Bingara	373	489
418015	Horton River at Rider	22,050	29,381
418017	Myall Creek at Molroy	4,784	6,158
418032	Tycannah Creek at Horseshoe Lagoon	910	3,105
416054	Gil Gil Creek at Boolataroo	2,193	7,813
	Copeton Dam releases	1,230	3,372
	Total inflow (measured)	31,540	50,318
	Total inflow (measured and estimated)	60,010	100,825

Outflow	Gauging Site	Feb	Feb-Apr
418070	Moomin Creek at Moomin Plains	6,082	9,168
418058	Mehi River at Bronte	22,275	25,289
416052	Gil Gil Creek at Galloway	9,723	17,753
	Total outflow (measured)	38,080	52,210

Consumptive extractions	Licence Category	Feb	Feb-Apr
	Domestic And Stock	31	237
	Domestic And Stock [Stock]	9	20
	Local Water Utility	-	14
	Regulated River (General Security)	182	184
	Regulated River (High Security)	1,095	1,945
	Supplementary Water	3,884	15,512
	Total	5,202	17,911

Held environmental usage	Licence category	Feb	Feb-Apr
	Regulated River (General Security)	-	-
	Regulated River (High Security)	-	-
	Supplementary Water	3,448	3,698
	Total		3,698

Assessment of take and protection during first flush flows in the Northern Basin

Namoi water balance components

1 February to 29 February 2020

Inflows		Extractions		Replenishments		Outflows	
ML	ML	% of inflow	ML	% of inflow	ML	% of inflow	
122,030	3,681	3%	42,285	35%	76,063	62%	

1 February to 28 April 2020

Inflows		Extractions		Replenishments		Outflows	
ML	ML	% of inflow	ML	% of inflow	ML	% of inflow	
132,826	10,945	8%	25,788	19%	96,093	72%	

Balance inputs

Inflow (estimated)	Component	Flow		Reach gains	
	Upper estimate (Keepit to Narrabri)	Feb	Feb-Apr	Feb	Feb-Apr
419007	Namoi River at Downstream Keepit Dam	-	210		
419001	Namoi River at Gunnedah	53,441	62,083	53,441	61,874
419012	Namoi River at Boggabri	79,156	90,882	25,716	28,798
419003	Narrabri Creek at Narrabri	103,403	116,844	24,247	25,962
419039	Namoi River at Mollee	119,363	128,465	15,960	11,622
	Reach gain total			119,363	128,256
	Measured section inflows			89,539	101,605
	Ungauged inflow estimate upper Namoi (estimated)			29,824	26,651

Inflows (measured)	Gauging Site	Feb	Feb-Apr
419006	Peel River at Carroll Gap	46,434	53,747
419084	Mooki River at Ruvigne	9,488	10,780
419032	Coxs Creek at Boggabri	24,509	27,307
419083	Brigalow Creek at Tharlane	2,667	4,361
419051	Maules Creek at Avoca East	9,109	9,770
419007	Namoi River at Downstream Keepit Dam	-	210
	Total inflow (measured)	92,206	106,175
	Total inflow (measured and estimated)	122,030	132,826

Outflow (measured)	Gauging Site	Feb	Feb-Apr
419026	Namoi River at Goangra	75,364	91,923
419049	Pian Creek at Waminda	699	4,170
	Total outflow (measured)	76,063	96,093

	Licence Category	Feb	Feb-Apr
Consumptive extractions	Domestic And Stock	381	478
	Domestic And Stock [Domestic]	2	2
	Domestic And Stock [Stock]	-	-
	Regulated River (General Security)	419	1,536
	Regulated River (High Security)	63	294
	Regulated River (High Security) [Research]	365	365
	Supplementary Water	2,452	8,271
	Total	3,681	10,945

Held environmental usage	Feb	Feb-Apr
Total held environmental water usage	0	0

Assessment of take and protection during first flush flows in the Northern Basin

Macquarie water balance components

1 February to 29 February 2020

Inflows		Extractions		Replenishments		Outflows	
ML		ML	% of inflow	ML	% of inflow	ML	% of inflow
76,019		13,083.0	17%	62,321	82%	615	1%

1 February to 28 April 2020

Inflows		Extractions		Replenishments		Outflows	
ML		ML	% of inflow	ML	% of inflow	ML	% of inflow
235,113		30,819.9	13%	187,828	80%	16,464	7%

Balance inputs

Inflow (estimated)	Component	Flow		Reach gains	
	Burrendong to Baroona	Feb	Feb-Apr	Feb	Feb-Apr
421040	Macquarie River At Downstream Burrendong Dam	1,857	3,993		
421001	Macquarie River At Dubbo	6,767	47,180	4,910	43,187
421127	Macquarie River At Baroona	76,019	235,113	69,252	187,933
	Reach gain total			74,162	231,120
	Measured section inflows			58,275	158,313
	Total inflow (estimated)			15,887	72,807

Inflows (measured)	Gauging Site	Feb	Feb-Apr
421040	Macquarie River At Downstream Burrendong Dam	1,857	3,993
421042	Talbragar River At Elong Elong	54,569	121,311
421048	Little River At Obley No.2	385	7,580
421018	Bell River At Newrea	496	8,477
421055	Coolbaggie Creek At Rawsonville	2,826	20,945
	Total inflow (measured)	60,132	162,306
	Total inflow (measured and estimated)	76,019	235,113

Outflow (measured)	Gauging Site	Feb	Feb-Apr
421107	Marra Creek at Billybingbone Bridge	58	13,664
421012	Macquarie River at Carinda (Bells Bridge)	134	2,801
	Total outflow (measured)*	615	16,464

Consumptive extractions	Licence Category	Feb	Feb-Apr
	Domestic And Stock	49	173
	Domestic And Stock [Domestic]	0	0
	Domestic And Stock [Stock]	0	0
	Local Water Utility	311	844
	Regulated River (General Security)	17	140
	Regulated River (High Security)	479	635
	Regulated River (High Security) [Research]	0	0
	Supplementary Water	12,227	29,028
	Total	13,083	30,820

Held environmental usage	Licence category	Feb	Feb-Apr
	Regulated River (General Security)	0	0
	Supplementary Water	1,375	4,583
	Total	1,375	4,583

Northern NSW floodplain harvesting and on-farm water storage information project

Introduction

Despite it being a large proportion of water taken for irrigation in the NSW part of the Northern Murray-Darling Basin, floodplain harvesting has never been regulated or measured. The NSW government plans to licence floodplain harvesting by July 2021, determine the amount to be licensed, and measure the amount taken. It has made a commitment to provide information explaining how this will be done. However, those commitments do not satisfy many affected groups and communities.

A project is underway to gather information to help scrutinise the NSW process. It includes;

- a background and summary of NSW floodplain harvesting policy and implementation,
- a review of research and reports related to floodplain harvesting,
- maps of on-farm storages,
- an estimate of the capacity of on-farm storages, and
- an estimate of water taken by floodplain harvesting, and by other take from floodplains.

What is floodplain harvesting?

When the rivers of the Northern Basin flow onto their lower floodplains they break up into thousands of rivers, creeks, cowals, flood runners and billabongs. One of these is the designated river. The Northern Basin floodplains make up a vast interconnected network of these streams.

The NSW Floodplain Harvesting Policy states that;

For the purposes of this policy, 'floodplain' means any area of land designated as a floodplain under the WM Act [Water Management Act 2000] or the Water Act 1912. The policy applies to floodplain harvesting activities on properties where all or part of that property lies within the designated floodplain (p4).¹

¹ NSW Department of Industry. 2013. *NSW Floodplain Harvesting Policy (Updated 2018)*. Policy document, Sydney: NSW DPI., https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/143441/NSW-Floodplain-harvesting-policy.pdf

The policy defines floodplain harvesting as;

...the collection, extraction or impoundment of water flowing across floodplains, including rainfall runoff and overbank flow, but excluding the taking of:

- *water under a water access licence that is not a floodplain harvesting access licence*
- *water under a basic landholder right, including water taken under a harvestable right*
- *water under an applicable water access licence exemption under the WM Act*
- *used irrigation water (p 4).²*

Measuring floodplain harvesting

Floodplain harvesting has never been licensed, measured or monitored in NSW. Helen Dalton, the Member for Farrer, asked Melinda Pavey, the Minister for Water, Property and Housing, in the NSW parliament;

What has been the volume of water extracted through floodplain harvesting in each financial year between 1993-94 and 2018-19?³

The Minister replied;

There is currently very limited data on the volume of water that has been extracted through floodplain harvesting in New South Wales because such volumes have not been required to be reported by landholders.⁴

At a public meeting in Dubbo on 16th March 2018 an officer of the NSW water department acknowledged that the volume of water taken by floodplain harvesting had been;

...grossly underestimated, ...there is currently no monitoring of floodplain harvesting diversions.⁵

The NSW government intends to regulate floodplain harvesting by July 2021.⁶ Extraction will be accounted for under a water access licence, basic landholder right or licence exemption, ensuring that it is consistent with the *Water Management Act 2000*.⁷

² NSW Department of Industry. 2013. *NSW Floodplain Harvesting Policy (Updated 2018)*. Policy document, Sydney: NSW DPI., https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/143441/NSW-Floodplain-harvesting-policy.pdf

³ Member for Murray, Helen Dalton. 2020. "Floodplain harvesting volumes in NSW." *NSW Parliament, Questions on Notice*. Sydney: NSW Parliament. 2667., <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/la/papers/pages/qanda-tracking-details.aspx?pk=245154>

⁴ Minister for Water, Melinda Pavey. 2020. "Floodplain harvesting volumes in New South Wales." *NSW Legislative Assembly Questions on Notice*. Sydney: NSW Parliament. 2667., <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/la/papers/pages/qanda-tracking-details.aspx?pk=245154>

⁵ NSW DPIE. 2018. *Water Reform Action Plan regional roadshow, Dubbo. Presentation, 16 March*.

⁶ (NSW Department of Industry 2013), NSW Department of Industry. 2013. *NSW Floodplain Harvesting Policy (Updated 2018)*. Policy document, Sydney: NSW DPI., https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/143441/NSW-Floodplain-harvesting-policy.pdf

⁷ NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. 2020. *Guidelines for the implementation of the NSW Floodplain Harvesting Policy*. Policy document, Sydney: NSW Government.,

The amount of water taken by floodplain harvesting will be measured, and the volume distributed, after it is licensed. Following an amendment to the NSW *Water Management Act* in 2014 floodplain harvesters will be able to be compensated for these new licences, should they be reduced in future.⁸

Licensing floodplain harvesting

NSW government policy is to licence floodplain harvesting at an historic level of extraction, infrastructure and works approvals. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) has stated that floodplain harvesting licences will be based on how much water was taken at either the 1993/94 (Cap) or 1999/2000 level of development;

For most regulated rivers, it is specified as the lesser of:

- *the take of water that would occur with the infrastructure and management arrangements that existed in 1999–2000, combined with the water sharing plan rules, or*
- *the take of water that would have occurred under the Murray– Darling Basin ‘Cap’ conditions.⁹*

NSW proposes to license floodplain harvesting at the lower of these levels of development by;

- assessing the capacity of on-farm storages at 3rd July 2008,
- assigning each landholder a notional share of the total volume of on-farm storages for each valley, and
- reducing the notional 2008 on-farm storage shares, in proportion, to the 1993/94 or 1999/2000 level of development.¹⁰

DPIE has said it will use hydrological models to demonstrate that the licenced volumes do not exceed take at the lower of the 1993/94 or 1999/2000 levels of development. The models will combine data, such as gauge measurements, rainfall, and irrigation development, with assumptions.¹¹ DPIE has not committed to providing evidence of historical rates of actual take from floodplains.

https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/272338/floodplain-harvestingimplementation-guidelines.pdf

⁸ Bryant, L. Herbert and S. 2013. “NSW floodplain harvesting policy 'a step in the right direction'.” *ABC Rural*, 2 may., <https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2013-05-02/nsw-water-policy/4665690>

⁹ NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. 2020. *Guidelines for the implementation of the NSW Floodplain Harvesting Policy*. Policy document, Sydney: NSW Government. https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/272338/floodplain-harvestingimplementation-guidelines.pdf

¹⁰ NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. 2020. *Guidelines for the implementation of the NSW Floodplain Harvesting Policy*. Policy document, Sydney: NSW Government., https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/272338/floodplain-harvestingimplementation-guidelines.pdf

¹¹ NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. 2020. *Guidelines for the implementation of the NSW Floodplain Harvesting Policy*. Policy document, Sydney: NSW Government.,

A review will be undertaken by consultants commissioned by the NSW government.¹² Government officials have said that the consultant's report will be 'peer reviewed'.¹³ In government water agencies the term 'peer review' is rarely, if ever, used in the academic sense of a properly independent review. There are concerns that the government reports might not be sufficiently independent.¹⁴

Purpose of this project

Many communities and groups with an interest in the Basin do not trust the NSW water agency in its implementation of the NSW floodplain harvesting policy. This project will provide an alternate source of information to help communities scrutinise the implementation of the policy. It will help build awareness among communities and organisations about floodplain harvesting, how the NSW government intends to implement the policy, and how floodplain harvesting will be treated in relation to the Sustainable Diversion Limit.

Information is required for the following questions;

- What was the level of on-farm storage capacity in 1993/94 and 1999/2000?
- Is the 1999/2000 level of development lower than the 1993/94 level of development?
- What was the capacity of on-farm storages, in place or for which works approval applications had been lodged, on 3 July 2008?
- What is the current capacity of on-farm storages?

The project will analyse and synthesise publicly available information to allow more informed scrutiny of the NSW position. Part of that work uses satellite imagery to map on-farm storages and determine their surface area. A trial was carried out in part of the Murrumbidgee valley to test the method, before applying the same method to the NSW northern valleys.

The study area will be the area of the Barwon-Darling, Macquarie, Namoi, Gwydir, and NSW Border Rivers floodplains where most floodplain harvesting occurs in NSW.

Timing

The project will be finalised by October 2020 to coincide with NSW releasing proposed licence information for the Gwydir valley.

https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/272338/floodplain-harvestingimplementation-guidelines.pdf

¹² NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. 2020. *Guidelines for the implementation of the NSW Floodplain Harvesting Policy*. Policy document, Sydney: NSW Government.,

https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/272338/floodplain-harvesting-implementation-guidelines.pdf

¹³ "Evidence to the Regulation Committee." 2020. *Inquiry into impact and implementation of the water management (general) amendment (exemptions for floodplain harvesting) regulation 2020*. Sydney: NSW Parliament. 41., <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lcdocs/transcripts/2386/Transcript%20-%202020July%202020-%20UNCORRECTED%20-%20Floodplain%20Harvesting%20Regulation%202020.pdf>

¹⁴ Colloff, M., Grafton, RQ., and Williams, J. 2020. "Administrative capture of science: integrity and public policy in the Murray-Darling Basin." (in review) *Australasian Journal of Water Resources*.

Robyn Mayes

From: Maryanne Slattery <maryanne@slatteryjohnson.com.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 5 August 2020 1:48 PM
To: Maryanne Slattery; William Johnson
Subject: Floodplain Harvesting Proposal

Good afternoon,
We specialise in water policy and management in the Murray-Darling Basin.

Floodplain harvesting in the northern Murray-Darling Basin reduces the flow of water downstream and therefore reduces water available for towns, the environment and other water users.

Floodplain harvesting is not regulated, licenced, monitored or measured in NSW. The NSW government intends to regulate floodplain harvesting by issuing floodplain harvesting licences in 2021. The NSW government admits there has been significant growth in floodplain harvesting. It claims that licensing will return floodplain harvesting volumes to legal limits set under NSW and Commonwealth legislation.

We have been engaged by Southern Riverina Irrigators to map and estimate on-farm storages in Northern NSW. We are seeking a financial contribution from local councils and community groups for work in addition to the mapping;

- a background and summary of NSW floodplain harvesting policy and implementation,
- a review of research and reports related to floodplain harvesting,
- maps of on-farm storages,
- an estimate of the volume of on-farm storages, and
- estimates of water taken by floodplain harvesting and other take from floodplains.

This project will provide an alternate source of information to help communities scrutinise the process. It will help build understanding among communities and organisations about floodplain harvesting, how the NSW government intends to implement the policy, and how floodplain harvesting will be treated in relation to the Sustainable Diversion Limit. The project proposal is attached.

If you are interested in participating, please contact us and we can provide you with more detail of the project.

Regards,

Maryanne

Maryanne Slattery
Director

Slattery & Johnson

2/27 Manuka Circle, Forrest ACT 2603

0484 701 257

@MaryanneSlatte1

9.4 POLICY REVIEW - WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

File Number: RPT/20/450

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

The Acknowledgement of Country Policy was last adopted by council on 28 June 2017. It was presented to the Internal Audit and Risk Management Committee for endorsement, but a number of issues were identified with the policy. It was agreed rather than wait until the next meeting, the changes should be forwarded to Council for consideration.

Recommendation

That Council approves the draft Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country Policy.

Detailed Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek council's endorsement of an amendment to the current Acknowledgement of Country Policy.

This matter has been brought direct to council as changes to the policy were requested when it was presented to the Internal Audit and Risk Management Committee in July.

Background

Council Policy CC004 – Acknowledgement of Country (DOC/20/825) is currently due to be reviewed. The Acknowledgement of Country policy was endorsed by council on 28 June 2017.

On Tuesday 28 July 2020 it was presented to the Internal Audit and Risk Management Committee with some suggested minor formatting changes to the policy section, amendments to spelling and grammatical errors and a updated wording for the acknowledgement.

Report Detail

Concerns with the policy were raised at the meeting, particularly in relation to when the policy should be used and the clarity between a 'welcome to country' and an 'acknowledgement of country'.

The policy has been updated following the discussions. A copy of the previously adopted policy and the new draft policy are attached for Council's consideration.

The policy has been updated to define welcome to country and acknowledgement of country, including a minor change to the name of the policy to minimise any potential confusion. The policy has also been updated to reflect when it is appropriate to use.

Council meetings have been excluded from the scope of this policy, as Section 8.2a of Council's adopted Code of Meeting Practice already outlines the appropriate use of an Acknowledgement of Country at a Council meeting:

"The chairperson will determine whether to deliver a Prayer or Acknowledgement of Country"

There was also some feedback at the meeting on the preferred wording for the acknowledgement. The wording in the draft policy has been updated based on the current wording from Reconciliation Australia:

"I would like to pay my respect and acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we are meeting and pay my respects to Elders both past, present and future."

Some other minor spelling and grammatical errors have also been corrected.

As the committee requested, the revised policy is now being presented separately to Council for consideration.

Conclusion

The Acknowledgement of Country policy is due for review. At the Internal Audit and Risk Management committee there was concern regarding the wording of the policy and the possible conflict with other Council policies and procedures. The policy has been updated based on feedback from the meeting and is presented for Council's consideration and approval.

Attachments

1. Revisions History - Acknowledgement of Country Policy [↓](#)

Wentworth Shire Council

Word: DOC/20/825
PDF: DOC/17/12188

Council Policy No.CC004

Acknowledgement of Country**DOCUMENT SUMMARY**

This Official Council Policy deals with the protocol agreed for the acknowledgment of the traditional custodians.

1. STATEMENT OF POLICY INTENT

The intent of this policy is to establish suitable protocol guidelines for Wentworth Shire Council to apply in a situation where it was be appropriate for a Welcome to Country, Acknowledgement of Country or both.

2. POLICY SCOPE

This policy is applicable to any event where it would be appropriate for a Welcome to Country, Acknowledgement of Country or both which precede and activity or event.

3. DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS (used in this policy)

N/A

4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Ceremonies and protocols are an important part of Aboriginal cultures. These ceremonies include a traditional "Welcome to Country" or an "Acknowledgement of Country" both of which precede an activity or event.

They are a sign of respect and recognition of the position of Aboriginal people in Australian Culture and history. When planning and hosting public events, civic receptions, significant meetings or celebrations, Council staff need to consider how to acknowledge the traditional custodians.

Welcome to Country

A "Welcome to Country" ceremony should be undertaken by the traditional custodians of the land, usually a senior representative of the local Aboriginal community. A "Welcome to Country" ceremony can take many forms, depending on the particular culture of the traditional custodians.

Acknowledgement of Country

An "Acknowledgement of Country" shows awareness of and respect for the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander traditional custodians of the land on which a meeting or event is being held. Additionally, it recognises the continuing connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to country.

At the commencement of a meeting or function, a chair or speaker begins by acknowledging that the meeting is taking place in the country of the traditional custodians. These protocols should be used in consultation with the local Aboriginal community to ensure that local customs and etiquette are adhered to respectfully.

5. POLICY

It is the policy of this Council to adopt the following wording for the Acknowledgement of Country:

"I would like to pay my respect and acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we are meeting and pay my respects to Elders both past and present."

Approved by Council and signed by
General Manager of Wentworth Shire Council

Signed & Dated

Document Approval

This document is the latest version of the official policy of the Wentworth Shire Council, as adopted by Council on the [Click here to enter a date..](#) All previous versions of this policy are null and void.

This policy may be amended or revoked by Council at any time.

Page 1 of 1

Wentworth Shire Council

Word: DOC/20/825
PDF: DOC/17/12188

Council Policy No.CC004**Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country****DOCUMENT SUMMARY**

This Official Council Policy provides guidance concerning the use of a 'Welcome to Country' by traditional custodians and an 'Acknowledgement of Country' and when these are to be conducted at certain Wentworth Shire events, ceremonies, meetings, functions or on Council's written communications.

1. STATEMENT OF POLICY INTENT

The intent of this policy is to establish suitable protocol guidelines for Wentworth Shire Council to apply in a situation where it is appropriate for a Welcome to Country, Acknowledgement of Country or both.

1. POLICY SCOPE

This policy is applicable to any event where it would be appropriate for a Welcome to Country, Acknowledgement of Country or both which precede and activity or event. This does not apply to Official Council meetings, as they are guided by Council's adopted Code of Meeting Practice.

2. DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS (used in this policy)

N/A

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Ceremonies and protocols are an important part of Aboriginal cultures. These ceremonies include a traditional 'Welcome to Country' or an "Acknowledgement of Country" both of which precede an activity or event.

The Wentworth Shire Council Area is within the traditional lands of the Barkindji people.

A Welcome to and Acknowledgement of Country in a range of forms are applicable to Council related civic and business activities as outlined in this document. The type of recognition selected should be appropriate to the nature and size of the event.

3.1 Welcome to Country

- 3.1.1 A Welcome to Country is where the traditional Aboriginal custodian or Elder welcomes people to their land. The Welcome to Country is a right of the local traditional owners and not a privilege
- 3.1.2 A Welcome to Country always occurs at the opening of an event and is usually the first item on the program. The local Aboriginal custodians or traditional owners conduct the ceremony. This may be done through a speech, song, ceremony, or a combination of these things
- 3.1.3 Not all Aboriginal people can perform a Welcome to Country, as it must be given by an appropriate person, such as a recognised Elder within the local community. The traditional custodians should be consulted on this matter

3.2 Acknowledgement of Country

- 3.2.1 Acknowledgement of Country is a way that the Council can demonstrate respect for Aboriginal protocol and can be performed by any individual, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander or other Australians, participating in an occasion of any kind. The Council takes the Acknowledgement of Country to be a demonstration of respect dedicated to the traditional custodians of the land where the event or gathering is being conducted.
- 3.2.2 The Acknowledgement of Country comprises a short statement that is included in a Welcome to Country or at the beginning of the opening speech. It is to be included prior to other acknowledgements and formalities.

Document Approval

This document is the latest version of the official policy of the Wentworth Shire Council, as adopted by Council on the [Click here to enter a date..](#) All previous versions of this policy are null and void.

This policy may be amended or revoked by Council at any time.

Page 1 of 2

Wentworth Shire Council

Word: DOC/20/825
PDF: DOC/17/12188

Council Policy No.CC004**Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country****4. POLICY**

It is the policy of this Council to use a Welcome to Country and/or the Acknowledgement of Country as follows:

4.1 Welcome to Country

- 4.1.1 It is the responsibility of the person or unit organising the event to ensure, if required, that the traditional custodians are involved in the Welcome to Country
- 4.1.2 When organising an event requiring a Welcome to Country, organisers are to provide the traditional custodians with information on the theme and purpose of the event
- 4.1.3 Appropriate lead time should be given to the traditional custodians when organising a Welcome to Country
- 4.1.4 In general, a Welcome to Country will be performed where there are invited members of the public and/or dignitaries in attendance
- 4.1.5 Examples of events where it would be desirable for a Welcome to Country to be performed by an Aboriginal Elder from the local community on which the event is taking place include:
 - Official Welcome to Wentworth Shire
 - Community engagement events involving visiting dignitaries
 - Opening of new buildings or facilities
- 4.1.6 It may not always be possible to organise a Welcome to Country at such events and functions; in such situations, an Acknowledgement of Country is the minimum requirement

4.2 Acknowledgement of Country

- 4.2.1 It is the responsibility of the chair of the meeting or host or master of ceremonies of the event to ensure that the Acknowledgement of Country takes place in an appropriate manner
- 4.2.2 It is appropriate for the host of the ceremony to make the Acknowledgement, unless another person has been asked to perform this
- 4.2.3 The following text can be used in Acknowledgement of Country:

"I would like to pay my respect and acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we are meeting and pay my respects to Elders both past, present and future."
- 4.2.4 It is recommended that at a minimum the following events and written communications should include an Acknowledgement of Country:
 - Awards Nights
 - Council functions not involving visiting dignitaries
 - NAIDOC week events
 - Council email communications
 - Formal Council correspondence
 - Council's website

Approved by Council and signed by
General Manager of Wentworth Shire Council

Signed & Dated

Document Approval

This document is the latest version of the official policy of the Wentworth Shire Council, as adopted by Council on the [Click here to enter a date..](#) All previous versions of this policy are null and void.

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9.5 AF003 REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

File Number: RPT/20/434

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy
 Responsible Division: Finance and Policy
 Reporting Officer: Shenay Harris - Coordinator Finance and Policy

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

Summary

Council has provided an allocation of \$187,000.00 (inclusive of GST) for the 2020/21 financial year for the consideration by Council, for the funding of requests from the community for financial assistance. In this financial year, \$99,401.00 has been granted to a variety of organisations through the annual fees and charges "Exemptions from the Application" process. The total value of requests granted so far for this financial year totals \$0.00.

The total value of requests for this August 2020 funding application period totals \$14,580.72 which if granted in full, would leave a balance in the Donations, Contributions and Grants fund of \$73,018.28.

Recommendation

That Council having considered the current requests for financial assistance, makes appropriate recommendations on the level of funding to be provided to each of these applications, from the Donations, Contributions and Grants program.

Detailed Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to consider requests for financial assistance that have been received within the current application period.

Background

Council's ability to make financial contribution and/or in-kind assistance are set out in Section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993. To assist Council in its compliance requirement, Council has adopted a Donations, Contribution and Grants Policy (AF003), and has provided a funding allocation of \$187,000.00 (inclusive of GST) for the 2020/21 financial year. In this financial year, \$99,401.00 has been granted to a variety of organisations through the annual fees and charges "Exemption from the Application" process, as outlined in Appendix A – Bodies Granted Exemptions, Fees and Charges 2020/21.

Matters under consideration

In this current application period, there have been 7 requests for assistance received from Community organisations. The total value of the requests under consideration is \$14,580.72, which if granted in full would leave a balance of \$73,018.28 for the remainder of 2020/21.

Options

Based on the information contained in this report, the options available to address this matter are to:

- a) Consider granting the full value of all requests, or
- b) Consider reducing or declining some applications.

Attachments

- 1. DCG Donations Contributions & Grants Applications List August 2020 [↓](#)
- 2. DCG Donations Contributions & Grants Applications List August 2020 (Under Separate Cover) [⇒](#)
- 3. DCG Donations Contributions & Grants Applications (Under Separate Cover) [⇒](#)

DONATIONS, CONTRIBUTIONS AND GRANTS - AUGUST 2020

Organisation/Recipient	Type of Request	\$ Value	Details of Request
Rotary Club of Wentworth Inc	Rate Reduction	\$ 958.72	Request for Rate Reduction/Refund for the 2019/20 Council Rates for the 2 Wentworth Museum Buildings due to loss of income from closure of sites due to COVID-19. Apply for 25% of total rates for both properties \$3834.89
Pomona Public School	Donation	\$ 100.00	Request for Donation towards Awards for the 2020 School Presentations
Alcheringa Saints Basketball Club Inc	Grant	\$ 5,000.00	Request for Grant towards Funding Proposal to Reduce 2020/21 Membership Fees for Players & Upgrade of Storage Facilities for Club.
Fort Courage & OzFish Unlimited	Grant	\$ 5,000.00	Request for Grant towards Habitat Rehabilitation Program, mapping woody debris located within Frenchmans Creek & Rufus River.
Murray House Wentworth Aged Care	Fee Waiver/Refund	\$ 276.00	Request for Fee Waiver for the hire fees of the Wentworth Memorial Rooms for the monthly Board Meetings from July - December 2020, being held ofsite due to COVID-19 restrictions.
Wentworth Makers Inc	Fee Waiver/Refund	\$ 46.00	Request for Fee Waiver/Refund of the Hire fees for the Wentworth Memorial Rooms for their Annual General Meeting.
Wentworth Bowling Club Inc	Grant	\$ 3,200.00	Request for Grant towards Two Bowls Star Event to be held 11 November 2020 & 12 March 2021. Granted Money to go towards the Prize Money for Winners & Runners Up over the two days. Seeking funds due to lack of income due to cancelled Events caused by COVID-19.
	TOTAL	\$ 14,580.72	

9.6 WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES OPERATIONS UPDATE

File Number: RPT/20/443

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

At the Ordinary Council held on 18 December 2019, Council endorsed the recommendation to explore alternative options for the management of Council's waste facilities.

An initial analysis of the alternative options and timeframe for a way forward identified outsourcing the operations of the facilities as the preferred model for the future direction of Councils waste facilities.

Prior to the report to Council last December, work had already commenced to increase the capacity of the Buronga landfill from the current 30,000 tonnes per annum to 100,000 tonnes per annum.

A review of this process highlighted a number of risks associated with the site expansion application approval that would have the potential to impact the long term operations of the Buronga Landfill site.

Recommendation

That Council notes the Waste Management Facilities update.

That Council process the site expansion Development Application prior to commencing the tender for operations of Council's waste facilities.

Detailed Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on Waste Management operations.

Background

At the Ordinary Council meeting held on 18 December 2019 Council considered a detailed report and briefing regarding the operations of Council's waste facilities. As recommended in the report Council resolved the following:

"That Council authorises the General Manager to investigate options for alternative management arrangements of Council's waste services"

Matters under consideration

An initial analysis of the alternative options and timeframe for a way forward identified outsourcing the operations of the facilities as the preferred model for the future direction of Councils waste facilities. This remains the mechanism by which this item has progressed and leads to the need to have a current approval in place to minimize the risk to potential contractors.

Prior to the report to Council last December, work had already commenced to increase the capacity of the Buronga landfill from the current 30,000 tonnes per annum to 100,000 tonnes per annum. Given the level of detail required for the application and the relevant approvals process this is expected to take at least another 12 months to complete.

A review of this process highlighted the following risks associated with the site expansion process:

- Site expansion is not approved
- Site expansion is approved but with significant conditions that affect the operations of the site

These risks have the potential to impact the long term operations of the Buronga Landfill site should Council enter into a long term contract for the operations of the landfill based on the assumption that the capacity of the site can be expanded prior to the above process being finalised.

Should Council's application be rejected this will affect Council's ability to provide the contractor an approved area for waste disposal

Utilising Council's Enterprise Risk Management Framework the risks have been assessed as follows:

Site expansion is not approved

Strategic Risk

Impact	Likelihood	Risk Rating
High	Possible	High

Operational Risk

Impact	Likelihood	Risk Rating
Extreme	Almost Certain	Extreme

Liability/Legal Risk

Impact	Likelihood	Risk Rating
Extreme	Almost Certain	Extreme

Site Expansion approved but with significant conditions

Strategic Risk

Impact	Likelihood	Risk Rating
Medium	Possible	High

Operational Risk

Impact	Likelihood	Risk Rating
Medium	Possible	High

Liability/Legal Risk

Impact	Likelihood	Risk Rating
Medium	Possible	High

One or both of these events should they eventuate once a contract has been entered into has the potential to impact the landfill operator's ability to maximise the operations the site.

Legal, strategic, financial or policy implications

These risks could potentially expose Council to possible claims of misrepresentation based on the fact that the operator has submitted a tender and entered into a contract in good faith based on the information provided during the tender process.

It would be reasonable to expect that the operator would seek compensation for items such as lost profit, residual value on plant and equipment purchased by the Contractor for the purposes of the contract and other similar elements. This would likely result in a significant expense to Council.

Even if Council is successful in gaining the expansion approval, the risk that the consent conditions built in to the site expansion approval may necessitate a change to site operations which the Contractor may then be able to claim as a variation to the contract. This variation may then lead to additional costs to Council.

Council Officers have also considered the option for an operations contract that would run for a relatively short duration (ie 3 years), however this reduced time frame would likely have a number of potential negative impacts. These include:

- Restrict the number of potential respondents to such a tender as they would have to have the necessary plant and equipment on their asset list;
- Require plant and equipment to be depreciated over a shorter period, resulting in increased fees and charges;
- Provide a short time to recover initial start up costs, resulting in increased fees and charges;
- Lead to instability in operations as there could be a change in operations after only a couple of years; and
- Increased cost to Council through running multiple tender processes.

Based on this and considering the likely time frames for the expansion approval process, short term contracting is not a preferred option.

Conclusion

Therefore, having considered the information provided in this report it is recommended that Council should proceed with the finalisation of the site expansion prior to commencing the tender process for the operations of the waste facilities.

While Council is waiting for the site expansion approval, works can commence on the tender documentation so that once the approval has been granted the tender process could commence straight away which will reduce the timeframes by approximately 6 months.

Attachments

Nil

9.7 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT

File Number: RPT/20/419

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 July 2020 were \$739,381.24. After allowing for pensioner subsidies, the total levies collected are now 8.47%. For comparison purposes 9.15% of the levy had been collected at the end of July 2019. Council currently has \$26,871,471.00 in cash and investments.

Recommendation

1. That Council notes the monthly finance report.
2. That Council approves the incorrectly charged water account of \$6,314.40 to be written off

Detailed Report

The purpose of this report is to indicate to Council the position in relation to the rate of collections and the balance of cash books.

Reconciliation and Balance of Funds held as at 31 July 2020

The reconciliation has been carried out between the Cash Book of each fund and the Bank Pass Sheet as at 31 July 2020.

	Combined Bank Account
Cash Balance as at 1 July 2020	\$ 1,874,688.11
Add: Receipts for the Period Ending 31 July 2020 Rates, Debtors, Miscellaneous	\$ 6,370,002.02
Less: Payments for the Period Ending 31 July 2020 Cash Book entries for this Month	\$ 6,378,523.24
Cash Balance at at 31 July 2020	\$ 1,866,166.89
Investments	
Total Investments as at 31 July 2020	\$ 25,005,304.11
TOTAL	\$ 26,871,471.00

Collection of Rates and Charges

Rates and Charges collections for the month of July 2020 were \$739,381.24. After allowing for pensioner subsidies, the total levies collected are now 8.47%. A summary of the Rates and Charges situation as at 31 July 2020 is as follows:

	Rates and Charges	
Levies		
Balance Outstanding at 30 June 2020 - Rates / Water	1,206,927.30	
Rates and Charges Levied 22 July 2020	9,193,808.18	\$ 10,400,735.48
+ Additional Water Charges	476,845.70	
+ Supplementary Rates and Charges	0.00	
+ Additional Charges	120.00	
- Credit Adjustments	7,116.25	
- Abandonments	421.82	\$ 10,870,163.11
Deductions		
- Payments	739,381.24	
- Less Refunds of Payments	0.00	\$ 739,381.24
		\$ 10,130,781.87
- Pensioner Subsidy		
Government Subsidy	99,649.34	
Council Subsidy	81,525.20	\$ 181,174.54
Total Rates/Water Charges Outstanding		\$ 9,949,607.33

Note: For comparison purposes 9.15% of the levy had been collected at the end of July 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	\$ 701,609.73	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	\$ 1,351,840.61	12/05/2037
				TOTAL	\$ 4,276,534.97	

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 July 2020.

Account	Date	Amount	Comment
1750-01, 1834-1, 1956, 1756	25.6.2020	12.76	Ratepayer thought that they did not have to pay interest due to COVID 19
724-44	25.6.2020	0.82	Credit interest - Interest incorrectly charged
2176.013	29.6.2020	6.92	Credit interest - Interest incorrectly charged
1902	8.7.2020	11.93	Credit interest - Interest incorrectly charged
511-55	16.7.2020	290.47	Negotiated to write off part of interest owing if outstanding rates are paid (payment of rates/water was received- \$12,652.02)
1667-5	23.7.2020	1677.20	Development on neighbouring property damaged filtered water pipe resulting in a large account
Debtor: Wentworth Uniting Church	10.7.2020	233.00	Cancelled Licence for use of Council Reserve

Request for authorisation of incorrect water charge to be written off

Water account 283/36

An amount of \$6,314.40 was charged on water account 283/36 in error and is required to be written off.

A water reading was not able to be obtained on the above property and an estimated reading was entered. On the next water billing cycle Council's meter reader was able to obtain a correct reading which was less than the previous estimated reading. When this occurs our computer system generates a large bill in error and it was not identified in the water billing run.

Overtime and Travelling

Month	Jul-20	Pay Periods	2 & 3	
Overtime				
	Time and a Half		Double Time	
Department	Hours	Amount	Hours	Amount
Administration	11.00	\$ 784.92	7.50	\$ 842.34
Animal Services	6.50	\$ 296.03	14.50	\$ 880.41
Civil Works	9.00	\$ 422.39	6.50	\$ 471.37
Governance				
Health & Planning				
Parks & Gardens	10.00	\$ 441.43	18.00	\$ 1,054.67
Roads - Council	191.00	\$ 8,857.83	56.00	\$ 3,606.85
Roads - RMS	63.50	\$ 2,916.36	62.50	\$ 4,460.30
Waste Management	4.00	\$ 181.64	10.00	\$ 675.77
Water & Waste Water	31.50	\$ 1,577.08	56.00	\$ 3,440.35
Total	326.50	\$ 15,477.68	231.00	\$ 15,432.06
Travel Allowance				
Department	Kms	Amount		
Administration				
Civil Works	64.00	\$ 43.52		
Health & Planning	874.00	\$ 688.12		
Total	938.00	\$ 731.64		

Conclusion

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

Attachments

Nil

9.8 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 31 July 2020 Council had \$23,005,304.11 invested in term deposits and \$2 million in a cash at call account. Council received \$18,314.08 from its investments for the month of July 2020.

In July 2020 Council investments averaged a rate of return of 1.23% and it currently has \$8,466,832.09 of internal restrictions and \$14,177,723.24 of external restrictions.

Recommendation

That Council notes the monthly investment report.

Detailed Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the current status of its investments.

Matters under consideration

As at 31 July 2020 Council had \$26,871,471.00 invested with seven financial institutions.

Breakdown of Total Funds Available

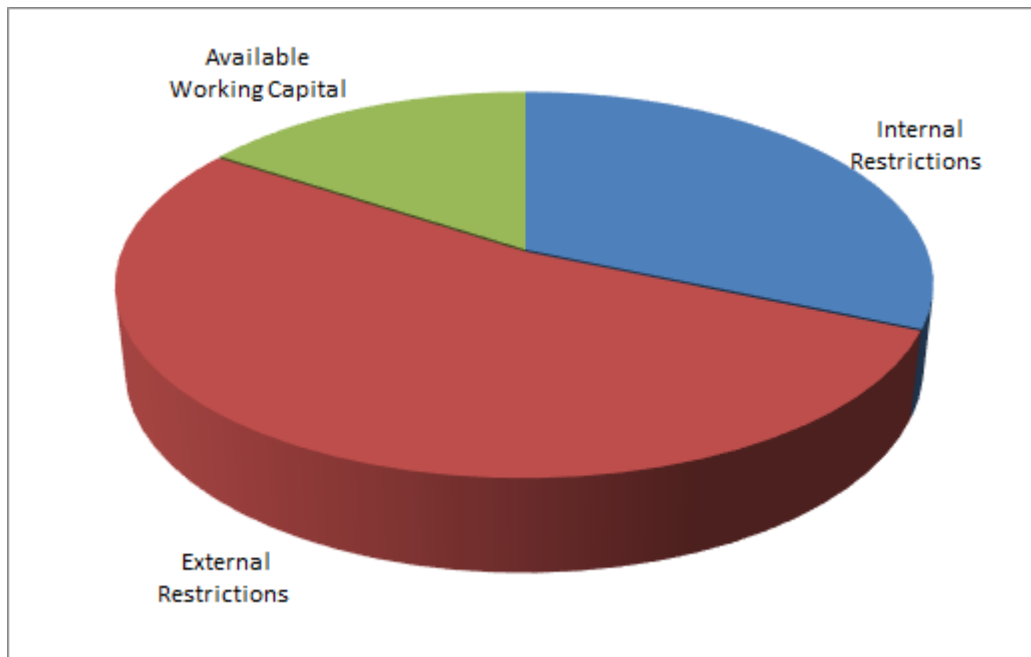
Financial Institution	Amount	Percentage of Available Funds
AMP	\$ 6,000,000.00	22.33%
Bank of Queensland	\$ 4,000,000.00	14.89%
Bendigo Bank	\$ 4,866,166.89	18.11%
IMB Bank	\$ 1,000,000.00	3.72%
Macquarie Bank	\$ 3,000,000.00	11.16%
Members Equity Bank	\$ 5,005,304.11	18.63%
National Australia Bank	\$ 3,000,000.00	11.16%
	\$26,871,471.00	100.00%

Investments on Hand as at 31 July

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)	31/07/2020	29/01/2021	0.65%	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)	2/07/2020	3/12/2020	0.85%	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
Members Equity Bank (4)	31/07/2020	Ongoing	0.65%	Term Deposit	\$ 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 (3)	30/06/2020	28/10/2020	0.85%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	A1+/AA-
National Australia Bank (6)	28/07/2020	25/11/2020	0.75%	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					\$ 25,005,304.11	
Operating Account					\$ 1,866,166.89	
Total Funds Available					\$ 26,871,471.00	
Representing:						
- Internal Restrictions						
- Employee Entitlements				\$ 2,376,437.00		
- Doubtful Debts				\$ 48,595.00		
- Tip Remediation				\$ 1,372,493.54		
- Future Development Reserve				\$ 1,113,213.94		
- Trust Account				\$ 356,092.61		
- Capital Projects				\$ 1,000,000.00		
- Plant Replacement Reserve				\$ 2,200,000.00	\$ 8,466,832.09	
- External Restrictions						
- Water Fund				\$ 9,242,437.48		
- Sewer Fund				\$ 2,621,725.16		
- Developer Contributions Reserve				\$ 619,065.20		
- Domestic Waste Management Reserve				\$ 104,796.78		
- Unexpended Grants				\$ 738,952.10		
- Crown Reserves Reserve				\$ 333,116.80		
- Loan Guarantee Reserve				\$ 10,774.04		
- Prepayments Cemeteries				\$ 506,855.68	\$ 14,177,723.24	
- Day to Day Liquidity					\$ 4,226,915.67	
Total Funds Available					\$ 26,871,471.00	

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

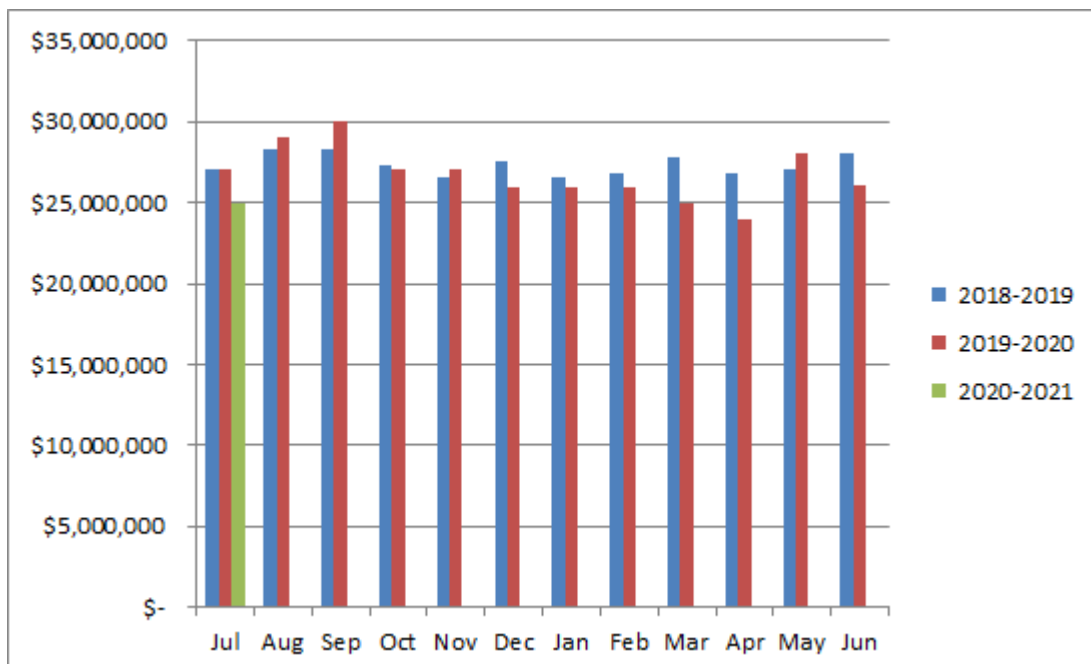
Breakdown



Summary – Unexpended Grants as at 31 July 2020

Grant	Amount
Block Grant	\$45,508.25
Pooncarie Weir	\$77,746.00
RFS R & M Grant 2011-2018	\$64,723.00
State Library Infrastructure Grant	\$500,000.00
Wentworth Riverfront BBQ's - SCCF	\$50,974.85
Total	\$738,952.10

Total funds invested

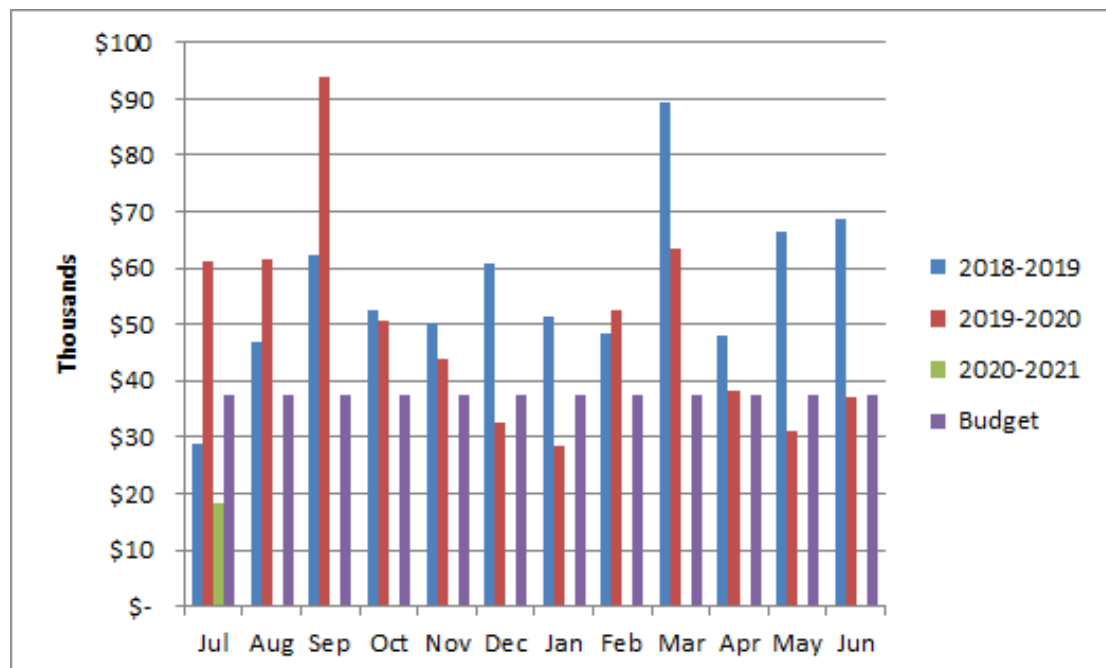


From the five term deposits that matured in July and the interest earned on the funds in the at call accounts, Council earned \$18,314.08 in interest. The budget for July was \$37,500.00. Year to date Council has received \$18,314.08 in interest. The year to date budget was \$37,500.00.

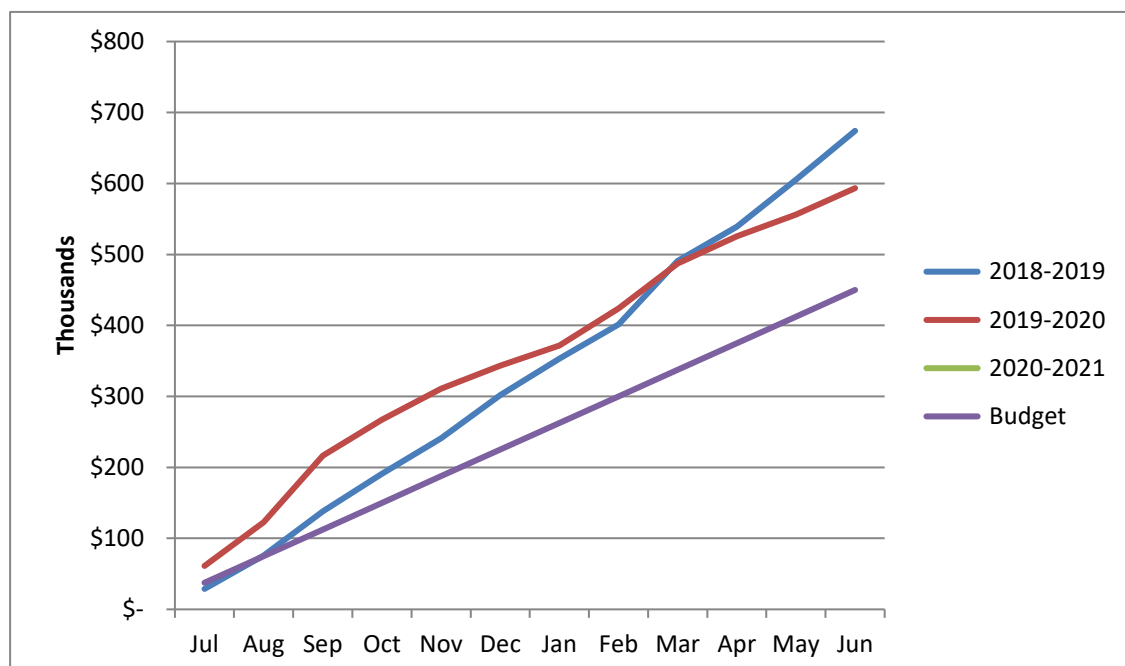
Investments maturing in July 2020

Investee	Date Invested	Date of Maturity	Effective Interest Rate	Investment Type	Amount Invested	Interest Earned
Bendigo Bank (10)	3/04/2020	31/07/2020	1.55%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 5,053.42
Macquarie Bank (2)	5/03/2020	2/07/2020	1.70%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 5,495.89
Macquarie Bank (3)	16/04/2020	16/07/2020	1.60%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 3,989.05
Members Equity Bank (3)	26/05/2020	24/07/2020	0.75%	Cash at Call A/c	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ 2,337.35
National Australia Bank (1)	9/06/2020	9/07/2020	0.45%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 369.87
National Australia Bank (6)	29/05/2020	28/07/2020	0.65%	Term Deposit	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 1,068.50
Total						\$ 18,314.08

Interest received July 2020

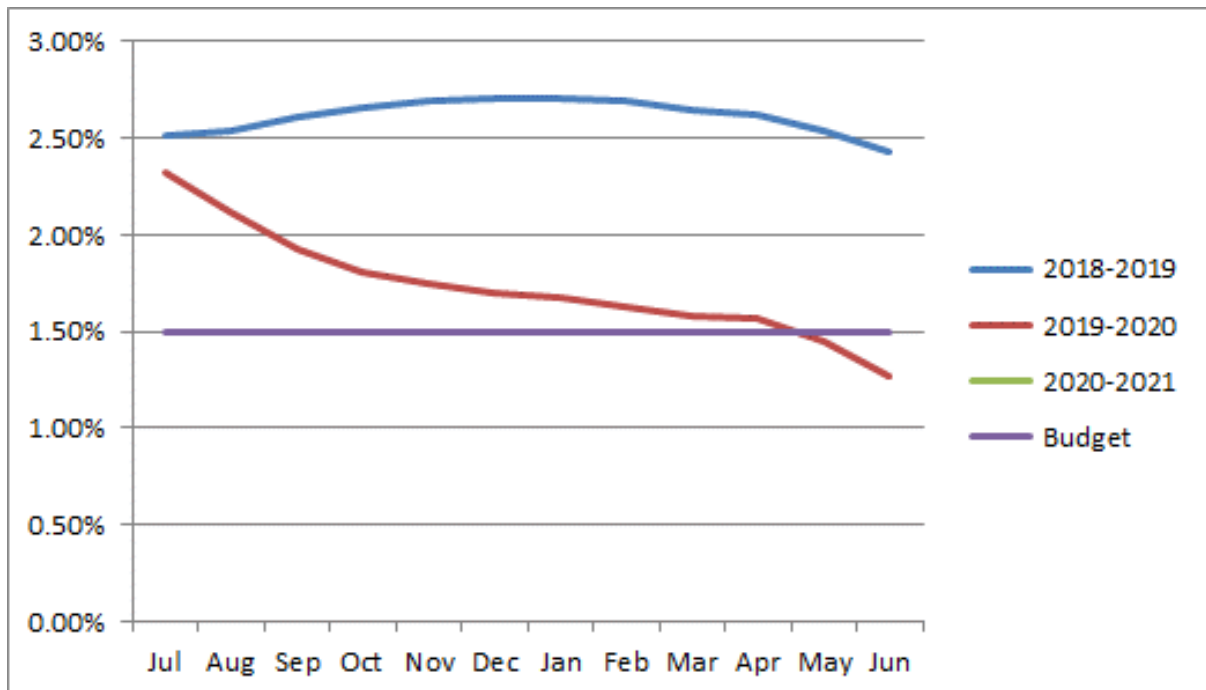


Total Interest received July 2020 – June 2021



For July 2020 Council's investments returned an effective average rate of 1.23%. Year to date the effective average rate has been 1.23%. The budget for 2020-2021 was 1.50%.

Effective average Interest Rate



Conclusion

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

Council is investing its funds prudently to optimise returns and reduce exposure to risk in accordance with legislation and its own investment policy.

Attachments

Nil

9.9 REQUEST TO AFFIX SEAL - DISCOVERY HOLIDAY PARKS VARIATION TO BURONGA CARAVAN PARK LEASE

File Number: RPT/20/387

Responsible Officer: Matthew Carlin - Director Health and Planning
Responsible Division: Health and Planning
Reporting Officer: Hilary Dye - Property and Land Tenure Officer

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

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

Summary

Council has entered into a lease (AP523893) agreement with Discovery Holiday Parks. In part of this lease is an agreed Capital Works Schedule to upgrade a number of infrastructure and compliance issues in three stages, within an agreed timeframe.

Discovery Parks has requested an extension of time to complete stage 1. The challenges of COVID-19 has caused a delay in completing all the proposed works, therefore a variation to the original lease capital works target dates has been requested.

A Variation of Lease has been prepared by the Discovery Holiday Parks which is required to be signed, sealed and delivered under seal.

Recommendation

Pursuant to Clause 400 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* Council endorses the variations to the lease and authorises the Mayor and General Manager to execute the agreement and affix the seal of the Wentworth Shire Council.

Detailed Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek a resolution of Council to execute a Variation of Lease for the Discovery Holiday Parks schedule of works.

Background

In the current lease there are a number of outstanding compliance matters that still need to be addressed. Discovery Parks have been working through these issues since their commencement at Buronga Riverside Caravan Park. Seven of the ten items required by 30 June 2020 have been completed however, with the challenges brought about by COVID Discovery Parks are anticipating a delay in the final 3 items required by 30 June 2020. Therefore, they respectfully request an extension of the time to complete these works to 30 June 2021.

Amendment to the Schedule of Works required in relation to (i) fire hose reels and hydrants and (ii) sewer connections for powered caravan sites has been more significant than had been originally anticipated. This was further complicated by limitations in existing infrastructure (e.g. water pressure) that has resulted in the estimates for these items being greater than captured in the schedule.

Matters under consideration

It is believed it to be in both Discovery's and Council's interest that the Schedules attached to the leases be revised to reflect a new priority of works and their estimated cost as identified below.

Stage 1 Capital Works – to be completed by 30 June	Estimated	Status
2021 Work description	Cost inc GST	at 11/6
Undertake minor repairs and update labelling to existing MSB and distribution boards	11,870.65	complete
Add testable backflow prevention at incoming meters		
Add testable backflow prevention on any taps or water outlets near sullage dump points and pool	10,659.00	complete
Add more fire hose reels for complete coverage		
Add fire hydrant system connected to existing raw water supply	236,500.00	
Provide capped and banded sewer connections for powered caravan sites (approx. 356 priority van sites)	44,000.00	
Sewerage pump upgrade	9,852.70	complete
Fit thermostatic mixing valves within 6m of any shower or basin tap in amenities	14,025.00	complete
Re-instate circulating pump in central amenities block		
Reset hot water supply temperature in continuous flow hot water units to 50C		
TOTAL	326,907.35	

Stage 2 Capital Works – to be completed by 31 December	Estimated
2021 Work description	Cost inc GST
Additional Sewer Mains	44,000.00
Additional Pumping Station	27,500.00
TOTAL	71,500.00

Stage 3 Capital Works – to be completed by 31 December	Estimated
2021 Work description	Cost inc GST
Upgrade Cons Mains and Main Switchboard	44,000.00
Augment Essential Energy Supply	55,000.00
Upgrade Water Connection	16,500.00
Additional Water Mains	22,000.00
TOTAL	137,500.00

The Variation of lease (AP523893) is required to be signed, sealed and delivered.

Conclusion

The Variation of Lease is a legal document that is required to be executed under the Seal of the Wentworth Shire Council.

Attachments

Nil

9.10 REQUEST TO AFFIX SEAL - ROAD SERVICES COMPENSATION AGREEMENT / TRONOX MINING AUSTRALIA - A52 NOB ROAD

File Number: RPT/20/393

Responsible Officer: Matthew Carlin - Director Health and Planning
Responsible Division: Health and Planning
Reporting Officer: Hilary Dye - Property and Land Tenure Officer

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

Summary

Council is entering into a Road Services Compensation Agreement with Tronox Mining Australia Limited to reimburse all Council's expenses in relation to the closure and reopening of Nob Road Pooncarie.

Council being the Road Authority will need to undertake the procedure of the road closure and the road opening following the NSW legislative procedure set out in the *Roads Act 1993*.

A Deed of Agreement has been prepared to recover all of Council's expenditure which is to be signed, sealed and delivered under seal.

Recommendation

Pursuant to clause 400 of the *Local Government (General Regulation) 2005*, Council authorises the Mayor and General Manager to execute the Road Services Compensation Agreement and affix the Wentworth Shire Council seal to the Deed of Agreement with Tronox Mining Australia Limited.

Detailed Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek a resolution of Council to execute a Road Services Compensation Deed of Agreement with Tronox Mining Australia Limited.

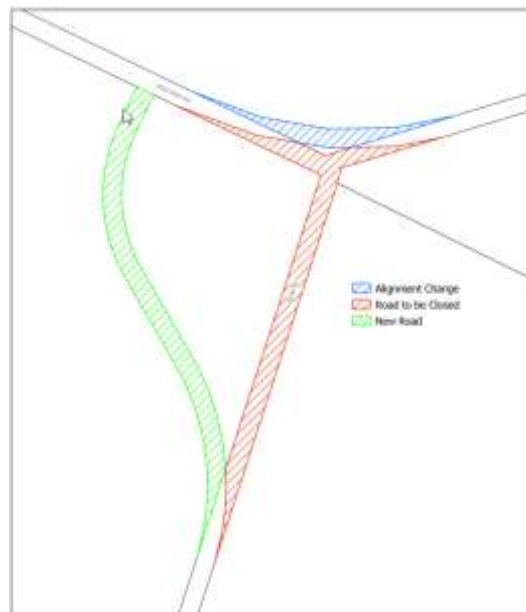
Background

Council has already resolved to proceed with Tronox's proposal as reported at the 22 April 2020, Ordinary Council Meeting RPT/20/393.

The parties have agreed to enter into this Agreement to set out the agreed terms in relation to such services and compensation.

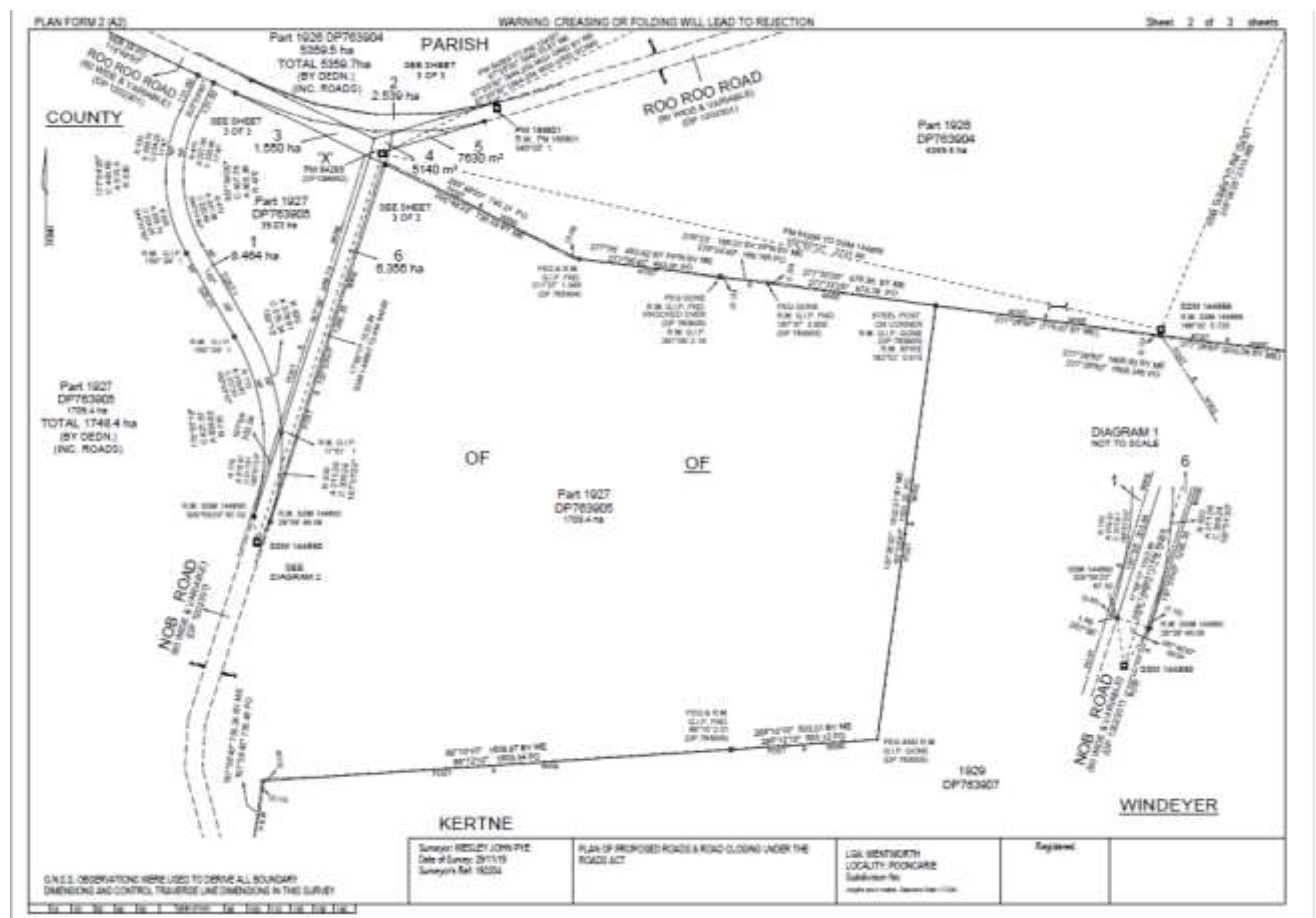
The proposal consists closing off a section of the existing Nob Road, with a new realignment to the west and a new intersection into Roo Roo Road. The Shire being the Road Authority has agreed to undertake certain services associated with the realignment and closure of the Road and Tronox pays the Shire or otherwise reimburses the Shire for all fees, costs and expenses incurred as defined in *Part 13 Division 5 Section 223 Road Act 1993* a Road Authority may charge fees for services.

Tronox at its own cost, is to undertake the construction of the new Road, in accordance with the requirements of the Wentworth Shire Council.



Conclusion

The Road Services Compensation Deed of Agreement is a legal document that is required to be executed under the Seal of the Wentworth Shire Council.



Attachments

1. Road Services Compensation Deed of Agreement - Tronox Mining Australia Limited [↓](#)



ROAD SERVICES COMPENSATION AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT is made the _____ day of _____ 2020 between:

PARTIES

Tronox Mining Australia Limited ABN 60 009 247 858 of Koombana Bay, Bunbury, Western Australia (**Tronox**); and

Wentworth Shire Council ABN 96 283 886 815 of 26-28 Adelaide Street, Wentworth, NSW (Shire).

RECITALS

- A. Tronox proposes to undertake mining operations which require the partial realignment and closure of the Road.
- B. The Shire is the relevant road authority for the Road, designated as such by the *Roads Act 1993 (NSW)* (**Act**).
- C. The Shire has agreed, at the request of Tronox, to undertake certain services associated with the realignment and closure of the Road as required by Tronox on the condition that:
 - 1) the Shire acquires part of the adjoining land to the north of the Road (part Lot 1926 DP763904) for the purposes of realigning the Road (as shown hatched in blue on the plan attached);
 - 2) the Shire acquires part of the adjoining land to the west of the Road (part Lot 1927 DP763905) under section 44 of the Act for the purposes of constructing the New Road (as shown hatched in green on the plan attached);
 - 3) no formal objection is made under the Act to the proposed realignment and/or closure of the Road;
 - 4) Tronox pays to the Shire or otherwise reimburses the Shire for all fees, costs and expenses incurred in:
 - (i) undertaking the realignment and closure of the Road (including but not limited to providing the Services); and
 - (ii) the acquisition of part Lot 1926 DP763904 and part Lot 1927 DP763905, as necessary for the purposes of realigning the Road and constructing the New Road; and
 - 5) Tronox at its cost, undertakes the construction of the New Road, in accordance with the requirements of the Shire.

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- D. The parties have agreed to enter into this Agreement to set out the agreed terms in relation to such services and compensation.

OPERATIVE PROVISIONS

1. INTERPRETATION

1.1 Definitions

In this Agreement, including the recitals, unless the context otherwise requires:

Agreement means this agreement and includes any schedules and annexures.

Business Day means a day on which banks are open for business (excluding a Saturday or Sunday) in New South Wales.

Fees means all fees charged by the Shire for the Services conducted in accordance with this Agreement in accordance with section 223 of the Act.

GST has the meaning given to it in the GST Act.

GST Act means the *A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999* (Cth).

New Road means the new public road to be constructed from Nob Road to Roo Roo Road, hatched in green on the attached plan.

Services means the services to be carried out by the Shire under clause 3.1.

Road means that part of Nob Road and part Roo Roo Road, Pooncarie, NSW, hatched in red on the attached plan.

Valid Payment Claim means a claim for payment that is in writing and contains all of the following elements: a Valid Tax Invoice, and the relevant Services performed or fees incurred.

Valid Tax Invoice means an invoice, which complies with the GST Act, relating to the production and form of tax invoices for GST purposes.

1.2 Rules for interpreting this Agreement

- (a) Headings are for convenience only, and do not affect interpretation. The following rules also apply in interpreting this Agreement, except where the context makes it clear that a rule is not intended to apply.
- (b) A reference to:

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- (i) legislation (including subordinate legislation) is to that legislation as amended, re-enacted or replaced, and includes any subordinate legislation issued under it;
 - (ii) a deed, document or agreement, or a provision of a deed, document or agreement, is to that deed, document, agreement or provision as amended, supplemented, replaced or novated;
 - (iii) a party to this Agreement or to any other deed, document or agreement includes a permitted substitute or a permitted assign of that party;
 - (iv) a person includes any type of entity or body of persons, whether or not it is incorporated or has a separate legal identity, and any executor, administrator or successor in law of the person; and
 - (v) anything (including a right, obligation or concept) includes each part of it.
- (c) A singular word includes the plural, and vice versa.
 - (d) A word which suggests one gender includes the other genders.
 - (e) If a word is defined, another part of speech has a corresponding meaning.
 - (f) If an example is given of anything (including a right, obligation or concept), such as by saying it includes something else, the example does not limit the scope of that thing.
 - (g) The word **agreement** includes an undertaking or other binding arrangement or understanding, whether or not in writing.

2. PRECONDITIONS

The parties acknowledge that the proposed realignment and closure of the Road is subject to and conditional on:

- a) the Shire acquiring, at Tronox's cost, part of the adjoining land north of the Road (part Lot 1926 DP763904) for such amount to be agreed between the Shire and the owner of Lot 1926 DP763904, for the purposes of realigning the Road (as shown hatched in blue on the plan attached);
- b) the Shire acquiring, at Tronox's cost, part of the adjoining land west of the Road (part Lot 1927 DP763905) under section 44 of the Act for the purposes of constructing the New Road (as shown hatched in green on the plan attached);
- c) no formal objection being made under the Act to the proposed realignment and/or closure of the Road; and
- d) Tronox at its cost, undertaking and completing the construction of the New Road, in accordance with the requirements of the Shire.

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If for any reason any of the above preconditions cannot be satisfied or completed, the Shire may suspend or terminate the provision of the Services under this Agreement. In such case, Tronox will be liable to pay for any Fees for costs or Services already incurred as at the date of such suspension or termination.

3. SERVICES

3.1 Subject to Tronox paying the compensation under clause 4, and the preconditions in clause 2 being satisfied, the Shire agrees that it will do everything required in its capacity as the relevant road authority for the Road, to:

- (a) close the Road;
- (b) realign a section of the Road through the adjacent Lot 1926 DP763904 for Roo Roo Road (hatched blue on the plan attached);
- (c) create a new intersection at the intersecting points of both Nob Road and Roo Roo Road (shown on the plan attached) ;and
- (d) undertake the necessary steps in order to comply with the requirements of the Act in carrying out the above.

3.2 The Shire will ensure that the Services are conducted in accordance with good operating practice and all relevant laws.

4. COMPENSATION

4.1 In consideration of the Shire carrying out the Services:

4.1.1 Tronox must pay to the Shire or otherwise reimburse the Shire for:

- (a) all Fees for providing the Services;
- (b) all other costs and expenses relating to or associated with the Services, this agreement, the acquisition of part Lot 1926 DP763904 and part Lot 1927 DP763905 and the construction of the New Road, including but not limited to investigation fees, survey costs, valuation fees, search fees, registration fees and any other fees charged by NSW Public Works Advisory;
- (c) the Shire's legal costs incurred in connection with the review, negotiation and execution of this agreement, and all other matters contemplated by this agreement including the acquisition of part Lot 1926 DP763904 and part Lot 1927 DP763905 and;

4.1.2 Tronox at its cost, agrees to undertake and complete the construction of the New Road, in accordance with all requirements of the Shire.

4.2 The Shire agrees that:

- (a) in accordance with section 223(3) of the Act, the Fees will not exceed the maximum fee (if any) prescribed by or calculated in accordance with the regulations for the kind of service concerned; and

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- (b) the Shire will seek Tronox's approval of the Fees prior to undertaking the Services (such approval not to be unreasonably withheld or delayed), but is not required to seek Tronox's approval for any other costs or expenses incurred under clause 4.1(b) and (c)
- 4.3 Tronox must make payment to the Shire in respect of each Valid Payment Claim no later than 30 days after the date of each Valid Payment Claim.
- 5. **GOODS AND SERVICES TAX**
 - 5.1 For the purposes of this clause 5, the terms GST, supply, recipient, input tax credit, tax invoice and adjustment note are as defined in the GST Act.
 - 5.2 If GST is or will be payable on a supply made under this Agreement (including any supply evidenced by a payment, reimbursement or indemnity under this Agreement) and the amount otherwise payable for that supply under this Agreement is not stated to already include an amount in respect of GST on the supply, the party making the supply (**supplier**) may:
 - (a) increase the amount payable by the recipient for that supply otherwise provided for under this Agreement by the amount of that GST; or
 - (b) otherwise charge to the recipient the amount of that GST. The recipient must pay the amount in respect of GST charged in a time and manner consistent with the requirements for payment of other amounts under this Agreement.
 - 5.3 The recovery of any amount in respect of GST by the supplier from the recipient under this clause 5 is subject to the supplier issuing to the recipient a Valid Tax Invoice or adjustment note in respect of the supply.
 - 5.4 If a party is entitled under this Agreement to be reimbursed or indemnified by the other party for a cost or expense incurred in connection with this Agreement, the reimbursement or indemnity payment must not include any GST component of the cost or expense for which a credit or refund of GST may be claimed by the party entitled to be reimbursed or indemnified, or by its representative member.

6. NOTICES

6.1 Method of giving notices

A notice, consent, approval or other communication required or permitted to be given by one party to another under this agreement must be in writing, in English, signed by or on behalf of the person giving it, addressed to the person to whom it is given and:

- (a) delivered or sent by post to that party's address; or
- (b) transmitted by facsimile to that party's address.



6.2 Time of receipt

A notice given to a party in accordance with this clause 6 is treated as having been given and received:

- (a) if delivered to a party's address, on the day of delivery if a Business Day, otherwise on the next Business Day; or
- (b) if transmitted by facsimile to a party's address and a correct and complete transmission report is received, on the day of transmission if a Business Day, otherwise on the next Business Day; or
- (c) if sent by post:
 - (i) within Australia, 3 Business Days after posting; or
 - (ii) to or from a place outside Australia, 7 Business Days after posting.

6.3 Address of parties

For the purposes of this clause 6, the address of a party is the address set out at the beginning of this Agreement or another address of which that party may from time to time give notice to each other party.

7. GENERAL

7.1 Governing law

- (a) This Agreement is governed by the law in force in New South Wales.
- (b) Each party submits to the non-exclusive jurisdiction of the courts exercising jurisdiction in New South Wales, and any court that may hear appeals from any of those courts, for any proceedings in connection with this Agreement, and waives any right it might have to claim that those courts are an inconvenient forum.

7.2 Giving effect to this Agreement

Each party must do anything (including execute any document), and must ensure that its employees and agents do anything (including execute any document), that any other party may reasonably require to give full effect to this Agreement.

7.3 Amendment

This Agreement can only be amended, supplemented, replaced or novated by another document signed by the parties.

7.4 Counterparts

This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts and all of those counterparts taken together constitute one and the same instrument.

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7.5 Authorised Representatives

Each person who executes this Agreement on behalf of a party under authority of that party declares that he or she is not aware of any fact or circumstance that might affect his or her authority to do so.

8. THE SHIRE'S CAPACITY AS A GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY

- (a) Tronox acknowledges and agrees that the Shire is a governmental authority vested with statutory powers under laws including, without limitation, the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, the *Roads Act 1993* and the *Local Government Act 1993*.
- (b) Nothing in this Agreement abrogates or fetters, or is intended to abrogate or fetter, the lawful and proper discharge by the Shire of any of its statutory responsibilities as a governmental authority under any relevant laws, whether in relation to the subject matter of this Agreement or otherwise.
- (c) Tronox acknowledges and agrees that the Shire:
 - (i) is under a statutory duty to consider properly, on its merits, any application relating to the subject matter of this Agreement that may be submitted to it in its capacity as a governmental authority and otherwise to exercise all its statutory responsibilities according to law;
 - (ii) cannot fetter in advance the exercise of any of its statutory discretions, whether by way of contract, estoppel or otherwise, in relation to any application relating to the subject matter of this Agreement to be lodged with the Shire in its capacity as a governmental authority nor predetermine any decision in respect of any such application; and
 - (iii) has not, at any time prior to the making of this Agreement, given any assurance or made any representation or statement to Tronox as to how the Shire as a governmental authority will or may exercise any of its statutory discretions in its capacity as a consent authority in relation to any application relating to the subject matter of this Agreement.
- (d) Tronox further acknowledges and agrees that, in the event of any conflict between the unfettered discretion of the Shire in the exercise of its statutory powers as a governmental authority and the performance of its obligations under this Agreement, the former prevails.

EXECUTED as an agreement

Signed for and on behalf of **Tronox Mining Australia Limited**
pursuant to section 127 of the Corporations 2001 by:

.....

SIGNATURE

.....

SIGNATURE

.....

NAME OF DIRECTOR

.....

NAME OF DIRECTOR/SECRETARY

The common seal of **Wentworth Shire Council ABN 96 283 886 815** was
affixed on the day of
pursuant to a resolution of the Council
dated the day of and in
the presence of the authorised persons
whose signatures appear below:

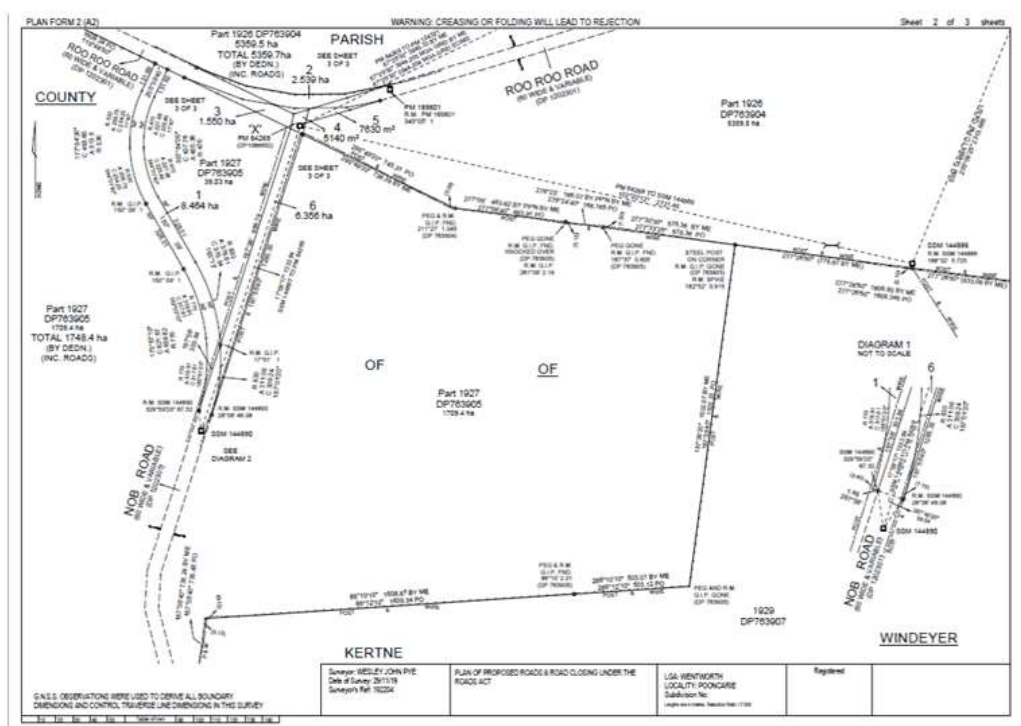
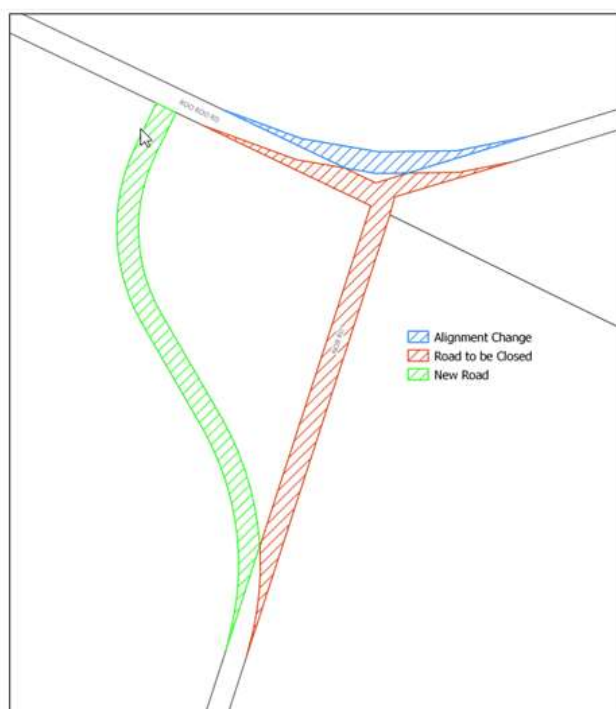
.....
Signature of Mayor

.....
Signature of General Manager

.....
Name of Mayor

.....
Name of General Manager

PLAN



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9.11 REQUEST TO AFFIX COUNCIL SEAL - A43 HENDY ROAD BURONGA - DEED OF AGREEMENT LANDHOLDERS COMPENSATION

File Number: RPT/20/416

Responsible Officer: Matthew Carlin - Director Health and Planning
 Responsible Division: Health and Planning
 Reporting Officer: Hilary Dye - Property and Land Tenure Officer

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

Summary

Council is entering into a Deed of Agreement for Easement with affected landholders of the Hendy Road Buronga, Sewer Pump Station stage #1 and #2 upgrade works.

Under the terms of the Land Acquisition Act 1991, Council is responsible for any cost that the owner reasonably incurs in association with Council acquiring the easement for sewer over his/her land which an underground sewer main has been installed.

Subject to the terms of this Deed, the Landowner has agreed to grant the Easement over their land to Council, for the operation, protection and maintenance of the works, for which compensation is payable.

Recommendation

Pursuant to Clause 400 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* Council endorses the Deed of Agreement and authorises the Mayor and General Manager to execute the agreement and affix the seal of the Wentworth Shire Council.

Detailed Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek a resolution of Council to execute a Deed of Agreement for Easement with individual landholders affected by the Hendy Road sewer realignment project.

Background

The Landowner is the registered proprietor of the Land and Council requested permission to construct the works on the land and the landowner agreed to the construction of the Works.

Herron Todd White completed an assessment of compensation on behalf of Wentworth Shire Council which was tabled at a closed session of the Ordinary Council Meeting on 24 June 2020 (RPT/20/340). Council resolved to proceed with compensation payable to each landholder.

Council engaged Bartier Perry Lawyers to prepare a Deed of Agreement for Easement.

NSW Public Works Advisory will consult with impacted residential property owners to set out the agreed terms in relation to such services and compensation to finalise the creation of the easement.

Conclusion

The Deed of Agreement for Easement is a legal document that is required to be executed under the Seal of the Wentworth Shire Council.

Attachments

1. Deed of Agreement for Easement A43 Hendy Road, Buronga [↓](#)



Deed of Agreement for Easement

Wentworth Shire Council
ABN 96 283 886 815

and

Bartier Perry Pty Ltd
Level 10, 77 Castlereagh St
Sydney NSW 2000 Australia

105434391 - NXP (NXP)

DX 109 Sydney
PO Box 2631
Sydney NSW 2001

T +61 2 8281 7800
ABN 30 124 690 053
bartier.com.au

REFERENCE SCHEDULE

ITEM 1
Landowner:

Name:
Address:

Name:
Address:

Name:
Address:

ITEM 2
Certificate of Title:

ITEM 3
Consideration:

Deed of Agreement for Easement

Date

Parties

Wentworth Shire Council ABN 96 283 886 815 of 26-28 Adelaide Street, Wentworth NSW
(COUNCIL)

and

The Landowner set out in Item 1 of the Reference Schedule

Background

- A. The Landowner is the registered proprietor of the Land.
- B. Council has requested permission to construct the Works on the Land and the Landowner has agreed to give permission to the construction of the Works.
- C. Subject to the terms of this Deed, the Landowner has agreed to grant the Easement to Council, for the operation, protection and maintenance of the Works.

Operative Terms

1 Definitions and Interpretation

1.1 Definitions

"Cancellation of Easement Form" means the form entitled Cancellation or Extinguishment of Easement form approved by Land Registry Services.

"Certificate of Title" means the Certificate of Title set out in Item 2 of the Reference Schedule.

"Consideration" means the sum set out in Item 3 of the Reference Schedule (exclusive of GST) to be paid by Council to the Landowner as consideration for the acquisition of the Easement.

"Council" means Wentworth Shire Council.

"Easement" means the easement in the location shown on the Plan and on the Easement Terms to be granted pursuant to this Deed.

"Easement Terms" means the terms contained in the Instrument.

"Instrument" means the Transfer Granting Easement which will create the Easement and is generally in the form annexed and marked "B".

"Land" means the land comprised in the Certificate of Title.

"Letter of Consent" means a letter entered into by a mortgagee or other interested person as contemplated by clause 15, in the form, or substantially in the form of the pro-forma letter attached as Annexure C.

"Plan" means registered plan DP1263431 annexed to this Deed and marked "A".

"Works" means construction of any works referred to in the Easement Terms.

1.2 Unless the contrary intention appears, a reference in this Deed to:

- (a) the singular includes the plural and vice versa;
- (b) the word "person" includes an individual, a firm, a body corporate, a partnership, joint venture, an unincorporated body or association, any governmental, semi-governmental, administrative, fiscal, judicial or quasi-judicial body, department, commission, authority, tribunal, agency or entity; and
- (c) a particular person includes a reference to the person's executors, administrators, successors, successors in title, substitutes (including persons taking by novation) and assigns.

2 Plan

2.1 The parties acknowledge and agree that the Plan describes the easement area and the location of the Works.

3 Easement

3.1 Council must:

- (a) promptly prepare the Instrument;
- (b) send the Instrument to the Landowner.

3.2 When the Landowner receives the Instrument, it must promptly:

- (a) properly execute and return to Council the Instrument;
- (b) produce the Certificate of Title at NSW Land Registry Services to enable registration of the Instrument; and
- (c) obtain and send Council any consent to registration of the Instrument by any mortgagee or other interested party in the Land as may be required by NSW Land Registry Services.

3.3 (a) When Council receives the properly executed Instrument from the Landowner, Council must promptly execute and lodge for registration at NSW Land Registry Services :

- (i) the Instrument and,
 - (ii) if any existing easement benefitting Council is to be cancelled, a Cancellation of Easement Form.
- (b) When the Easement has been recorded on the Certificate of Title, Council must:
 - (i) obtain and send a copy of the registered Instrument to the Landowner; and
 - (i) pay any Consideration to the Landowner.

4 Application of Easement Terms

The Parties agree the Easement Terms are binding from the date of this Deed and the Landowner agrees pursuant to the Easement Terms from the date of this Deed.

5 Release

The Landowner acknowledges that the Landowner will benefit from construction of the Works and that payment of the Consideration is the full compensation for the grant of the Easement by the Landowner and the Landowner fully and irrevocably releases Council from any future claim for payment of compensation pursuant to the provisions of the *Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991*.

6 Existing sewer works

The Landowner acknowledges and agrees that Council:

- (a) will cancel any easement of which it has the benefit over any existing sewer works which may exist in or on the Land at the date of this Deed and which have been decommissioned; and
- (b) will not, and is not required to, remove any such works and such works will remain in or on the Land.

7 Caveat

- 7.1 The Parties acknowledge that on execution of this Deed, Council has a caveatable interest in the Land.
- 7.2 To protect the interest of Council under this Deed, Council may lodge a caveat over the Certificate of Title to protect that interest.
- 7.3 If a caveat is lodged under this clause, Council must promptly consent to any dealing which relates to the Land which does not adversely affect their rights and interests under this Deed.
- 7.4 On registration of the Instrument at NSW Land Registry Services, any caveat lodged

pursuant to this clause by Council must be promptly withdrawn.

8 GST

- (a) All consideration provided for any taxable supply under this Deed is exclusive of GST unless the contrary is clear. The amount of that consideration must be increased by an additional amount equal to the GST on that taxable supply. The party who has to pay the additional amount must pay it at the same time as the consideration in respect of that taxable supply becomes due or, if the supplier has to pay (or allow credit against) the relevant GST before then, the additional amount must be paid at the earlier time.
- (b) If an amount of consideration under this Deed is calculated as specific compensation or reimbursement for an expense, loss or liability of a supplier the consideration must be calculated after excluding any amount for which the supplier is entitled to an input tax credit as recipient of the item to which the expense, loss or liability relates.
- (c) A party shall not be obliged to make any payment for GST unless it is provided with a tax invoice which complies with the GST Act.
- (d) If at any time an adjustment is made or required to be made between a party and the relevant taxing authority on account of any amount paid as GST under this Deed:
 - (i) a corresponding adjustment must be made;
 - (ii) adjustment notes must be issued; and
 - (iii) any payment must be made,between the parties as may be necessary to give effect to the adjustment.
- (e) For the purposes of this clause the following words are defined:
 - (i) **"GST"** means the tax imposed or assessed by the GST Act and its related legislation and includes any similar or substitute impost introduced in the future.
 - (ii) **"GST Act"** means the *A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999*.
 - (iii) **"input tax credit", "taxable supply" and "consideration"** have the meanings given to those terms in the GST Act.

9 Costs

9.1 Council agrees to pay:

- (a) any stamp duty payable or assessed in connection with this Deed; and

- (b) all fees imposed by the NSW Land Registry Services for registration of the Instrument.

9.2 Council will be responsible for the landowner's legal costs associated with the preparation, finalisation and execution of this Deed and grant of the Easement as per the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991, capped to a maximum amount of \$2,500 (plus GST)..

10 Entire Agreement

This Deed constitutes the entire agreement of the parties about its subject matter and supersedes all previous agreements, understandings and negotiations on that subject matter.

11 Successive parties bound

The terms of this Deed and the Easement are covenants and agreements between:

- (a) Council, both for itself, and its successors; and
- (b) the Landowner both for itself, its successors and every other person who is entitled from time to time to an estate or an interest in possession of the Land or any part of the Land.

to the extent that those covenants are annexed to and pass with the benefit and burden of the Land.

12 Counterparts

This Deed may consist of a number of copies, each signed by one or more parties to this Deed. If so, the signed copies are treated as making up the one document.

13 Variation and waiver

A provision of this Deed or a right created under it may not be waived or varied except in writing, signed by the party or parties to be bound.

14 Further steps

Each party agrees to do anything the other asks (eg obtaining consents, signing and providing documents and getting documents completed and signed):

- (a) to bind the party and its successors under this Deed; and
- (b) to give effect to the intentions of the parties, the objectives of this Deed and the transactions contemplated by the Deed (including negotiating in good faith with respect to any matters requested by any of the parties to this Deed); and
- (c) to execute and deliver documents and other instruments; and

- (d) to use its best endeavours to make relevant third parties comply with this clause.

15 Consent of mortgagee and interested persons

- (a) If, at the date of this deed, the Land is subject to a mortgage or if any person (**Interested Person**) has an interest in the Land (whether or not it is noted or registered on the title to the Land), the Landowner must, on or before the date of this deed:
 - (i) obtain the mortgagee's or the Interested Person's (as applicable) consent to the granting to Council of rights under this deed and to the proposed Instrument in favour of the Network Lessor;
 - (ii) procure the mortgagee or the Interested Person (as applicable) to sign a Letter of Consent; and
 - (iii) provide to Council any Letter of Consent required under this clause signed by the mortgagee or the Interested Person (as applicable).
- (b) If, after the date of this deed and prior to registration of the Instrument, the Landowner proposes to grant a mortgage or otherwise encumber the Land or grant any person (**Interested Person**) an interest in the Land, then prior to such dealing the Landowner must:
 - (i) obtain Council's consent (acting reasonably);
 - (ii) procure the mortgagee or the Interested Person (as applicable) to sign a Letter of Consent; and
 - (iii) provide to Council any Letter of Consent required under this clause signed by the mortgagee or the Interested Person (as applicable).
- (c) If, after the date of this deed and prior to registration of the Instrument, the Landowner proposes to transfer its estate or interest in the Land to any person (**transferee**), the Landowner must ensure that prior to or simultaneously with such transfer, the transferee enters into a deed with Council, on terms acceptable to Council (acting reasonably) under which the transferee agrees to be bound by the obligations of the Landowner under this deed.

Executed as a Deed

The common seal of **Wentworth Shire Council ABN 96 283 886 815** was affixed on the day of pursuant to a resolution of the Council dated the day of and in the presence of the authorised persons whose signatures appear below:

.....
Signature of Mayor

.....
Signature of General Manager

.....
Name of Mayor

.....
Name of General Manager

Execution of Landowner:

Executed by the Landowner as a deed in accordance with section 127 of the Corporations Act by its authorised officers

.....
Signature of director

.....
Signature of director/secretary

.....
Name

.....
Name

Signed by the Landowner in the presence of

Signature of witness

Signature of the Landowner

Name of witness

Address of witness

Signed by the Landowner in the presence of

Signature of witness

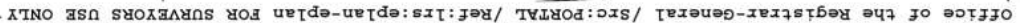
Signature of the Landowner

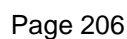
Name of witness

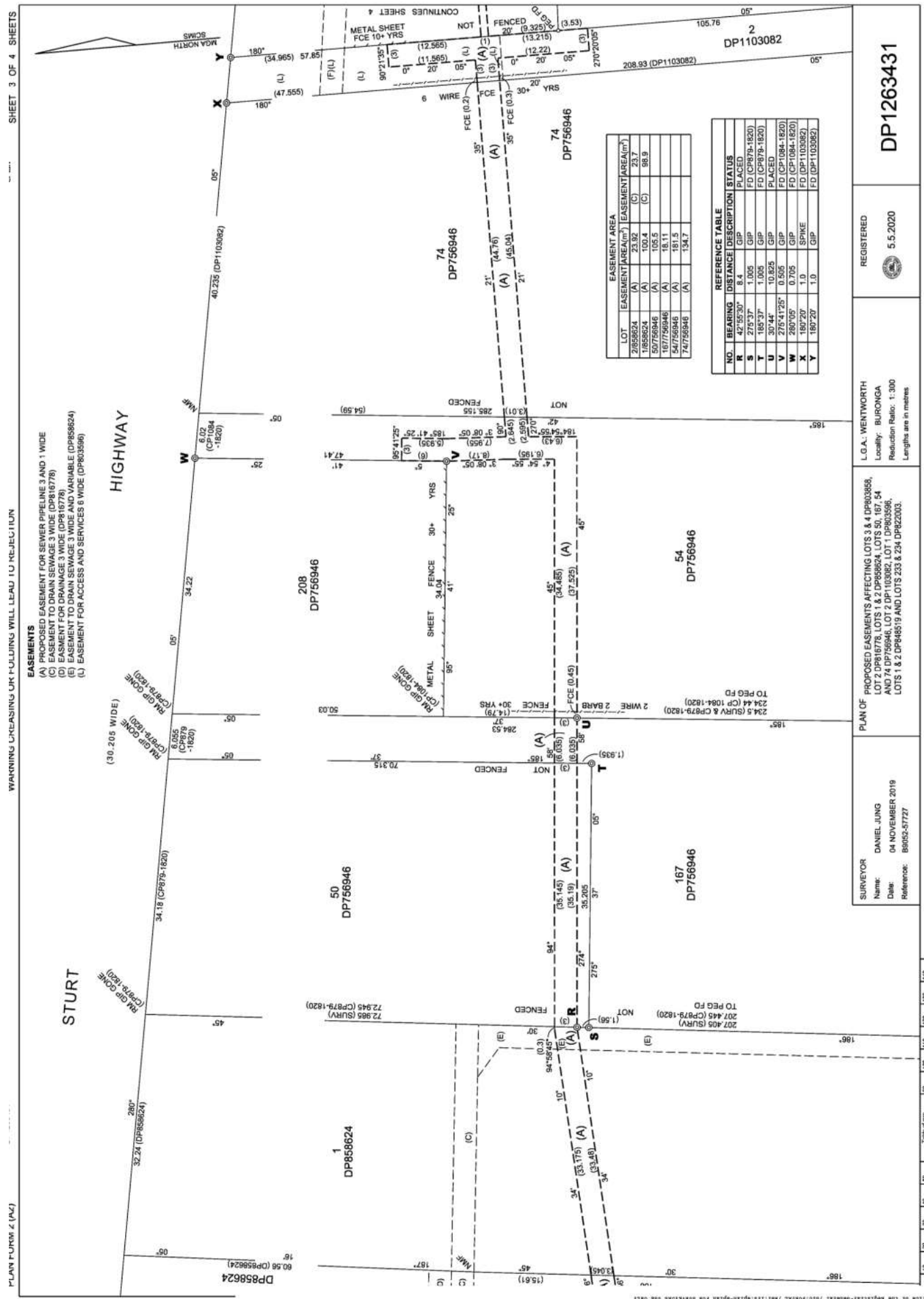
Address of witness

ANNEXURE "A"
Plan


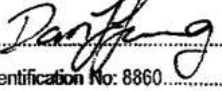
[DP1263431]









PLAN FORM 6 (2018)		DEPOSITED PLAN ADMINISTRATION SHEET	Sheet 1 of 1 sheet(s)
Registered:  5.5.2020	Office Use Only		Office Use Only
Title System: TORRENS		DP1263431	
PLAN OF PROPOSED EASEMENTS AFFECTING LOTS 3 & 4 DP803858, LOT 2 DP816778, LOTS 1 & 2 DP858624, LOTS 50, 167, 54 AND 74 DP756946, LOT 2 DP1103082, LOT 1 DP803596, LOTS 1 & 2 DP848519 AND LOTS 233 & 234 DP822003.		LGA: WENTWORTH Locality: BURONGA Parish: GOL GOL County: WENTWORTH	
Survey Certificate I, DANIEL JUNG of PUBLIC WORKS ADVISORY a surveyor registered under the <i>Surveying and Spatial Information Act 2002</i> , certify that: *(a) The land shown in the plan was surveyed in accordance with the <i>Surveying and Spatial Information Regulation 2017</i> , is accurate and the survey was completed on 04/11/2019....., or *(b) The part of the land shown in the plan ("being" excluding) was surveyed in accordance with the <i>Surveying and Spatial Information Regulation 2017</i> , the part surveyed is accurate and the survey was completed on..... the part not surveyed was compiled in accordance with that Regulation, or *(c) The land shown in this plan was compiled in accordance with the <i>Surveying and Spatial Information Regulation 2017</i> . Datum Line: X - Y Type: *Urban/*Rural The terrain is *Level-Undulating / *Steep-Mountainous. Signature:  Dated: 27/04/2020 Surveyor Identification No: 8860..... Surveyor registered under the <i>Surveying and Spatial Information Act 2002</i> *Strike out inappropriate words. **Specify the land actually surveyed or specify any land shown in the plan that is not the subject of the survey.		Crown Lands NSW/Western Lands Office Approval I, (Authorised Officer) in approving this plan certify that all necessary approvals in regard to the allocation of the land shown herein have been given. Signature: Date: File Number: Office:	
Plans used in the preparation of survey/compilation. CP 591-1820 CP 778-1820 CP 879-1820 CP 1084-1820 DP 48595 DP 604280 DP 748746 DP 803596 DP 803858 DP 816778 DP 822003 DP 848519 DP 858624 DP 865475 DP 1103082		Subdivision Certificate I, *Authorised Person/*General Manager/*Accredited Certifier, certify that the provisions of section 6.15 <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i> have been satisfied in relation to the proposed subdivision, new road or reserve set out herein. Signature: Accreditation number: Consent Authority: Date of endorsement: Subdivision Certificate number: File number: *Strike through if inapplicable.	
Statements of intention to dedicate public roads, create public reserves and drainage reserves, acquire/resume land. IT IS INTENDED TO ACQUIRE EASEMENT A FOR SEWER ACQUISITIONS PROPOSED UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1993		Signatures, Seals and Section 88B Statements should appear on PLAN FORM 6A	
Surveyor's Reference: B9052-57727			

ANNEXURE "B" Instrument

Form: 01TG Licence: 05-11-643 Licensee: Softdocs Barber Perry	TRANSFER GRANTING EASEMENT New South Wales Real Property Act 1900	Leave this space clear. Affix additional pages to the left-hand corner.			
<p>PRIVACY NOTE: Section 31B of the Real Property Act 1900 (RP Act) authorises the Registrar General to collect the information required by this form for the establishment and maintenance of the Real Property Act Register. Section 96B RP Act requires that the Register is made available to any person for search upon payment of a fee, if any.</p>					
(A) TORRENS TITLE	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> Servient Tenement (land burdened) <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; text-align: center; line-height: 40px;">[INSERT]</div> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> Dominant Tenement (land benefited) <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; text-align: center; line-height: 40px;">AN EASEMENT IN GROSS PURSUANT TO S88A OF THE CONVEYANCING ACT 1919</div> </td> </tr> </table>		Servient Tenement (land burdened) <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; text-align: center; line-height: 40px;">[INSERT]</div>	Dominant Tenement (land benefited) <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; text-align: center; line-height: 40px;">AN EASEMENT IN GROSS PURSUANT TO S88A OF THE CONVEYANCING ACT 1919</div>	
Servient Tenement (land burdened) <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; text-align: center; line-height: 40px;">[INSERT]</div>	Dominant Tenement (land benefited) <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; text-align: center; line-height: 40px;">AN EASEMENT IN GROSS PURSUANT TO S88A OF THE CONVEYANCING ACT 1919</div>				
(B) LODGED BY	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%; vertical-align: top;"> Document Collection Box </td> <td style="width: 60%; vertical-align: top;"> Name, Address or DX, Telephone, and Customer Account Number if any <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px;"></div> Reference (optional): </td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">TG</div> </td> </tr> </table>		Document Collection Box	Name, Address or DX, Telephone, and Customer Account Number if any <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px;"></div> Reference (optional):	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">TG</div>
Document Collection Box	Name, Address or DX, Telephone, and Customer Account Number if any <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px;"></div> Reference (optional):	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">TG</div>			
(C) TRANSFEROR	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="height: 40px; vertical-align: top;"> Registered proprietor of the servient tenement <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; text-align: center; line-height: 20px;">[INSERT DETAILS]</div> </td> </tr> </table>		Registered proprietor of the servient tenement <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; text-align: center; line-height: 20px;">[INSERT DETAILS]</div>		
Registered proprietor of the servient tenement <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; text-align: center; line-height: 20px;">[INSERT DETAILS]</div>					
(D)	The transferor acknowledges receipt of the consideration of \$ [INSERT DETAILS] and transfers and grants -				
(E) DESCRIPTION OF EASEMENT	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="height: 40px; vertical-align: top;"> AN EASEMENT FOR DRAINAGE OF SEWAGE ## WIDE ON THE TERMS SET OUT IN ANNEXURE A SHOWN ## ON DP1263431 </td> </tr> </table>		AN EASEMENT FOR DRAINAGE OF SEWAGE ## WIDE ON THE TERMS SET OUT IN ANNEXURE A SHOWN ## ON DP1263431		
AN EASEMENT FOR DRAINAGE OF SEWAGE ## WIDE ON THE TERMS SET OUT IN ANNEXURE A SHOWN ## ON DP1263431					
	out of the servient tenement and appurtenant to the dominant tenement.				
(F)	Encumbrances (if applicable):				
(G) TRANSFeree	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="height: 40px; vertical-align: top;"> Registered proprietor of the dominant tenement WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL ABN 96 283 886 815 </td> </tr> </table>		Registered proprietor of the dominant tenement WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL ABN 96 283 886 815		
Registered proprietor of the dominant tenement WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL ABN 96 283 886 815					
DATE / /					
(H) I certify I am an eligible witness and that the transferor signed this dealing in my presence. [See note* below]	Certified correct for the purposes of the Real Property Act 1900 by the transferor.				
Signature of witness: Name of witness: Address of witness:	Signature of transferor:				
I certify I am an eligible witness and that the authorised officer of the transferee signed this dealing in my presence. [See note* below]	Certified correct for the purposes of the Real Property Act 1900 by the authorised officer named below.				
Signature of witness: Name of witness: Address of witness:	Signature of authorised officer: Authorised officer's name: Authority of officer: Signing on behalf of: Wentworth Shire Council ABN 96 283 886 815				

**THIS IS ANNEXURE "A" REFERRED TO IN THE TRANSFER GRANTING EASEMENT BETWEEN [INSERT NAME OF LANDOWNER] AS TRANSFEROR AND WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL AS TRANSFEREE
DATED:**

An EASEMENT FOR DRAINAGE OF SEWAGE affecting that part of the servient tenement shown as "(##) EASEMENT FOR DRAINAGE OF SEWAGE ## WIDE" on DP1263431 on the terms contained in Part 6 of Schedule 4A of the *Conveyancing Act 1919*, and for the purposes of this easement together with the following terms:

3. The Transferor and its successors and assigns must not, without the prior written consent of the Transferee:
 - a. make or allow to be made by any means whatsoever any alteration to the existing surface levels within the site of the easement;
 - b. use or allow to be used the Servient Tenement for any purpose which may obstruct or prevent the Transferee from having full and free access to the site of the easement;
 - c. place, erect or construct or allow to be placed, erected or constructed any building, fence or any other structure whatsoever over the site of the easement;
 - d. place or construct or allow to be placed or constructed or allow to remain on the servient tenement any pavement of concrete or having any form of bituminous surface with or without a base course of ballast or rock fill or like material;
 - e. place or allow to be placed or to remain on the site of the easement any filling, rubbish or other material whatsoever;
 - f. plant or allow to be planted over the site of the easement any tree or shrub other than shrubs that may be removed and reinstated; or
 - g. place or allow to be placed in, upon or over the site of the easement any services including without limitation electrical, telecommunication, gas, water, wastewater and stormwater services with or without pipes, conduits, cables or ducts.

SIGNED FOR AND ON BEHALF OF
[INSERT NAME OF LANDOWNER]

SIGNED FOR AND ON BEHALF OF
WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL

105434391 - NXP (NXP)

Page 3 of 3

ANNEXURE "C"

[ON LETTERHEAD OF INTERESTED PARTY]

Wentworth Shire Council (ABN 96 283 886 815)

Dear Sir/Madam

Consent to easement

Property: [insert property]

[insert mortgagee (ABN)] consents to the grant to Wentworth Shire Council of the Easement as contemplated in the Deed of Agreement for Easement between Wentworth Shire Council (ABN 96 283 886 815) and **[insert landowner]** dated _____ and acknowledges the rights of Wentworth Shire Council under the Deed of Agreement for Easement.

[insert mortgagee] agrees to sign or do anything to facilitate registration of the Easement.

Signed by an Authorised Representative

Dated

9.12 NAMING OF WENTWORTH SHOWGROUNDS PAVILION

File Number: RPT/20/417

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
 Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
 Reporting Officer: Hilary Dye - Property and Land Tenure Officer

Objective: 2.0 Wentworth is a desirable Shire to visit, live, work and invest
 Strategy: 2.5 Maintain/create desirable open spaces and recreation facilities

Summary

Council has received a request from the Wentworth Show Society to rename the newly constructed community purpose building the "Wentworth Showgrounds Community Pavilion".

The Wentworth Show Society Committee resolved at their 9 July 2020, General Meeting to endorse the renaming of the "Barrett Pavilion" to the "Wentworth Showgrounds Community Pavilion" as this tells you where it is, what it is and that it is for the whole of the community. The Committee feels that the newly chosen name is inclusive and will be relevant for a very long time.

Recommendation

That Council endorses the request to formally rename the newly built community pavilion at the Wentworth Showgrounds the "Wentworth Showgrounds Community Pavilion".

Detailed Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is for the Wentworth Shire Council to endorse the renaming of the Barrett Pavilion at the Wentworth Showgrounds.

Background

The Wentworth Show Society are an annual Licenced User of Crown Land Reserves 630001, 67891, 73351, 75014.

The project commenced in 2019 to replace the old Barrett Pavilion with a new state of the art multipurpose pavilion for the utilisation of the whole community. It was envisaged that the new building would boost the profile of the Wentworth Showgrounds facilities with the potential to attract a number of local, regional, national and international events and provide an immense economic benefit to the region.

Guidance was obtained from the (GNB) Geographical Names Board and that of NSW Crown Lands to ensure they had no specific naming requirements.

Information provided by NSW Crown Lands, if the intent is to name the pavilion and not to change the reserve name, then there are no requirements from Crown Lands. It was also suggested that Council contact the Geographical Names Board (GNB) to ensure the proposed name is appropriate.

Geographical Names Board (GNB) does not have statutory responsibility for naming buildings (they were informed that the name was not that of a living person) however, the Board did encourage the naming guidelines be followed. Once the name has been finalised Council is to inform the GNB to have their mapping team include it in the Spatial Services database.

Public consultation was conducted to create a shortlist of names, The Committee resolved that the "Wentworth Showgrounds Community Pavilion" is their preferred option.

Conclusion

The new constructed Pavilion can be renamed by the community at the discretion of the Council.

Attachments

1. Wentworth Show Society Committee - Snowy Barrett renamed to Wentworth Showgrounds Community Pavilion [↓](#)

Hilary Dye

From: Marcus & Ashley Moore <mvanda@bigpond.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 14 July 2020 12:04 PM
To: Executive Assistant General Manager
Subject: Showground pavilion name

Ken Ross
General Manager
Wentworth Shire Council

Dear Ken

Further to our brief discussion in your office last month regarding naming the new pavilion at the showgrounds, the committee met and have resolved that "Wentworth Showgrounds Community Pavilion" is our preferred option for the name of the pavilion.

It tells where it is, what it is and that it is for the whole of the community.

We recommend this name for approval as we feel it is inclusive and will be relevant for a very long time.

Could you please advise what the process is from here, to the point where it can be announced.

Yours sincerely

Marcus Moore
President Wentworth Show Society
0439 109 400

9.13 DELEGATED AUTHORITY APPROVALS AS AT END OF JULY 2020

File Number: RPT/20/456

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 July 2020, a total of 18 Development Applications and six S4.55 Modification Applications were determined under delegated authority by the Director Health and Planning.

The estimated value of the determined developments was \$4,984,015.00. This brings the year to date total to 90 Development Applications and 25 S4.55 Applications approved, with an estimated development value of \$22,763,809.00.

Recommendation

- a) That Council receives and notes the report for the month of July 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 July 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 \$4,984,015.00 for the month of July 2020, which was more than the previous month of \$3,255,151.00. The average determination time was 27 days.

Attachments

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

DETERMINATION OF DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 2020

FILE NUMBER	OWNER	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	VALUE (EX GST)	DETERMINATION DATE	ACTIVE DAYS TO 31/07/2020
DA2019/120	Mathew & Chantelle Chiswell	Charon Drive Lot 40 DP 1242927 Gol Gol	Dwelling & storage shed	\$450,000.00	17/07/2020	34
DA2020/042	Crown Land NSW - Wentworth Shire Council Trustee	71A Caravan Park Road Lot 1 DP 1032974 Buronga	Addition of cabins, extra amenities & access road	\$1,900,000.00	22/07/2020	44
DA2020/056	Vigornia Pty Ltd	8 Modica Crescent Lot 15 DP 1118464 Buronga	Storage facility	\$660,000.00	20/07/2020	40
DA2020/060	Saunders Pty Ltd	143 Hendy Road Lot 1 DP 1213735 Buronga	Strata Subdivision 1 Lot into 5 Lots plus common property	\$0.00	1/07/2020	30
DA2020/062	Lower Darling River	Lower Darling River adjacent to Lot 7 DP 651275 & Lots 2 4 & 6 DP 756969 Ellerslie	35 Fish habitat structures	\$30,000.00	1/07/2020	29
DA2020/063	Joanne Burgess & Glenn Jolley	56-58 Cadell Street Lot 11 DP 620566 Wentworth	Demolition of existing dwelling garage & laundry	\$35,000.00	1/07/2020	27
DA2020/065	Anthony, Patrick & Moya Murphy	6531 Sturt Highway Lot 56 & 57 DP 39515 Trentham Cliffs	Extension to existing pallet storage area	\$80,000.00	27/07/2020	38
S4-55/2020/019	Stefan Bate & Nicole Shaw	28 River Drive Lot 1 DP 1176854 Buronga	Modify DA2019/145 Addition of retaining wall	\$0.00	1/07/2020	24
DA2020/066	Daniel MacLeod & Demmi Andriske	Wurlong Drive Lot 8 DP 1251134 Gol Gol	Dwelling with garage & outdoor living	\$600,000.00	2/07/2020	25
S4-55/2020/020	Brett & Bianca Bertalli	154 Ryans Road Lot 1 DP 392971 Curlwaa	Modify DA2019/032 alter extension plans	\$0.00	2/07/2020	25
DA2020/067	Infinity Farms Pty Ltd	109 Combunye Road Lot 270 DP 756961 Coomealla	Demolition of dwelling	\$15,000.00	2/07/2020	24

DA2020/068	Reuben & Garry Davison	28 Livingstone Drive Lot 40 DP 1229757 Gol Gol	Dwelling garage & shed	\$320,000.00	16/07/2020	33
DA2020/069	Samual & Michelle Rickard	22 Livingstone Drive Lot 37 DP 1229757 Gol Gol	Storage shed	\$20,015.00	13/07/2020	29
S4-55/2020/021	Lee Dodemaide	Wurlong Drive Lot 4 DP 1251134 Gol Gol	Modify DA2019/048 amend shed location on property	\$0.00	13/07/2020	29
DA2020/071	Ian & Robyn Field	17-19 Tarcoola Street Lot 5 DP 758851 Pooncarie	Shed extension	\$24,000.00	13/07/2020	26
DA2020/072	Caitlyn Adamson	8 Mitchell Court Lot 10 DP 1229757 Gol Gol	Dwelling & garage	\$450,000.00	17/07/2020	25
DA2020/073	Infinity Farms Pty Ltd	Gunya Road Lot 485 DP 756961 Coomealla	Storage shed & two loading docks	\$180,000.00	20/07/2020	25
S4-55/2020/022	Robert Whitworth	Carramar Drive Lots 2 & 4 DP 1093795 Gol Gol	Modify DA13/111 from 6 Lot subdivision to 7 Lots	\$0.00	14/07/2020	21
DA2020/074	Cirillo Farms Pty Ltd	206 Paringi Road Lot 42 DP 756971 Paringi	Install Pump & pipeline for irrigation	\$80,000.00	14/07/2020	18
DA2020/075	Gregory Janes & Simone Benham	269 Gunya Road Lot 271 & 396 DP 756961 Coomealla	2 Lot Subdivision - Boundary re-alignment	\$0.00	17/07/2020	21
DA2020/076	Garry & Heather Alderton	14-16 Pine Road Lot 2 DP 877197 Gol Gol	Extension to existing dwelling	\$60,000.00	27/07/2020	25
S4-55/2020/023	BRW Modica Crescent Pty Ltd	17A Modica Crescent Lot 1 DP 1230858 Buronga	Modify DA2017/043 decrease shed length - increase verandah length & internal office space	\$0.00	27/07/2020	24
DA2020/078	Wentworth Pioneer Homes Committee Incorporated	71-73 Beverley Street Lot 1 DP 1115496 Wentworth	Carpark & carport for 8 (eight) vehicles	\$80,000.00	27/07/2020	23
S4-55/2020/024	Peter & Sharon Kelleher	10 William Street Lot 2 DP1251938 Gol Gol	Modify DA2020/001 addition of WIR to master bedroom on plans	\$0.00	21/07/2020	19

9.14 DARETON MEN IN A SHED - FUTURE NEEDS

File Number: RPT/20/440

Responsible Officer: Matthew Carlin - Director Health and Planning
Responsible Division: Health and Planning
Reporting Officer: Matthew Carlin - Director Health and Planning

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

Summary

The Secretary of Dareton Men in a Shed have written to Council seeking our assistance in any way possible to help them relocate to a new purpose-built facility to be constructed on the parcel of land behind the existing public swimming pool on Lot 101 DP 1232722 in Matong Street, Dareton.

Recommendation

That Council supports the concept of the Dareton Men in a Shed infrastructure being located on Lot 101 DP 1232722 subject to the regulated approvals process; and further that Dareton Men in a Shed be encouraged to lodge a formal development application to officially commence the process.

Detailed Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the statutory requirements that may impact on their proposal and how Council can assist them.

Background

The Dareton Men in a Shed are seeking to relocate into a new purpose-built facility that will include a new Men's shed, a community hub and potential for a museum to house some of the local history. It has been explained to Council this decision is based on an examination of the future needs for their members and physical assets.

Report Detail

The proposed site is identified as Lot 101 DP 1232722 in Matong Street, Dareton. It is zoned RU5 – Village and is controlled by the Crown. While the proposal is permitted with consent under the Wentworth LEP 2011 which requires the lodgment a development application (DA), Dareton Men in a Shed will need land owner or Crown Land consent before a DA can be lodged.

If a DA is lodged, it should be noted this will trigger integrated development requirements i.e.; Council will refer the DA to NTSCORP as the site has a co-existing Native Title determination. Additionally, as part of due diligence there is an expectation to carry out a search on the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) web services.

Council staff can assist Dareton Men in Shed by engaging with them at this early stage to enter into discussions around grant funding availability, development application and paperwork preparation as well as initial discussions with the relevant state agencies to avoid unnecessary delays during the referral process.

Conclusion

Council have written to Dareton Men in a Shed responding to their letter advising them the Health and Planning team are willing and able to meet their representative(s) to discuss their future needs per the contents of their letter.

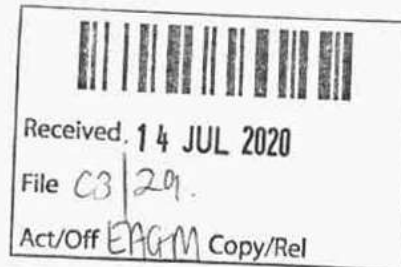
Attachments

1. Dareton Men in a Shed seeking WSC support with regard to future building needs for our members [↓](#)
2. Dareton Men in a Shed Concept Plans [↓](#)



10/07/2020

Mr Ken Ross,
General Manager,
Wentworth Shire Council



P O Box 383
Dareton NSW
2717

Dear Sir,

After lots of discussions and meetings the members of the shed have decided we need to start looking to our future in regards to our buildings and members needs.

We believe that the block of land behind the swimming pool in Dareton is available and would be an ideal spot for us to start working towards our aim for a purpose built building for the Mens Shed and Community Hub.

This building would be a great asset to the whole of the Wentworth Shire with the prospect of eventually opening up a museum to house some of the areas history that is sadly lacking in our area.

We are hoping that the Shire would be interested in supporting us in any way possible as we take on this mammoth task.

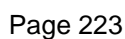
Yours Sincerely,

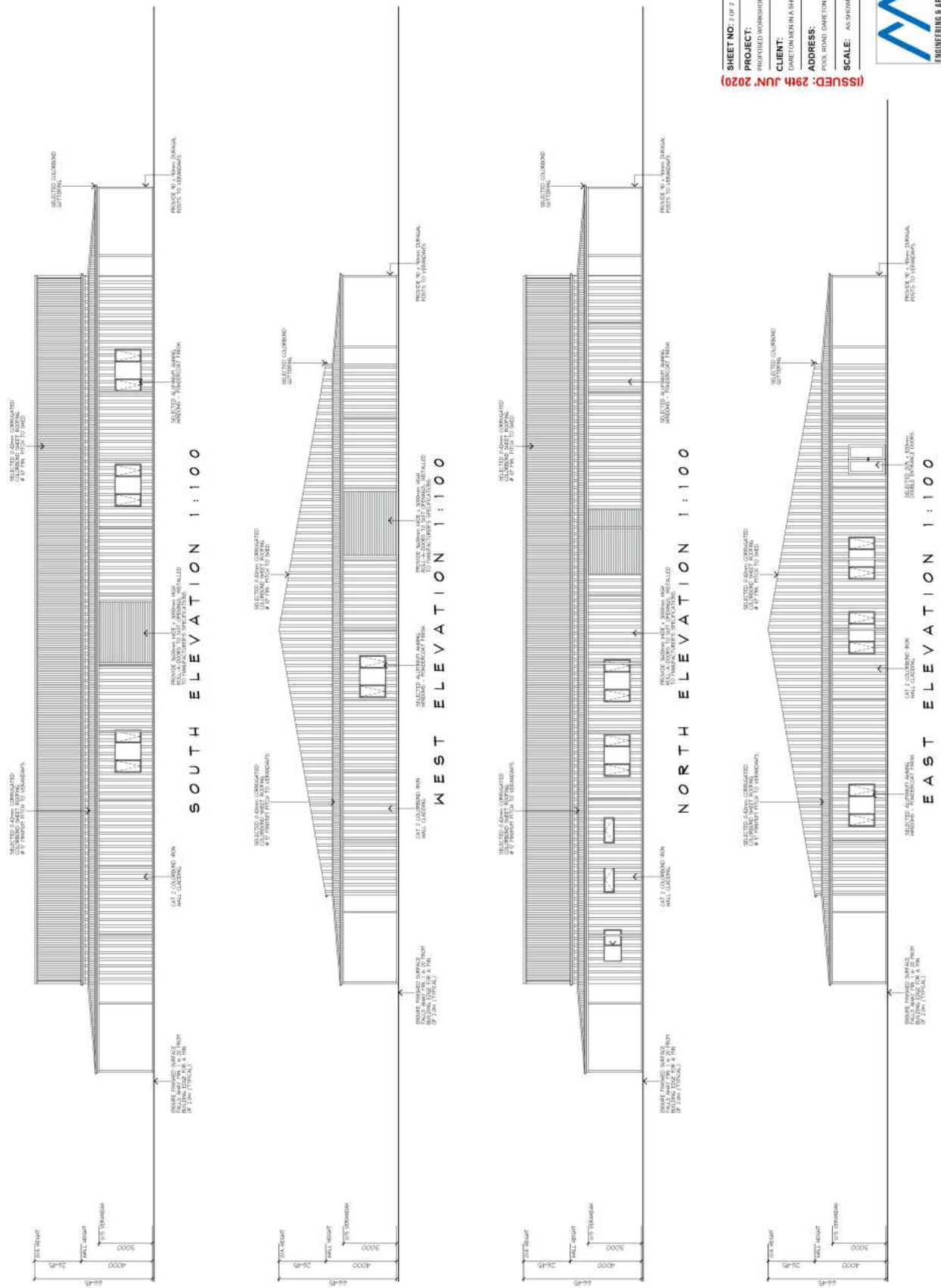
R N Morrison
Secretary



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No. 5 Burns Street, Geelong VIC 3216
ABN: 43 634 027 404 DP No. AD 26770





SHEET NO: 2 OF 2 DRG NO: MHJ 2020-056
 PROJECT: PROPOSED WORKSHOP - STORAGE SHED
 CLIENT: DARETON MEN IN A SHED
 ADDRESS: POOL ROAD DARETON NSW
 SCALE: AS SHOWN DATE: JUN 20
 (ISSUED: 29th JUN 2020)

MAH²
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 ABN 49 634 627 404 DP No. AD 26770

9.15 WENTWORTH AERODROME UPGRADE - PROJECT UPGRADE

File Number: RPT/20/378

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

Summary

As part of the OLG Capital Expenditure Review, quarterly project update reports are required to be provided to Council.

The report includes overall progress of the project, identifies any budget variances that may impact on the project and also identifies any issues that may have an adverse impact on the works.

Council are currently undertaking a major upgrade of the Wentworth Aerodrome. The works include the construction of a new 08/26 Runway and redevelopment of the existing 08/26 Runway to a parallel taxiway, plus an upgrade and expansion of the existing apron area. The new runway and supporting infrastructure have been designed to Code 2B instrument, non-precision requirements in accordance with the Part 139 (Aerodrome) Manual of Standards 2019 (MOS).

As part of the project Pilot Activated Lighting (PAL) will be installed enabling 24-hour usage of the Aerodrome. This incorporates Aeronautical Ground Lighting (AGL), Apron Floodlighting and Illuminated Wind Direction Indicators (IWDI).

NSW Treasury confirmed in May 2019 that Council was successful in securing \$8,420,000 in Restart funding through the Regional Growth: Economic Activation Fund – Growing Local Economies Program. With Council's contribution of \$700,000 the overall budget for the project equals \$9,120,000.

Recommendation

That Council notes the information contained in this report.

Detailed Report**Background**

To date the following works have been completed:

- Site establishment;
- Full site survey and set up of reference markers;
- Installation of all stormwater culvert crossings and table drain connections;
- Installation of all electrical lighting duct bank crossings across runway and taxiway areas;
- Bulk earthworks cut and fill of 50,000m², shaping and set out of the runway, taxiway and apron areas;
- Establishment of materials stockpile sites and supply and delivery of 40,000 tonne of class 3 road base materials;

- Lime stabilisation of 53,000m² of subgrade materials on the runway and taxiway;
- Placement of 75% of all runway pavement materials;
- New toilet block and undercover seating area have been ordered and delivery expected mid-September;
- New Aerodrome office building ordered and scheduled to be delivered to site mid-August;
- Awarding of runway and apron floodlighting tender;
- Awarding of the supply, delivery and placement of the bitumen, asphalt and Linemarking tender.

The project is currently running to schedule and on budget with no individual contract variations incurred to date. With the recent border closures and wet weather there may be delays incurred with the placement of the remaining runway material. The company that was awarded the contract is based in the border town of Mildura (Victoria). Other supplies and services, namely electrical and lighting components that can only be purchased from outside the Shire may also be severely impacted by the NSW border closures.

Attachments

1. Photos of Aerodrome Upgrade Works - June and July [↓](#)









The staff, contractors and machines behind the upgrade works

9.16 PROJECT AND WORKS REPORT UPDATE - AUGUST 2020

File Number: RPT/20/431

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

Summary

This report provides a summary of the major works undertaken by the Roads and Engineering Division which have been completed during the months of June and July 2020 and the planned works for August 2020.

Recommendation

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

Detailed Report

During June and July, the Roads and Engineering Division continued with maintenance grading on identified roads to remove known hazards and improve surface conditions.

Other projects

June and July have seen major works continuing on the Gol Gol Water Treatment Plant electrical and process upgrade, Wentworth and Dareton Sewer Upgrades and the Wentworth Aerodrome.

Attachments

1. Attachment 1 - Projects and Works Update [↓](#)
2. Attachment 2 - Project and Works Photos [↓](#)

Project update for June and July 2020**Roads**

- Council assisted Covid-19 road closures at George Chaffey and Abbotsford Bridge, including design and implementation, traffic management plan and assisted with the coordination of amenities for both bridges.
- Coordinated delivery of 18,000 tonne of Class 1 material for proposed TfNSW reconstruction works on Segment 40 Sturt Highway.
- Council completed 21.7km of resealing works along Pooncarie Road, including bitumen sealing and linemarking.
- Palm Island Garden Upgrade Works Wentworth, planting complete.
- Second coat of Linemarking of specified roads within Shire has been completed.

Maintenance Grading

- Roads and Engineering have scheduled continued maintenance grading to remove known hazards and improve the conditions of the roads on the following roads; Belvedere, Old Broken Hill, Pinecamp, Springwood Road and repair (earthworks) on Polia Road.

Devenport Street Footpath

- 285m of footpath was constructed in June along Devenport and Neilpo Street.

Projects**Dareton Sewer Upgrade**

- Pumping water from lagoon 1 to lagoon 3 and diversion of all waste from 1 to 3 completed.
- Lagoon 1 sludge removal started and being stockpiled to dry out
- Golf Course Road relocation of road pavement alignment to improve traffic safety. Golf Course Road electrical works / meter installation recently completed the installation works which was energised.
- Council approved bentonite treatment construction for lagoon 2.
- Council approved Geofabric Clay Lined (GCL) liner treatment construction for lagoon 1.
- Council are currently undertaking planning for decommissioning of the Dareton Sewerage Treatment Plant along Kookaburra Drive, Dareton. This includes development approval for the demolition of the existing plant at the Dareton site.

Wentworth Sewer Upgrade

- The Contractors electrical contractor continues to undertake SCADA works to Sewerage Pumping Stations 1 and 2.
- SPS1 Electrical switchboard has been ordered
- Approval granted from Transport NSW to construct under road bore that is under Silver City Highway
- Communications pits have arrived at depot install in next 2 weeks
- Monitoring traffic management and conducting sweeping of material for open trench areas
- Contractor engaged for concrete works at Lagoon 1 inlet works
- Pressure testing completed and passed on pipeline on Eastern side of Pooncarie Road, from Ch 1959.

Gol Gol Water Treatment Plant Electrical and Process upgrade

- Dosing pipework replaced with schedule 80 pipework
- Valve replacement at flocculation tank outlet
- Lagoon 2 base preparation completed
- Lagoon 2 HDPE liner installed
- Balance tank telemetry mast reo cage installed
- Balance tank new tank overflow system installed
- Contractor engaged for concrete works at Lagoon 1 inlet works
- Backwash pumps installed with new manifold system
- Council have made the decision to ensure the plant continues to function as part of Council's essential services / critical infrastructure. The project team and contractor conducted a series of meetings to work through the best outcomes, and proceed to a slightly changed schedule even with the current environment, economy and the uncertainty. WSC and the contractor have been able to continue on with project requirements at a slower rate than previously scheduled.

Buronga EDS

- June and July progress has been limited to pile installation works and preparation.
- Electrical programming complete.

Buronga Riverfront

- Concept design for Nature play area complete.

Parks & Gardens Shed Extension (Buronga Depot)

- Electrical fit out completed.
- Stormwater pipes and overflow pit connected to gutter down pipes.
- Area around extension and compound entrance cleaned up, levelled and stones placed.
- Small amount of stones required to finish graveling at entrance of shed extension – to complete project.

Wentworth Riverfront

- Design Well Landscaping and Architecture concept designs for the landscaped area sent to Council in June for review.
- Concept design for riverfront area/landscaping to be completed end of July.
- Concept design and geotechnical investigation works for retaining wall to be undertaken and completed end of July.

Safe and Secure Water Funding**Pooncarie Bores:**

- Council continuing to communicate with Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) in relation to exemption and bore licensing
- Council continuing to communicate with Department Primary Industry Environment – Water (DPIE Water) in relation to Water Access License (WAL) for bore access licensing and water allocations
- Review of EMM consulting report for bores was conducted and sent, (attached for full final report)
- WSC are continuing to communicate with EMM consulting in relation to Ground Water Management Plan, WSC are awaiting a draft review of plan for commenting.

Toilet Upgrades

- McLeod Oval painting and fit out completed and open to the public.
- James King Park works completed and open to public. McGowan Signs have been commissioned to paint a mural at the entrance of the male and female toilets. Painting scheduled to be completed mid-August
- Alcheringa Oval Toilet block landscaping – Council gardeners have cleared area in front of toilets for re-landscaping. The re-development will include, Lily Pilly trees, ground cover plants, new irrigation and edging. Landscaping scheduled to be completed by Friday 14 August.
- Darling Street Toilet Block - Disabled toilet brickwork completed, with new roof installation complete. Internal plumbing fit out underway with the cabinet maker to commence works 10 August. Works scheduled for completion late August early September.

Dareton Pool Works – painting & tiling

- Contractors have encountered issues with the removal on the existing grout that was used to affix the original tiles, this caused works to be delayed by two weeks.
- Lap pool tiling nearing completion with final silicone sealing works remaining.
- Intermediate and toddler pool prep work all complete in preparation for tiling. Works scheduled for completion Friday 14 August.
- Request for Quote (RFQ) currently out for painting of pool, submission deadline 17 August.

Wentworth Pool Works – painting & tiling

- RFQ stipulated pool tiling works to be completed by 31st August 2020
- Due to unforeseen issues regarding removal of old tile glue and grout, this has put the contractor approximately three weeks behind schedule. Completion deadline has been extended to 23 October 2020.

Willow Bend Caravan Park Upgrade

- Works involve the upgrade of the existing Essential Energy high voltage power supply at the caravan park. This works will involve a level 3 Accredited Service Provider to undertake the design works for approval by Essential Energy. The works have been awarded to Vertex Power and Process.
- Low voltage electrical infrastructure and switchboards have been installed.
- Essential Energy Design Information Pack (DIP) modified to cater for a future demand.
- Level 3 designs submitted to Essential Energy for certification.

Dareton Sewer - Golf Course Road

- Vertex Power and Process have completed the installation of all power poles and mains in June.
- A 3m offset between the poles and road was required by Essential Energy.
- Council undertook the survey, set-out, and road realignment works in early July. Essential Energy have since approved the works and the power mains were subsequently energised.
- AGL's nominated contractor completed the meter installation 23 July 2020.

Stronger Country Communities Grant Funded Projects**Barrett Pavilion**

- Formal certification received for the Fire Tanks and local brigades made aware of the installation. In particular, access to a “quick fill” facility to service the greater area.
- All exterior concrete completed and pavers yet to be placed
- A further project sponsor has allowed the Wentworth Show Society to directly fund the air Conditioners to the main hall and to also the operable wall.
- All doors and windows on site and dado wall linings
- Updated construction program pending

George Gordon Netball Courts

- Player's boxes and concrete pad installed.
- Orders placed for two shade structures.
- Additional fencing along main entrance side of courts requested due to safety concerns. Awaiting quote from the contractor to extend fencing.

Wentworth Sporting Complex

- Bowling green construction completed.
- Awaiting quotes for line marking works.
- Bowls Victoria have been notified of the completion of the bowling green, bowling green requires onsite inspection prior to registration being granted. Covid-19 travel restrictions will delay inspection, date TBA.
- Wentworth Bowling Club have advised that until permit granted only social bowls is permitted on course.

Works scheduled for August 2020

- Roads**
- Preliminary planning under way for September for both regional and local roads sealing program, included in the program is an additional 4km of Arumpo Road under the repair program.
 - Undertake traffic control for TfNSW asphalt works at the new IGA Buronga.
 - Pricing and programming of 6,000m² of heavy patching for TfNSW.

Maintenance Grading

- Scheduled maintenance grading to remove known hazards and improve the conditions of the roads on the following roads; Top Hut, Arumpo, Wamberra and Petro Mail Road.

Projects Dareton Sewer Upgrade

- The power infrastructure has been energised at Dareton (new) pump station, with the Principal Contractor to start final testing and commission.
- Testing and commissioning will be conducted with Aquatec, the sub-contractor who supplied the preconstructed pump station.
- On completion of commissioning works, sewage flows can be diverted from the existing Dareton Sewerage Treatment Plant to Lagoon No. 3 at the Namatjira STP.
- The Principal Contractor is expected to commence rectification works to lagoon 2 by the end of September 2020.
- Lagoon 1 inlet structure will be reconstructed to allow both existing Namatjira and Dareton Sewer rising mains to flow to desired lagoon pond.
- Lagoon 1 cleaning and grubbing works will continue.
- Lagoon 2 rework will commence with Bentonite rework of 100mm below surface.
- Lagoon Geofabric Clay Lined (GCL) liners have been ordered and will await delivery

Wentworth Sewer Upgrade

- Completion of the rising main at Wentworth including underground boring of Adams Street for the installation of the rising main beneath the Silver City Highway.
- Completion of the concrete works to inlet structure to the lagoon 1 at the Wentworth East Sewerage Lagoons.
- Neville Street sewerage and stormwater works to commence.
- Tyres to be cleared from Wentworth East Sewerage Lagoons and stockpiled at Wentworth Transfer Station.
- Communication pits to be installed at strategic points along route in Adelaide, Beverly and Francis Street.
- Air Valves to be installed along Adelaide, Beverly and Francis Street.

Gol Gol Water Treatment Plant Electrical and Process upgrade

- Contractor continuing to pull new cabling through conduit system.
- Contractor will commence testing some of the local control panels for commissioning.
- Installation of telemetry mast at Balance tank and Raw Water Pump Station (RWPS) to commence.
- Telemetry links to be tested and commissioned.
- Filter stairs construction work with handrailing to commence
- Deployment of PLC and SCADA architecture

Wentworth Riverfront

- Detailed design for both the landscaped area and retaining wall expected to be completed early August.
- Riverfront and landscaping works to be advertised for tender.
- Electrical works to be sent out for RFQ.
- Nature play equipment to be sent out for RFQ.
- Tender documentation will be prepared on completion of concept design.

Buronga EDS

- Installation of piles to be completed in August
- Pontoon, gangway and slab works to commence end August
- Electrical programming for the pump station operations complete.

Buronga Riverfront

- Soil report to be undertaken early August for playground and shade structure footings.
- RFQ for playground and landscaping out for construction/quotes.

Willow Bend Caravan Park Upgrade

- Road crossing low voltage conduit from CT Chamber to proposed pillar location to be completed.
- Awaiting Essential Energy approval to commence installation and removal of new and old high voltage infrastructure.
- Stage 1 and 3 still awaiting approval from Essential Energy, expected early to mid-August.
- Contractor to conduct survey and propose floor levels for 1 in 20 flood event.

Stronger Country Communities Grant Funded Projects**Barrett Pavilion**

- Internal framework and fit out works continuing

George Gordon Netball Courts

- Shade structure kits to arrive mid to late August with installation likely late August to early September.
- Lux testing for flood lights pending travel restrictions.
- Court repairs pending travel restrictions.

Wentworth Sporting Complex

- Green line marking and marker peg installation on perimeter to be installed.



Image 1 – Buronga Depot, compound entrance cleaned up/levelled and stoned



Image 2 – Dareton lap pool tiling works in progress



Image 3 - Darling Street Toilet Block, disabled toilet brickwork





Images 4 & 5 – Wentworth Sporting Complex, completed greens construction



Image 6 – Veranda and concreting around Wentworth Showgrounds Pavilion



Image 7 – Wentworth Showgrounds Pavilion progress shot



Images 8 & 9 – Newly installed coach and player boxes at George Gordon Oval



Images 10 & 11 – New footpath installation along Devenport Street, Dareton



Image 12 – Contractors Pontoon carrying out works on the Buronga EDS



Image 13 – Gol Gol WTP replacement of inlet structure on Lagoon 2 and footings work at the balance tank



Image 14 - Gol Gol WTP switchboard and installation of HDPE liner at pond 2



Image 15 - Dareton Sewer Upgrade – control / switch board Golf Course Road

10 NOTICES OF MOTIONS / QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

10.1 MENINDEE LAKES WATER SAVINGS PROJECT

File Number: RPT/20/406

Councillor MacAllister has indicated her intention to move the following motion:

Motion

That Wentworth Shire Council rejects all options put forward by consultants GHD and strongly questions the integrity of the process in relation to the Menindee Lakes Water Savings Project.

Further, that Wentworth Shire Council write to the NSW Premier and Federal Minister for Water, the Hon. Keith Pitt, advising that the process of engagement is deliberately divisive, lacks factual content and is therefore unsatisfactory and that numerous valid community concerns have not been addressed and continue to be avoided, putting water recovery under the Basin Plan in jeopardy

Attachments

1. Structures Matrix[↓](#)
2. Revised Schematics and Descriptions[↓](#)
3. Menindee SAG SDL project stakeholder concerns 27 July 2020[↓](#)
4. Central Darling Shire SDL Project SAG concerns[↓](#)



Structure for consideration	Purpose / objective	Impact on evaporation	Cultural heritage impact	Other impact (e.g. socioeco)	Other considerations eg. cost / alternatives
1 Enlarged Menindee outlet up to 14,000ML/day	Enables larger releases to occur from Menindee/Cawndilla which aligns with operating principles of releasing water from lower lakes first to retain water in the upper lakes.	Releasing water faster from the lower lakes reduces water surface area	The new, much larger structure will require new works south of existing outlet in a previously undisturbed area. This increases the likelihood of affecting cultural heritage sites. Further design development may be able to reduce this impact.	Likely improve water retention in the upper lakes, particularly at higher lake levels for longer periods of time, which may be beneficial for recreational uses and increasing drought reserve	Effectiveness of a larger outlet is possibly only realised with a drainage channel to the residual pool. As a variation could possibly look at a smaller option (say 9,000ML) however the cost saving may not warrant a reduction in size
2 Menindee drainage channel to bypass Menindee Ck and access residual pool	Menindee Lake outflow is constrained (ie outlet flows substantially decrease) below 57.5m (approx. 200 GL). Below this level outflows are controlled by the internal creek system. The creek has been subject to siltation which leads to the Menindee residual pool increasing in size. A drainage channel would bypass the creek and directly access lower lake level water without the need to rely on maintaining flows in the creek	Releasing water faster from the lower lakes at lower lake levels and reducing the size of the residual pool will substantially reduce the water surface area in Lake Menindee	The drainage channel would have a substantial footprint, however the channel may be able to avoid most cultural heritage sites as these are more likely to be located around the creek system rather than in the lake bed. Some impacts will be unavoidable	Likely improve water retention in the upper lakes, particularly at higher lake levels for longer periods of time which may be beneficial for recreational uses and increasing drought reserve	The cost benefit of constructing the channel would only be realised with an enlarged Menindee outlet
3 Morton Boolka regulator (full height above FSL)	Lakes Menindee and Cawndilla function as one lake connected by Morton Boolka. A regulator at Morton Boolka would allow the lakes to be operated independently creating a more efficient operational system by allowing Menindee to be used as the primary lower lakes storage for small to medium flows and only filling Cawndilla during large flood events.	Separation of the lakes and allowing Menindee to fill for small to medium flow events (and not Cawndilla) would substantially reduce water surface area. The MDBA modelling suggests that this structure would generate the most amount of water savings through this surface area reduction	The Morton Boolka area is a remote undisturbed area and any physical works, particularly works on the lake foreshore, would affect cultural heritage sites. This area is a culturally significant area.	Allowing small to medium flows to be retained in Menindee will mean this lake will fill to high lake levels more often than under current conditions, benefiting local recreational users.	The cost benefit of constructing this regulator may only be realised with an enlarged Menindee outlet and possibly the internal drainage channel
4 Morton Boolka regulator (half height 57.5m)	The rationale for a half height regulator at Morton Boolka is to reduce the footprint of the structure, which at a RL of about 57.5m would be able to be contained in the lake bed. However reducing the height also reduces its effectiveness of being able to contain medium flows within Lake Menindee	Partial separation of the lakes will have some benefit in being able to contain small flows within Lake Menindee thereby reducing evaporation	A smaller regulator will be able to be contained in the lake bed which will reduce its effect on cultural heritage sites, which are mostly located on the foreshore of the lake	A smaller regulator would still retain water more frequently in Lake Menindee, however this is likely to be offset by the operational need to access this water through a new drainage channel	The smaller regulator at Morton Boolka would be cost effective if combined with a channel to bypass the internal creek and to potentially a larger outlet
5 Increased capacity Cawndilla drainage channel	There is an existing drainage channel in Lake Cawndilla, however its effectiveness in removing water at	Removing water at a faster rate from Cawndilla will have a benefit, however, as there is an existing	If works are only required on the existing channel within the lake bed	-	The cost benefit of enlarging the Cawndilla channel may be

Structure for consideration	Purpose / objective	Impact on evaporation	Cultural heritage impact	Other impact (e.g. socioeco)	Other considerations eg, cost / alternatives
	lower lake levels and accessing the residual pool has been raised in previous studies	channel this benefit may be marginal	the impact on cultural heritage sites may be able to be avoided		marginal given that there is an existing channel.
6 Enlarged Cawndilla outlet (2,000ML/day)	The existing Lake Cawndilla outlet has a capacity of 1,400 ML/day, however its effectiveness in removing water at lower lake levels and accessing the residual pool has been raised in previous studies	Removing water at a faster rate from Cawndilla will have a benefit, however, as there is an existing channel this benefit may be marginal	If works are only required on the existing channel within the lake bed the impact on cultural heritage sites may be able to be avoided	-	The cost benefit of enlarging the Cawndilla channel may be marginal given that there is an existing channel.
7 Deepen Lakes Malta, Balaka and Bijjie (+ regulators)	Lakes Malta, Balaka and Bijjie form part of Lake Wetherell when storage of Wetherell spills onto the floodplain. Deepening of these lakes would create additional storage capacity in the upper lakes which would enable more water to be held in the upper lakes reducing the need to fill the lower lakes. How water is recovered from the deepened lakes (eg deep channels, pumping) adds complexity and would need to be determined	Storing more water in the upper lakes and reducing the need to fill the lower lake may have a benefit to reducing surface water area and evaporation, however the benefit would be dependent on the additional storage volume that was able to be excavated	The large extent of excavation works, spoil material, potential need for regulating structures, channels and access roads would likely impact cultural heritage sites	Would improve water retention in the upper lakes, which may be beneficial for recreational uses and increasing drought reserve	The large extent of excavation works required to create additional storage to an effective volume and ancillary works required would be a costly undertaking, particularly relative to other structures that may deliver a similar result.
8 Lake Tandure regulator	The purpose of a regulator at Lake Tandure would be to hold water in this lake as water recedes in Lake Wetherell back into the main channel. Transferring water back to the main channel would need to be determined. A channel may be required.	Holding water for longer periods in Lake Tandure will increase evaporation rates from the upper lakes	The potential location of a Lake Tandure regulator is in a previously undisturbed remote area. As such it is likely that the works would affect cultural heritage sites	Would improve water retention in the upper lakes, which may be beneficial for recreational uses and increasing drought reserve	Increasing the retention time in the upper lakes and thus increasing evaporation would need to be balanced against the benefits of decreasing the reliance on the lower lakes. Potential additional cost and impacts associated with a new channel would need to be considered.
9 Lake Bijjie regulator	The purpose of a regulator at Lake Tandure would be to hold water in this lake as water recedes in Lake Wetherell back into the main channel. Transferring water back to the main channel would need to be determined. A channel may be required.	Holding water for longer periods in Lake Bijjie will increase evaporation rates from the upper lakes	The potential location of a Lake Bijjie regulator is in a previously undisturbed remote area. As such it is likely that the works would affect cultural heritage sites	Would improve water retention in the upper lakes, which may be beneficial for recreational uses and increasing drought reserve	Increasing the retention time in the upper lakes and thus increasing evaporation would need to be balanced against the benefits of decreasing the reliance on the lower lakes. Potential additional cost and impacts associated with a new channel would need to be considered.

Structure for consideration	Purpose / objective	Impact on evaporation	Cultural heritage impact	Other impact (e.g. socioeco)	Other considerations eg, cost / alternatives
10 Enhance Penellico Channel (larger, reverse grade, 2 regulators)	The Penellico Channel was constructed to transfer water from the Darling River to Tandou Ck for when Lake Cawndilla was empty. The proposal is to regrade this channel to enable water to flow back to the Darling River (or potentially in both directions). A number of regulators would also be required. This would enable water to be transferred from the Cawndilla Outlet back to the Darling River	Releasing water from the Cawndilla outlet would assist in draining the lake at a faster rate, reducing surface area and evaporation.	While the Penellico channel is long (large footprint) it is a previously disturbed site and therefore the impacts of works within the existing channel may limit the impact on cultural heritage sites. However some impacts will be unavoidable	-	The benefits of this proposal on its own is not clear. For example, it may work more effectively with a regulator at Morton Boolka. In this example, Menindee could be drained first while retaining water in Cawndilla.
11 Pamamaroo drainage channel to bypass internal Ck and access residual pool	Pamamaroo Outlet becomes constrained at lower lake levels which is increasing due to siltation. A drainage channel would bypass the internal creek and directly access lower lake level water and some of the residual pool.	Reducing the size of the residual pool will reduce the water surface area and evaporation from Lake Pamamaroo	The drainage channel would have a substantial footprint, however the channel may be able to avoid most cultural heritage sites as these are more likely to be located around the internal creek system rather than in the lake bed. Some impacts will be unavoidable	Maintaining water in Copi Hollow would be required for recreational uses	The cost of the channel would need to be assessed against the benefit of the volume of additional water it would be able to access.
12 Ancillary infrastructure (ecological offset) at Cawndilla Creek (regulator)	A regulator in Cawndilla Creek at the entrance to Lake Cawndilla has been proposed to offset potential impacts from predicted reduced flows caused by a potential Morton Boolka regulator.	No change	The Cawndilla Creek area is a remote undisturbed area and any physical works, particularly works on the lake foreshore, would affect cultural heritage sites. This is a culturally significant area	A Cawndilla Creek regulator would assist in protecting the sensitive ecological environment of this area	This regulator would only be required if Morton Boolka proceeded
13 Ancillary infrastructure (main channel capacity) at Yartla and Anabranch offakes	The capacity of the Darling river Channel downstream of the lakes is around 9,000 ML/day. To pass a flow of 14,000 ML/day (the proposed outlet volume of the Menindee Regulator and a typical order from the MDBA) a number of offtakes would be required to avoid transfer water being spilled onto the floodplain.	No change	While not necessarily extensive works any disturbance in these areas has the potential to affect cultural heritage sites	Operations rules would need to be established to allow these areas to be flooded during natural events	-
14 Internal levee around northern and western edge of Pamamaroo and Menindee	The purpose of an internal levee is to minimise the amount of surface area that is flooded within the lake thus reducing evaporation. Additional infrastructure would be required (regulators, channels) to facilitate transfer of water through the system.	The reduction in surface area will result in a substantial reduction in evaporation rates for water stored within Pamamaroo and Menindee	The substantial works involved in constructing an internal levee and associated regulators, channels and haul roads would affect cultural heritage sites.	The levee may retain water for longer periods around the perimeter of the lakes. They would also substantially change the landform potentially affecting local aesthetics as well as the ecology of the interior of the lakes	The substantial earthworks to construct the levee would come at a high capital cost. The levees would also significantly alter the storage volumes of the lakes, potentially impacting on their operational effectiveness

Structure for consideration	Purpose / objective	Impact on evaporation	Cultural heritage impact	Other impact (e.g. socioeco)	Other considerations eg, cost / alternatives
15 Levee around entire internal perimeter of Menindee and Cawndilla	The purpose of an internal levee is to minimise the amount of surface area that is flooded within the lake thus reducing evaporation. Additional infrastructure would be required (regulators, channels) to facilitate transfer of water through the system.	The reduction in surface area will result in a substantial reduction in evaporation rates for water stored within Pamamaroo and Menindee	The substantial works involved in constructing an internal levee and associated regulators, channels and haul roads would affect cultural heritage sites.	The levee may retain water for longer periods around the perimeter of the lakes. They would also substantially change the landform potentially affecting local aesthetics as well as the ecology of the interior of the lakes	The substantial earthworks to construct the levee would come at a high capital cost. The levees would also significantly alter the storage volumes of the lakes, potentially impacting on their operational effectiveness
16 Raise height of Pooncarie Weir	Raising the height of Pooncarie Weir would increase the storage volume in the main channel. The volume of water available for MDBA use would need to be determined	Any reduction in evaporation rates would depend on the effectiveness of the additional storage in the main channel reducing the need to store water in the lakes	Effect on cultural heritage sites would depend on the location used and the extent of existing disturbance of the banks. Additional impoundment of water in the main channel may cause bank erosion affecting sites upstream of the weir.	Providing additional storage at Pooncarie may improve water security for Pooncarie domestic supply. Additional impoundment would affect fish movement and habitat in the main channel	The benefits of increasing storage in the main channel downstream of the lakes against improved outcomes at Menindee Lakes is not clear at this stage.
17 Use of Three Mile creek as fast flowing fish habitat	Three Mile creek is an ephemeral creek system with an offtake from Lake Wetherell upstream of the main channel reconnecting with the main channel downstream of Weir 32. If water could be diverted to this creek it could potentially be converted to fast flowing fish habitat. Potential minor works would be required to lower the sill level at the Wetherell offtake and remove culverts to improve fish passage.	No change	Effect on cultural heritage sites would depend on extent and location of works but are likely to be limited	Providing water to this creek system could provide approx 40km of fast flowing habitat. Fast flowing habitat (>0.3m/s) is under-represented within the southern connected Basin and is a preferred habitat type for large bodied native fish such as Murray Cod, Golden Perch and Silver Perch. Three Mile Creek also features a range of ecological and cultural heritage values that could be further enhanced through an increased watering regime.	Water volumes required to realise environmental outcomes needs to be considered. If viable may negate the need for a fishway to the upper system via the Wetherell outlet.



Possible structural works considered for Menindee Lakes Scheme Options

Structural works	New Scheme options											
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
Enlarged Menindee outlet up to 14,000ML/day												
Menindee drainage channel to bypass Menindee Ck and access residual pool												
Morton-Bookla regulator (full height above FSL)												
Morton-Bookla regulator (half height 57.5m)												
Increased capacity Cawndilla drainage channel												
Enlarged Cawndilla outlet (2,000ML/day)												
Deepen Lakes Malta, Balaka and Bijijie (+ regulators)												
Lake Tandure regulator												
Lake Bijijie regulator												
Enhance Penello Channel (larger, reverse grade, 2 regulators)												
Pamamaroo drainage channel to bypass internal Ck and access residual pool												
Ancillary infrastructure (ecological offset) at Cawndilla Creek (regulator)												
Ancillary infrastructure (main channel capacity) at Yartla and Anabranch offakes												
Internal levee around northern and western edge of Pamamaroo and Menindee												
Levee around entire internal perimeter of Menindee and Cawndilla												
Raise height of Poonaerie Weir												
Use 3-mile creek as fast flowing fish habitat												

Note that the use of new fishway structures would be an important component in any scheme

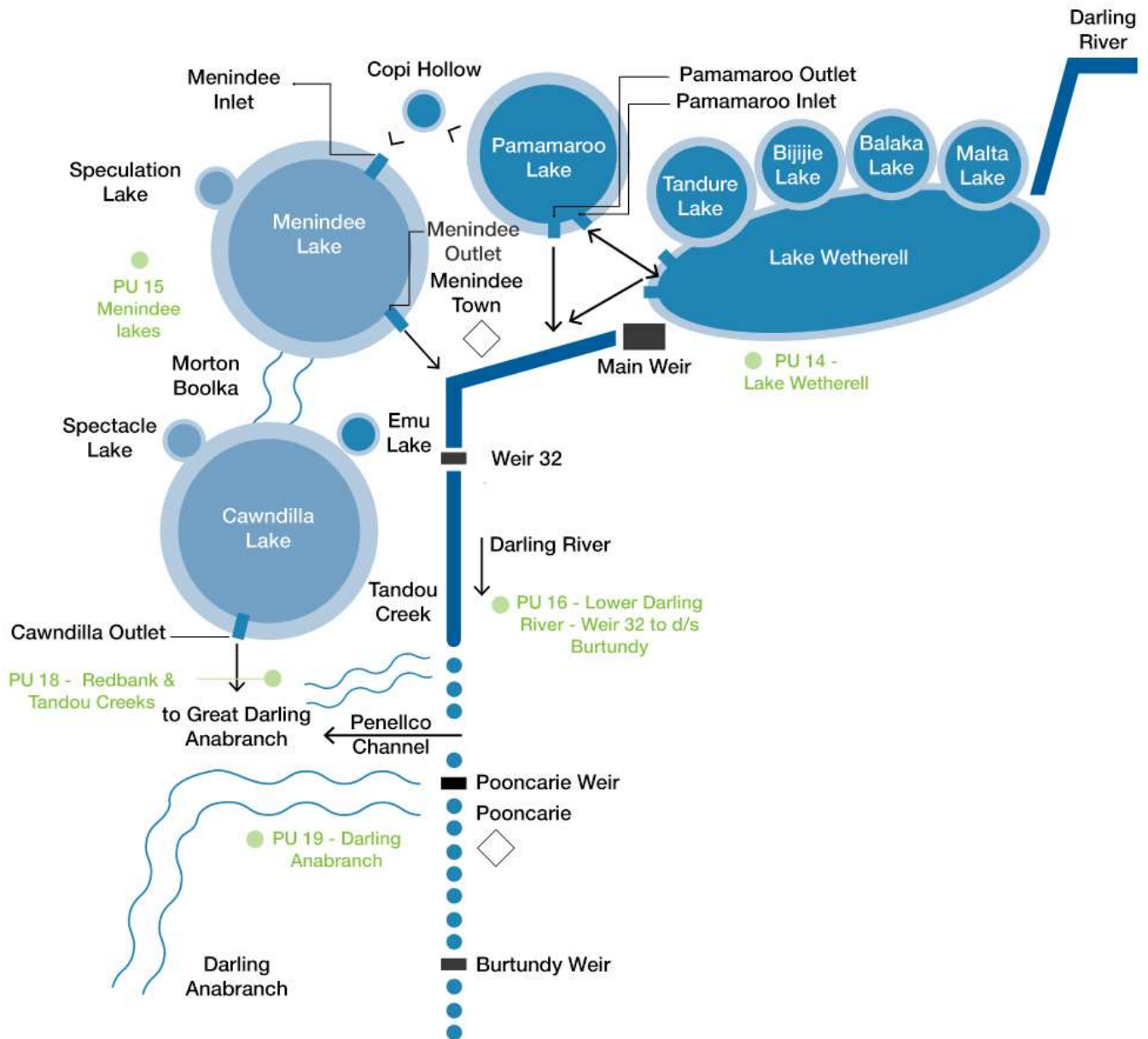
Legend:	No new works	SDLAM605 works	Modified SDLAM605 works	Alternative combinations
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12521160Example scheme descriptions for SAG (June)_Rev4_A_L.docx
Menindee Lakes Water Saving Project

Overview of schemes - **WORKING DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION**

Scheme A: No new infrastructure, modify operations to improve environmental outcomes (not operate the Lakes as a water storage)

The purpose of this scheme is to test the impact of retaining existing structures and maximise Environmental Water Requirements (EWR) outcomes for all five Planning Units through changes to operating rules.



Working Draft for discussion

Overview of potential scheme options to be considered for further assessment

Scheme A – No new infrastructure, modify operations to improve environmental outcomes (not operate the Lakes as a water storage)

The purpose of this scheme is to test if it is possible to retain existing structures and maximise Environmental Water Requirements (EWR) outcomes for all five Planning Units through changes to operating rules

Structure Options

- No change from current scheme

Operational Options

- Maintain Order of Lake filling and draw down
- Operate the Lakes to maximise EWR's in the Lakes, Lower Darling and Anabranch
- Modify MDBA 640/480 rule if required to achieve the above
- Use Cawndilla to target Anabranch EWRs
- Water entering the Murray via the Anabranch will need to be accounted for and made available for downstream use

EWR benefit/risk relative to SDLM605 scenario

- Likely improvement in EWR outcomes compared to benchmark and current system

Evaporative water savings relative to SDLM605 scenario

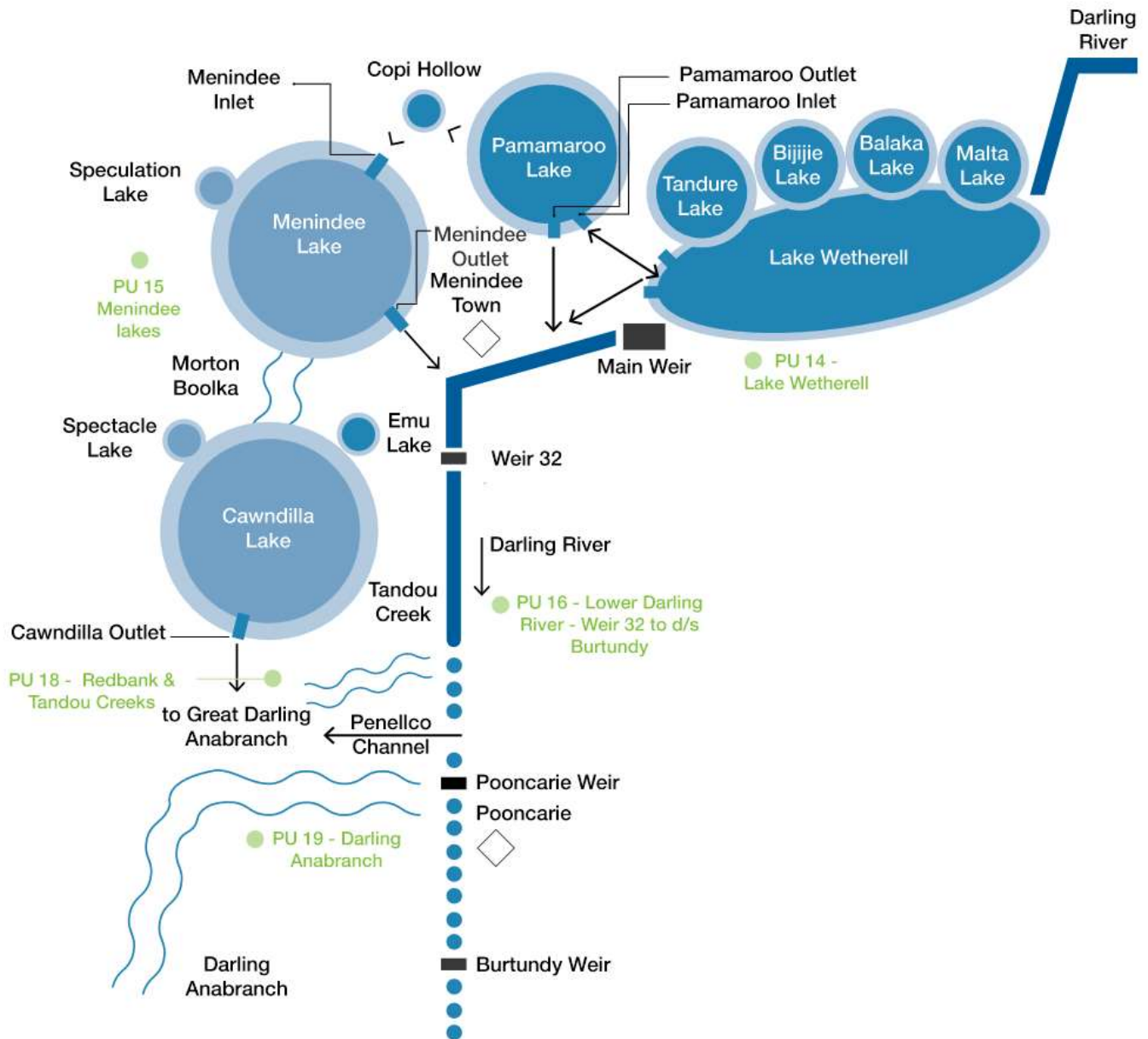
- Substantial reduction in evaporative water savings from SDLAM 605 benchmark due to increase in storage duration and no separation of Menindee and Cawndilla

Capital Cost movement relative to SDLM605 scenario

- Substantial reduction in capital cost requirements
- Potential additional operational cost as no improvement in operational efficiency of the lakes

Scheme B: No new infrastructure, modify operations to focus on SAG objectives

The purpose of this scheme is to test if it is possible to retain existing structures and increase drought reserve in the upper lakes to 3 summers and maintain a set minimum flow of 150ML/day (and no cease to flow events) in the lower Darling River.



Working Draft for discussion

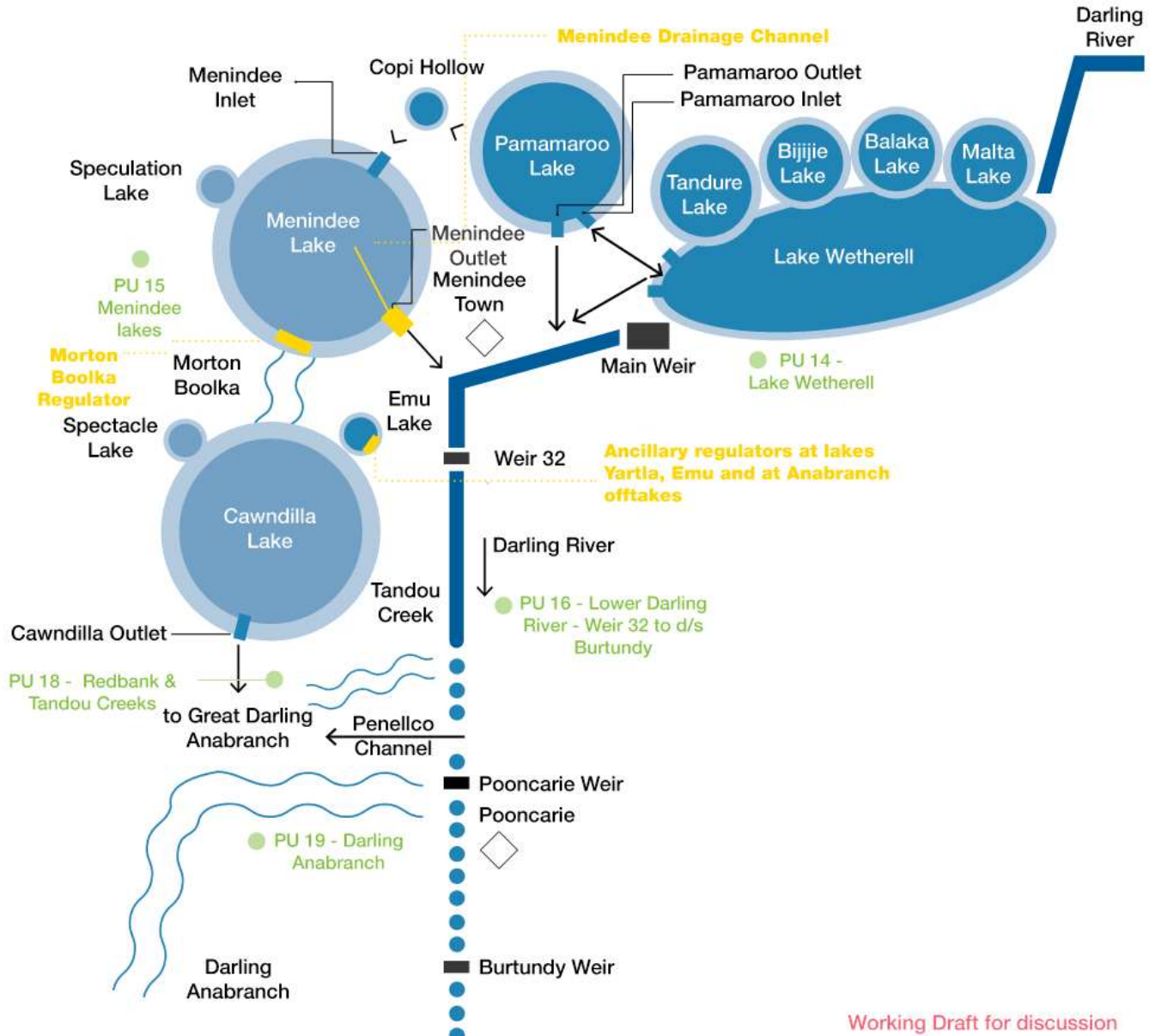
Scheme B – No new infrastructure, modify operations to focus on SAG objectives as tabled in February 2020

The purpose of this scheme is to test if it is possible to retain existing structures and increase the drought reserve to 3 summers and maintain a minimum flow of 150ML/day (and no cease to flow events) in the lower Darling River

Structure Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No change from current scheme
Operational Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Maintain order of Lake filling and draw downOperate lakes to ensure a three summer drought reserve, preferably in the top lakes in order to maintain base flows in the lower Darling River at a minimum of 150ML/day at Burtundy Weir with no cease-to-flow eventsModify MDBA 640/480 rule to achieve the above
EWR benefit/risk relative to SDLM605 scenario	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Unlikely to be a change to Menindee and Cawndilla EWR outcomesLikely improvement in Lower Darling low flow EWR outcomes however uncertain impact on medium and high flows due to need to retain additional water in the lakes
Evaporative water savings relative to SDLM605 scenario	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Substantial reduction in predicted evaporative water savings from SDLAM 605 scenario due to increase in storage duration for drought reserve and no separation of Menindee and Cawndilla
Capital Cost movement relative to SDLM605 scenario	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No substantial change

Scheme C: SDLAM605 infrastructure with operational modification to focus on SAG objectives

The purpose of this scheme is to test the impact on the project objectives of using the proposed SDLAM605 structures and modify the proposed operating rules to increase the drought reserve to three summers in order to maintain a set minimum flow (no cease to flow events) in the lower Darling River at 150ML/day.



Scheme C – SDLAM605 infrastructure scheme with operational modification to focus on SAG objectives as tabled in February 2020

The purpose of this scheme is to test the impact on the project objectives of using the proposed SDLAM605 proposed structures and modifying the proposed operating rules to increase the drought reserve to three summers in order to maintain a set minimum flow (no cease to flow events) in the lower Darling River at 150ML/day

Structure Options

- Menindee Outlet up to 14,000 ML/d
 - Ancillary infrastructure (regulators + other works) required to contain flows in main channel particularly at Yartla Lake and at Anabranch offtake
- Menindee drainage channel for access to residual pool
- Morton-Boolka regulator
 - Potential need for ancillary infrastructure at Cawndilla Creek for environmental protection depending on operating rules for filling Cawndilla

Operational Options

- Maintain Order of Lake filling and draw down
- Modify SDLAM605 80:80 rule to create a three summer drought reserve in order to maintain base flows in the lower Darling River at a minimum of 150ML/day at Burtundy Weir with no Cease-to-flow events

EWR benefit/risk relative to SDLAM605 scenario

- Likely improvement in Lower Darling low flow EWR outcomes however uncertain impact on medium and high flows due to need to retain additional water in the lakes

Evaporative water savings relative to SDLAM605 scenario

- Likely substantial reduction in predicted evaporative water savings from SDLAM 605 scenario due to increase in storage duration for drought reserve

Capital Cost movement relative to SDLAM605 scenario

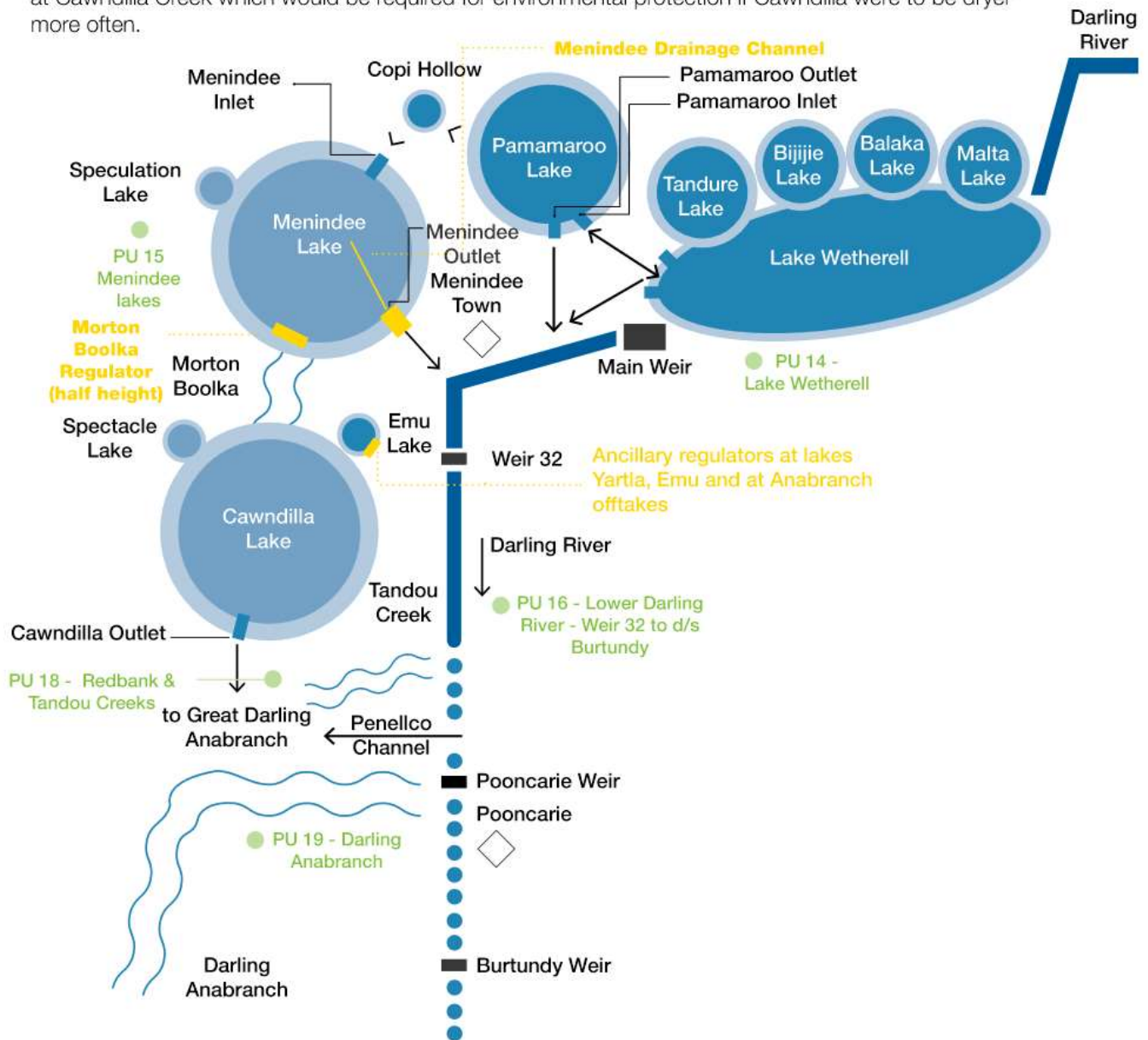
- No substantial change

12521160\Example scheme descriptions for SAG (June)_Rev4.docx
Menindee Lakes Water Saving Project

Overview of schemes **WORKING DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION**

Scheme D SDLAM605 infrastructure with operational modification to improve Cawndilla low and medium fill and Anabranh EWR outcome

The purpose of this scheme is to test the impact on the project objectives of modifying the proposed operations of the lakes using the SDLAM605 structures to allow better EWR outcomes for Lake Cawndilla as well as downstream and Anabranh EWRs. This may also remove the need for ancillary infrastructure at Cawndilla Creek which would be required for environmental protection if Cawndilla were to be dryer more often.



Working Draft for discussion

Scheme D – SDLAM605 infrastructure scheme with operational modification to improve Cawndilla low and medium fill and Anabranche EWR outcome

The purpose of this scheme is to test the impact on the project objectives of modifying the proposed operations of the lakes using the SDLAM605 structures to allow better EWR outcomes for Lake Cawndilla as well as downstream and Anabranche EWRs. This may also remove the need for ancillary infrastructure at Cawndilla Creek which would be required for environmental protection if Cawndilla were to be dryer more often

Structure Options

- Menindee Outlet up to 14,000 ML/d
 - Ancillary infrastructure (regulators + other works) required to contain flows in main channel particularly at Yartla Lake and at Anabranche offtake
- Menindee drainage channel for access to residual pool
- Morton-Boolka regulator

Operational Options

- Maintain Order of Lake filling and draw down
- Modify SDLAM605 80:80 rule to improve Cawndilla low and medium fills and downstream EWR
- Use Anabranche for MDBA conveyance of water to Murray (accounting for water entering the Murray via the anabranche)

EWR benefit/risk relative to SDLAM605 scenario

- Likely improvement in Cawndilla low and medium level EWR attainment when compared to both the SDLAM 605 and benchmark scenario
- Potential for improved downstream and Anabranche EWR attainment. However potential impact on Lower Darling downstream EWR from increased filling of Cawndilla

Evaporative water savings relative to SDLAM605 scenario

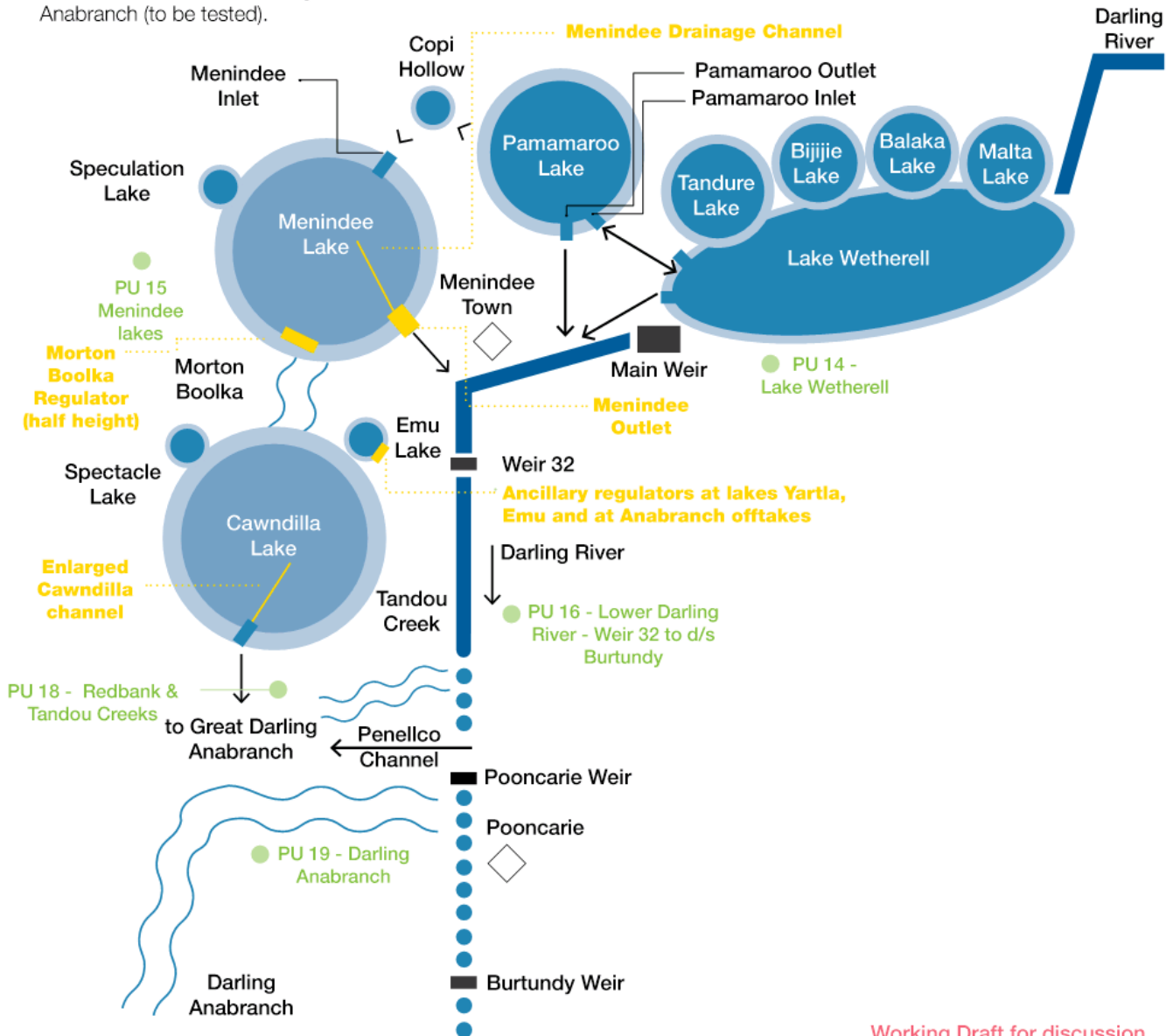
- Increasing flows to L Cawndilla will reduce SDLAM 605 scenario predicted evaporative water savings as surface area and duration will increase

Capital Cost movement relative to SDLAM605 scenario

- No substantial change

Scheme E: Modified SDLAM infrastructure scheme with operational modification to improve Cawndilla low and medium fill and Anabranh EWR outcome using a low level Morton-Boolka regulator

The purpose of this scheme is to test the impact on the project objectives of modifying SDLAM605 structures and the proposed operating rules to reduce the footprint of the proposed Morton Boolka regulator. A half-height regulator at Morton Boolka (within Menindee Lake at 57.5m RL 1.5m high) would provide 200GL of storage volume and reduce the level of physical impact at this site confining works to within the lake and below FSL. A low-level regulator at this site may not support the need for an enlarged Menindee outlet particularly if water is able to be transferred to the Murray via the Anabranh (to be tested).



Working Draft for discussion

Scheme E – Modified SDLAM infrastructure scheme with operational modification to improve Cawndilla low and medium fill and Anabranche EWR outcome using a low level Morton-Boolka regulator

The purpose of this scheme is to test the impact on the project objectives of modifying SDLAM605 structures and the proposed operating rules to reduce the footprint of the proposed Morton Boolka regulator. A half-height regulator at Morton Boolka (within Menindee Lake at 57.5m RL 1.5m high) would provide 200GL of storage volume and reduce the level of physical impact at this site confining works to within the lake and below FSL. A low-level regulator at this site may not support the need for an enlarged Menindee outlet particularly if water is able to be transferred to the Murray via the Anabranche (to be tested)

Structure Options

- Enlarged Menindee Outlet (14,000 ML/d)
 - Ancillary infrastructure (regulators + other works) required to contain flows in main channel particularly at Yartla Lake and at Anabranche offtake, if outlet capacity is above 9,000 ML/d
- Menindee drainage channel for access to residual pool
- Low level Morton-Boolka regulator (1.5m high) (note substantially less footprint than full height regulator)
- Enlarged Cawndilla drainage channel

Operational Options

- Maintain order of Lake filling and draw down
- Minimise filling of Menindee and Cawndilla through operational control at new level (RL 57.5m) unless major flood event or EWR requirement
- Modify SDLAM605 80:80 rule to achieve improved Lake and downstream EWR outcome
- Use Cawndilla outlet for Anabranche EWR attainment and for MDBA conveyance of water to Murray (accounting for water entering the Murray via the anabranche)

EWR benefit/risk relative to SDLAM605 scenario

- Potential improvement in EWR attainment lake low and medium fill, downstream and anabranche when compared to the SDLAM 605 scenario
- Potential reduction in EWR attainment for lake high fill EWR

Evaporative water savings relative to SDLAM605 scenario

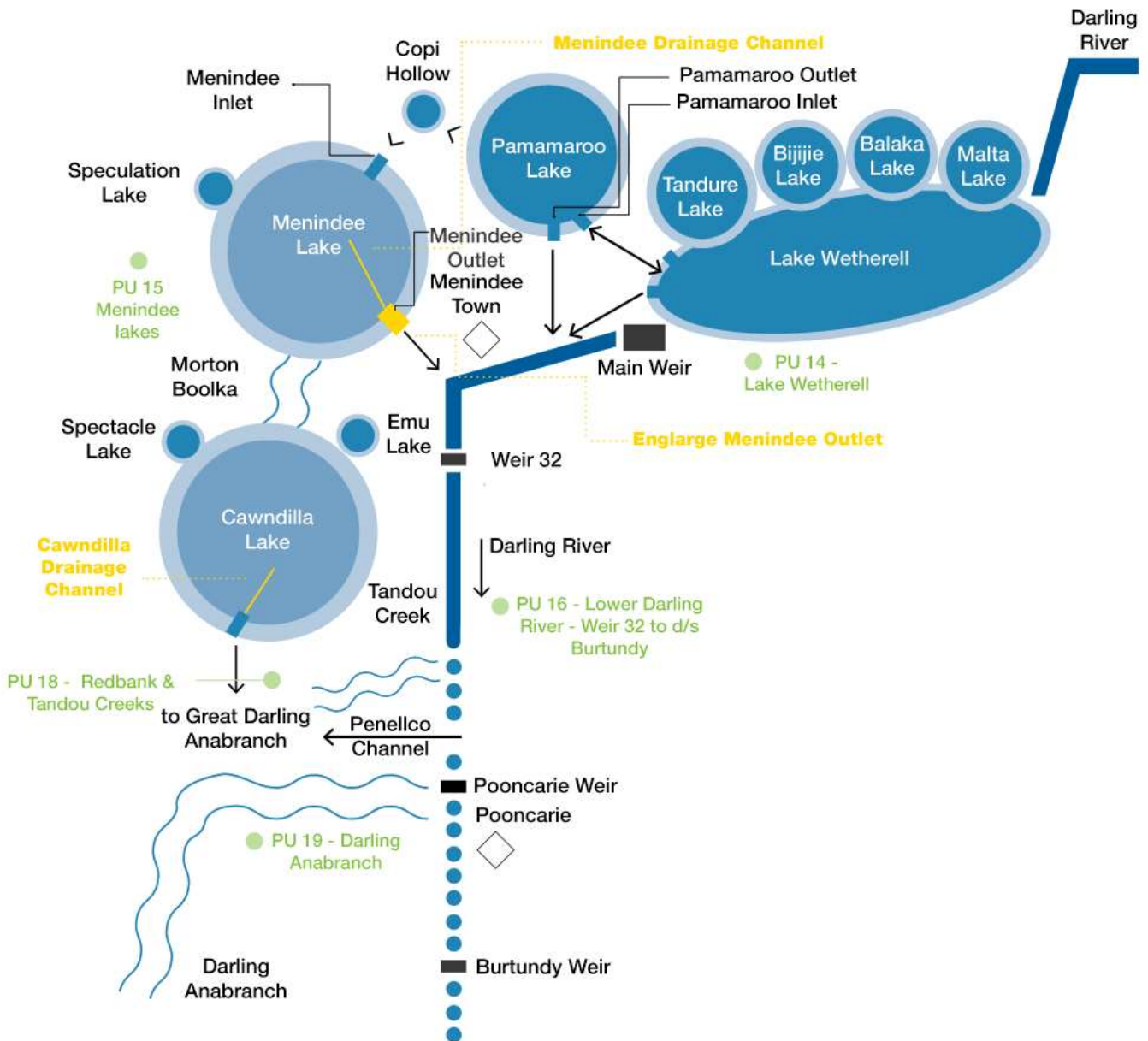
- Uncertain. A decrease in use of Lake Menindee at high water levels may minimise evaporation, however an increased use of Cawndilla will lead to an increase in evaporation

Capital Cost movement relative to SDLAM605 scenario

- Likely Increase due to Cawndilla enlargement and channel but dependent on need for enlarged Menindee outlet and ancillary channel works

Scheme F: Alternate scheme - EES proposal to improve environmental outcomes.

The purpose of this scheme is to test the impact on the project objectives of using new and upgraded infrastructure and modifying the proposed operating rules to focus on environmental outcomes for the lakes, river and the anabranch including improved drought reserve of 2.5-3 years to maintain base flows. This scheme does not include a regulator at Morton-Boolka



Working Draft for discussion

Scheme F – Alternate scheme - EES proposal to improve environmental outcomes

The purpose of this scheme is to test the impact on the project objectives of using new and upgraded infrastructure and modifying the proposed operating rules to focus on environmental outcomes for the lakes, river and the anabranch including improved drought reserve of 2.5-3 years to maintain base flows. This scheme does not include a regulator at Morton-Boolka

Structure Options

- Enlarged Menindee Outlet (14,000 ML/d) (note: regulators on Yartla, Emu and anabranch offtake are not proposed)
- Menindee drainage channel for access to residual pool
- Enlarged Cawndilla channel

Operational Options

- Modify SDLAM605 80:80 rule to achieve three summer drought reserve to (2.5-3 years) to maintain low flow target at weir 32 in accordance with Appendix 3 of the water sharing plan
- Increase low / medium flows in Cawndilla and Menindee at EWR frequency and reduce high level fills
- Use Cawndilla outlet for Anabranch EWR attainment and for MDBA conveyance of water to Murray (accounting for water entering the Murray via the anabranch)

EWR benefit/risk relative to SDLAM605 scenario

- Likely substantial improvement in EWR attainment for all Planning Units when compared to SDLAM 605 benchmark

Evaporative water savings relative to SDLAM605 scenario

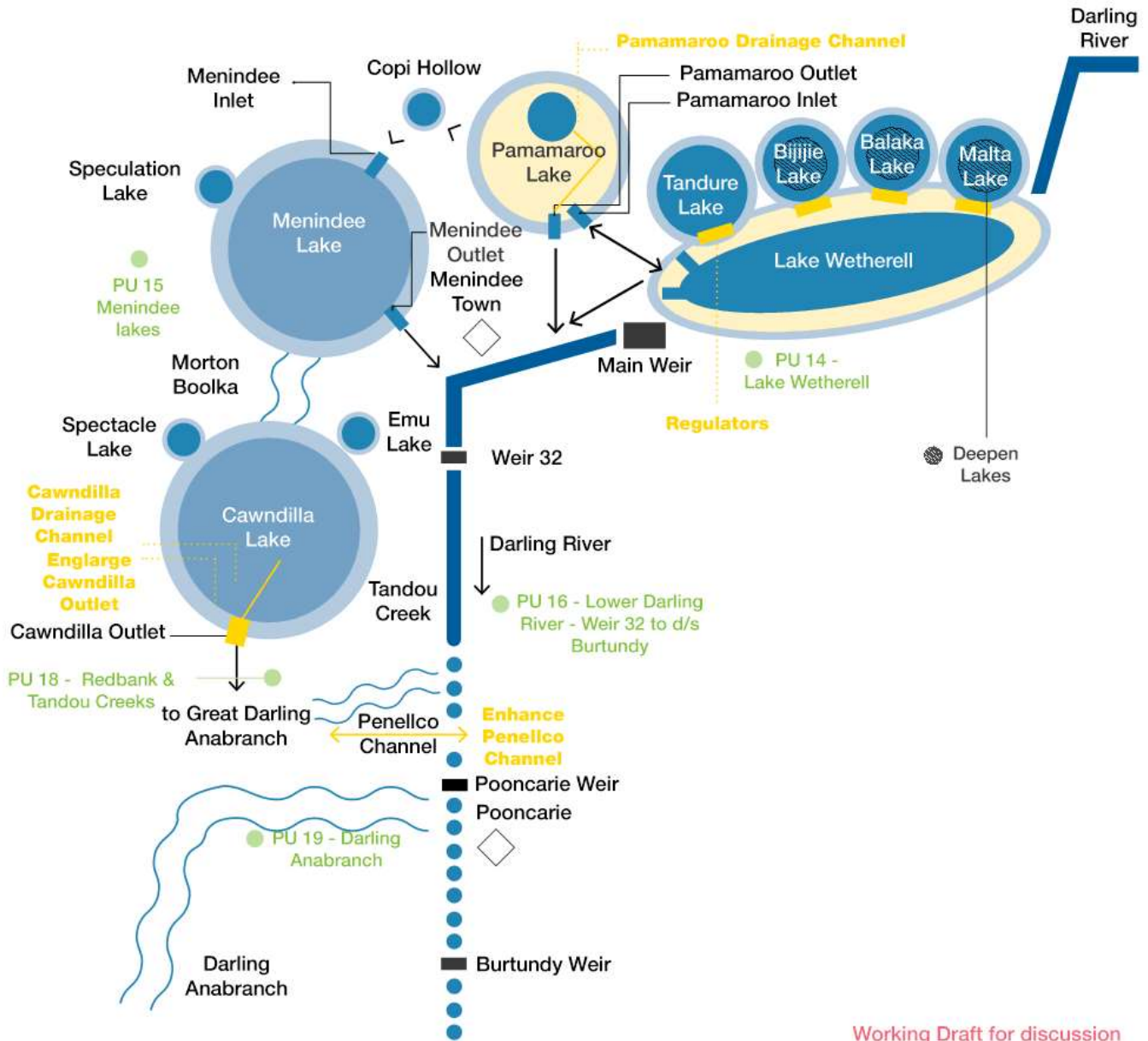
- Likely substantial reduction in predicted evaporative water savings from SDLAM 605 benchmark due to increase in storage duration for drought reserve and no separation of Menindee and Cawndilla

Capital Cost movement relative to SDLAM605 scenario

- Potential reduction as scheme swaps Morton Boolka for works at Cawndilla but removes ancillary works in channel
- Will introduce additional operation constraint on MDBA with need to retain water in the upper lakes

Scheme G: Alternate scheme – Menindee Lakes Water Users Group proposal to increase upstream storage capacity for drought reserve and utilise Penellco to discharge to the Darling River from Lake Cawndilla

The purpose of this scheme is to test the impact on the project objectives of using new and upgraded infrastructure and modifying the proposed operating rules to focus improving storage capacity in the upper lake while allowing water in the lower lakes to be drained through the Cawndilla outlet and Penellco channel back to the Darling River.



Working Draft for discussion

Scheme G – Alternate scheme – Menindee Lakes Water Users Group proposal to increase upstream storage capacity for drought reserve and utilise Penellico to discharge to the Darling River from Lake Cawndilla

The purpose of this scheme is to test the impact on the project objectives of using new and upgraded infrastructure and modifying the proposed operating rules to focus improving storage capacity in the upper lakes while allowing water in the lower lakes to be drained through the Cawndilla outlet and Penellico channel back to the Darling River

Structure Options

- Increase capacity of Lake Cawndilla drainage channel and outlet (2000 ML/d)
- Deepen Lakes Malta, Balaka and Bijijie. Regulators installed to allow filling during flooding and retain water
- Regulators at Lake Tandure to enable Tandure to remain full (create 80 GL storage) as Lake Wetherell recedes off floodplain
- Enhance Penellico Channel to enable flow from Lake Cawndilla to Darling River (larger channel, reverse grade and 2 regulator structures)
- Channel to interconnecting channel to Copi Hollow and Pamamaroo Creek Outlet to maximize amount of water that can be accessed

Operational Options (to be refined)

- Maintain order of Lake filling and draw down – keep both Lake Pamamaroo and Lake Wetherell as full as possible for as long as possible
- Modify MDBA agreement to remove inaccessible water from the drought reserve

EWR benefit/risk relative to SDLM605 scenario

- Potential benefits for Cawndilla and Anabranch EWR's depending on operating rules
- Benefits downstream EWR due to increase in drought reserve
- Likely impacts on Wetherell EWR

Evaporative water savings relative to SDLM605 scenario

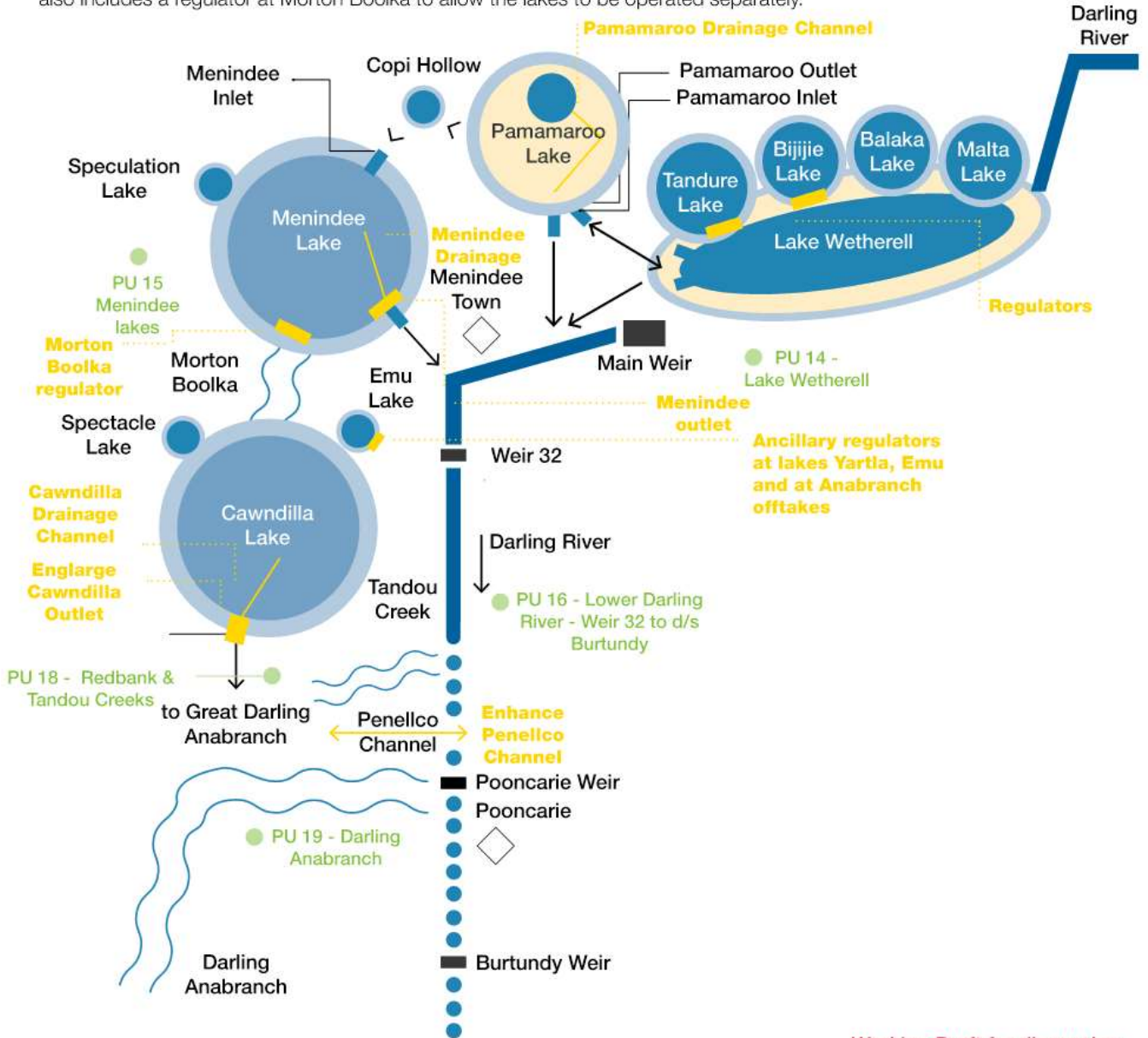
- Likely reduction from SDLAM 605 scenario as Menindee and Cawndilla will still operate as single storage

Capital Cost movement relative to SDLM605 scenario

- Higher cost relative to the SDLAM 605 scenario due to substantial excavation works, Pamamaroo outlet, Cawndilla and Penellico channel

Scheme H: Alternate scheme to increase upstream storage capacity for drought reserve, separate Menindee and Cawndilla and utilise Penellco to discharge to the Darling River from Lake Cawndilla

The purpose of this scheme is to test the impact on the project objectives of using new and upgraded infrastructure and modifying the proposed operating rules to improve storage capacity in the upper lake while allowing water in the lower lakes to be drained through the Cawndilla outlet and Penellco channel back to the Darling River. This proposal also includes a regulator at Morton Boolka to allow the lakes to be operated separately.



Working Draft for discussion

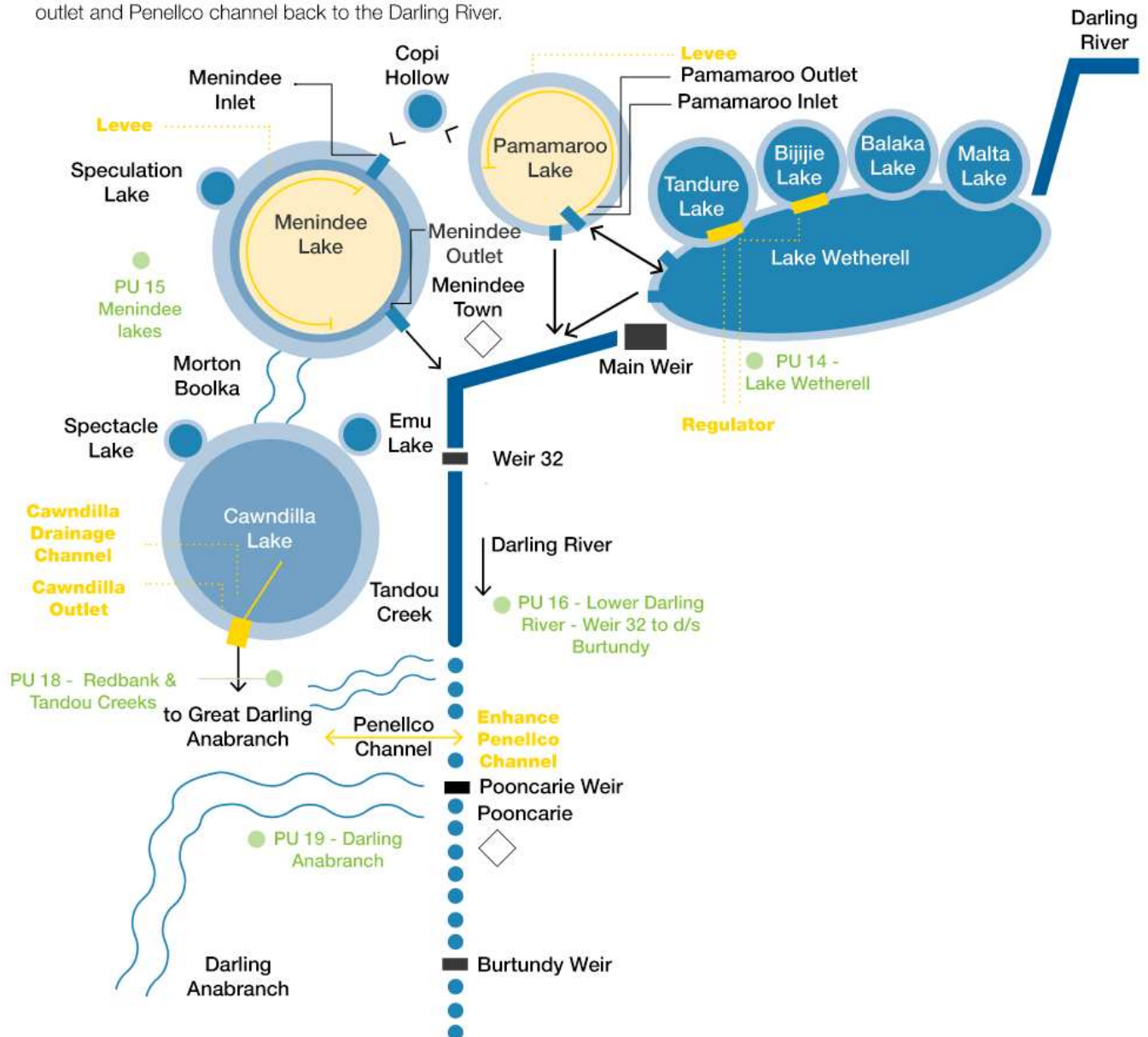
Scheme H – Alternate scheme to increase upstream storage capacity for drought reserve, separate Menindee and Cawndilla and utilise Penellco to discharge to the Darling River from Lake Cawndilla

The purpose of this scheme is to test the impact on the project objectives of using new and upgraded infrastructure and modifying the proposed operating rules to improve storage capacity in the upper lake while allowing water in the lower lakes to be drained through the Cawndilla outlet and Penellco channel back to the Darling River. This proposal also includes a regulator at Morton Boolka to allow the lakes to be operated separately.

<i>Structure Options</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Menindee Outlet to 14,000 ML/d to facilitate downstream transfers<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Ancillary infrastructure (regulators + other works) required to contain flows in main channel particularly at Yartla Lake and at Anabranch offtake• Menindee drainage channel to access residual pool• Morton-Boolka regulator to separate lakes<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Potential need for ancillary infrastructure at Cawndilla Creek for environmental protection depending on operating rules for filling Cawndilla• Lake Cawndilla outlet to 2000 ML/d and improved drainage channel• Regulators at Tandure and Bijijie to enable water to be retained once Wetherell floodplain is drained• Enhance Penellco Channel to enable flow from Lake Cawndilla to Darling River (larger channel, reverse grade and 2 regulator structures)
<i>Operational Options (to be refined)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keep both Lake Pamamaroo and Lake Wetherell as full as possible for as long as possible• Modify MDBA agreement to remove inaccessible water from the drought reserve
<i>EWB benefit/risk relative to SDLM605 scenario</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Potential benefits for lower lakes and Anabranch EWR depending on operating rules• Impacts Wetherell EWR
<i>Evaporative water savings relative to SDLM605 scenario</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Potential reduction against SDLAM 605 scenario due to retention of water in the smaller upper lakes
<i>Capital Cost movement relative to SDLM605 scenario</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Substantially higher cost relative to the SDLAM 605 scenario due to additional works at Tandure, Bijijie, Cawndilla and Penellco channel

Scheme I: Alternate Scheme to minimise Pamamaroo and Menindee storage area and utilise Pennellco to discharge back to the Darling River

The purpose of this scheme is to test the impact on the project objectives of using new and upgraded infrastructure and modifying the proposed operating rules to improve storage capacity in the upper lakes, restrict the use of lakes Pamamaroo and Menindee through construction of an internal perimeter levee from the inlet to the outlet in each lake (thereby reducing surface area and evaporation). Cawndilla would be drained through an enlarged Cawndilla outlet and Penellco channel back to the Darling River.



Working Draft for discussion

Scheme 1 – Alternate Scheme to minimise Pamamaroo and Menindee storage area and utilise Pennellco to discharge back to the Darling River

The purpose of this scheme is to test the impact on the project objectives of using new and upgraded infrastructure and modifying the proposed operating rules to improve storage capacity in the upper lakes, restrict the use of lakes Pamamaroo and Menindee through construction of an internal perimeter levee from the inlet to the outlet in each lake (thereby reducing surface area and evaporation). Cawndilla would be drained through an enlarged Cawndilla outlet and Penellco channel back to the Darling River.

Structure Options

- Regulators at Tandure and Bijjje to enable water to be retained once Wetherell floodplain is drained
- Perimeter levee around northern and western edge of lakes Pamamaroo and Menindee to divert water from the respective inlets and outlets direct to Cawndilla
- Lake Cawndilla outlet to 2000 ML/d and improved drainage channel
- Enhance Penellco Channel to enable flow from Lake Cawndilla to Darling River (larger channel, reverse grade and 2 regulator structures)

Operational Options(to be refined)

- Keep Lake Wetherell as full as possible for as long as possible
- Modify MDBA agreement to remove inaccessible water from the drought reserve

EWB benefit/risk relative to SDL605 scenario

- Potential benefits for Cawndilla, downstream and Anabranch EWB
- Impacts Wetherell EWB
- Impacts Menindee EWB

Evaporative water savings relative to SDL605 scenario

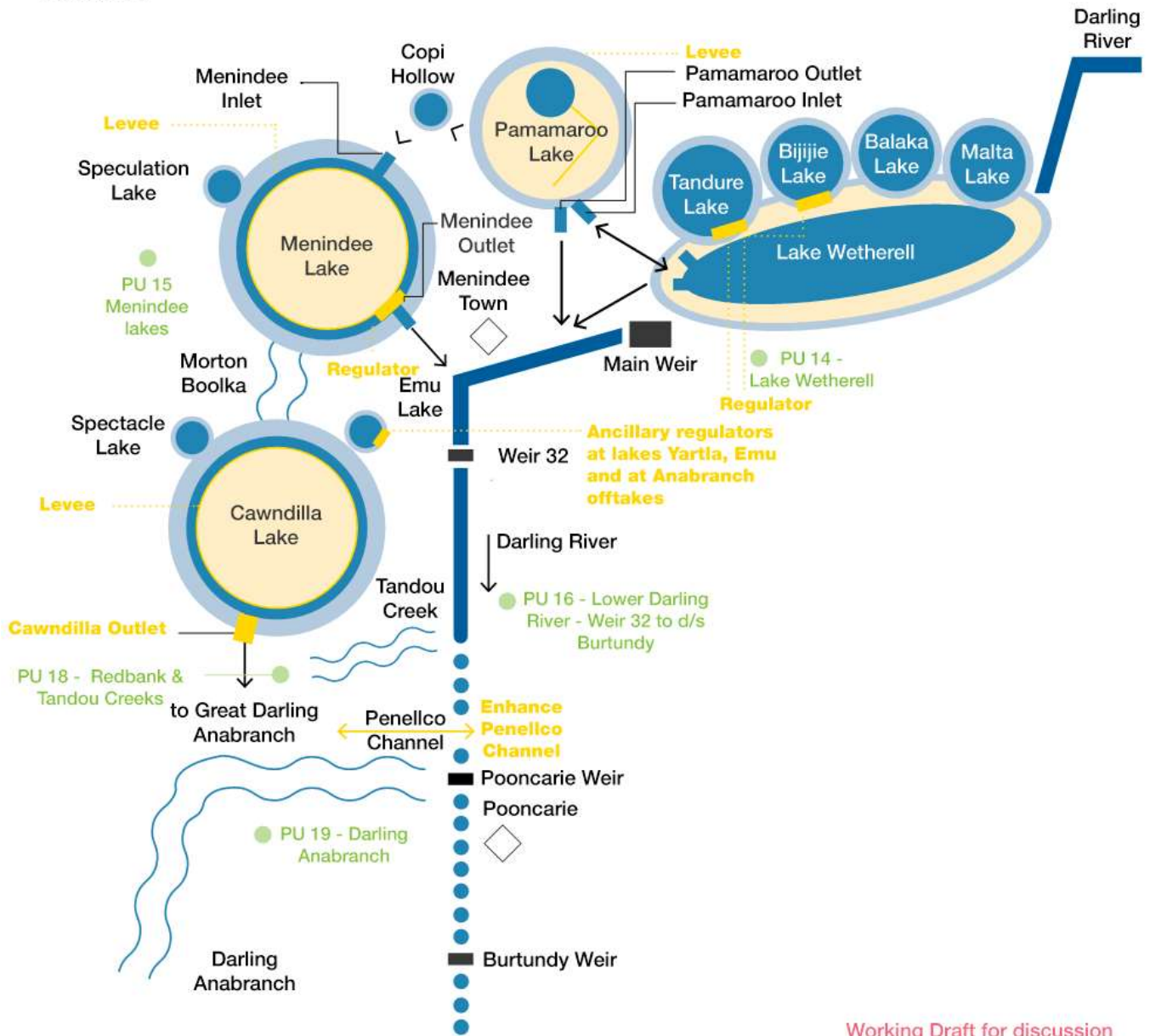
- Likely increased evaporative water savings from SDLAM 605 scenario through a substantial reduction in water storage surface area

Capital Cost movement relative to SDL605 scenario

- Substantially higher cost relative to the SDLAM 605 scenario due to substantial earthworks required for the levees and additional works at Tandure, Bijjje, Cawndilla and Penellco channel

Scheme J: Alternate Scheme to maximise upstream storage, minimise Menindee and Cawndilla storage area and utilise Pennellco to discharge back to the Darling River.

The purpose of this scheme is to test the impact on the project objectives of using new and upgraded infrastructure and modifying the proposed operating rules to improve storage capacity in the upper lakes, restrict the use of lakes Menindee and Cawndilla through construction of interior perimeter levees in each lake (thereby reducing surface area and evaporation). Cawndilla would be drained through an enlarged Cawndilla outlet and Penellco channel back to the Darling River



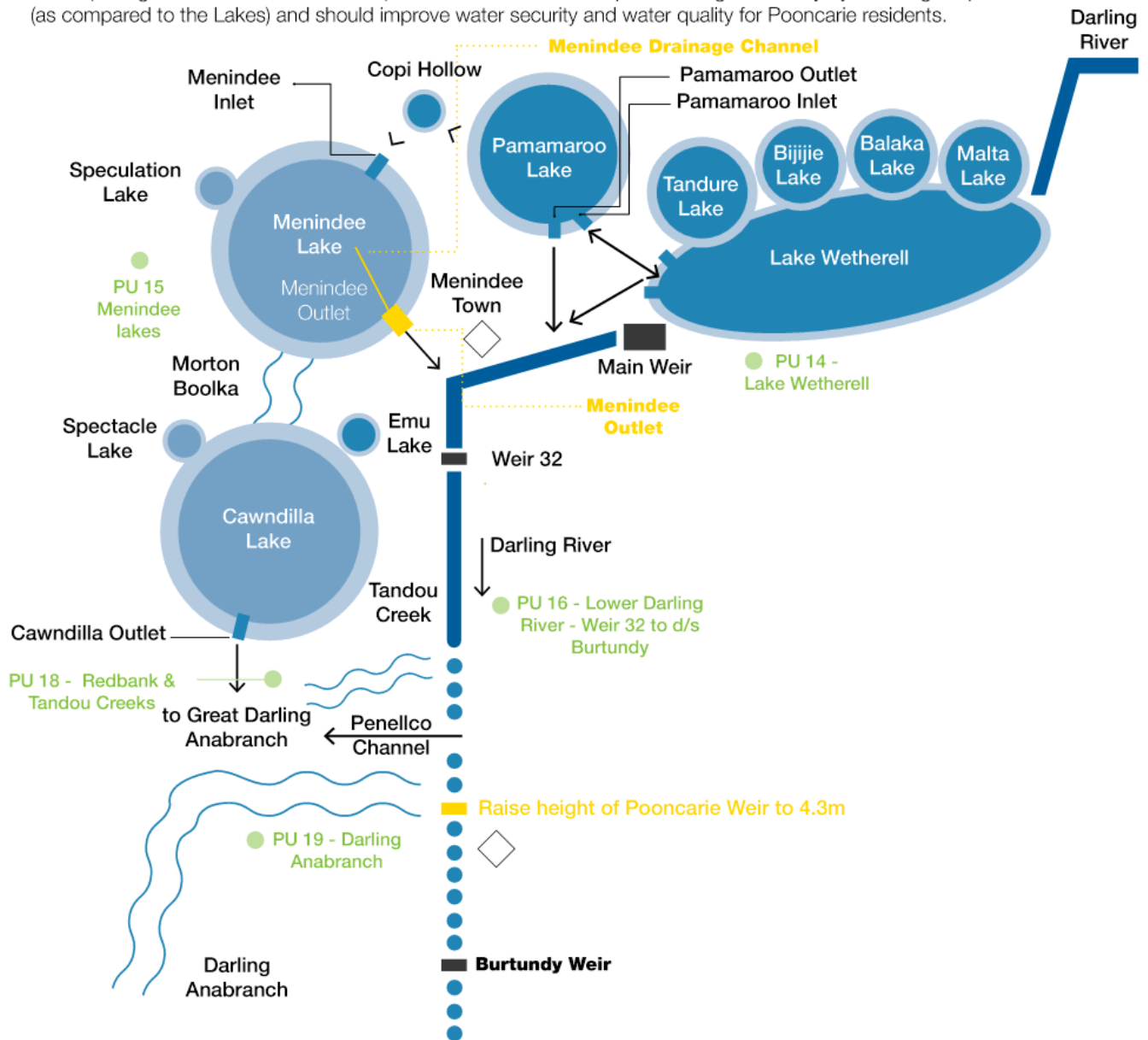
Scheme J – Alternate Scheme to maximise upstream storage, minimise Menindee and Cawndilla storage area and utilise Pennellco to discharge back to the Darling River

The purpose of this scheme is to test the impact on the project objectives of using new and upgraded infrastructure and modifying the proposed operating rules to improve storage capacity in the upper lakes, restrict the use of lakes Menindee and Cawndilla through construction of interior perimeter levees in each lake (thereby reducing surface area and evaporation). Cawndilla would be drained through an enlarged Cawndilla outlet and Penellco channel back to the Darling River.

Structure Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Menindee Outlet to 14,000 ML/d to facilitate downstream transfers<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ancillary infrastructure (regulators + other works) required to contain flows in main channel particularly at Yartla Lake and at Anabranh offtakeRegulators at Tandure and Bijijie to retain water once Wetherell floodplain is drainedLevee around entire interior perimeter of Menindee and Cawndilla to retain water on margins of lakesLake Cawndilla outlet to 2000 ML/d and enhance drainage channelEnhance Penellco Channel to enable flow from Lake Cawndilla to Darling River (larger channel, reverse grade and 2 regulator structures)
Operational Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Keep Lake Wetherell as full as possible for as long as possibleModify MDBA agreement to remove inaccessible water from the drought reserve
EWR benefit/risk relative to SDLM605 scenario	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Potential benefits for downstream and Anabranh EWRsImpacts Wetherell EWRImpacts Menindee and Cawndilla EWR
Evaporative water savings relative to SDLM605 scenario	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Likely substantial increase in evaporative water savings from SDLAM 605 scenario through a substantial reduction in water storage surface area
Capital Cost movement relative to SDLM605 scenario	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Substantially higher cost relative to the SDLAM 605 scenario due to substantial earthworks required for the perimeter levees and additional works at Tandure, Bijijie, Cawndilla and Penellco channel

Scheme K: Alternate Scheme to increase storage in the Darling River channel and reduce reliance on storing water in the lakes

The purpose of this scheme is to test the impact on the project objectives of increasing the height of Pooncarie Weir from 0.8m to 4.3m (an increase of 3.5m). This will increase the storage capacity of the main channel at this location (extending the weir pool from 9 km to 44 km) and potentially reducing the reliance on water stored in Menindee Lakes (storage volume to be determined). The main channel will improve storage efficiency by reducing evaporation (as compared to the Lakes) and should improve water security and water quality for Pooncarie residents.



Working Draft for discussion

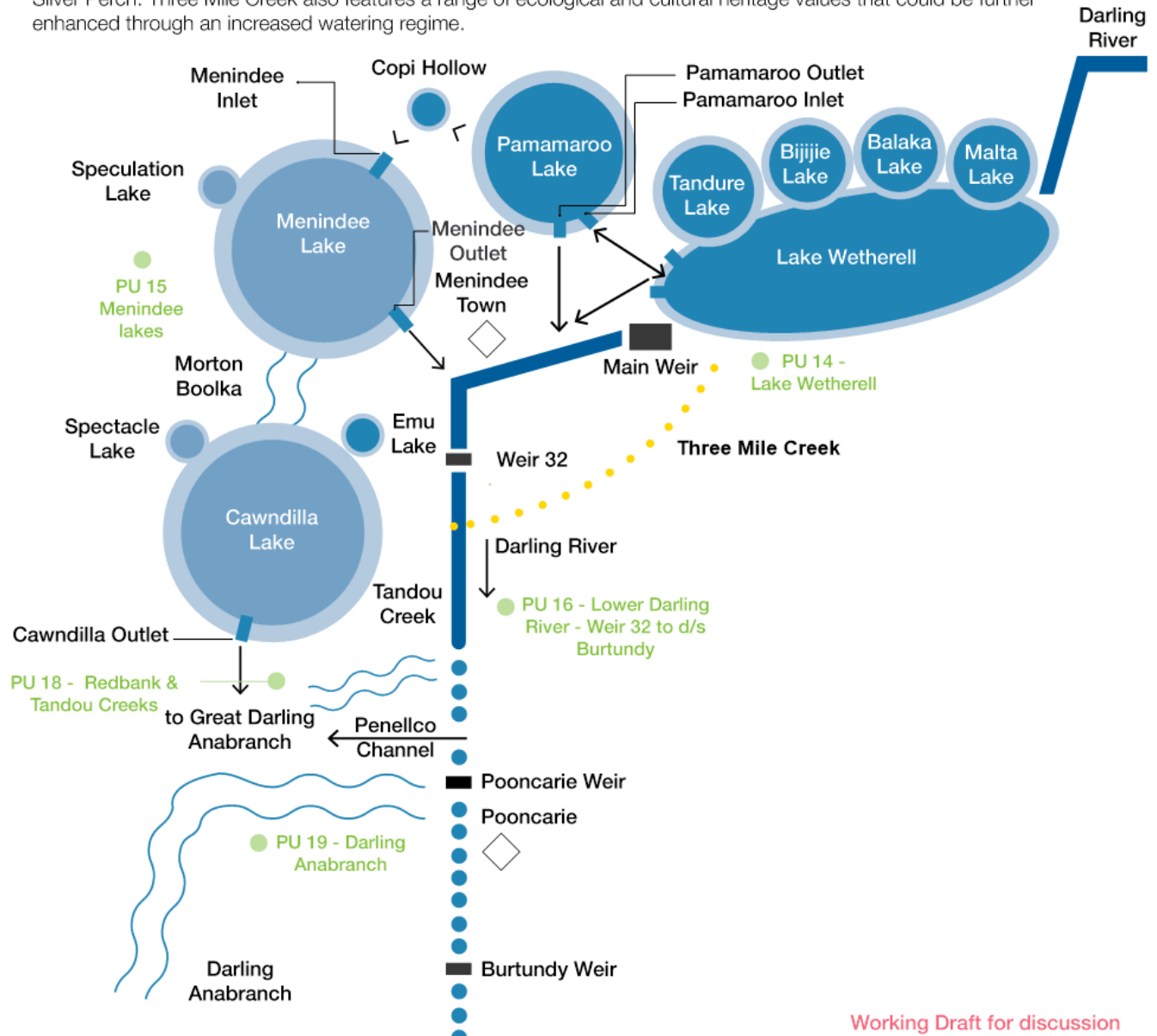
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Structure Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raise height of Pooncarie Weir from 0.8m to 4.3m• Enlarged Menindee Outlet (9,000 ML/d to avoid need for ancillary infrastructure)• Menindee drainage channel for access to residual pool
Operational Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintain Order of Lake filling and draw down• Modify MDBA agreement to remove inaccessible water from the drought reserve and include increased storage at Pooncarie Weir
EWB benefit/risk relative to SDL605 scenario	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No change to Wetherell, Menindee and Cawndilla EWR• Improved Cawndilla EWR low and medium fill outcome due to no Morton Boolka• Potential benefits for downstream and Anabranch EWRs• Impacts to downstream EWRs due to new inundation area• Potential impacts to fish habitat through a reduction to fast flowing habitat and the introduction of barriers to fish passage• Potential impact to littoral vegetation and groundwater gradients• Potential impact to water quality
Evaporative water savings relative to SDL605 scenario	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Likely reduction in evaporative water savings from SDL605 scenario due to no separation of Menindee and Cawndilla however may be offset by creation of additional (more efficient) storage in channel
Capital Cost movement relative to SDL605 scenario	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Potential decrease due to less works at Menindee but dependent on cost of Weir raising

Scheme L: Alternate Scheme to incorporate Three-Mile Creek as potential fast flowing fish habitat and improve ecological outcomes

Three Mile Creek is an ephemeral creek system with an off-take from Lake Wetherell upstream of the Main Weir which reconnects with the main channel of the Darling River downstream of Weir 32. There is an opportunity to provide water to Three Mile Creek during normal operation of Wetherell through some targeted sill lowering, creating approximately 40km of fast flowing habitat. Fast flowing habitat ($>0.3\text{m/s}$) is under-represented within the southern connected Basin and is a preferred habitat type for large bodied native fish such as Murray Cod, Golden Perch and Silver Perch. Three Mile Creek also features a range of ecological and cultural heritage values that could be further enhanced through an increased watering regime.



Working Draft for discussion

Scheme L – Alternate Scheme to incorporate Three-Mile Creek as potential fast flowing fish habitat and improve ecological outcomes

Three Mile Creek is an ephemeral creek system with an off-take from Lake Wetherell upstream of the Main Weir which reconnects with the main channel of the Darling River downstream of Weir 32. There is an opportunity to provide water to Three Mile Creek during normal operation of Wetherell through some targeted sill lowering, creating approximately 40km of fast flowing habitat. Fast flowing habitat (>0.3m/s) is under-represented within the southern connected Basin and is a preferred habitat type for large bodied native fish such as Murray Cod, Golden Perch and Silver Perch. Three Mile Creek also features a range of ecological and cultural heritage values that could be further enhanced through an increased watering regime.

Structure Options

- Lowering sill level of Three-Mile Creek at three small locations to potentially create a watering regime whenever ecologically desirable, as the Creek would be fed from the Wetherell normal full supply level (FSL).
- The existing inlet regulator would need to be modified to facilitate fish passage
- A new regulator (plus fishway) may also be required at the outlet of Three Mile Creek depending on additional investigations.

Operational Options

- Maintain Order of Lake filling and draw down and current MDBA agreement
- Determine volume of water required to meet flow requirements for Three Mile Creek, which will be influenced by the environmental and cultural heritage objectives

EWB benefit/risk relative to SDLM605 scenario

- No change to Wetherell, Menindee and Cawndilla EWR
- Improved Cawndilla EWR low and medium fill outcome due to no Morton Boolka
- Benefits for downstream low flow EWRs

Evaporative water savings relative to SDLM605 scenario

- Reduction in evaporative water savings from SDLAM 605 scenario due to no improvement in lake efficiency (noting that the water regime may result in water flowing into Lakes Menindee and Cawndilla less often)

Capital Cost movement relative to SDLM605 scenario

- Reduction due to less works required at Menindee but dependent on cost of creek works and associated fishways

Terry Smith
Menindee Lakes SDLAM SAG Chairman
scarsdalestation@bigpond.com
0427919408

The Hon Melinda Pavey MP
Minister for Water, Property and housing
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Monday, 27 July 2020

Dear Minister Pavey

The formation of the Menindee Lakes SDLAM Project Stakeholder Advisory Group began in mid-2019 and was orchestrated mostly by the former NSW Land and Water Commissioner with help from MDBA community engagement officers and staff from DPIE (water).

The Stakeholder Group consists of 25 peer selected representatives from community groups that represent Indigenous nations, irrigators, pastoralists, stock and domestic water users, townships and local government. There are representatives from the Menindee Lakes, the Great Darling Anabranch and along the Darling River from Wilcannia to Wentworth, an estimated 1100 kilometres of river.

From the very first meeting of the group and every subsequent meeting, the single main issue that has been raised is giving priority to fresh water through-out the Darling River system in NSW from the Queensland border to Wentworth. Maintaining water supply for towns, the environment, Indigenous nations cultural requirements, domestic and stock use has been a failure under current operational protocols.

The Stakeholder Group is of the view that under existing water sharing plan rules, reduced amounts of water will make it to Menindee, from flow events in dry periods because of extraction for irrigation. This ensures that proposed water savings targets for the Basin Plan will not be met regardless of any amount of new infrastructure commissioned in Menindee. The group has three main concerns that must be addressed as a matter of urgency as listed below.

- Whole of system connectivity including from the northern basin and the Lower Darling to the confluence with the Murray River.
- Protection of drought reserve storage targets for the Menindee Lakes and Lower Darling.
- Protection of first flush events.

Since changes to NSW water rules in the Northern Basin in 2012 the Menindee Lakes and the Lower Darling have faced critical water shortages for more than 50% of the time. There has been 3 extended cease to flow events in the Lower Darling, there were 3 fish kill events in the Menindee weir pool of a scale which have never been recorded in either European history, or indigenous culture and the Darling Anabranch has only flowed once.

All of these events have been followed by countless reviews such as Vertessy, NRC, Academy of Science and now the First Flush review. Each of these reviews recommend that water management must provide for and promote connectivity between water sources, and identify that access for irrigation during first flush events should not be allowed until triggers that provide for stock and domestic watering, native title rights, town water supply for 2 years and critical environmental needs in specific water sources have been met. Throughout all of the SAG discussions, DPIE (water) continually refuse to consider including flow and storage targets within the respective Water Sharing Plans. This is becoming increasingly troubling for the members of the Menindee Stakeholder Advisory Group and the constituents and communities that they represent.

The Menindee Lakes Stakeholder Group requests that you ensure that flow management arrangements that include flow and duration targets in the Barwon-Darling and Lower Darling water sources, and volumetric targets within the Menindee Lakes be included in the NSW policy and legislative framework, specifically in all relevant Water Sharing Plans. This will be necessary to enable the Menindee Lakes SDLAM project to be supported by Menindee Lakes Stakeholder Advisory Group.

The stakeholder group acknowledge that the current consultation process is an improvement on what has occurred in the past. The process, however, still lacks appropriate rigour required to enable this community to make an informed decision on changes that will affect our families, our culture and our businesses for many generations to come. Without serious and meaningful changes to the current NSW operational rules and Water Sharing Plans that provide for whole of river connectivity further consultation is going to be continually frustrated by this issue.

The community has had enough and is now seeking water security for the environment, cultural, town water supply and stock and domestic be provided over irrigation before any decision about operational management of the Menindee Lakes and Lower Darling river system can be supported.

Yours Sincerely

Terry Smith

Menindee Lakes Stakeholder Advisory Group Chairman

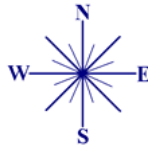
CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE COUNCIL

CONSTITUTED 1 MAY 1959

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Website: www.centraldarling.nsw.gov.au

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WILCANNIA NSW 2836



PHONE (08) 8083 8900
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COUNCIL CHAMBERS
21 REID STREET
WILCANNIA NSW 2836

Our Reference: GD20/28862

5 August 2020

Deputy Premier
Hon John Barilaro MP,
Suite R1 44
Parliament House Sydney
Email: monaro@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Deputy Premier,

Menindee Lakes SDLAM Project Stakeholder Advisory Group

Central Darling Shire Council covers 52,000 km²'s in the Far West of NSW, population of 2000 residents and has the largest portion of river/lake systems in the state. Council has been proactively promoting water security for the Lower Darling River and the Menindee Lakes system for some time.

The formation of the Menindee Lakes Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment Mechanism (SDLAM) Project Stakeholder Advisory Group began in mid-2019 and was orchestrated mostly by the former NSW Land and Water Commissioner, with help from MDBA community engagement officers and staff from DPIE (water).

Central Darling Shire Council is a member of the Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG). The group consists of 25 peers, selected representatives from community groups that represent Indigenous nations, irrigators, pastoralists, stock and domestic water users and Local Government. There are representatives from the Menindee Lakes, the Great Darling Anabranch and along the Darling River from Wilcannia to Wentworth, an estimated 1100 kilometres of river.

From the very first meeting of the group and every subsequent meeting, the single main issue that has been raised: **is giving priority to fresh water through-out the Darling River system, from the Queensland border to Wentworth.** Maintaining water supply for towns, the environment, Indigenous Nations cultural requirements, domestic and stock use has been a failure under current operational protocols.

Page 1 of 3

Council supports and agrees with the SAG, under existing water sharing plan rules, reduced amounts of water will make it to Menindee Lakes, from flow events in dry periods because of extraction for irrigation. This ensures that proposed water savings targets for the Basin Plan, will not be met regardless of any amount of new infrastructure commissioned in the Menindee Lakes system.

Since changes to NSW water rules in the Northern Basin in 2012, the Menindee Lakes and the Lower Darling River have faced critical water shortages for more than 50% of the time. During this period, there has been 3 extended cease flow events in the Lower Darling River, there were 3 fish kill events in the Menindee weir pool (a scale which has never been recorded in either European history, or Indigenous culture) and the Darling Anabranch has only flowed once.

All these events have been followed by countless reviews, such as Vertessy, NRC, Academy of Science and now the First Flush review. Each of these reviews recommended: **“Water Management must provide for and promote connectivity between water sources and identify access for irrigation during first flush events”**. Irrigation during first flush events should not be allowed until certain triggers have been provided for stock and domestic watering, native title rights, town water supply for 2 years and critical environmental needs for specific water sources have been met. Council has made representation to several State/Federal Ministers and Bureaucrats during this time, without prevail to increase flows to Menindee Lakes and the Lower Darling. Furthermore, DPIE (water) continually refuse to consider including flow and storage targets within the respective Water Sharing Plans. This is becoming increasingly troubling for Council and the members of the Menindee SAG, as we represent the community.

Council and SAG acknowledge that the current consultation process is an improvement on what has occurred in the past. The process, however, still lacks appropriate rigour, required to enable the community to make an informed decision on changes that will affect families, culture and businesses within the Shire for many generations to come. Without serious and meaningful changes to the current NSW operational rules and Water Sharing Plans, “providing for whole of river connectivity”, further consultation is going to be continually frustrated by this issue.

On behalf of constituents within the Shire, Central Darling Shire Council requests that you ensure that Flow Management arrangements for: **flow and duration targets in the Barwon-Darling/Lower Darling and volumetric targets within the Menindee Lakes, be included in the NSW Policy and Legislative framework and in all relevant Water Sharing Plans**. This will be necessary to enable the Menindee Lakes SDLAM project to be supported by Council, Menindee SAG and the broader community.

The community within the Shire and neighbouring communities, have had enough and is now seeking water security for the environment, cultural, town water supply and stock and domestic. This security is needed to be provided over irrigation before any decision about Operational Management of the Menindee Lakes and Lower Darling River before any consideration of support by the community.

The Community has three main concerns that must be addressed as a matter of urgency as itemised below:

1. ***Whole of system connectivity including from the Northern Basin and the Lower Darling to the confluence with the Murray River.***
2. ***Protection of drought reserve storage targets for the Menindee Lakes and Lower Darling.***
3. ***Protection of first flush events to ensure flows reach the Menindee Lake system and provide flows into the lower Darling River system.***

I would like to request a meeting with you in person as Deputy Premier, to discuss the matters raised in this letter and how to progress the actions as outlined above.

Yours sincerely,



Robert Keith Stewart
Administrator

CC

Member for Barwon, Roy Butler MP

Member for Parkes, Mark Coulton MP

Mayor Broken Hill City Council, Darriea Turley AM

Mayor Wentworth Shire Council, Melissa Hederics

11 CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

NEXT MEETING

16 September 2020