WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL

AGENDA

DECEMBER 2007

Stephen McLean
General Manager

3 December 2007

Administrator
Walgett Shire Council
PO Box 31
WALGETT NSW 2832

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Ordinary Meeting of Walgett Shire Council will be held in the Walgett Shire Council Chambers on Tuesday 11 December **commencing at 10.00AM.**

AGENDA

PUBLIC FORUM PRESENTATIONS

(*limited to five minute presentations, and must relate to items listed within the Business Paper, with two speakers, speaking for the item and two speakers, speaking against the item to be considered)*

WELCOME TO VISITORS
(recognising the original Aboriginal caretakers of the lands covered by the Shire)

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD 20 November 2007

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Tabled as a separate agenda

SECRETARY RESERVE TRUST, MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 11 DECEMBER 2007

Item No: 1

Subject: Acceptance of Reserve Trust Minutes

Author: Kaye Stone – Secretary of the Reserve Trust

File No: 280/01/00/00

Summary:

This report recommends that Council accepts all the recommendations of the reserve trust meetings held 11 December 2007.

Comments (including issues and background):

Council as the appointed reserve trust manager has certain responsibilities in its role as manager they include;

- Develop and implement Plans of Management in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and *Crown Lands Act 1989*
- Making regulatory decisions eg; use of the reserve, hours of entry, fees and charges etc
- Adopting Codes of Conduct
- Financial record keeping
- Counter-signing of development application and grants
- Holding Reserve Trust meetings as required

Reserve Trust Management Meetings are held prior to the Council meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of the Month. Members of the public are welcome to attend and can obtain an agenda on the relevant reserve by contacting Council.

Relevant Reference Documents:

- Reserve Trust Minutes

Stakeholders:

- Walgett Shire Council
- Reserve Trust Management Committees
- Department of Natural Resources
- Department of Lands

Financial Implications:

There may be costs associated with resolutions of the Reserve Trust meetings. These will be stated in the relevant Reserve Trust Minutes.

Recommendations:

1. **That Council endorse the resolutions of the Reserve Trust meetings held 11 December 2007.**

2. **That Council takes action to implement the resolutions of the Reserve Trusts.**

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 11 DECEMBER 2007

Item No: 2

Subject: Delegation of Authority by Council

Author: Vic Smith – Administrator

File No: 145/01/02/00

Summary:

This report recommends that Council note the delegation to the Acting General Manager, Mrs Emma Darcy all powers and duties necessary to carry out the functions of that office under Section 335 of the Local Government Act 1993 for the period from 1 December 2007 until 9 December 2007 at which time Mr Raymond Kent commences as General Manager.

Comments (including issues and background):

Mr Stephen McLean completed the term of his contract as General Manager on 5 December 2007. However, he elected to finish 30 November 2007 taking unused annual leave. Mr Raymond Kent commences as General Manager from 10 December 2007. For the period from 1 December until 9 December, Mrs Emma Darcy, was appointed to act in the vacant position under Section 336 of the Local Government Act 1993.

Under Section 377 of the Local Government Act 1993 Council may delegate the appropriate power, duties and functions to the (Acting) General Manager.

The functions of General Manager relevant to the operations of Council are as per Section 335 of the Local Government Act 1993.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Local Government Act 1993
Delegation of Authority to the General Manager dated 21/11/07

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council
Mrs Emma Darcy

Financial Implications:

Nil

Recommendations:

That Council note the delegation to the Acting General Manager, Mrs Emma Darcy, of all powers and duties necessary to carry out the functions of that office under Section 335 of the Local Government Act 1993 for the period 1 December 2007 until 9 December 2007 with the exception of those functions listed under Section 377(1) of the Local Government Act 1993 as being beyond the power to delegate.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 11 DECEMBER 2007

Item No: 3

Subject: Delegation of Authority by Council

Author: Vic Smith – Administrator

File No: 145/01/02/00

Summary:

This report recommends that Council delegates to the General Manager, Mr Raymond Kent all powers and duties necessary to carry out the functions of that office under Section 335 of the Local Government Act effective from 10 December 2007.

Comments (including issues and background):

Mr Raymond Kent commences as General Manager from 10 December 2007.

Under Section 377 of the Local Government Act 1993 Council may delegate the appropriate power, duties and functions to the General Manager.

The functions of General Manager relevant to the operations of Council are as per Section 335 of the Local Government Act 1993.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Local Government Act 1993

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council
Mr Raymond Kent

Financial Implications:

Nil

Recommendations:

That Council delegates to the General Manager, Mr Raymond Kent, all powers and duties necessary to carry out the functions of that office under Section 335 of the Local Government Act 1993 with the exception of those functions listed under Section 377(1) of the Local Government Act 1993 as being beyond the power to delegate.

MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 11 DECEMBER 2007

Item No: 4

Subject: Family Day Care Office

Author: Emma Darcy –Manager Corporate Services

File No: 135/01/01/00

Summary:

This report is presented to Council to provide information relating to the current status of Walgett Shire Council Family Day Care Scheme.

Comments (including issues and background):

Walgett Shire Council Family Day Care is currently experiencing difficulties with attracting carers to the Scheme. At present Council has only one (1) carer located in Collarenebri and one (1) potential carer due to join the Scheme in January 2008 at Lightning Ridge. Family Day Care Co-ordination staff are continually advertising and promoting the service in the whole Shire in order to recruit and retain carers. The funding impacts on the ability to promote and market the service must be taken into consideration.

The on going costs associated with interviews and Carer Induction are also difficult and are a cost burden on the Scheme when distances to be travelled are vast.

Family Day Care is an invaluable service for the Shire and the opening of Walgett Pre School and Long Day Care Centre has had an impact on the situation in Walgett. As this centre reaches capacity especially for ages 0 – 2, it is expected that the need for Family Day Care will increase.

Council recently requested approval from the Minister for Community Services to allow the offices of Walgett Family Day Care to be used as a venue for Family Day Care. This request was declined.

At present the financial position of the Scheme is as follows:

Walgett Shire Council Family Day Care
Net Position as at 28 November 2007

Account	Actual Amount	Budgeted Amount	Projected Actual
Income			
Grants & Contributions	26,426.00	102,852.00	53,852.00
Sundry Income	308.97	4,000.00	800.00
Total Income	**26,734.97**	**106,852.00**	**54,652.00**
Expenditure			
Salaries & Wages	27,066.21	49,112.00	50,000.00
Staff Training & Conferences	941.28	2,000.00	2,000.00
Payments to Carers	2,760.09	50,000.00	15,000.00
Office Expenses	1,836.83	5,740.00	4,000.00
Office Rent	3,033.32	9,100.00	9,100.00
Total Expenses	**35,637.73**	**115,952.00**	**80,100.00**
Net Profit/(Loss)	**(8,902.76)**	**(9,100.00)**	**(25,448.00)**

Relevant Reference Documents:

Letter from Kevin Greene MP (Minister for Community Services) received 25 October 2007

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council Family Day Care Scheme
Minister for Community Services

Financial Implications:

The program is currently operating within budgetary constraints. It is anticipated however, that the there will be an additional cost to Council of approximately $16,000 in excess of the original Budget.

Recommendations:

That Council note the current status with the Walgett Shire Family Day Care Scheme

Walgett Shire Council
REC'D
29 OCT 2007

MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES

FILE: 135/01/01/00 R 07/01417
eA 1203538

LETTER No: 9101. 25 OCT 2007

REFER: SJM per JMG.

COPY:

Mr V Smith
Administrator
Walgett Shire Council
PO Box 31
WALGETT NSW 2832

Dear ~~Mr Smith~~ Vic

I refer to our meeting of 2 October 2007 and also to your correspondence received by me on 3 September 2007, requesting approval to allow family day care carers to provide care for children at the offices of the Walgett Family Day Care Scheme.

I would like to confirm the advice previously provided to you on this matter by the former Minister of Community Services, the Hon Reba Meagher MP.

The advice noted that a family day care children's service is defined in the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998* as a children's service that organises or arranges for the care to be provided at the home of a carer, and that the *Children's Services Regulation 2004* defines a family day carer as a natural person who is directly involved, at his or her home, in educating, supervising or caring for children for family care children's service. Advice was also provided on the NSW Department of Community Services' (DoCS) role of licensing, regulating and monitoring children's services in NSW within the provisions of this legislation.

Hence, as was previously advised, Council's proposal to establish a child care facility at the offices of Walgett Family Day Care Scheme where the care is provided by family day care carers is not permissible under the Act or the Regulation.

I can assure you that children's services legislation in NSW is not intended to constrain the provision of places to meet community need or to inconvenience parents. As you will be aware, the licensing of children's services in NSW is intended to ensure that children's developmental outcomes are enhanced in a safe, well-regulated environment. This is, I am sure, entirely consistent with the aims of Walgett Shire Council and Walgett Family Day Care Scheme.

In regard to the need for additional child care in Walgett, I note that the Commonwealth Government is offering Family Day Care Start Up Payments of around $1,500. The payment aims to encourage people to consider Family Day Care as a career option and to assist with some of the set-up costs involved in establishing a Family Day Care business. Remote Area Family Day Care Start Up payments of $5,000 are also available to assist carers living on properties in remote or very remote areas to undertake essential changes to their home or its immediate surrounds in order for them to provide quality child care. Further information about the availability and eligibility for these payments is available on the Commonwealth Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs website www.facs.gov.au.

'el 36, Governor Macquarie Tower, 1 Farrer Place, Sydney NSW 2000 Telephone: (02) 9228 5331 Facsimile: (02) 9228 5549

I am also advised that DoCS' Western Regional Office has recommended that Council seeks to negotiate the inclusion of Walgett in the service scope of the existing Goonimoo Mobile Children's Service. Included in this recommendation is that the offices of Walgett Family Day Care Scheme be used as a mobile service venue.

The Goonimoo Mobile Children's Service is located at Lot 1 Dundas Street, Walgett and is auspiced by Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Co-op Ltd. Mr George Fernando is the Chairperson of the Co-op and he can be contacted at 37 Pitt Street, Walgett or by telephoning 6828 1798. Ms Christine Corby is the Service Manager, and she can be contacted on 0418 212 230.

For further information regarding Goonimoo Mobile Children's Service, the Service's Authorised Supervisor, Ms Amy Purse, can be contacted by telephoning 6828 3369.

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me and also to write about this issue. Should you require additional assistance with this matter, please contact the Director, Partnerships and Planning at DoCS' Western Region's Orana Far West Network Office, Mr Mark Shervashidze, by telephoning 6841 3250.

Yours sincerely

Kevin Greene MP
Minister for Community Services

MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 11 DECEMBER 2007

Item No: 5

Subject: Request for financial support from Lightning Ridge Central School

Author: Myrene Lovegrove - Accountant

File No: 180/08/00/00

Summary:

This report recommends that Council donate an amount equivalent to the Development Application fees under Section 356 of the *Local Government Act* 1993 to assist the Lightning Ridge Central School with the cost of building a covered outdoor learning area.

Comments (including issues and background):

On 14 November 2007 Council received a written request from the Lightning Ridge Central School Parents Teachers Citizens Association asking for financial assistance towards a covered outdoor learning area. The total quote for the project is $102,256. To date Lightning Ridge Central School have received grants and contributions totalling $97,292.00.

Community organisations may apply for financial assistance under the Walgett Shire Council's Community Assistance Scheme and under Section 356 of the *Local Government Act* 1993. Applications close on 31 July each year, for consideration by Council in the August Meeting.

Lightning Ridge Central School submitted an application for a different project in July 2007. The application for financial assistance to employ a teacher's aid was unsuccessful. Lightning Ridge Central School did not submit an application for financial assistance towards a covered outdoor learning area.

Whilst this application for financial support was not included in Walgett Shire Council Community Assistance Scheme, it is consistent with provisions of Category C – Community Assistance Schemes.

A Development Application fee of approximately $560 would be payable on the application.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Walgett Shire Council Management Plan 2007 -2012
Letter from Lightning Ridge Central School

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council
Lightning Ridge Central School

Financial Implications:

$560 be provided from the 2007/2008 Budget Contingency Account. This will be effectively offset by the related increase in Development Application fee income.

Recommendation:

That Council resolve to make a donation equal to the value of the Development Application fees up to a maximum of $560, for the covered outdoor learning area at Lightning Ridge Central School under Section 356 of the *Local Government Act* 1993, and that funds are provided from Council's Contingency account

PARENTS TEACHERS CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
LIGHTNING RIDGE CENTRAL SCHOOL

Walgett Shire Council
REC'D
14 NOV 2007
FILE: 180/08/00/00
LETTER No: 9726
REFER: SJM per JMG
COPY: KJD

E-MAILED 14/11/2007

13 November 2007

The General Manager
Walgett Shire Council
P O Box 31
WALGETT NSW 2832

Dear Sir

Covered Outdoor Learning Area (COLA)

Lightning Ridge Central School applied and was granted $77,292 from the Department of Education, Science & Training through the Investing in our school grant for a Covered Outdoor Learning Area (COLA) over the secondary quadrangle.

The erection of a C.O.L.A. over the secondary quadrangle will aim to provide 100% weather proof protection for students in our hot arid climate and this will provide an outdoor learning area to enhance our exercise programs as well as whole school assemblies or celebrations e.g. N.A.I.D.O.C. Week, Centenary.

The quote entered in the grant application was for a 30m L x 30m W x 7m H COLA at the price of $102,256.

The PTCA was approached to contribute the short fall of at least $43,084 when the application was sent. We have $10,000 currently to contribute to this project and the Lightning Ridge Bowling Club have kindly contributed $10,000 and we are talking to other prospective beneficiaries to donate funds towards the COLA.

The PTCA have great enthusiasm to fundraise for this school and we are continuing through fundraising events, however we need the funds by the end of the year and we cannot do that alone.

This COLA would be a great asset to the school and will be used and remembered for many years to come. The PTCA would like your financial support to help towards this project.

Mr Russell Holz
President
PTCA

Mrs Debbie Knee
Secretary/Treasurer
PTCA

PTCA
Lightning Ridge Central School
P O Box 294, Lightning Ridge NSW 2834
Phone: 02 6829 0511
Fax: 02 68290137
E-mail: lightningr-c.school@det.nsw.edu.au

MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 11 DECEMBER 2007

Item No: 6

Subject: Walgett Shire Council Staff Subsidy Policy

Author: Myrene Lovegrove - Accountant

File No: 004/12/01/62

Summary:

This report recommends that Council rescind Policy 1D.3 Conditions of Employment, sections 4.Electricity, 9.Telephone Incentive and 10. Telephones in Residences. It is recommended that Council adopt the attached draft Walgett Shire Council Staff Subsidy Policy.

Comments (including issues and background):

The following policies were adopted on 24 November 1997:

ELECTRICITY

"That Council reimburse the connection fee and 20% of costs of household electricity to employees who have filled positions which require advertisements in the Sydney Morning Herald or Australian Local Government Job Directory."

The subsidy is to apply to designated positions within Council's staffing structures from time to time, subject to the incumbent attaining the maximum salary level pertaining to the position as identified by Council's salary system."

NOTE: *The designated positions referred to in the above are as follows:*

Finance Manager, Assistant Finance Manager, EDP Manager, Community Development Officer, Environmental Health/Building Officer, Projects Officer (Engineering).

C.M. 24.11.1997

TELEPHONE INCENTIVE

"That Council make the following reimbursements to those employees identified below:

(a) Those employees appointed to positions advertised in the Australian Local Government Job Directory and/or Sydney Morning Herald be reimbursed 25% of the cost of phone calls only.

(b) Those employees appointed to the positions of General Manager and Chief Executives of Council's functions be reimbursed 75% of the cost of phone calls, and the Deputy Chief Executive of Technical Services be reimbursed 50% of the cost of telephone calls. Council to pay the cost of rentals and installation of telephones attached to these positions.

(a) That Council not reimburse the cost of overseas telephone calls, with the exception of the General Manager and Chief Executives who may be required to make such calls.

The subsidy is to apply to designated positions within Council's staffing structures, from time to time, subject to the incumbent attaining the maximum salary level pertaining to the position as identified by Council's salary system."

***NOTE:** The designated positions referred to in the above are as follows:*

Finance Manager, Assistant Finance Manager, EDP Manager, Community Development Officer, Environmental Health and Building Officer, Projects Officer (Engineering).

CM 24.11.1997

TELEPHONES IN RESIDENCES

"That Council contribute to the cost of telephone calls, rentals and installation where Council requires the employee to have a telephone connected for work purposes, such contribution to be made on the following basis:

a) Council to pay all installation and rental costs

b) Council to deduct an amount equivalent to twenty (20) local calls per week with the balance of the calls to be charged to the employee."

CM 24.11.1997

As part of Council's on-going review of policies and procedures a review of subsidies and incentives paid to Council's staff was undertaken. Council's policies relating to staff subsidies and incentives require updating to provide consistency in application and fairness to all eligible staff. Many of the current policies refer to position descriptions that are inconsistent with Council's current staff structure.

Currently 9 staff members receive a 40% electricity subsidy included in their letter offering employment. There is consistency in the offers however fairness would be better served with a policy to be applied consistently to all eligible staff members.

With the increased utilisation of new technologies to enhance Council's performance of tasks, from time to time policies need to be reviewed. Currently all Council staff who need to be contacted after hours have been issued with mobile telephones to improve response time to after hours issues. The use of mobile telephones has removed the need for staff to use their home telephone for Council business. There is no need for home telephone cost subsides to continue to be included in employment offers or to remain within Council's policies and procedures.

Currently 10 staff members receive telephone subsidies ranging from 25% of local calls to 50% of all calls including all rental and installation costs. As these benefits form part of each employees conditions of employment, the changes relating to subsidies could only be implemented in consultation with each individual employee to form part of their employment conditions. In the event that the employee did not consent to the revised Conditions of Employment, their initial conditions of employment would continue.

The revised policy was presented to the November 2007 Council meeting where is was deferred. This policy will relate to all relevant employees employed after the date of adoption of this revised policy.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Council resolution 365/07 – 20 November 2007
Policy Staff Conditions of Employment
Walgett Shire Council Staff Subsidy Policy

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council Staff

Financial Implications:

Potential future cost savings can not be accurately quantified.

Recommendations:

1. **That Council resolve to remove Policy D Human Resources 1D.3 – Conditions of Employment as stated below effective from 11 December 2007:**

ELECTRICITY

"That Council reimburse the connection fee and 20% of costs of household electricity to employees who have filled positions which require advertisements in the Sydney Morning Herald or Australian Local Government Job Directory."

The subsidy is to apply to designated positions within Council's staffing structures from time to time, subject to the incumbent attaining the maximum salary level pertaining to the position as identified by Council's salary system."

NOTE: The designated positions referred to in the above are as follows:

Finance Manager, Assistant Finance Manager, EDP Manager, Community Development Officer, Environmental Health/Building Officer, Projects Officer (Engineering).

C.M. 24.11.1997

TELEPHONE INCENTIVE

"That Council make the following reimbursements to those employees identified below:

(a) Those employees appointed to positions advertised in the Australian Local Government Job Directory and/or Sydney Morning Herald be reimbursed 25% of the cost of phone calls only.

(b) Those employees appointed to the positions of General Manager and Chief Executives of Council's functions be reimbursed 75% of the cost of phone calls, and the Deputy Chief Executive of Technical Services be reimbursed 50% of the cost of telephone calls. Council to pay the cost of rentals and installation of telephones attached to these positions.

(a) That Council not reimburse the cost of overseas telephone calls, with the exception of the General Manager and Chief Executives who may be required to make such calls.

The subsidy is to apply to designated positions within Council's staffing structures, from time to time, subject to the incumbent attaining the maximum salary level pertaining to the position as identified by Council's salary system."

NOTE: The designated positions referred to in the above are as follows:

Finance Manager, Assistant Finance Manager, EDP Manager, Community Development Officer, Environmental Health and Building Officer, Projects Officer (Engineering).

CM 24.11.1997

TELEPHONES IN RESIDENCES

"That Council contribute to the cost of telephone calls, rentals and installation where Council requires the employee to have a telephone connected for work purposes, such contribution to be made on the following basis:

c) Council to pay all installation and rental costs

d) Council to deduct an amount equivalent to twenty (20) local calls per week with the balance of the calls to be charged to the employee."

CM 24.11.1997

2. **That Council resolve to allow the existing Conditions of Employment relating to Electricity, Telephone Incentive and Telephones in Residences to apply to existing staff members who commenced their employment prior to 11 December 2007.**

3. **Employees who commenced their employment prior to 11 December 2007 may elect to review their conditions of employment in relation to Electricity, Telephone Incentive and Telephones in Residences and apply Walgett Shire Council Staff Subsidy Policy as adopted 11 December 2007 as agreed upon by the General Manager and the relevant employee.**

4. **That Council adopt Walgett Shire Council Staff Subsidy Policy as attached.**

5. **That Council resolve to review Walgett Shire Council Staff Subsidy Policy in December 2008.**

WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL

STAFF SUBSIDY POLICY

WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL
STAFF SUBSIDY POLICY

Policy Number:

Responsibility: Manager Corporate Services

Adoption Date:

Review Date: November 2008

POLICY STATEMENT

The Walgett Shire Council Staff Subsidy Policy and Procedures are intended to provide guidance to all eligible Walgett Shire Council Staff and to ensure sound governance and appropriate control of Council's expenditure.

POLICY AND PROCEDURES

1. Subsidy

40% of the total electricity bill for primary residence within Walgett Shire.

2. Eligibility

This policy will apply to all new staff members employed after the date of adoption of this policy and to all new staff members employed after the date of each subsequent review of the policy. This policy can not be applied retrospectively.

Staff occupying the following positions will be eligible for the electricity subsidy:

- General Manager
- Manager Corporate Services
- Manager Engineering
- Manager Planning and Regulation
- Accountant
- Engineer – Works
- Projects Engineer
- Health and Building Surveyor

3. Delegation of Authority

The General Manager will be responsible for authorising payment of subsidies for the following positions:

- Manager Corporate Services
- Manager Engineering
- Manager Planning and Regulation

The Manager Corporate Services will be responsible for authorising payment of subsidies for the following position:

- Accountant

The Manager Engineering will be responsible for authorising payment of subsidies for the following positions:

- Engineer – Works
- Projects Engineer

The Manager Planning and Regulation will be responsible for authorising payment of subsidies for the following position:

- Health and Building Surveyor

A purchase order is to be created to validate authorisation and in accordance with Walgett Shire Councils Staff Subsidy Procedures.

4. Review

- This policy is to be reviewed in December 2008

MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 11 DECEMBER 2007

Item No: 7

Subject: Rowena Preschool Incorporated

Author: Myrene Lovegrove - Accountant

File No: 180/08/00/00

Summary:

This report recommends that Council approve a change of project for Rowena Preschool Incorporated's financial assistance application under Walgett Shire Council Community Assistance Scheme and under Section 356 of the *Local Government Act* 1993.

Comments (including issues and background):

At Walgett Shire Council's meeting held on Tuesday 21 August 2007 the following resolution was carried:

226/07 Community Assistance Scheme Donations – 2007/2008 Budget

RESOLUTION: -

It was resolved on the Motion of the Administrator:-

That Council applies funds for financial assistance under Section 356 of the *Local Government Act 1993* for 2007/2008 as follows:-

Carried

ORGANISATION	DETAIL OF PROJECT / ACTIVITY	COST OF PROJECT / ACTIVITY	AMOUNT SOUGHT	CATEGORY AND AMOUNT RECOMMENDED
Rowena Preschool Incorporated Shaw Street ROWENA NSW 2387 Contact: Christine McDonnell	Pump for water supply to kitchen and floor sanding.	$3,160.00	$1,000.00	**Category C** **$500.00**

On 1 November 2007 Rowena Preschool Incorporated informed Council in writing of an unsuccessful application for a pump and floor sanding project and have asked to apply the $500.00 towards the cost of an Aqua Cooler and plumbing materials for a hot water system.

Whilst the project has altered it has remained within the Category C – General Assistance Scheme provisions of the application under Walgett Shire Council Community Assistance Scheme and under Section 356 of the *Local Government Act* 1993. No additional contribution has been requested.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Letter from Rowena Preschool Incorporated Dated 1 November 2007
Walgett Shire Council Meeting Minutes 21 August 2007 – CM226/07

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council
Rowena Preschool Incorporated

Financial Implications:

Nil

Recommendations:

That Council approve a change of project for the purchase of an aqua cooler to Rowena Preschool Incorporated's application for financial assistance under Walgett Shire Council Community Assistance Scheme and under Section 356 of the *Local Government Act* 1993.

Rowena Preschool Inc
Shaw Street
Rowena NSW 2387
1st November 2007

Dear Mrs Darcy,

Re: Walgett Shire Council Community Assistance Scheme

I am writing further to our phone conversation last week regarding the Councils approval of $500 towards a pump and floor sanding. Unfortunately other funding we applied for was denied and subsequently we cannot afford the pump and floor sanding which we have put on hold until further funds are available. We would however still appreciate access to the $500 grant to contribute towards other preschool expenses.

I have attached the invoice for an Aqua Cooler we bought to provide access to fresh drinking water for staff, students and parents at preschool following the ongoing problems with the village water supply. I have also attached the invoice for poly fittings that we purchased and used for plumbing our new hot water system

Please also find attached council's original funding approval letter and other necessary relevant paperwork.

I hope council will look upon this application favourably.

Thank you.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs. Kathryn Berry
Hon. Secretary

Walgett Shire Council
RECD
16 NOV 2007
FILE: 180/08/00/00.
LETTER No: 9845
REFER: EJD.
COPY:

MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 11 DECEMBER 2007

Item No: 8

Subject: Request for Financial Assistance-L/Ridge Christmas Street Light Competition

Author: John Burke – Finance Officer

File No: 180/08/00/00

Summary:

Week's Newsagency have requested a donation from the various business owners in Lightning Ridge in support of the annual Christmas street light competition.

Comments (including issues and background):

Week's Newsagency organise the annual Christmas street light competition in Lightning Ridge, with support from the local business houses.

The newsagency is seeking donations from local business houses, and has written to Council for a donation of $150.00 for prize money, and a sign. They have also approached Country Energy for equal support.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Registered Email from Maude Harrison of Ridge News dated 29 November 2007 on behalf of Week's Newsagency in Lightning Ridge.

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council
Week's Newsagency

Financial Implications:

An amount of $150.00 to be paid from Members & Civic – Section 356 Donation.

Recommendations:

That Council pay $150.00 from Members & Civic-Section 356 Donation to Week's Newsagency of Lightning Ridge to assist with the costs associated with their annual Christmas street light competition.

From: Sales Lightening Ridge [mailto:sales.ridgenews@ruralpress.com]
Sent: Thursday, 29 November 2007 3:04 PM
To: AU_WALGETT_WEBADMIN
Subject: Lightning Ridge christ light comp

Weeks' newsagency organises a Christmas Light Competiton each year, and has approached some of the business houses in Lightning Ridge to sponsor this event, as a couple of them do. I on behalf of the town would like the Walgett Shire, with hopefully Country Energy to help with the sponsorship of this event.
We are requesting $300 prize money to be shared with Counrty Energy, so I am asking the Walgett Shire to put up $150 for this event , also a street sign, for the best decorated street.
Please put this forward in your next meeting.
Yours faithfully,
Maude

MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 11 DECEMBER 2007

Item No: 9

Subject: Request for Financial Assistance – Walgett Community College

Author: Emma Darcy –Manager Corporate Services

File No: 180/08/00/00

Summary:

Walgett Community College Education Board has requested a cash donation and three truckloads of soil to establish a bush tucker/vegetable garden at the Primary School.

Comments (including issues and background):

Walgett Community College Education Board has requested financial assistance of up to $500.00 and three truckloads of soil towards the establishment of a bush tucker/vegetable garden at the primary school. This site has been prepared by volunteers and a "special" class at the school.

A report was presented at the Council meeting held 20 November 2007 where the following was resolved:

372/07 – Request for Financial Assistance – Walgett Community College

RESOLUTION:

It was resolved on the Motion of the Administrator that this item be deferred, pending further investigation.

Carried

Council does not stock soil so a cash donation to enable the school to purchase the soil would be considered adequate.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Letter from Walgett Community College dated 14 November 2007
Council Resolution 372/07 - 20 November 2007

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council
Walgett Community College

Financial Implications:

An amount of $500.00 to be paid from Members & Civic - Section 356 Donations.

Recommendations:

That Council pay $500 from Members & Civic - Section 356 Donation to Walgett Community College to assist with the costs associated with their bush tucker/vegetable garden.

WALGETT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Education in partnership with the community

College Principal: Mr Peter Partridge

Mr Stephen McLean
General Manager
Walgett Shire Council

Dear Stephen,

I am writing on behalf of the Walgett Community College Education Board to request your consideration to assist the Primary site in the development of a bush tucker/vegetable garden. This site is being prepared by community volunteers and a "special" class at the school. There were limited funds available from a grant and these will now be consumed in site preparation due to over a meter of sawdust being discovered and requiring removal and backfilling.

The Board requests access to approximately three truckloads of quality soil. It also requests a small cash donation up to $500 to put towards the establishment costs.

Your support of this project would be greatly appreciated by the College Board and parents of the Primary school.

Yours sincerely,

(by e-mail)

Peter Partridge
14/11/07

PO Box 228, Walgett. NSW. 2832 Walgett-h.School@det.nsw.edu.au Phone (02) 6828 1022 Fax (02) 6828 1994

ABN: 35051878851

MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 11 DECEMBER 2007

Item No: 10

Subject: Report on Rates and Charges – 30 November 2007

Author: Katie Hook – Rates Clerk

File No: 180/09/00/00

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

REPORT ON RATES AND CHARGES - 30 November 2007

		Nov-07	Nov-06
Arrears as at 30 June		1,454,181.05	1,618,773.48
Adjusted Levy		6,333,312.55	6,142,908.51
Interest		36,642.12	39,152.08
Payments		(4,055,519.43)	(3,835,391.93)
Adjustments		(197,427.24)	(29,208.39)
Discount		(57,584.17)	(59,264.50)
Legal Fees		75,595.05	21,959.48
Special Rebate Council		(13,231.22)	
Total Outstanding	$	3,575,968.71	3,898,928.73

COMPARISON WITH 2006/2007

		Nov-07	Nov-06
Current		2,779,395.75	2,784,060.25
Arrears		512,296.52	755,251.11
Interest b/f from previous years		195,523.14	258,557.53
Current year interest		29,946.26	34,836.36
Legals		58,807.04	66,223.48
Total Outstanding	$	3,575,968.71	3,898,928.73

Total YTD Collected

	Nov-07	Nov-06
Collected YTD % of Arrears and Levy	52%	51%
Collected YTD % of Levy	64%	64%

Recommendation:

That the Report on Rates as at 30 November 2007 be received

MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 11 DECEMBER 2007

Item No: 11

Subject: Investment Report as at 30 November 2007

Author: Amy Taylor – Customer Service Officer Finance

File No: 180/02/01/00

Summary:

This report summarises the investments of Walgett Shire Council for the month of November 2007.

Comments (including issues and background):

The Investment summary as at 30 November 2007 is as follows:

INVESTMENTS - CONSOLIDATED

Council investments have been made in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 No 30, the regulations and council's investment policy

Investment Institution	Type of Investment	Term (days)	Rate %	Ref	Reset Date	Maturity Date		
Citibank	Term Deposit	168	6.60	451/07		04-Dec-07	$	500,000.00
Citibank	Term Deposit	168	6.60	452/07		11-Dec-07	$	300,000.00
Savings & Loans Credit Union (FIIG Securities)	Term Deposit	168	6.70	453/08		18-Dec-07	$	500,000.00
IMB Ltd	Term Deposit	182	6.68	454/08		08-Jan-08	$	500,000.00
ACCU (FIIG Securities)	Term Deposit	182	6.76	455/08		15-Jan-08	$	500,000.00
Bankwest	Term Deposit	182	6.65	456/08		22-Jan-08	$	500,000.00
Comminvest (FIIG Securities)	Term Deposit	168	6.65	457/08		29-Jan-08	$	500,000.00
Bankwest	Term Deposit	168	6.91	458/08		05-Feb-08	$	300,000.00
Suncorp	Term Deposit	168	6.88	459/08		12-Feb-08	$	500,000.00
National Australia Bank	Term Deposit	168	6.75	460/08		19-Feb-08	$	300,000.00
National Australia Bank	Term Deposit	168	6.82	461/08		26-Feb-08	$	500,000.00
CBA	Term Deposit	91	7.50	462/08	19-Dec-07	16-Dec-10	$	500,000.00
Royal Bank Canada	Term Deposit	91	7.70	463/08	19-Dec-07	16-Mar-11	$	500,000.00
Citibank	Term Deposit	168	7.01	464/08		04-Mar-08	$	500,000.00
Savings & Loans Credit Union	Term Deposit	150	7.09	465/08		22-Feb-08	$	250,000.00
Newcastle Permanent Building Society	Term Deposit	161	7.10	466/08		11-Mar-08	$	500,000.00
Westpac	Term Deposit	166	6.85	467/08		18-Mar-08	$	500,000.00
National Australia Bank	Term Deposit	175	6.68	468/08		25-Mar-08	$	500,000.00
Suncorp	Term Deposit	182	6.96	469/08		01-Apr-08	$	500,000.00
Bank of Qld	Term Deposit	189	7.07	470/08		08-Apr-08	$	500,000.00
Local Govt Financial Services	Term Deposit	196	7.02	471/08		15-Apr-08	$	500,000.00
IMB Ltd	Term Deposit	203	7.11	472/08		22-Apr-08	$	500,000.00
Newcastle Permanent Building Society	Term Deposit	210	7.16	473/08		29-Apr-08	$	500,000.00
Westpac	Term Deposit	215	6.95	474/08		06-May-08	$	500,000.00
Suncorp	Term Deposit	224	6.99	475/08		13-May-08	$	500,000.00
Local Govt Financial Services	Term Deposit	231	7.05	476/08		20-May-08	$	500,000.00
Newcastle Permanent Building Society	Term Deposit	238	7.20	477/08		27-May-08	$	500,000.00
Bankwest	Term Deposit	237	7.19	478/08		03-Jun-08	$	300,000.00
Bank of Qld	Term Deposit	203	7.43	479/08		10-Jun-08	$	250,000.00
Grange Securities - Zircon Finance Limited	Floating Rate CDO	92	8.15		20-Dec-07	20-Sep-14	$	500,000.00
Grange Securities - MAS6-7	Term Deposit	92	8.85		20-Dec-07	20-Jun-15	$	250,000.00
Grange Securities - Helium	Floating Rate CDO	92	8.17		24-Dec-07	23-Jun-14	$	200,000.00
Grange Securitis- Magnolia	Term Deposit	92	8.35		20-Dec-07	20-Mar-09	$	50,000.00
							$	**14,200,000.00**

Recommendation:

1. That the Investment Report as at 30 November 2007 be received

MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 11 DECEMBER 2007

Item No: 12

Subject: Monthly Management Report as at 30th November 2007

Author: Myrene Lovegrove - Accountant

File No: 180/08/00/00

Summary:

This report is prepared to report on the operational performance against adopted estimates for the period ending 30th November 2007

Comments (including issues and background):

The report analyses the financial performance of Council for the period ending 30th November 2007 comparing actual expenditure and revenue against the revised budget. The Council's position at this time is within budgetary expectations with a surplus of $2,764,113 compared to a revised budgeted $4,042,170.

General Budgetary Position

This review analyses the financial performance of the Council for the period ending 31st October 2007, comparing actual expenditure and revenue against the budget. Council's budgetary position for the period ending November 2007 is financially sound. The revised budgeted surplus was $4,042,170 and at the end of November 2007 the surplus based on actual's was $2,764,113.

	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Actuals	% of Revised Budget
Corporate Services				
Income				
River Towns	10,000	10,000	-	0.00%
Corporate Services	2,000	2,000	-	0.00%
Human Resources	9,500	9,500	22,409	235.88%
Tourism	17,000	17,000	10,558	62.11%
Agencies	55,000	55,000	17,574	31.95%
Economic Development	70,000	70,000	-	0.00%
Finance	48,000	48,000	54,240	113.00%
Rates General	3,866,453	3,866,453	3,855,075	99.71%
Untied Grants	2,390,219	2,460,675	1,282,481	52.12%
Capital utilisation	407,465	407,465	305,064	74.87%
Revenue	10,920	10,920	12,530	114.74%
Total Income	6,886,557	6,957,013	5,559,931	79.92%

Expenditure				
Members & Civic	526,286	526,286	273,057	51.88%
Executive	309,137	334,137	148,572	44.46%
River Towns	15,460	15,460	4,942	31.97%
Corporate Services	624,733	624,733	308,403	49.37%
Human Resources	450,738	450,738	160,025	35.50%
Tourism	331,556	331,557	239,292	72.17%
Executive Services	247,868	247,868	117,407	47.37%
Agencies	163,000	163,000	67,210	41.23%
Economic Development	206,553	193,134	6,354	3.29%
Risk Management	350,725	402,725	372,661	92.53%
Finance	272,821	272,821	131,285	48.12%
Capital Utilisation	7,289	7,289	5,384	73.86%
Information technology	339,428	339,428	126,901	37.39%
Creditors	48,863	48,863	21,904	44.83%
Revenue	283,551	283,551	202,273	71.34%
Payroll	53,238	53,238	23,736	44.58%
Indirect Labour Costs			145,939	
Total Expenditure	4,231,246	4,294,828	2,355,345	54.84%
Operating Result	2,655,311	2,662,185	3,204,586	120.37%

Community Services

Income				
Community Services	44,190	44,190	19,142	43.32%
Youth Services	41,085	41,085	44,306	107.84%
Vacation Care	16,320	16,320	7,482	45.85%
Family Day Care	106,852	106,852	26,735	25.02%
Library Services	44,500	44,500	432	0.97%
Total Income	252,947	252,947	98,097	38.78%
Expenditure				
Community Services	239,957	239,957	89,412	37.26%
Youth Services	125,980	125,980	43,752	34.73%
Vacation Care	16,854	51,854	21,053	40.60%
After School Care	69,495	97,495	40,661	41.71%
Family Day Care	115,952	115,952	36,311	31.32%
Library Services	225,980	225,980	35,871	15.87%
Total Expenditure	794,218	857,218	267,060	31.15%
Operating Result	541,271	604,271	168,963	27.96%

Planning & Regulation

Income				
Planning/Building	120,950	120,950	51,631	42.69%
Environmental Health	2,100	2,100	164	7.81%
Animal Control/Regulatory	3,200	3,200	1,870	58.44%
Total Income	126,250	126,250	53,665	42.51%

Expenditure				
Pesticide Pit Remediation	10,000	10,000	-	0.00%
Environmental Health	4,700	4,700	832	17.70%
Noxious Plants	75,000	75,000	75,411	100.55%
Animal Control/Regulatory	134,526	134,526	53,005	39.40%
Manager Planning & Regulation	692,630	692,630	260,379	37.59%
Total Expenditure	916,856	916,856	389,627	42.50%
Operating Result	790,606	790,606	335,962	

Emergency Services

Income				
Fire Services	61,157	61,157	-	0.00%
Expenditure				
Fire Services	142,618	174,618	47,942	27.46%
SES	65,400	65,400	7,370	11.27%
Total Expenditure	208,018	240,018	55,312	23.04%
Operating Result	146,861	178,861	55,312	

Engineering Administration

Income				
Manager Engineering	73,000	73,000	9,606	13.16%
Public Halls	34,936	34,936	5,264	15.07%
Plant Operations	1,945,121	1,945,121	1,225,717	63.01%
Council Properties	380,625	380,625	110,525	29.04%
Council Reserves	33,400	33,400	31,104	93.13%
Total Income	2,467,082	2,467,082	1,382,216	56.03%
Expenditure				
Manager Engineering	1,052,280	1,052,280	361,707	34.37%
Private Works	29,400	29,400	17,152	58.34%
Plant Running Expenses	1,049,161	1,049,161	680,999	64.91%
Properties Maintenance	775,000	790,000	398,342	50.42%
Motor Vehicles/Plant/Equipment	370,000	370,000	92,500	25.00%
Internal Charges	499,501	499,501		
Total Expenditure	2,776,340	2,791,340	1,550,700	55.55%
Operating Result	309,258	324,258	168,484	

Roads & Bridges

Revenue				
Roads & Bridges	13,710,000	8,177,545	2,144,560	26.22%
Expenditure				
Urban Roads	802,520	802,520	382,960	47.72%
Rural Roads	1,400,208	1,400,208	773,290	55.23%
Regional Roads	1,237,383	1,237,383	703,158	56.83%
Gravel Pit Restoration	50,000	50,000	-	0.00%
State Highways		1,278,385	731,954	57.26%
Internal Charges	642,600	642,600		
Total Expenditure	2,847,511	4,125,896	2,591,362	62.81%
Operating Result	10,862,489	4,051,649	446,802	

Recreation & Community Assets				
Revenue				
Natural Disaster Mitigation program	330,000	330,000	-	0.00%
Aerodromes	20,000	20,000	5,039	25.20%
Cemeteries	21,000	21,000	15,471	73.67%
Total Income	371,000	371,000	20,510	
Expenditure				
Recreation & Community Assets	1,489,955	1,489,955	762,745	51.19%
Depots Operations	239,617	239,617	150,038	62.62%
Total Expenditure	1,729,572	1,729,572	912,783	52.78%
Operating Result	1,358,572	1,358,572	892,273	
Domestic Waste Management				
Revenue				
DWM	845,064	845,064	776,860	91.93%
Expenditure				
DWM	713,600	713,600	312,508	43.79%
Operating Result	131,464	131,464	464,352	
Water Supplies				
Revenue				
Walgett Water	760,000	760,000	552,299	72.67%
Lightning Ridge Water	466,763	466,763	466,611	99.97%
Collarenebri Water	225,843	225,843	175,683	77.79%
Rowena Water	5,504	5,504	5,504	100.00%
Carinda Water	15,785	15,786	15,785	99.99%
Cumborah Water	311	312	311	99.68%
Total Income	1,474,206	1,474,208	1,216,193	82.50%
Expenditure				
Walgett Water	503,291	503,291	209,662	41.66%
Lightning Ridge Water	249,458	249,458	126,276	50.62%
Collarenebri Water	246,013	246,013	95,659	38.88%
Rowena Water	21,681	21,681	9,799	45.20%
Carinda Water	30,610	30,610	4,663	15.23%
Village Water	16,000	16,000	1,896	11.85%
Total Expenditure	1,067,053	1,067,053	447,955	41.98%
Operating Result	407,153	407,155	768,238	
Sewerage Supplies				
Revenue				
Walgett Sewer	287,086	287,086	288,081	100.35%
Lightning Ridge Sewer	245,759	245,759	249,387	101.48%
Collarenebri Sewer	80,587	80,587	80,532	99.93%
Total Income	613,432	613,432	618,000	100.74%

Expenditure				
Walgett Sewer	322,182	322,182	130,201	40.41%
Lightning Ridge Sewer	195,678	195,678	70,179	35.86%
Collarenebri Sewer	49,287	49,287	22,887	46.44%
Total Expenditure	567,147	567,147	223,267	39.37%
Operating Result	46,285	46,285	394,733	
Net Result				
Total Income	26,807,695	21,345,698	11,870,032	55.61%
Total Expenditure	15,851,561	17,303,528	9,105,919	52.62%
Net Result	**$ 10,956,134**	**$ 4,042,170**	**$ 2,764,113**	25.23%

The results for the period are summarised as follows:

Corporate Services

- The position of Economic Development Officer is still vacant and being readvertised.
- All general rates have been levied for 2007/2008.
- The Pensioner Rate Subsidy has been received.
- The second instalment of the Federal Assistance Grant has been received.
- Interest received is above original budget and is an on going trend.
- The Walgett Shire Council Business Awards received additional external sponsorship and income from ticket sales.
- Finance received a property insurance refund of $14,857 and a workers compensation refund of $20,583.
- The general revaluation of land has been completed by the New South Wales Valuer General.
- The first instalment of $106,510 has been paid to Lightning Ridge Pool.
- All insurance costs have been paid for 2007/2008.
- The on going debt recovery has seen an increase in rates write off, legal fees income and expenses.
- LGSA subscription has been paid.
- $50,000 section 356 donation has been paid to the Walgett CWA for building new meeting rooms.
- A contribution of $16,000 has been paid to the demand farming project.

Community Services

- Expenditure was within budgetary constraints.
- DOTAR grant of $18,750 was received for refurbishment of the youth centre.
- The Library Special Purpose Grant has been lodged, funds yet to be received
- The annual Northern Regional Library contribution payable to Moree Plains Shire Council has not been paid yet.

Planning and Regulation

- Operating within budgetary constraints.
- The noxious weed contribution to Castlereagh Macquarie County Council has been paid.
- A contribution of $10,000 has been paid to the RSPCA.

Public Order and Safety

- Operating within budgetary constraints.

Engineering Administration

- All Council rates have been levied on Council owned property.
- The Best Employment paving private works have been completed.
- Internal plant is being well utilized, reflective in higher income and expenses.
- $10,000 was received from the Department of Lands to re-timber the floor of the Collarenebri Show Ground.
- The emergency exit lighting has been upgraded at the Carinda Hall.

Roads and Bridges

- Work has commenced on RR333 utilizing the Strategic Regional Program funding received last June.
- The first instalment of the road funding block grant has been received.
- Crack resealing works have been undertaken on RR333, RR426, RR402 and RR437.

Recreation & Community Assets

- The natural disaster mitigation grant has not been received.
- Walgett Shire Council contribution to the Lightning Ridge pool maintenance has been paid.
- The Walgett Levee bank has received extensive planned maintenance.
- The bull ring at the Walgett Saleyards has been completed.

Domestic Waste Management

- The full amount of Domestic Waste charges has been raised.
- Operations are within budgetary constraints

Water Services

- The full amount of rates revenue has been raised this period.
- Operations are within budgetary constraints

Sewer Services

- The full amount of rates revenue has been raised this period.
- Operations are within budgetary constraints

Relevant Reference Documents:

Management Review 30th November 2007.
Walgett Shire Council Management Plan 2007-08

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council

Financial Implications:

Overall, the results of the monthly review indicate that the financial position of Council is satisfactory and continues to operate within budgetary constraints.

Recommendations:

That Council note the Management Report for the period ending 30th November 2007.

MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 11 DECEMBER 2007

Item No: 13

Subject: Clean Up Australia Day Project

Author: Alana Douglas – Tourism Development Officer

File No: 120/07/03/00

Summary:

This report provides activities suggested for a week long 'Clean up Australia' project in 2008 as well as future projects that will incorporate the entire community including business houses, schools and the general community in all towns and villages in Walgett Shire.

The focus will be on two major long term projects:

1. Reducing Walgett Shire's ecological footprint and greenhouse gas emissions with a tree planting project.
2. Reducing the number of plastic bags put in landfill by providing every household in Walgett Shire with a reusable shopping bag.

Comments (including issues and background):

Clean up Australia Day has moved from a single day of cleaning up a designated area by individual community groups into a week of activities with emphasis on long term initiatives put in place by whole communities.

For the past 3 years the Walgett Shire Community has participated in segments of the Clean up Australia Campaign, but with such an emphasis placed on recycling and reducing green house gas emissions, it is time for Walgett Shire Council to lead the way in changing our future environmental direction.

Initiatives for Australia Day Project:

<u>Business Clean Up Day – Tuesday 26 February 2008</u>

- Invite Businesses to implement one environmentally sustainable initiative in workplace
- Promote one initiative for entire Business Community to participate in: E -Waste Recycling, (Invite Yeoman's Recycling to pick up all e-waste from Business Houses).
- Ask businesses to reduce their ecological footprint or greenhouse emissions: 'BUY A TREE.' Council to order and plant.
- Net Waste to Art – Use rubbish collected to enter art competition.
- Invite Country Energy to provide Free Light Bulb and Showerhead exchanges.
- Ask business houses to use less paper by registering their email address on Walgett Shire Council's Community Directory at www.walgett.nsw.gov.au.

Schools Clean Up Day – Friday 29 February 2008

- Ask school groups to actually participate in the schools clean up day by cleaning in and around school or designate a specific site.
- Invite school groups to implement a school project: Develop a worm farm or compost.
- Reduce your ecological footprint or greenhouse emissions: 'BUY A TREE.' Council to order and plant.
- Net Waste to Art – Use rubbish collected to enter art competition.
- Invite Country Energy to provide Free Light Bulb and Showerhead exchanges.

Clean Up Australia Day – Sunday 2 March 2008

- Clean up local environment, designate a specific site.
- Clean up individual homes and properties
- Organise Council to pick up rubbish
- Kerbside Clean Up – Invite Yeomans' Recycling to pick up large pieces of rubbish.
- Provide FREE Barbeque at designated clean up site.
- Net Waste to Art – Use rubbish collected to enter art competition.
- Invite Country Energy to provide Free Light Bulb and Showerhead exchanges.
- Reduce your ecological footprint or greenhouse emissions: 'BUY A TREE.'

It is recommended for Walgett Shire to have a positive impact on its environment; several initiatives will need to be introduced, the first of which is a tree replacement program; namely "Reduce your ecological footprint; buy a tree" to begin in 2008. This initial project will need financial support from Council while it is envisaged future project costs can be offset with several funding options including Planet Ark, Australia's Open Garden Scheme, Eco Schools, Energy Savings Fund and several other environmental funding programs.

1. 'Reduce your ecological footprint, buy a tree'
   In an effort to have Walgett Shire Residents offset the impact of their ecological footprint, Walgett Shire Council will initially purchase 2,000 tree seedlings to be purchased by businesses, schools and individuals, this will however be an ongoing improvement project.
   The trees will be planted and maintained by Walgett Shire Council, they will line the entrances of two towns; to be decided at a later date. This will have a great impact on visitor's first impressions to towns.
   The type of species to be used will be decided upon after consultation with Council Technical Officers. Maintenance will also be a major factor in the success of this project, the ground will need to be prepared prior to planting and constantly watered to ensure the seedlings are given the prime environment for them to thrive in our current dry conditions.
   Council has contacted Narromine Transplants who offer seedlings @ $550/1000 including GST.

2. Project for 2008/2009 'Say No to Plastic Bags'
   An estimated 3.76 billion bags or 20,700 tonnes of plastic are disposed of in landfill sites throughout Australia every year. It is suggested that Council, when considering the 2008/09 budget, allows for the ordering of 10,000 reusable shopping bags to combat this figure and reduce the use of plastic bags in Walgett Shire. Each household in Walgett Shire could be sent one of these bags free of charge with the opportunity to purchase more from Council.

The bag will be emblazoned with the Council's corporate logo and slogan and will be used as a promotional product at trade shows and will also be sent out to new residents in Councils 'New Residents Welcome Kit'.
Several quotes have been obtained, the indicative cost for 10,000 bags being in the order of $15,000 plus freight and GST.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Correspondence from 'Clean Up Australia' (not attached)

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council
Walgett Shire Schools
Walgett Shire Community
Walgett Shire Business Operators
Country Energy
Yeoman's Recycling

Financial Implications:

- Tree Seedlings @ $550/1000 (Inc GST) (40 cells per tray) x 2000 = $1100.00

Recommendation:

1. **That Council receive and note the 2008 Clean up Australia project brief.**

2. **That Council allocate funding of $1,100.00 from Manager Corporate Services Contingency Account for the purchase of seedlings for Clean up Australia Day 2008.**

3. **That Council consider a further allocation for Clean up Australia Day projects when determining the budget for 2008/2009.**

MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 11 DECEMBER 2007

Item No: 14

Subject: Playground Equipment within Walgett Shire

Author: OH&S Coordinator – David Callander

File No: 021/06/0100

Summary:

This report outlines the condition of playground equipment currently located throughout the Walgett Shire. Included in this report is the location of equipment, condition and compliance with Australian Standards, and recommendations.

Comments (including issues and background):

The history of playground equipment breaks down into different eras:

1900 – 1950's	The Manufactured Appliance era
1950's – 1960's	The Novelty era
1960's - 1970's	The Log era
1970's – 1980's	The Modular era
1980's – 1990's	The Safety era
2000's	The Millennium era

Apart from the equipment in Gray Park Walgett, which is from the Modular era, all other playground equipment within the Walgett Shire is from the Manufactured Appliance era, 1900's – 1950's.

Playground equipment throughout the Walgett Shire is located at:

- Gray Park, Walgett
- Pearson Park, Walgett
- Apex Park, Walgett
- Collarenebri
- Cumborah
- Carinda
- RG Garvey Memorial Playground, Burren Junction
- Cambray Park, Burren Junction
- Lightning Ridge Visitor Information Centre
- Ginghi Reserve via Carinda

A visual inspection of the playground equipment within the Shire shows that at present there is a lack of compliance with Australian Standards AS4685, Playground Equipment.

Standards are not mandatory; however, compliance represents good practice and may be referred to in court cases.

Some of the safety issues identified include:

- None of the playgrounds visited had any kind of impact absorbing material (soft fall).
- Some of the equipment inspected had been vandalized.
- The majority of the equipment inspected was very old and of steel construction
- The location and proximity to other equipment did not conform to standards.

A break down of each location of equipment shows the following non- compliance.

- **Gray Park**

does not comply with

1. AS4685.1 -2004 Playground Equipment (General)
2. AS4685.3-2004 Playground Equipment (Slides)

- **Pearson Park**

does not comply with

1. AS4685.1 -2004 Playground Equipment (General)
2. AS4685.2-2004 Playground Equipment (Swings)
3. AS4685.3-2004 Playground Equipment (Slides)
4. AS4685.6-2004 Playground Equipment (rocking equipment)

- **Apex Park**

does not comply with

1. AS4685.1 -2004 Playground Equipment (General)
2. AS4685.2-2004 Playground Equipment (Swings)
3. AS4685.3-2004 Playground Equipment (Slides)

- Collarenebri including Ginghi Reserve

does not comply with

1. AS4685.1 -2004 Playground Equipment (General)
2. AS4685.2-2004 Playground Equipment (Swings)
3. AS4685.5-2004 Playground Equipment (carousels)

- **Cumborah**

does not comply with

1. AS4685.1 -2004 Playground Equipment (General)
2. AS4685.3-2004 Playground Equipment (Slides)
3. AS4685.5-2004 Playground Equipment (carousels)

- **Carinda**

does not comply with

1. AS4685.2-2004 Playground Equipment (Swings)
2. AS4685.3-2004 Playground Equipment (Slides)
3. AS4685.6-2004 Playground Equipment (rocking equipment)

- **Burren Junction,** RG Garvey Memorial Playground and Cambray Park (2 playgrounds)

does not comply with

1. AS4685.1 -2004 Playground Equipment (General)
2. AS4685.2-2004 Playground Equipment (Swings)
3. AS4685.3-2004 Playground Equipment (Slides)
4. AS4685.6-2004 Playground Equipment (rocking equipment)

- **Lightning Ridge**

Does not comply with

1. AS4685.1 -2004 Playground Equipment (General)

Council owes a duty of care to all users and visitors to its facilities and a reasonable standard of care should be applied to the facilities to prevent injury. In order to assess the risk of existing playground equipment a risk assessment was prepared to identify items that are considered as being high risk and that should be immediately removed from playground areas.

Relevant Reference Documents:

- Australian Standards AS4685-2004
- Photos of all Walgett Shire playground equipment contained in OH&S file – Playground Equipment – Walgett Shire
- Management Plan 2007/2008 – 2011/2012
- Risk Assessment – Playground Equipment

Stakeholders

Walgett Shire Council
Residents and visitors to Walgett Shire

Financial Implications

Council's Management Plan 2007/2008 – 2011/2012 has budgeted $80,000.00 per year for replacement of playground equipment over the next five years.

$35,000.00 was allocated to playground equipment in Lightning Ridge at the November 2007 Council meeting.

Recommendations:

1. **That Council receive and note the report on playground equipment within Walgett Shire**

2. **That Council immediately remove all playground equipment that has been identified as high risk in the 'Risk Assessment – Playground Equipment' report as attached.**

Walgett Shire Council

Risk Assessment – Playground Equipment

Assessor – David Callander Coordinator OH&S Walgett Shire Council

Location	Equipment	Potential Hazards	Risk Rating	Controls	Responsible person
Gray park	Multi activity unit	Fractures of upper and lower limbs. Intracranial fractures (head injury) and related injuries	H H	Provide impact absorbing material (softfall)	
Pearson Park	Slides Swings Rocking equip (see saw) Climbing equipment	Fractures Soft tissue injury Hit by equipment Cuts/scratches/abrasions Burns	H M M M M	Impact absorbing material Removal of equipment Replacement of equipment	
Apex Park	Slides Swings	Fractures Soft tissue injury Hit by equipment Cuts/scratches/abrasions Burns	H M M M M	Impact absorbing material Removal of equipment Replacement of equipment	
Collarenebri	Slides Climbing equipment Carousel	Fractures Soft tissue injury Entrapment Cut/scratches/abrasions Burns	H M H H M	Impact absorbing equipment Removal of equipment Replacement of material	
Cumborah	Slides Carousel	Fractures Soft tissue injury Entrapment Burns	H M H M	Removal of equipment Replacement of equipment	
Carinda	Slides Swings Rocking equipment	Fractures Soft tissue injury Entrapment Burns	M M M M	Removal of equipment Replacement of equipment	
Burren Junction	Swings Slides Rocking equipment Climbing equipment Carousel	Fractures Soft tissue injury Entrapment Cuts/scratches/abrasions Burns	H M M M M	Removal of equipment Replacement of equipment	

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Walgett Shire Council

Risk Assessment – Playground Equipment

Assessor – David Callander Coordinator OH&S Walgett Shire Council

Step 1 – Consider the Consequences	Consequence	Description
What are the consequences of this incident occurring? Consider what could reasonably have happened as well as what actually happened. Look at the descriptions and choose the most suitable consequence.	Major	Death and Extensive Injuries
	Moderate	Medical Treatment
	Minor	First Aid Treatment
	Insignificant	No Treatment

Step 2 – Consider the Likelihood	Likelihood	Description
What is the likelihood of the consequences identified in step 1 happening? Consider this without new or interim controls in place. Look at the descriptions and choose the most suitable likelihood.	A	The event is expected to occur in most circumstances
	B	The event could occur at some time
	C	The event could occur, but only rarely
	D	The event may occur, but probably never will

Step 3 – Calculate the risk

Take step 1 rating and select the correct column.
Take step 2 rating and select the correct line
Circle the risk score where the two ratings cross on the matrix below.

H = High
M = Medium
L = Low

Risk Score……

Consequence

Likelihood		Major	Moderate	Minor	Insignificant
	A	H	H	H	M
	B	H	H	M	M
	C	H	M	M	L
	D	M	M	L	L

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MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 11 DECEMBER 2007

Item No: 15

Subject: Request for Waiver on Loan – Walgett Swimming Club

Author: Emma Darcy –Manager Corporate Services

File No: 180/08/00/00

Summary:

Walgett Swimming Club have requested that Council consider waiving the balance of money owing on an interest free loan provided by council for the erection of a swimming clubhouse.

Comments (including issues and background):

Council was approached on 4 December 2007 by Walgett Swimming Club requesting that Council waive the balance of money owed on the repayment of an interest free loan for the erection of a clubhouse.

The following resolution was adopted at the Council meeting held 25 November 2002:

RESOLUTION:

It was resolved, Moved Clr D Lane, Seconded Clr P Hutchinson that the following Recommendations by the Finance Committee be adopted:-

That Council resolve:

1. **To approve the application from the Walgett Amateur Swimming Club, for financial assistance in the way of a $3,500.00 interest free loan, to assist with the construction of a clubhouse, subject to approval of Development Application.**

2. **That the loan approved at the October 2002 Council Meeting for the Walgett Amateur Swimming Club, financial assistance in the way of an $11,540.00 interest free loan to construct a clubhouse subject to approval of Development Application be replaced with the new application for financial assistance of a $3,500.00 interest free loan.**

3. **That repayments be set at $500.00 per annum.**

4. **That a formal agreement be drawn up.**

Carried.

The committee have repaid the interest free loan as detailed in Schedule 1 of the Loan Agreement and at the date of this report $1,500 was outstanding.

The Club have stated that the operation of the club is difficult due the current drought conditions and the additional costs imposed by Council. The Club must pay an annual Licence Fee of $375 plus GST for the occupation agreement (licence) of the clubhouse as required by the Department of Lands.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Email received from Council dated 4 December 2007 from Secretary, Walgett Swimming Club
Schedule 1 – Schedule of repayments Walgett Amateur Swimming Club

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council
Walgett Swimming Club

Financial Implications:

Reduction in Debtors of $1,500 outstanding at the date of this report.

Recommendations:

1. **That Council make a Section 356 Donation of $1,500.00 to Walgett Swimming Club to enable the balance of the interest free loan advanced on 23 January 2003 to be paid.**

2. **That $1,500.00 be transferred from Manager Corporate Services – Contingency Account to Members & Civic – Section 356 Expenditure.**

General Manager Walgett Swimming Club

Walgett Shire Council PO Box 309

Fox st Walgett NSW 2832

Walgett NSW 2832

To The General Manger

Walgett Swimming request that the Walgett Shire Council waiver the balance of money owed on repayment of the interest free loan for the Walgett Swimming Club Clubhouse.

The Club is now finding it extrememly difficult to cover all the costs in the running of the club due to drought conditions and the new fees that have been lumbered upon us after the approval of building our clubhouse on this sight.

We appreciate your consideration in this matter and look forward to hearing from you.

Many Thanks

Janell Yeomans

Secretary

Walgett Swimming Club

MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 11 DECEMBER 2007

Item No: 16

Subject: Walgett Shire Council Museum Advisor

Author: Emma Darcy –Manager Corporate Services

File No: 135/02/07/00

Summary:

This report recommends that Council note and endorse the work performed by Mr Richard Wesley, Walgett Shire Museum Advisor in relation to work performed for Walgett District Historical Society and Lightning Ridge Opal and Fossil Museum.

Comments (including issues and background):

Museum Planning Services Australia (MSPA) assists Council with the funding and engagement of Mr Richard Wesley as the Shire Museum Advisor.

Mr Wesley is engaged to work for 20 days per annum. This work has been provided by Mr Wesley, Ms Karen Coote and Ms Hayley Johnson due to the nature of the work and the location.

The two current projects are:

1. Walgett District Historical Society – Documentation of the Barwon Lodge on Mosaic and the Historical Society Collection on Mosaic software as well as a review on the current condition and use of the Old Council Chambers.
2. Lightning Ridge Opal and Fossil Centre – Continued support with the project, particularly with a proposed site, promotion and fundraising, business plan, basics of a collection, costing and the engagement of an internationally renowned architectural team.

A copy of activity report prepared by Richard Wesley was received by Council on 5 December 2007 and is attached to this report. A letter of support received from Walgett District Historical Society is also attached.

Council has provided $16,500 for the engagement of a Museum Advisor in its Management Plan 2007/2008 – 2011/2012. A grant from MSPA of $10,500 has also been provided for.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Report to Walgett Shire Council and Museums and Galleries NSW dated December 2007 received from Richard Wesley in December 2007

Letter from Walgett and District Historical Society dated 5 December 2007

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council
Museum Planning Services Australia
Walgett District Historical Society Inc
Lightning Ridge Opal and Fossil Museum
Mr Richard Wesley

Financial Implications:

The provision of a museum advisor has been provided in the Management Plan 2007/2008 – 2011/2012

Recommendations:

1. **That Council receive and note the report to Walgett Shire Council and Museums and Galleries NSW dated December 2007 received from Richard Wesley.**

2. **That Council consider the recommendations contained in the report to Walgett Shire Council and Museums and Galleries NSW dated December 2007 received from Richard Wesley in December 2007 in the Management Plan 2008/2009 – 2012/2013.**

3. **That Council apply to Museum Planning Services Australia to further fund the provision of services supplied by Mr Richard Wesley.**

Walgett District Historical Society Inc

P O Box 242, Walgett. 2832

President: Mrs Margaret Weber
Secretary: Mrs N Dunn
Treasurer: Mrs E Duncan

5 December 2007

Mr R Kent
General Manager
Walgett Shire Council
P O Box 31
WALGETT NSW 2832

Dear Mr Kent

Museum Planning Services Funding

Walgett District Historical Society has greatly benefited from the visits of Mr Richard Wesley and Ms Karen Coote, of Museum Planning Services and at this stage, the development of the museum is at a critical point. On-going support for their continued assistance will mean the momentum will carry forward to the betterment of the museum, training of its members and recognition of Walgett district.

We have developed a good productive working relationship with Karen and Richard and regardless of whether funding can be obtained from the NSW Government for the Museums Advisory Program, we would like to see a Council commitment provided to the program to allow, if not present level, then a slightly reduced scale. We anticipate that at least another ten days in the next year will be required to progress towards our goal. My understanding is that the Museums and Galleries contribution is $6,000.00 to cover Consultants' daily allowance and travel expenses.

Further details on how the scheme operates can be found on the Museums and Galleries NSW Web site.

In order to keep the impetus going, we ask that Council again support these visits. There is still much work to be done with the assistance of these two valuable people and the interest and incentive they have instilled into members is gathering pace.

* Registration and labelling of artefacts:
* Proposed workshops for our members on planning more exhibitions involving local events and school curriculum pertinent subjects;
* learning care and preservation of artefacts;
* Knowing how to make the most of showing / sharing our artefacts locally and nationally;
* Loaning our artefacts to other museums.

2/……..

Mr Ian Itter's book, "Fred Wolseley – a Man of Many Parts", is to be launched over the October long week end in 2008. Mr Itter has visited the Walgett Historical Society twice, gleaning information on Wolseley and photographing our collection for his book. The more we are able to share our treasures, the more access may be available for grants.

We are delighted to be able to report that members of the National Museum of Canberra have visited us twice and have requested several of our Nationally significant items from the Wolseley collection to be exhibited for two years in that Museum.

We request that Council's work to its best endeavours to keep supporting the museums funding so that the constructive momentum keeps going forward to the improvement of our Museum and artefacts and knowledge to exhibit and share our treasurers.

Professional communications are now possible between Karen and Richard and the Walgett Historical Society due to the internet facility installed at the Walgett Historical Society. This means that assistance from Karen and Richard will not always be reliant on their visiting Walgett.

We would also like to see a commitment from Council for maintenance of the Old Council Chambers in next year's budget so that deterioration can be halted.

We trust that you will favourably regard this request and we look forward to a reply from you in the near future.

Yours sincerely

M Weber
President
Walgett Historical Society

Cc Karen Coote
Richard Weslely

REPORT TO WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL AND MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES NSW

From

WALGETT SHIRE MUSEUM ADVISOR (MUSEUM PLANNING SERVICES AUSTRALIA)

Concerning

WALGETT AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND THE LIGHTNING RIDGE OPAL AND FOSSIL MUSEUM

BACKGROUND

Museum Planning Services Australia (MPSA) has been employed by the Walgett Shire Council to provide assistance to the two main museum organizations in the Shire. This exercise has been funded through an agreement between the Shire and Museums and Galleries NSW (formerly Museums and Galleries NSW).

Under this arrangement 20 days of employment for one consultant plus travel costs are provided to MPSA to undertake its work over 12 months.

In practice the service has consisted of two, 5 day visits to the Shire plus phone support and attendance at meetings in Sydney as required per year. Support has been provided by two MPSA staff, rather than one due to the nature of the work involved and the location of the Shire. Individuals involved have been Richard Wesley, Hayley Johnson and Karen Coote.

ISSUES

The principle issues that needed to be taken into consideration by MPSA in undertaking its contracted obligations were;

- The isolation of Walgett Shire
- A limited opportunity for civic engagement due to the absence of an elected council and senior staff turn over
- The physical separation of Lightning Ridge and Walgett Shire and the limited population base in each centre.
- The speculative, capital works basis of the Lightning Ridge Opal and Fossil Centre concept

These factors have required MPSA to work in a different way to other similar Museum Advisor Programs elsewhere in NSW to ensure the work carried out is effective and appropriate.

WALGETT AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Walgett and District Historical Society represents a long standing and very important community resource which is worthy of support from all levels of government, most particularly at the local level.

Over the last two decades it has built up very strong photographic archives, a good collection of documents including many council records and some 1000 artefacts. This material represents the communal memory of the town and is an invaluable resource for anyone tracking the changing historical fortunes of the district and its people.

An average of three volunteer days per week are provided to the Society by members of the executive, enabling a range of projects to completed, from serving the public to answering numerous historical enquiries.

Through the Museum Advisors Program MPSA has been able to achieve a number of important outcomes over the last three years. They include:

- Documentation of the Barwon Lodge on Mosaic.

Through the generosity of Council the lodge has been transferred to the community. MPSA has completed basic documentation of the collection to allow a fuller interpretation of the site for members of the traveling public and organized parties. A recent visit by Sydney based lodge members to the Walgett Museum demonstrated the potential of the site for local tourism if effectively promoted.

- Documentation of the Historical Society Collection on Mosaic

With the encouragement of MPSA the Society purchased a laptop, scanner / printer and Mosaic software. This has been an absolutely critical development as it has allowed the society to keep pace with changes in museum practice. In a similar vein the Society has agreed to install wireless broadband as a means of improving communication with government agencies, historical researchers and the public.

Computer documentation of the collection has involved placing perhaps two thirds of the museum collection on the Society collection on the laptop, with each item being photographed, listed and tagged where appropriate. In the process of this work being completed, key Society members have become familiar with computer based collection documentation to the point where additional historical information can be added to each listing by them. Inaddittion to artifacts, photographs have also been scanned into the system.

- Review of the building

The Society headquarters (formerly the Shire Council) is the finest public building in Walgett. The current of the building is ideal, providing public access and a home for the town's collection of historic artifacts and records. The rental of a front room provides a steady income for the Society, allowing it to invest in materials and services required to carry out its work.

A concern expressed by the Society, endorsed by MPSA is the on going maintenance of the building.

- There is currently water penetration in the front room and a number of the gutters are in need of repair.
- There is evidence of internal foundation failure (foyer door) however it appears to be stable at the current time.
- Overall the building is a little shabby and a 5 – 7 year painting program should be initiated to ensure the asset is protected.
- It is suggested that steps be taken to improve the under floor ventilation of the building

The Society is willing to take responsibility for organizing repairs on the basis that they are reimbursed by Council.

As explored in previous reports MPSA believes that the Museum could attract State or Federal funding for the construction of an extension to the rear of the property (a plan has been supplied to Council) to maximize the appeal of the complex to the public.

The proposed extension could be used for a variety of purpose including

- Additional display space in the form of a photographic / art gallery
- Craft sales outlet or
- A low key cafe.
- Storage

The model for such a development is Café 2484 at Gularganbone which operates as an important community cultural centre.

FUTURE PROJECTS

It is recommended the Museum Advisors Program in 2008 should concentrate on a number of key projects that include.

- Current measures designed to encourage the society to continue its work, specifically a six monthly workshop and discussion program centered on the collection.

- A Collection Statement of Significance should be prepared to facilitate future Commonwealth and State Government funding opportunities. This would be part of a wider program designed to promote awareness of the collection.

- A detailed Preservation Survey needs to be undertaken to guide the future protection of artifacts at risk including the highly unusual Wolseley Bore Drain Digger.

- Development and implementation of a digital access strategy to the collection, specifically through a new website.

RECOMENDATIONS

1. *That Council agree that the Society in the 2007 – 8 financial year organize for a roof inspection and gutter repair up to a total cost of $1500, with Council reimbursing the Society, in July 2008.*

2. *That Council makes provision in the 2008/ 9 budget for $2000 to be set aside for urgent painting and associated repairs, the work to be carried out by local contractors under the guidance of the Historical Society.*

3. *That Council and the Society form a joint committee to explore opportunities for the construction of a rear extension to the property as a means of expanding community use of the facility as outlined in the plan prepared by the Museum and Heritage Advisors in 2007.*

4. *That Council negotiate with Museums and Galleries NSW to continue the Walgett Shire Museum Service in the 2008 calendar year*

LIGHTNING RIDGE OPAL AND FOSSIL CENTRE

OVERVIEW

This project has reached a key stage in its development and it is appropriate that a process of review be initiated as part of an overall planning strategy. To date the Association has been able to achieve a number of key outcomes following the allocation of Council funds. These include:

1. Confirmation of the proposed site and completion of negotiation with relevant government agencies to allow building works to be undertaken.
2. Consolidation and expansion of the association membership base and associated income. Effective promotion of the project within the membership base and associated supporters
3. Securing the active support of an internationally renowned architectural team (Murcutt and Leeuwin) and the subsequent preparation of a design concept on a largely pro bono basis.

4. Securing funding for and over seeing the completion of a business plan which articulates how the facility would operate.
5. Developing the basics of a collection and more importantly maintaining strong links with potential donors.
6. Securing of indicative costings for the project on a largely pro bono basis.

This preliminary work has largely been completed to a high standard and reflects an intense commitment by a sizable number of people and should be acknowledged. The project concept is exciting and would have an enormous long term impact on the Shire Tourist infra structure if it comes to fruition.

CURRENT ISSUES

The Association is currently in the throes of receiving details on the likely order of cost for developing the facility. This process involves further refinement of the design process and holding discussions with a variety of building contractors and service suppliers.

While finalization of this process is important, the most critical "success factor" is the Commonwealth Government agreeing to become a major financial partner in the project. Without this occurring it is less likely the State Government, the private sector and high wealth individuals will also come on board the project.

It is also clear from the preliminary planning process that the project will take in the order of five years to complete.

RECOMMENDATIONS

For the project to keep moving forward it is important that a number of key decisions are taken jointly by the Association and Council in the very near future. These are;

1. *That following finalization of preliminary costings the proposal be presented personally to key individuals for comment as a means of testing the appeal of the project and obtaining feedback that can be used to refine the proposal. A key individual would be the Administrator. A suggested date is February 2008*

2. *That a fundraising campaign be agreed to by the Association and Council, commencing by June 2008 and encompassing government, the private sector, high wealth individuals and the local community. It is envisaged this plan would involve the retention of a specialist to co ordinate the campaign.*

Richard Wesley
Walgett Shire Museum Advisor
December 2007

MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 11 DECEMBER 2007

Item No: 17

Subject: Organisation Structure

Author: Bronwyn Newton –Coordinator Human Resources

File No: 004/06/02/47

Summary:

This report recommends an amendment to Council's Organisational Structure to include the new position of Assets Officer and amend the reporting line of the Assets Officer and Customer Service Officer (Lands) positions.

Comments (including issues and background):

The newly created position of Assets Officer has been identified by Council and relevant Managers as necessary to meet statutory and legislative requirements of Council within the Assets Management section. Council currently have one occupied Assets Officer position, however due to an increasing workload it has been established that a second position is required to meet all deadlines and commitments in the area of Assets Management.

To enable the new Assets Officer positions to work effectively it has also been recommended that the reporting line of the Assets Officer positions and the Customer Service Officer (Lands) position should report directly to Council's Projects Engineer position.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Organisation Structure dated December 2007

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council staff

Financial Implications:

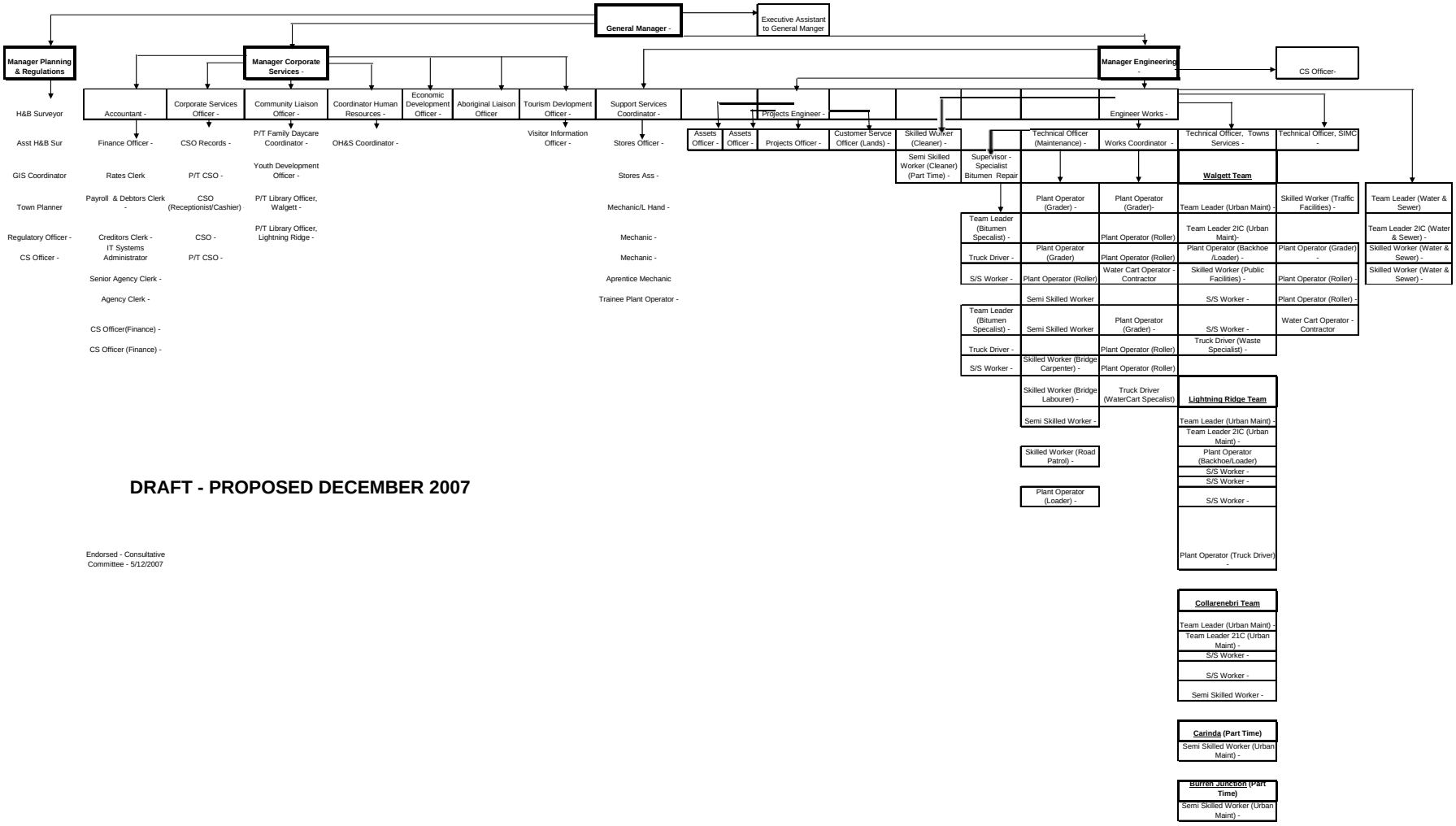
Additional costs to cover the appointment of the additional Assets Officer position will be provided for within the 2008/09 Management Plan. If the additional Assets officer can be engaged in 2007/2008 the costs association with this appointment can be met from current land sales.

Recommendations:

That Council endorse:

1. **A second Assets Officer position within Walgett Shire Council's organisational structure.**

2. **Both Assets Officer positions and Customer Service Officer (Lands) report to the Project Engineer.**


General Manager -
Executive Assistant to General Manger
Manager Planning & Regulations
Manager Corporate Services -
Manager Engineering -
CS Officer-
H&B Surveyor
Asst H&B Sur
GIS Coordinator
Town Planner
Regulatory Officer -
CS Officer -
Accountant -
Finance Officer -
Rates Clerk
Payroll & Debtors Clerk -
Creditors Clerk -
IT Systems Administrator
Senior Agency Clerk -
Agency Clerk -
CS Officer(Finance) -
CS Officer (Finance) -
Corporate Services Officer -
CSO Records -
P/T CSO -
CSO (Receptionist/Cashier)
CSO -
P/T CSO -
Community Liaison Officer -
P/T Family Daycare Coordinator -
Youth Development Officer -
P/T Library Officer, Walgett -
P/T Library Officer, Lightning Ridge -
Coordinator Human Resources -
OH&S Coordinator -
Economic Development Officer -
Aboriginal Liaison Officer
Tourism Devlopment Officer -
Visitor Information Officer -
Support Services Coordinator -
Stores Officer -
Stores Ass -
Mechanic/L Hand -
Mechanic -
Mechanic -
Aprentice Mechanic
Trainee Plant Operator -
Projects Engineer -
Assets Officer -
Assets Officer -
Projects Officer -
Customer Servce Officer (Lands) -
Skilled Worker (Cleaner) -
Semi Skilled Worker (Cleaner) (Part Time) -
Supervisor - Specialist Bitumen Repair
Team Leader (Bitumen Specalist) -
Truck Driver -
S/S Worker -
Team Leader (Bitumen Specalist) -
Truck Driver -
S/S Worker -
Engineer Works -
Technical Officer (Maintenance) -
Plant Operator (Grader) -
Plant Operator (Roller)
Plant Operator (Grader)
Plant Operator (Roller)
Semi Skilled Worker
Semi Skilled Worker
Skilled Worker (Bridge Carpenter) -
Skilled Worker (Bridge Labourer) -
Semi Skilled Worker -
Skilled Worker (Road Patrol) -
Plant Operator (Loader) -
Works Coordinator -
Plant Operator (Grader)-
Plant Operator (Roller)
Plant Operator (Grader) -
Plant Operator (Roller)
Water Cart Operator - Contractor
Plant Operator (Grader) -
Plant Operator (Roller)
Truck Driver (WaterCart Specalist)
Technical Officer, Towns Services -
Walgett Team
Team Leader (Urban Maint) -
Team Leader 2IC (Urban Maint)-
Plant Operator (Backhoe /Loader) -
Skilled Worker (Public Facilities) -
S/S Worker -
S/S Worker -
Truck Driver (Waste Specialist) -
Lightning Ridge Team
Team Leader (Urban Maint) -
Team Leader 2IC (Urban Maint) -
Plant Operator (Backhoe/Loader)
S/S Worker -
S/S Worker -
S/S Worker -
Plant Operator (Truck Driver) -
Collarenebri Team
Team Leader (Urban Maint) -
Team Leader 21C (Urban Maint) -
S/S Worker -
S/S Worker -
Semi Skilled Worker -
Carinda (Part Time)
Semi Skilled Worker (Urban Maint) -
Burren Junction (Part Time)
Semi Skilled Worker (Urban Maint) -
Technical Officer, SIMC -
Skilled Worker (Traffic Facilities) -
Plant Operator (Grader) -
Plant Operator (Roller) -
Plant Operator (Roller) -
Water Cart Operator - Contractor
Team Leader (Water & Sewer)
Team Leader 2IC (Water & Sewer) -
Skilled Worker (Water & Sewer) -
Skilled Worker (Water & Sewer) -
DRAFT - PROPOSED DECEMBER 2007
Endorsed - Consultative Committee - 5/12/2007

MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 11 DECEMBER 2007

Item No: 18

Subject: Vacation Care - Walgett

Author: Emma Darcy –Manager Corporate Services

File No: 130/02/01/00

Summary:

This report recommends that Council agree to operate vacation care in Walgett from July 2008.

Comments (including issues and background):

A request was received form Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Cooperative Limited (WAMS) to take over the provision of Vacation Care in Walgett. Vacation care is presently operated by WAMS.

Council presently receives funding for the provision of Vacation care in Lightning Ridge, Collarenebri and Grawin estimated at $4,940 for each program. In 2007, a total of $14,362 was received from Department of Community Services to operate the three (3) programs.

WAMS have recently requested that Council take over the operation of the program operated in Walgett. A copy of an audited financial acquittal has been received from WAMS for the year ended 30th June 2007. The report shows that grant funding of $13,804 was received and that the service operated within the funding.

Due to Council already operating three of the four programs within the Shire it would be considered logical for all programs to be operated collectively.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Email dated 19 November 2007 received from Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Cooperative Limited.
Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service departmental Statement of Financial Performance for the Year Ended 30 June 2007.

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council
Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Cooperative Limited

Financial Implications:

To be included in Management Plan 2008/2009 – 2012/2013

Recommendations:

Subject to the concurrence of the Department of Community Services that Council agree to operate vacation care in Walgett from July 2008.

WALGETT ABORIGINAL MEDICAL SERVICE

DEPARTMENTAL STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2007

	This Year		Last Year
VACATION CARE			
INCOME			
Department of Family and Community Services	13,804		13,363
Interest Received	-		27
		13,804	13,390
EXPENDITURE			
Accommodation/Meals and Travel	-		82
Audit Fees	182		182
Bookkeeping & Admininstration	800		-
Catering/In House Events	-		328
Consumables/Toys/Teaching Aids	-		311
Consumables	508		78
Education Materials	-		110
Insurance	1,983		4,678
Printing & Stationery	545		76
Staff Training and Registration Costs	1,995		873
Subscriptions	128		-
Superannuation	653		551
Salaries and Wages	7,010		6,121
		13,804	13,390
OPERATING LOSS BEFORE INCOME TAX		-	-

MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 11 DECEMBER 2007

Item No: 19**:**

Subject: Walgett Shire Community Service Report

Author: Gai Richardson – Community Liaison Officer

File No: 003/05/01/00

Summary

This report includes a summary of activities for the past three month's for the Council's community service sector.

Comments

Libraries

Northern Regional Library staff has provided monthly book and resource exchanges for the Walgett and Lightning Ridge libraries, with the exception of the November exchange which did not occur due to staffing issues at Northern Regional Library. Story Time and Christmas parties are planned with the exchange due in December. The inter library IT system from NRL has been off line for extended periods which has been frustrating for staff.

The introduction of Best Sellers has proved to be very popular with patrons.

The statistics for Lightning Ridge Library have remained constant over the past three months. Two new computers and one new printer have been installed by NRL.

The signage and revised opening hours in Walgett have increased interest in this library. This is evident by an increase in the numbers of patrons visiting the library as shown in the statistics. The number of visitors, who are passing through Walgett, has also increased with visitors commenting that they called in because of the signage. One new computer has been installed by NRL in Walgett library.

Group visits have included the Walgett Playgroup and Koolyangara Preschool. Bulk borrowing continues with Coolibah Kids Long Day Care Centre.

The CWA Book Club continues to meet in the Walgett Library with regular numbers attending every 4th Thursday.

Book Exchanges have occurred with the deposit stations in Burren Junction and Carinda.

Youth

Youth centres.

Attendance numbers at the Youth Centres in Collarenebri, Lightning Ridge and Walgett have increased and recent programs have proved popular with the young people. Youth centre staff have attended First Aid training and Code of Conduct training. All Youth Centre Staff and Youth Development Officer are studying Certificate 3 Community Services with Disabilities and Youth components.

Vacation Care

Vacation Care programs at Collarenebri, Grawin and Lightning Ridge were attended by record numbers of children.

The Walgett Vacation Care Program is currently conducted by Goonimoo Childrens Services and is conducted at the Walgett Youth Centre. The funding received from the Department of Community Services for the program is auspiced by the Walgett Aboriginal Medical Centre. Goonimoo has recently approached Council about taking over the auspicing and management for the Walgett Vacation Care program. If this is to occur Walgett Shire Youth Services would then manage all the Vacation Care Services in the Walgett Shire.

Holiday Programs

Youth Centre holiday programs and activities included a Korean Dance Group whose activities with the children included traditional dance in costume, drumming and Korean food, Storm Co, who also brought the Pinnacle of Challenge, discos, and healthy eating and lifestyle activities. The new 'Feel Good Friday' program where children plan their own activities for the last day of the week proved very popular and will be continues over the next holiday period. Discos are again proving very popular with the young people across the Shire.

Numerous organisations offered input during the October Vacation Care period with positive outcomes evident for the pooling of resources.

Murals

The murals on the front of the Council Chambers were designed and painted by artists Karin Thurston and Kevin Fernando with children from Lightning Ridge and Walgett youth centres also involved. Health Eating and Healthy Lifestyle murals have also been completed on the IGA building in Walgett and the Lightning Ridge Youth Centre Ella Nagy Hall. These murals were designed by Karen Thurston and were also painted by children from the youth centres. In Walgett, teachers from the three schools brought students to the site so that they also could participate. These programs were well received by the children and have allowed children with artistic talent to be identified
A mural depicting Healthy Lifestyles has also been completed at the Grawin Opal fields on the shipping container at the Club in the Scrub. This mural was painted by the children from the Grawin Vacation Care Centre.

Upgrade of Walgett Youth Centre Hall.

Renovations, funded by a Regional Partnerships Grant and the Premier's Department, at the Walgett Youth Centre have been completed within the allocated timeframe. The venue is now being used by external youth organisations such as McKillop Rural Service's Reconnect Program, Blue Reelers, PCYC and Goonimoo Childrens Services Vacation Care Program.

The amenities block, also funded by the above grants and to be located adjacent to the Walgett Sporting Club, is yet to be completed.

Cricket Camp

A very successful Cricket Camp with 30 Indigenous youths participating was staged during the October School Holiday break. Ten youths, from the communities of Walgett, Lightning Ridge and Collarenebri, were transported to the camp daily to engage in cricket skills and drills under the guidance of the Mr. Andrew Gordon, NSW Cricket Indigenous Development Officer, Council's Youth Development Officer, youth workers and local coaches. The camp was a great success and we look forward to similar camps in the future.

Children's Week 2007

Walgett Shire Youth Development were successful in receiving funding from DOCS to stage events to celebrate and recognise Children's Week.

Discos were staged in the communities of Lightning Ridge with 131 young people participating and Collarenebri with 76 young people in attendance, which were excellent numbers engaging in the celebrations.

A free afternoon of entertainment was staged at the Walgett Memorial Pool in which 100 young people attended in recognition of their community's celebrations for Children's Week 2007.

PCYC

Youth Services staff continue to assist with PCYC activities at each fortnightly deployment. A co-ordinator has now been employed by PCYC to oversee the organisation each fortnight.

"Care & Share, It's Only Fair" 2008 Calendar Project

This program is aimed at reducing domestic violence and promoting happy families and is supported by the Barwon Cottage Refuge located in Walgett.

The program has been completed and we are waiting on the arrival of the calendars from the printers. Both Walgett and Collarenebri youth centre children took part in the program this year and all involved are waiting in anticipation for the final product.
These will be distributed in the Walgett and Collarenebri communities

Family Day Care

Family Day Care continues to operate with limited carers despite constant recruiting activities. The implications of costs involved in starting up and complying with the Childrens' Services Regulations appears to be inhibiting the recruitment of new carers. The co-ordinator reports constant enquiries from parents wanting regular child care in the three towns in the Shire. Unfortunately, the Minister for Community Services has not replied in a positive manner to our request to allow the Family Day Care Cottage to be used as a Family Day facility. It is important that child care services are not closed down in rural and remote Shires such as these as it is very difficult to recruit suitably qualified staff to manage them should they wish to re-open in the future. Seven rural Long Day Care facilities, including those in Wee Waa and Coonabarabran have recently closed and this will have huge impacts on families needing childcare in these areas.

Stakeholders

- Walgett Shire Council
- Walgett Shire residents

Relevant Reference Documents

- Nil

Recommendation:

That Council receive and note the Community Liaison Officer's report.

MANAGER PLANNING AND REGULATION'S REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 11 DECEMBER 2007

Item No: 20

Subject: Policy for the discharge of Liquid Trade Waste.

Author: Len Smyth - Health and Building Surveyor

File No: 031/00/02/16

Summary:

This report recommends that Walgett Shire Council place a draft liquid trade waste Policy on public exhibition. The policy deals with the discharge of liquid trade waste from commercial premises into Council operated sewer and effluent systems.

Comments (including issues and background):
Local Water Utilities (LWU's), such as Walgett Shire Council, are responsible for the provision of water supply and reticulated sewerage services in NSW country towns.

Pollution and damage to the environment resulting from poor liquid trade waste management practices have resulted in successive governments creating a number of statutes aimed at greater protection of the environment, health and safety.

The statutes have provided LRU's with a range of tools for better management and pricing of liquid trade waste, including planning controls, approvals, levying of appropriate sewerage and trade waste fees and charges, licences, notices, orders, enforcement and prosecution controls. Statutes of particular relevance include:

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979;
Protection of the Environment (Operations) Act 1997;
Local Government Act 1993;
Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000;
Public Health Act 1991;
Environmentally Hazardous Chemicals Act 1985;
Dangerous Goods Act 1975;
Radiation Control Act 1990; and
Water Management Act 2000.

By mid 2009 Council is required to comply with the requirements of the Liquid Trade waste guidelines prepared by the department of Water and Energy (DWE).

Council's Health and Building Surveyor has attended mandatory training regarding the guidelines. This training included the preparation of a Council policy for the Discharge of Liquid Trade Waste which is based on a model policy prepared by DWE.

This policy been endorsed by the Department of Water and Energy in a letter dated 21st November 2007.

Relevant Reference Documents:

- Walgett Shire Council Policy for Discharge of Liquid Trade Waste to the Sewerage System, as endorsed by Department of Water and Energy on 21st November 2007.
- 2007 Model Policy for Discharge of Liquid Trade Waste to the Sewerage System published by the NSW Department of Water and Energy.
- Liquid Trade Waste Management Guidelines published by the Department of Water and Energy in 2005.

Stakeholders:
Public and Council.

Financial Implications:
Nil.

Recommendations:

That Walgett Shire Council resolve to:

1. **Note the endorsement by the Department of Water and Energy of an operational policy titled the "Walgett Shire Council Policy for Discharge of Liquid Trade Waste to the Sewerage System".**

2. **Place the policy on public exhibition for a minimum of 42 days, as per the requirements of Section 160 of the Local Government Act 1993.**

MANAGER PLANNING AND REGULATION'S REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 11 DECEMBER 2007

Item No: 21

Subject: Development and Complying Development Certificate Applications

Author: Matthew Goodwin - Manager Planning and Regulation

File No: 315/01/00/00

Summary:

This report provides a summary of the Development and Complying Development Certificate applications recently dealt with under delegated authority.

Comments (including issues and background):

The table following this report provides details of Development Applications (DA) and Complying Development Certificate (CDC) applications dealt with under delegated authority by the Manager Planning and Regulation and General Manager during November 2007.

Relevant Reference Documents:

- Respective Development Application and Complying Development Certificate files.

Stakeholders:

Public and applicants.

Financial Implications:

Nil.

Recommendations:

That Walgett Shire Council resolve to note the Development and Complying Development Certificate applications dealt with under delegated authority by the Manager Planning and Regulation and General Manager during November 2007.

AUTHORITY

Determined Applications

CIVICA

11/30/2007 Parameters: Date Range:Y
Start Date:1/11/2007
End Date:30/11/2007
As At Date:

Document Type: 20
Officer:ALL
Number of Days:0
Stop The Clock:Yes

Page:1

Document	Applicant Name / Address	Development Type / Property Address / Title	Owner	Determination	Determined	Received
Document Type: 20						
	Stop the Clock	*Total Elapsed Calendar Days: 54* *Calendar Stop Days: 0* *Adjusted Calendar Days: 54*				
020/2007/00000046/001		170 Change of Use Harlequin ST LIGHTNING RIDGE LOT: 6 DP: 1100315 CNL: 230055		Approved by Council	20/11/2007	28/09/2007
	Stop the Clock	*Total Elapsed Calendar Days: 54* *Calendar Stop Days: 0* *Adjusted Calendar Days: 54*				
020/2007/00000047/001		160 Subdivision/Consolidation Harlequin ST LIGHTNING RIDGE LOT: 6 DP: 1100315 CNL: 230055		Approved by Council	20/11/2007	28/09/2007
	Stop the Clock	*Total Elapsed Calendar Days: 42* *Calendar Stop Days: 0* *Adjusted Calendar Days: 42*				
020/2007/00000049/001		160 Subdivision/Consolidation 8 Euroka ST WALGETT LOT: 30 DP: 253488		Approved by Council	22/11/2007	12/10/2007
	Stop the Clock	*Total Elapsed Calendar Days: 21* *Calendar Stop Days: 0* *Adjusted Calendar Days: 21*				

AUTHORITY

AUTHORITY

Determined Applications

CIVICA

11/30/2007 Parameters: Date Range:Y
Start Date:1/11/2007
End Date:30/11/2007
As At Date:

Document Type: 20
Officer:ALL
Number of Days:0
Stop The Clock:Yes

Page:2

Document	Applicant Name / Address	Development Type / Property Address / Title	Owner	Determination	Determined	Received
Document Type: 20						
020/2007/00000050/001		170 Change of Use LOT: 57 DP: 705026 WLL: 13301		Approved - Staff Delegation	06/11/2007	17/10/2007
	Stop the Clock	*Total Elapsed Calendar Days: 16* *Calendar Stop Days: 0* *Adjusted Calendar Days: 16*				
020/2007/00000052/001		150 Class 10b - Fence/Antenna/Swimming Pool Morilla ST LIGHTNING RIDGE PT: 6 SEC: 10 DP: 758612		Approved - Staff Delegation	08/11/2007	24/10/2007

Officer: Ms J R Babic
Number of Applications: 5

Average Elapsed Calendar Days: 37.40
Average Calendar Stop Days: 0.00
Average Adjusted Calendar Days: 37.40

Total Elapsed Calendar Days: 187.00
Total Calendar Stop Days: 0.00
Total Adjusted Calendar Days: 187.00

Document	Applicant Name / Address	Development Type / Property Address / Title	Owner	Determination	Determined	Received
Document Type: 24						
	Stop the Clock	*Total Elapsed Calendar Days: 5* *Calendar Stop Days: 0* *Adjusted Calendar Days: 5*				

AUTHORITY

AUTHORITY

Determined Applications

CIVICA

11/30/2007 Parameters: Date Range:Y Start Date:1/11/2007 End Date:30/11/2007 As At Date: Document Type: 20 Officer:ALL Number of Days:0 Stop The Clock:Yes Page:3

Document	Applicant Name / Address	Development Type / Property Address / Title Owner	Determination	Determined	Received
Document Type: 24					
024/2007/00000033/001		150 Class 10b - Fence/Antenna/Swimming Pool 11 Warrena ST WALGETT LOT: 1 DP: 908388	Approved - Staff Delegation	05/11/2007	01/11/2007
	Stop the Clock	*Total Elapsed Calendar Days: 5* *Calendar Stop Days: 0* *Adjusted Calendar Days: 5*			
024/2007/00000034/001		10 Class 1a -Single Dwelling/Dual Occupancy 11 Fantasia ST LIGHTNING RIDGE LOT: 43 DP: 837866	Approved - Staff Delegation	09/11/2007	05/11/2007
	Stop the Clock	*Total Elapsed Calendar Days: 5* *Calendar Stop Days: 0* *Adjusted Calendar Days: 5*			
024/2007/00000035/001		10 Class 1a -Single Dwelling/Dual Occupancy 1 Red Admiral PL LIGHTNING RIDGE LOT: 22 DP: 803512	Approved - Staff Delegation	09/11/2007	05/11/2007
	Stop the Clock	*Total Elapsed Calendar Days: 2* *Calendar Stop Days: 0* *Adjusted Calendar Days: 2*			
024/2007/00000036/001		140 Class 10a - Garage/Carport/Shed/Verandah 60 Dewhurst ST WALGETT LOT: 6 DP: 36453	Approved - Staff Delegation	09/11/2007	08/11/2007

AUTHORITY

AUTHORITY

Determined Applications

CIVICA

11/30/2007 Parameters: Date Range:Y Start Date:1/11/2007 End Date:30/11/2007 As At Date: Document Type: 20 Officer:ALL Number of Days:0 Stop The Clock:Yes Page:4

Document	Applicant Name / Address	Development Type / Property Address / Title Owner	Determination	Determined	Received
Document Type: 24					
	Stop the Clock	*Total Elapsed Calendar Days: 1* *Calendar Stop Days: 0* *Adjusted Calendar Days: 1*			
024/2007/00000037/001		140 Class 10a - Garage/Carport/Shed/Verandah 31 Fantasia ST LIGHTNING RIDGE LOT: 33 DP: 837866	Approved - Staff Delegation	09/11/2007	09/11/2007
	Stop the Clock	*Total Elapsed Calendar Days: 1* *Calendar Stop Days: 0* *Adjusted Calendar Days: 1*			
024/2007/00000038/001		140 Class 10a - Garage/Carport/Shed/Verandah 42 Wee Waa ST WALGETT LOT: 3 DP: 202867	Approved - Staff Delegation	21/11/2007	21/11/2007

Officer: Mr L J Smyth Number of Applications: 6	*Average Elapsed Calendar Days: 3.17* *Average Calendar Stop Days: 0.00* *Average Adjusted Calendar Days: 3.17*	*Total Elapsed Calendar Days: 19.00* *Total Calendar Stop Days: 0.00* *Total Adjusted Calendar Days: 19.00*
Report Totals & Averages **Total Number of Applications : 11**	*Average Elapsed Calendar Days: 18.73* *Average Calendar Stop Days: 0.00* *Average Adjusted Calendar Days: 18.73*	*Total Elapsed Calendar Days: 206.00* *Total Calendar Stop Days: 0.00* *Total Adjusted Calendar Days: 206.00*

AUTHORITY

MANAGER PLANNING AND REGULATION'S REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 11 DECEMBER 2007

Item No: 22

Subject: Development Application 2007051, Walgett Shire Council

Author: Janet Babic - Town Planner

File No: DA 2007051

Summary:

Walgett Shire Council has lodged a Development Application to subdivide land at Lightning Ridge for the purpose of future urban expansion. It is recommended that the application be approved subject to appropriate development consent conditions.

Background:

Development Application 2007051 has been lodged by Walgett Shire Council to subdivide Lot 2 DP 1103508 which is Crown Land held under Permissive Occupancy 1985/19 by Council. The land is located south of Lightning Ridge, as shown in Figure 1.

The Development Application proposes:

1. Subdivision of Lot 2 DP 1103508 into 2 lots, one of about 25.15 hectares and the other of about 449.3 hectares (as shown in Figure 2).
2. It is proposed that the 25.15 hectare lot will subsequently be used for expansion of the residential area of Lightning Ridge.

Within the 25 hectare area there are 7 mining camps which are predominantly located on residential Mineral Claims or Western Lands Leases for residential purposes. There are no Mineral Claims solely being used for opal mining. It also appears that none of the "residential" Mineral Claims are the subject of significant regular mining activity. There is evidence that moderate intensity opal mining has taken place some years ago on up to 1.5 hectares of the area.

Council made a resolution on 15 December 2005 to:

> "*Designate the policy reserve area between the Three Mile Road, Fantasia St, Lapkalle St and the Lightning Ridge Aerodrome (part Lot 1794 DP767406) as its preferred location for urban expansion of Lightning Ridge, both for residential and industrial uses*".

The Walgett Shire Growth Management Study and Draft Strategy was placed on public exhibition from 30 July 2007 to 30 September 2007. Map 8.14 (on page 154) of that document also identifies the 25 Ha area as being proposed for residential land use. The site was identified as the most suitable for urban expansion because the area is least affected by constraints (such as opal mining and flood prone land) that surround the Lightning Ridge area. It is expected that Council will take steps to apply a residential zone to the land via a Local Environmental Plan in the near future.

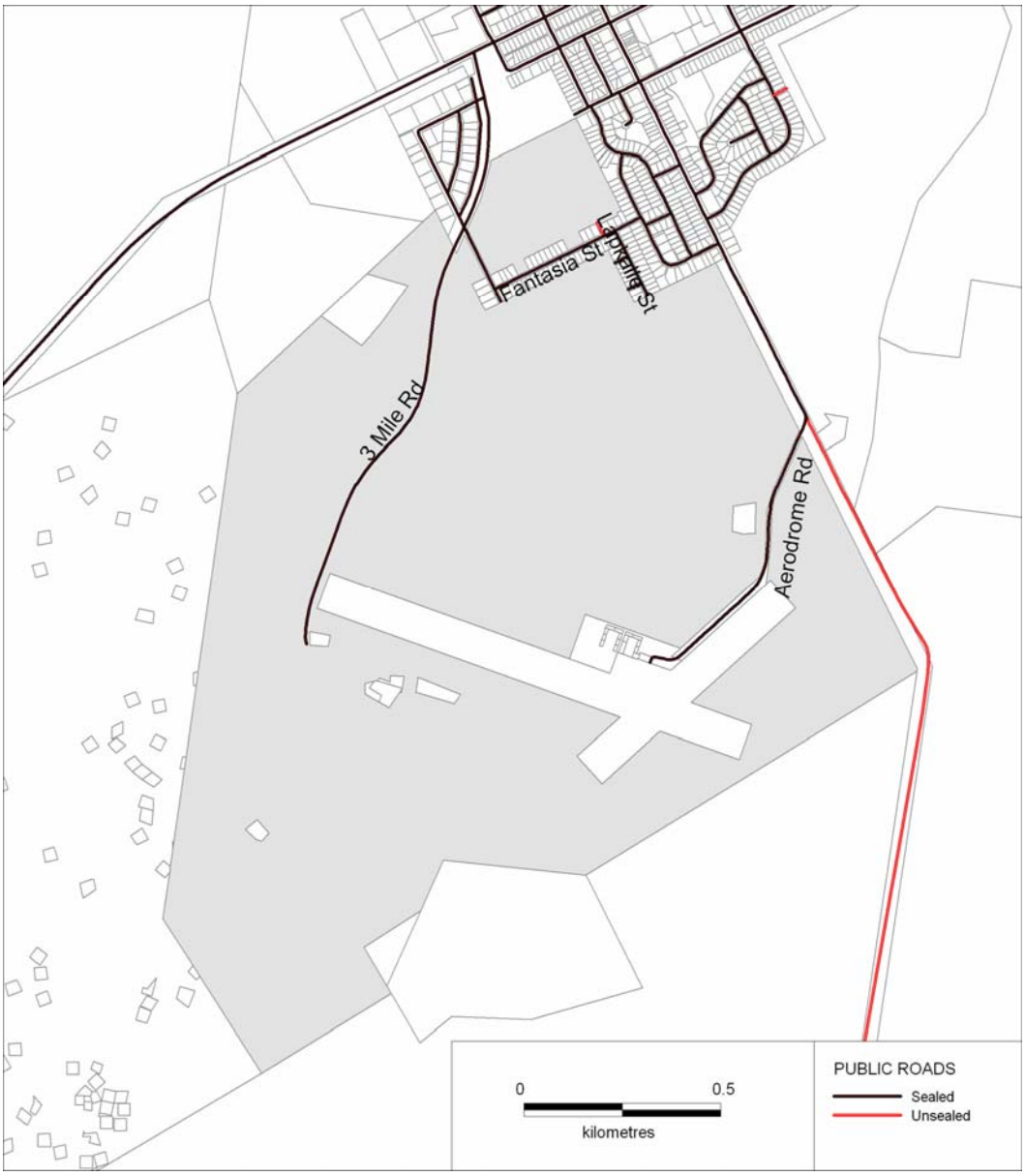


Figure 1 – Lot proposed to be subdivided (shaded).

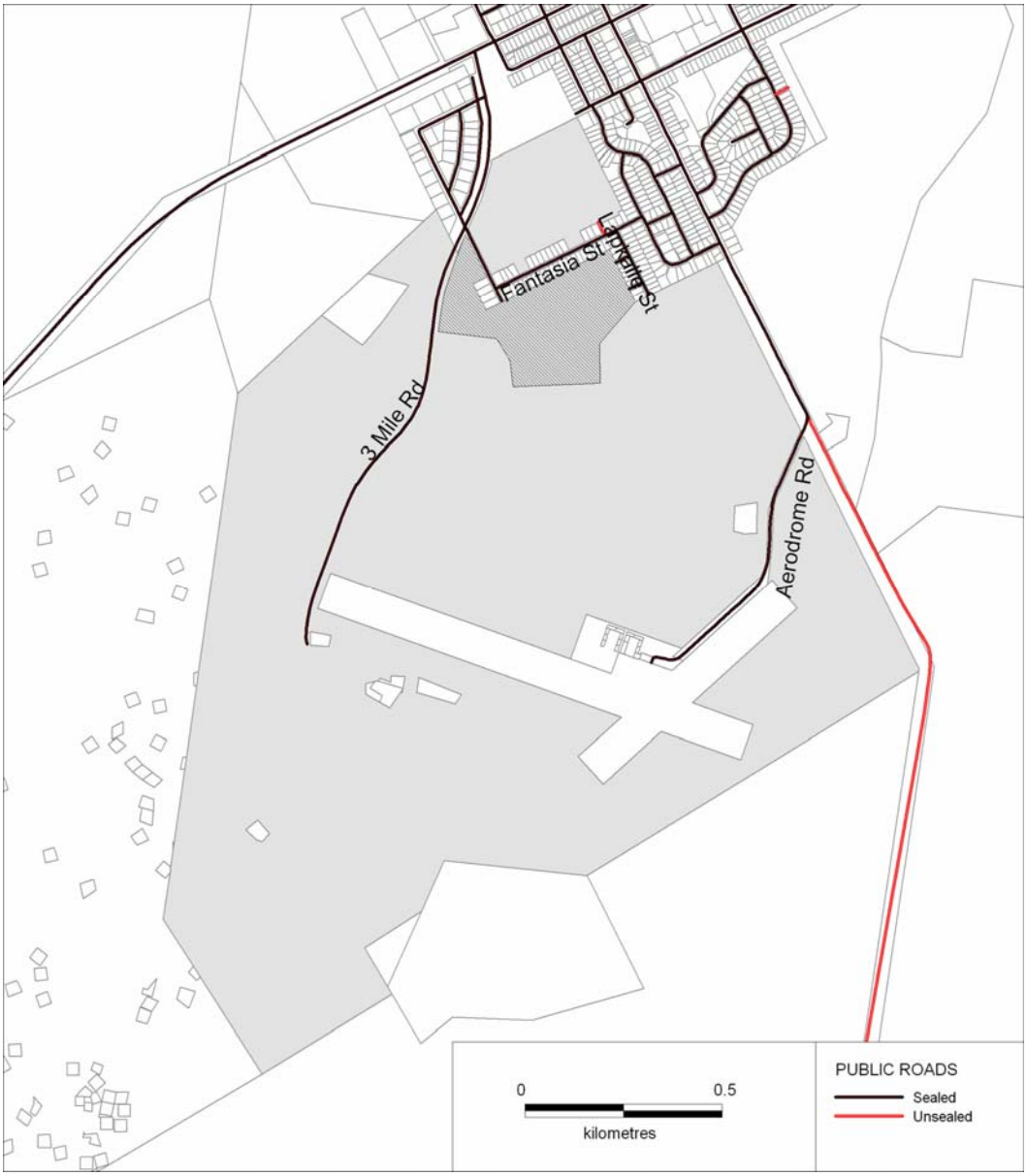


Figure 2– Lots proposed to be created (shaded, with urban expansion area also cross hatched).

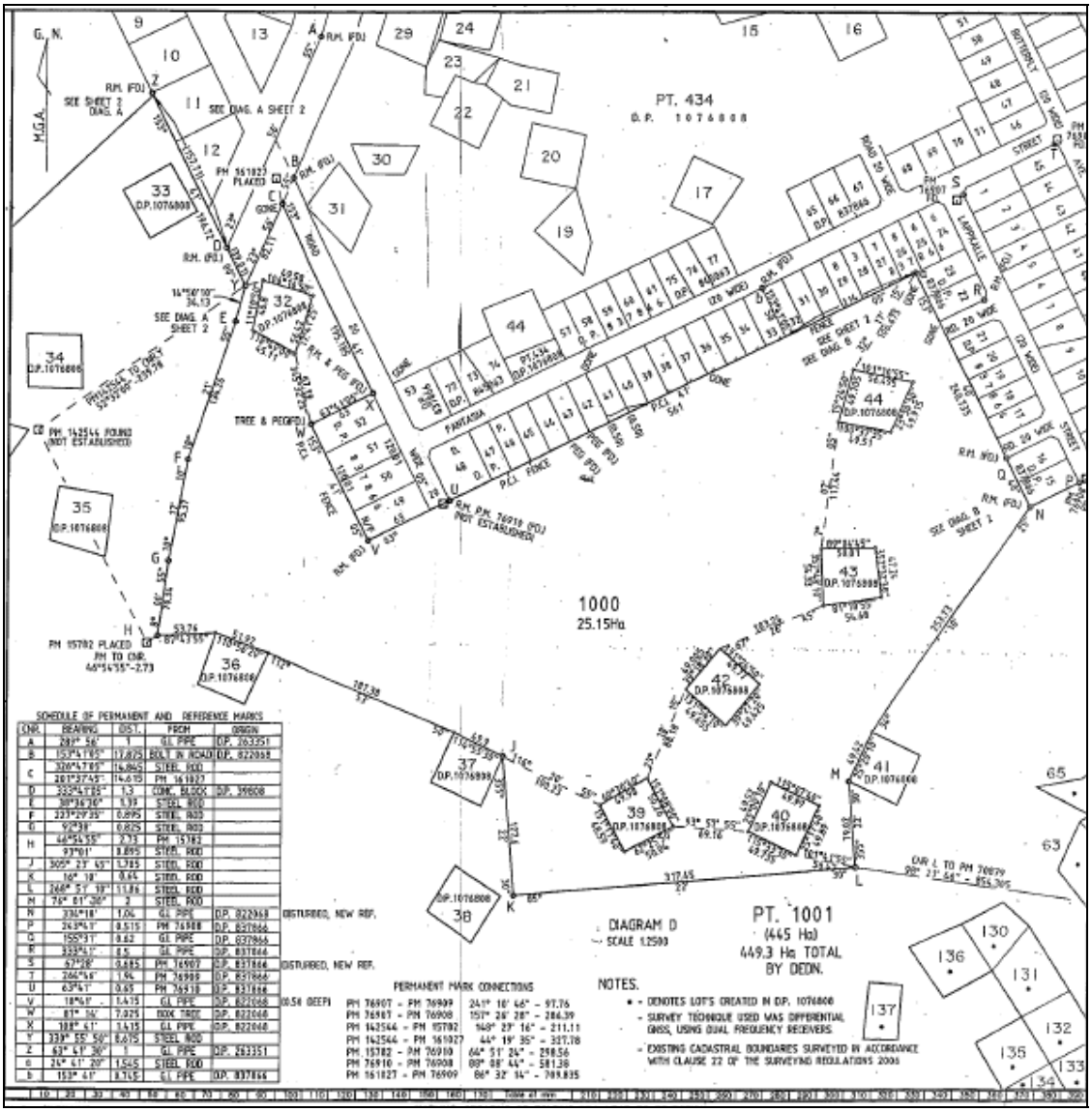


Figure 3– Detail of urban expansion area (from surveyors plan).

Statutory matters for consideration:

79C (1)(a)(i) **Provisions of any environmental planning instrument.**

The only relevant environmental planning instrument is the Interim Development Order No. 1 – Shire Of Walgett 1968 (IDO). Under that order the land is located within the "1. Non–Urban A " zone.

The IDO imposes a requirement for development consent to be obtained for the proposed subdivision.

79C (1)(a)(ii) **Provisions of any draft environmental planning instrument that is or has been placed on public exhibition.**

Not applicable.

79C (1)(a)(iii) **Any development control plan.**

No relevant Development Control Plans (DCPs).

79C(1)(a)(iiia) **Any planning agreement that has been entered into under section 93F, or any draft planning agreement that a developer has offered to enter into under section 93F**

Not applicable.

79C(1)(a)(iv) **The Regulations.**

Section 92 and 92A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000 prescribe additional matters for consideration (see comments below).

79C (1)(b) **Likely impacts of the development, including environmental impacts on both the natural and built environments, and social and economic impacts in the locality.**

Current land uses on surrounding lots are residential to the north and east, "residential" Mineral Claims and Mineral Claims to the west and south as well as the Lightning Ridge Aerodrome to the south.

The proposed subdivision is for the purpose of providing land for future urban expansion.

While the area is identified as the most suitable for urban expansion, it will have the effect of permanently stopping opal prospecting and mining. The magnitude and extent of this inhibition cannot be determined given it is effectively impossible to define a "resource" of opal mineralisation. Nevertheless it can be said that, historically, there has been comparatively minimal opal mining activity in the area (as demonstrated by minimal evidence of mullock dumps and limited numbers of back filled open mine shafts).

Some potential social and economic benefits include:

- Increase in choice and availability of land for residential purposes.
- Increased land supply has potential to temper land prices, thus improving affordability.
- Potential for positive local economic outcomes derived from building activity, new businesses and secondary affects from development activities.

Social and economic costs include:

- Owners of existing residential Mineral Claims may be disadvantaged by curtailment or limitation of their existing uses, requirements to upgrade to Council services or loss of privacy when development takes place.
- Loss of future opal mining opportunities in the area.

The overall benefit to the Lightning Ridge community by way of increasing urban residential land supply, is considered to be for the community greater good.

The natural environment in the area has been extensively disturbed by grazing, mining, vehicle traffic, erosion and timber removal. No significant critical habitats or threatened species populations have been identified in the proposed subdivision area.

No change to existing land use proposed at this stage.

Unlikely to be significant adverse impacts on the natural and built environments.

79C (1)(c) **Suitability of the site for the development.**

The Walgett Shire Growth Management Study and Draft Strategy nominated the site as the most suitable for urban expansion because the area is least affected by constraints such as opal mining and flood prone land. The area is also adjacent to existing Council water and sewer mains services as well as other infrastructure services.

79C (1)(d) **Submissions made in accordance with the Act or the Regulation.**

Not applicable. Under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 the proposal is local development with no opportunity for submissions under the act or Regulation (as opposed to designated or advertised development).

79C (1)(e) **The public interest.**

One written submission was received from a notified person residing adjacent to the area. The submission expresses concern over possible complaints from noise and smoke emitted from their generator if properties are built close to their boundary. However, the Protection of the Environment Act 1997 provides that Council can issue a noise control notice. In general terms persons have no entitlement to emit noise above background levels beyond the boundary of their property.

Overall the proposed subdivision site appears to be the most suitable area for urban expansion.

In this context the proposed subdivision appears to be in the public interest.

The following matters must also be considered by Council in accordance with the respective clauses of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000 when making a decision on any Development Application.

92 (1) (b) **Demolition.**

Not applicable, no demolition work is proposed.

93 **Fire safety and other considerations**

Not applicable, no building work proposed at this stage.

94 **Consent authority may require buildings to be upgraded**

Not applicable.

94A **Fire safety and other considerations applying to temporary structures**

Not applicable.

95 **Deferred commencement consent**

Not applicable.

97A **Fulfilment of BASIX commitments**

Not applicable.

Relevant Reference Documents:

- Development Application file 2007051
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.
- Interim Development Order No. 1 – Shire of Walgett 1968.
- Minutes of 15 December 2005 Shire of Walgett Council meeting.
- Walgett Shire Growth Management Study and Draft Strategy, dated July 2007.

Stakeholders:

- Walgett Shire Council
- Lightning Ridge Community
- NSW Department of Lands

Recommendation:

That Development Application 2007051 be approved subject to the following conditions of consent:

PRESCRIBED CONDITIONS OF DEVELOPMENT CONSENT

As no "work" is to be undertaken there are no prescribed conditions of development consent under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000.

CONDITIONS IMPOSED BY COUNCIL

The following development consent conditions are imposed by Council.

GENERAL

Gen 010.

It is possible that a covenant may affect the land, which is subject to this consent. The granting of this consent does not necessarily override any covenant. You should seek legal advice regarding the effect of any covenants that may affect the land.

Reason: To avoid breaching the requirements of any covenant.

Gen 020.

Any future development on the subject site or use of the subject land in a manner inconsistent with this development consent (approval) will require separate development consent to be obtained from council in writing prior to the commencement of any work.

Reason: To ensure compliance with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

SUBDIVISION/CONSOLIDATION

Sub 040.

That two lots are created by the subdivision of Lot 2, DP 1103508, one of about 25.15 hectares and the other about 445 hectares.

Reason: To ensure that the development proceeds in the manner proposed by the applicant and approved by Council.

Sub 120.

A surveyor's plan must be submitted to Walgett Shire Council prior to the expiry date of this development consent so that the subdivision certificate on the plan can be signed by an authorised officer.

Reason: The subdivision cannot be registered with the Land Titles Office, and be finalised, until the subdivision certificate on the surveyors plan is signed by an authorised officer of Walgett Shire Council.

Sub 130.

The subdivision certificate will not be released until development consent conditions under this section (titled "subdivision") have been complied with.

Reason: To ensure compliance with the terms of the development consent.

APPROVED PLANS

Pln 010.

The development shall be implemented in accordance with:

(a) All documentation and correspondence submitted by the applicant, or their agents, in support of the Development Application,

(b) the details set out on the plans approved and stamped by authorised officers of Council,

except as amended by the conditions of this development consent.

Reason: To ensure that the development proceeds in the manner proposed by the applicant and approved by Council.

MANAGER PLANNING AND REGULATION'S REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 11 DECEMBER 2007

Item No: 23

Subject: Walgett Shire Growth Management Study and Draft Strategy

Author: Matthew Goodwin - Manager Planning and Regulation

File No: 315/01/02/00

Summary:

Walgett Shire Council placed the Walgett Shire Growth Management Study and Draft Strategy on public exhibition from 30 July 2007 through to 30 September 2007. This report recommends that Council note the submissions received, adopt the Walgett Shire Growth Management Study and Draft Strategy document with certain amendments and commence the development of a Local Environmental Plan in accordance with the recommendations made in the document.

Comments (including issues and background):

The Walgett Shire Growth Management Study and Draft Strategy was placed on public exhibition from 30 July 2007 through to 30 September 2007. Walgett Shire Council received twenty four submissions on the document.

Ian Sinclair, of Edge Land Planning, was the planning consultant that prepared the document on behalf of Council. Copies of all submissions received were forwarded to him, as well as the regional office of the Department of Planning in Dubbo. An "Analysis of Submissions" document was prepared by Ian Sinclair in November 2007 which summarises the issues raised and proposes changes to the recommendations contained in the Walgett Shire Growth Management Study and Draft Strategy.

Relevant Reference Documents:

- Council file 315-01-02-00 – Local Environmental Plan.
- Walgett Shire Growth Management Study and Draft Strategy prepared by Edge Land Planning, dated July 2007.
- Standard Instrument (Local Environmental Plans) Order 2006.

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council, public and State government.

Financial Implications:

Fees associated with consultancy services provided by Edge Land Planning are being met from the existing budget for Local Environmental Plan development.

Recommendations:

That Council resolve to:

1. **Adopt and endorse the Walgett Shire Growth Management Study and Draft Strategy document, with the amendments proposed by Edge Land Planning in a document titled "Analysis of Submissions" which was prepared in November 2007.**

2. **Forward the Walgett Shire Council Growth Management Study and Draft Strategy document to the Director General of the Department of Planning for formal endorsement.**

3. **Prepare a Local Environmental Plan for the whole of the Walgett Shire Local Government Area in accordance with:**
   - **(a) The Standard Instrument (Local Environmental Plans) Order 2006; and**
   - **(b) The recommendations contained in the Walgett Shire Growth Management Study and Draft Strategy document, as prepared by Edge Land Planning.**

4. **In accordance with Section 54 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, notify the Director General of the Department of Planning that Walgett Shire Council has resolved to prepare a Local Environmental Plan.**

Analysis of Submissions

Ian Sinclair, Edge Land Planning

There are a number of matters raised in the submissions that have responses that are considered to be general in nature. They cover the following:

- Development on the Preserved Opal Fields
  - Residential uses
  - Low impact tourist uses
  - Conversion of Western Lands Leases to freehold
- Proposed tourist zone at Lightning Ridge

Each of these will be discussed separately.

Development on the Preserved Opal Fields

The draft Strategy states that mining on the preserved opal fields should be the dominant use. Mining for opals is noisy and dusty and is not really appropriate next to housing and some tourist developments (such as cafes and restaurants) as this causes land use conflict. The pollution laws generally tend to be biased towards the residential use, not mining. If complaints are received, they must be investigated and orders can be imposed on mining operations to make them comply with noise and dust limits. This invariably leads to the mine being closed as it is not possible to meet the residential amenity expected. For this reason, the planning principle is to restrict new residential or similar uses from locating in the mining area (in this case the Preserved Opal Fields). It is not anticipated that this restriction of new uses will lead to the demise of the opal fields as the existing dwellings can be bought and sold – especially if they are converted to Western Lands Leases. Therefore it is not considered that the Strategy be amended.

It is acknowledged that tourism uses are a significant part of the Lightning Ridge economy. For this reason, it is considered that low impact tourism uses such as bed and breakfast accommodation in an existing dwelling, or opal related tourist uses like the proposed Australian Opal Centre, are appropriate for the preserved opal fields. However large tourism uses such as motels, restaurants and cafes are not considered appropriate because of the potential to conflict with the opal mining as well as effluent disposal issues. Therefore, it is recommended that the strategy be amended to allow low impact tourist uses to be permitted on the preserved opal fields.

The issue of conversion of Western Lands Leases to freehold primarily raises concerns in association with residential uses, not tourism related uses. It is considered that granting freehold title to a Western Lands Lease for residential purposes in the preserved opal fields will lead to an inappropriate form of subdivision and encourage the area to become mostly residential and not the mixture of uses as it is at present. However, if there is an existing business that has development consent and a Western Lands Lease for business purposes, there is no objection to it being converted to freehold. This is not a matter that can be addressed via a Local Environmental Plan, but it should be addressed via Council policy. This needs to be clarified in the Strategy.

Proposed Tourist Zone at Lightning Ridge

A number of submissions raised the issue of providing for future tourist large scale accommodation in Lightning Ridge. To ensure that this is developed in a sustainable

manner, it should have good road access and be served by reticulated water and sewerage. It should also not impede future mining areas.

An assessment has been made of the land adjoining the Lightning Ridge urban area and it is recommended that the land in Pandora street from the edge of the residential zone to the Bore Baths on both sides of the road be rezoned to a tourist zone. The strategy should be amended accordingly. It is noted that the Council has previously given consent for caravan parks in this area but they have not yet commenced operation.

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Summary of Submission	Comments / Recommendation
No. 1: Heritage Council of New South Wales	
▪ Supports strategies to preserve heritage. ▪ Council should ensure any rezoning will permit uses that are compatible with any heritage conservation of the heritage items listed.	▪ Noted and can be considered with preparation of draft LEP.
No. 2: Central West Catchment Management Authority	
▪ Amendments to the LEP should create opportunities to help meet the targets identified in the Central West Catchment Management Authority's Catchment Action Plan. ▪ Opportunities should be taken in the LEP to further protect natural resources by nominating those areas of remnant vegetation where dual Council and CMA consent could be a requirement under the Native Vegetation Act.	▪ Noted. ▪ This is a Resourcing issue for Council. The current legislative arrangements are considered to be adequate.
No. 3: Border Rivers Gwydir Catchment Management Authority	
▪ The CMA is pleased to see a proposed linking of the strategy to the Catchment Action Plan. ▪ The CMA is currently undertaking data gathering exercises which should help in the natural resource information shortfalls identified in the document.	▪ Noted.
No. 4: New South Wales Farmers Association	
▪ Concerned that opal mining is not being adequately covered in the document. ▪ Impact of opal mining on the surrounding lands and properties within the mineral reserves is of concern. ▪ Properties accessed for opal mining do not have restrictions on the size or percentage of agricultural land being mined. ▪ No requirement for immediate rehabilitation of the land once mining has stopped. ▪ Lands are being left in an unproductive state for an unlimited amount of time at the expense of the landholder. ▪ Notes that opal mining is a cash business and pays no royalties and very little in Shire rates. The submission states that farming properties pay 75% of the Shire's rates and employs 27% of its people. ▪ Council should impose a maximum area (10%) of the land holding to accommodate mining any one time with the ultimate goal of or lands being returned to a usable state for grazing.	▪ Noted. ▪ Council does not have legislative power to control mining. The mining act is administered by DPI.
No. 5: Department of Primary Industries - Agriculture	
▪ The definition of sustainable agriculture is not endorsed because of importing or training establishments which are considered to be recreational non-agriculture. ▪ Request that the wording in section 8.8.3 concerning minimum holding size for a dwelling be changed to DPI 'supports' the recommendation of 2,000 hectares and does	▪ Noted.

Summary of Submission	Comments / Recommendation
not 'recommend' it has the Department does not have a policy on subdivision.	
No. 6: Bob Hewlett, Lightning Ridge	
▪ The Camps on Claims process is progressing satisfactorily. ▪ Need to ensure that the preserved opal fields still allow residential dwellings as this is a different lifestyle which should be preserved. ▪ Council should encourage people to live on the preserved opal fields and encourage the State Government to implement the Camps on Claims Working Group Plan to excise the remaining areas of the preserved fields from the grazing leases and allow them develop with as little constraints as possible. ▪ The Council should encourage the Camps on Claims Working Group to form a local body to administer the preserved fields and encourage the preserved fields development to be a priority rather than development of the town. ▪ The combination of living in the opal fields and mining has produced an unusual landscape which attracts tourists and boosts the local economy. This should be allowed to grow and develop with as much freedom as possible.	▪ Noted ▪ It is not considered that growth will be stopped. There is a Shire wide decline in population. ▪ Council does encourage economic development but it should not cause potential land use conflict with existing land uses.
No. 7: David Lane, Lightning Ridge	
▪ The bushfire risk map showing the whole Shire as at risk needs to be reviewed. 1951 was the last bad bushfire season and the risk of crown fires is nonexistent with grass fires being the only risk. ▪ The proposal to ban further development (residential or tourist ventures) on the preserved opal fields would lead to a slow decline of the preserved opal fields. ▪ The 'weird things' that have been dealt in the preserved fields should be allowed to continue as they add to the character. ▪ Some of the poor agricultural land should be made available for small farm rural living of 40 hectares which could be on ridges or red country. ▪ The proposed subdivision adjacent to Bill O'Brien way should be retained as there is a demand for this. ▪ Request land of approximately 10 hectares to be included within the town boundary and designated residential or commercial zoning. The land has town water, street lighting and sewerage and is adjacent to the bore baths.	▪ Noted. ▪ Small rural holdings issue needs further investigation. ▪ It is considered that the subdivision on Bill O'Brien Way is not a good planning outcome as it is isolated from the urban area.
No. 8: Lightning Ridge Miners' Association Ltd	
▪ Agree that opal mining, prospecting and processing is established as the dominant land use on the preserved fields and with the proposed zoning for Special Activities for Mining. ▪ Agree that all rural land should be zoned Primary Production with opal mining	▪ Noted ▪ Temporary accommodation structures are permitted. ▪ EP&A Act requires Council to

Summary of Submission	Comments / Recommendation
permissible and opal mining within the Narran / Warrambol Reserve reserves is not designated development. ▪ The provision prohibiting residential buildings on opal fields should refer to permanent buildings only and not temporary accommodation such as tents or caravans. ▪ Agree with prohibiting any further commercial uses on the preserved fields but believe that the Lightning Ridge Opal and Fossil Centre should be included as this has been in planning for many years and has the support of Council. ▪ Opposed to requirement for development consent for opal mining that has a significant impact on the surrounding areas. The Department of Primary Industries has a rigorous regime in place to assess and mitigate any impacts prior to granting title and this should be sufficient. Requiring development consent will increase costs and delay granting title. ▪ The proposed future residential area to the South between the existing urban area and the airport will sterilise the land from future mining activity and are opposed to this. ▪ Land that has been identified for future residential development should be allowed to be mined prior to development taking place.	assess the impact of development on the surrounding land. It is considered reasonable to assess significant mining proposals. Designated development provisions are set out in the Act. ▪ Land that has been set aside for residential development can be mined ahead of the residential zoning. It should be noted that Council needs to plan for future land uses and should avoid unnecessary conflict with mining.
No. 9: Glengarry Grawin Sheepyard Miners Association Inc	
▪ Agree with ensuring that opal mining, prospecting and processing is established as the dominant land use on the preserved fields and to zone the land as Special Activities for Mining. ▪ Agree that all rural land in the Shire be zoned Primary Production and opal mining is permissible and opal mining within the Narran / Warrambol Reserve reserves is not designated development. ▪ Opal mining prospecting and processing should be designated as the dominant land use within the OPA 4 area. ▪ General agreement with the provisions contained in section 8.4.3 dealing with residential use of the opal mining fields. ▪ Agree with prohibiting residential buildings from being established only in new opal fields but should only refer to permanent buildings and not temporary accommodation such as tents and caravans. ▪ Additional new Mineral Claims for Residential Purposes on the preserved fields should not be issued. ▪ Suggest that any complaints from people living in a mining field be rejected without undue expense to the Council or Government as a natural consequence of the individual choosing to live in the midst of mining operations.	▪ Noted ▪ Temporary accommodation structures are permitted. ▪ EP&A Act requires Council to assess the impact of development on the surrounding land. It is considered reasonable to assess significant mining proposals. Designated development provisions apply ▪ Note community facilities and recommend amending document accordingly.

Summary of Submission	Comments / Recommendation
▪ Strongly opposed to requirement for development consent for opal mining that has a significant impact on the surrounding areas. Development consent for open cuts and processing facilities is not necessary as there is the current Review of Environmental Factors in place prepared by the Department Primary Industries. ▪ Agree with making provision for long established commercial uses in the preserved fields and prohibiting any future commercial operations. ▪ Note that at the following community facilities are available to Glengarry Grawin Sheepyard residents: Rural Fire Service and State Emergency Service. The Glengarry Grawin Sheepyard Miners Association office and workshop provides space for a monthly field visits from medical doctor, podiatrist and community health sister. A mobile library visits once a month.	
No. 10: Lightning Ridge Neighbourhood Centre	
In relation to the preserved mining fields the following points are made: ▪ The moratorium on known in residential claims be lifted. ▪ Deadline for Western lands leases be lifted. ▪ Owners of residential mining claims be given more encouragement to take on the process of conversion to Western Lands Leases. ▪ The older unique style of mining camps be preserved for prosperity given the unique attraction for tourism. ▪ Back filling of mining holes on unpegged claims be stopped. ▪ Consideration be given to appropriate and compatible businesses being operated on residential mining claims and Western Lands Leases. ▪ Need for five-star accommodation facilities in the area. ▪ Need the proposed Australian Opal Centre. In relation to social issues the following points are made: ▪ a release of residential land as indicated needs to be made. ▪ A large community centre and community hall are needed. ▪ Upgrade in hospital to provide more permanent and casual beds. Obstetric services are needed. ▪ Affordable housing including government housing. ▪ More ambulance officers. ▪ More Post Office boxes or postal delivery service within town is needed. ▪ Support for the retention of the CDEP workshop and services. In relation to economic development following points are made: ▪ provision be made future resort style development.	▪ Noted ▪ A number of issues are not planning related. ▪ Issues covered elsewhere in the strategy.

Summary of Submission	Comments / Recommendation
▪ Provision be made for future sporting to development. ▪ Provision be made for future innovative development. ▪ Council to provide encouragement for potential employers. ▪ Existing tourist attractions and businesses on the opal fields and within town be allowed to remain in operation. ▪ Provision be made for future tourist development in town and on opal fields. ▪ Investigations made by the Council into provision of suitable bulk insurance cover for special tourist attractions and festivals.	
No. 11: Lindsay and Heather Matson, Lightning Ridge	
▪ Own the Spectrum Opal Mine which is on Western Lands Lease which is split between the current Village zone and the rural zone on the preserved opal fields. Other use on the Western Lands Lease is the Dig In Mine and Outback Cinema. ▪ Request that the entire Western Lands Lease be included within the urban zoning and that it be zoned commercial. ▪ Request Council supports for converting the Western Lands Lease to freehold.	▪ Noted. ▪ Note that the proposed residential zoning has been moved to align with edge of urban area. ▪ Low impact tourist uses are to be permitted.
No. 12: Department of Environment and Climate Change	
▪ Recommend the use of National Parks and Nature Reserves, Environmental Conservation, Environmental Management and Environmental Living Zones within the Shire. This is suggested to cover both private and publicly owned land which are of high conservation value. This is suggested to include land under voluntary conservation agreements, wetlands, land within 100 metres of rivers and flood prone land with native vegetation in moderate to good condition as well as road reserves with such vegetation. Aboriginal archaeological sites could also fit within this category. ▪ Recommend that where possible all remnant native vegetation within the Shire be excluded from further development. It is noted that recent estimates state that over 70% of vegetation within the river valleys within the Shire have been cleared and is important all remaining areas in these landscapes are conserved. ▪ Recommend that the objective 9.6.2 be amended to cover all land within the Shire not just rural land. ▪ Note that existing information is available to assist the identification of environmentally sensitive areas. The Department has information on wetlands and woody vegetation which could be used. ▪ Encourage Council to introduce controls to preserve native vegetation in urban areas. ▪ Council should implement the policy of firstly avoiding development areas of remnant	▪ Noted ▪ Many of the matters raised are covered by NVA and are not considered to be Council's responsibility. ▪ As stated in document, Council does not have data to justify the recommended environmental protection zoning ▪ Objective 9.6.2 should relate to all land in the Shire. Document is to be amended accordingly.

Summary of Submission	Comments / Recommendation
native vegetation and if this is unavoidable require the provision of offsets that results in the no net loss outcome for biodiversity. This is particularly important where urban expansion and new rural residential areas are expanding into remnant native vegetation. ▪ The Department considers any areas identified as being of Aboriginal heritage significance should be included in environmental protection zones. In addition, including land within 100 metres of rivers in environment protection zones will provide some broad protection for Aboriginal cultural heritage associated with riparian areas.	
No. 13: Roger Collins, Lightning Ridge	
▪ Council should capitalise on and develop the unique tourism opportunities of the Lightning Ridge opal fields. ▪ The productive open fields should not be sterilised from further tourist activity. ▪ Low impact tourism ventures would have no impact on mining and infringement on residents. These include eco-accommodation, themed restaurants or cafes, mining Museums etc. ▪ need for additional tourist accommodation in Lightning Ridge. ▪ Council needs to encourage additional food and beverage outlets in Lightning Ridge as well as encouraging more extended hours for the existing outlets. These should be distributed throughout the area and not restricted to a commercial zone.	▪ Noted ▪ Dealt with in other ▪ Stand alone restaurants and cafes are not considered appropriate for a mining area due to effluent disposal and potential for land use conflict. They should be in the business Zone.
No. 14: Bevin's Black Opal and Cactus Nursery, Lightning Ridge	
▪ Object to recommendation not allowing conversion of Western Lands Leases to freehold in the preserved opal fields. ▪ Have owned a tourism based lease since 1986. ▪ Request that the conversion of Western Lands Leases to freehold within the preserved opal fields be permitted for tourism uses which have been operating for over 20 years.	▪ Noted ▪ Support businesses being converted to freehold, not residential uses. Amend document accordingly.
No. 15: Australian Opal Centre, Lightning Ridge	
▪ Population figures for Lightning Ridge are underestimated by ABS and document should acknowledge this and attempt to estimate actual population. ▪ Diverse uses should be permitted on the Preserved Opal fields, not be restricted as is proposed by draft Strategy. ▪ The Australian Opal Centre is being planned and should be recognised and permitted by the Strategy. ▪ Residential use should be encouraged to expand on the Preserved Opal Fields. ▪ Opal Mining Heritage should be recognised and investigated. ▪ Geodiversity and geological heritage of the area should be recognised by the Strategy.	▪ Noted.

Summary of Submission	Comments / Recommendation
▪ Tourism related to opal mining should be encouraged. ▪ Infrastructure needs to be planned and the tourist visitor numbers should be factored into this planning.	
No. 16: The Department Primary Industries -Mineral Resources	
▪ DPI supports the recommendations of the strategy. ▪ Raise a number of minor editing type issues.	▪ Noted ▪ Amend document to address minor issues.
No. 17: Western Catchment Management Authority	
▪ Raise issues with detail and interpretation of land use mapping and native vegetation ▪ Provide details of further sources of information.	▪ Noted
No. 18: The Dig In Mine, Lightning Ridge	
▪ Request that the land contained by the operation be included within the zoning for the urban area and that of the zoned commercial. ▪ Proposed zoning as special activities open mining or detrimentally effect their business and not allow for growth and expansion. ▪ Support for application for freehold for the above Western Lands Lease because it is on the edge of the urban area.	▪ Noted. ▪ Note that the proposed residential zoning has been moved to align with edge of urban area. ▪ Low impact tourist uses are to be permitted.
No. 19: Lightning Ridge Tourist Association	
▪ Supports draft strategy. ▪ The preserved opal fields should provide for a living human environment and not preclude non-mining development. The residential uses add to the tourist appeal of the opal fields. New development should be allowed as long as it does not compromise access to the fields for mining or public safety. ▪ The Australian Opal Centre should be recognised as a tourist operation and the permitted in the preserved opal fields. ▪ Suggest that a Trust could be established to manage the preserved opal fields and that the association would like to be included on this Trust. ▪ Planning should be made for growth in tourism including infrastructure for sewerage, roads, accommodation, etc. ▪ Provided information on the number of people visiting the Lightning Ridge Visitor Information Centre over the past 4 years. ▪ Request that flexibility be given to planning controls for tourism in the opal fields in and around Lightning Ridge. ▪ Does not support the recommendation to form one Shire wide tourist association	▪ Noted. ▪ The proposed Trust is a policy issue of the Council and needs further consideration and discussion. ▪ Issue of combined tourist association is no longer considered appropriate and support given for different associations.

MANAGER PLANNING AND REGULATION'S REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 11 DECEMBER 2007

Item No: 24

Subject: Development Application 2007054 Walgett Shire Council

Author: Janet Babic - Town Planner

File No: DA 2007054

Summary:

Kelly Smith has lodged a Development Application to subdivide land to provide legal access to the Collarenebri Aboriginal Cemetery.

A full report will be submitted at the Council Meeting.

MANAGER ENGINEERING REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 11 DECEMBER 2007

Item No: 25

Subject: Remote Aerodrome Safety Programme

Author: Alan Nelson – Manager Engineering

File No: 005/10/01/48

Summary:

This report recommends that Council seeks a financial commitment from the State Government which can be used in an application for funds under the 2008/09 Remote Aerodrome Safety Programme for upgrading perimeter fencing at Lightning Ridge Aerodrome.

Comments (including issues and background):

Earlier this year a report was presented to Council suggesting that an application be submitted for funding under the Remote Aerodrome Safety Programme to provide for upgrading fencing at Walgett, Lightning Ridge and Collarenebri Aerodromes to combat the kangaroo threat to flights at night. This followed concerns from the Royal Flying Doctor Service that they would suspend evening flights, except in life threatening cases, because of the kangaroo threat to their aircraft. An application was never lodged, principally on account of an absence of State Government financial support.

Correspondence has been received this month from the Department of Transport and Regional Services encouraging Council to apply in the 2008/09 funding round of this programme. It is envisaged that applications will be invited in the first quarter of 2008. However, without a financial commitment from the State Government, to at least match any funding contributed by Council, the cost of any project would be far too great for Council.

It is suggested that an approach be made at this time to the State Government, seeking a commitment to financially support an application from Council, in the event that it is successful. As indicated above, without this commitment, it is considered an application would be futile.

Even with the financial support of the State Government, the cost to Council to upgrade fencing at all three aerodromes would be beyond Council's financial capacity at the one time. Discussions with the Royal Flying Doctor Service suggest that the kangaroo threat is worst at Lightning Ridge, accordingly it is believed that it be the only site for which a funding application be considered for 2008/09.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Letter from Department of Transport and Regional Services
Council Resolution No 262/07 – August 2007
Council Resolution No 297/07 – September 2007

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council
Royal Flying Doctor Service
Commonwealth Government
NSW Government

Financial Implications:

Financial implications are likely to be significant, in the event that a successful grant application is submitted. Accordingly, a further report will be presented, in the event that a financial commitment from the NSW Government is received.

Recommendation:

That representations be made to the Hon Reba Meagher MP, NSW Minister for Health, seeking the financial support of the NSW Government for an application from Council, under the 2008/09 Remote Aerodrome Safety Programme, to upgrade perimeter fencing at Lightning Ridge Aerodrome

Australian Government

Department of Transport and Regional Services

File Reference: 10362-2007

Mr Vic Smith
Administrator
Shire of Walgett
PO Box 31
WALGETT NSW 2832

Dear Mr Smith

I refer to your letter of 20 August 2007 to the Hon Reba Meagher MP, NSW Minister for Health, concerning funding for animal proof fencing around the Walgett, Collarenebri and Lightning Ridge aerodromes. Your letter has been forwarded to the Hon Mark Vaile MP, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Transport and Regional Services. The Deputy Prime Minister has asked me to reply on his behalf as the Government is in caretaker mode. I regret the delay in replying.

The Remote Aerodrome Safety Programme (RASP) is a national programme aimed at assisting in the upgrade of airstrips in remote and isolated areas to facilitate the provision of non-commercial, essential air services.

Applications for Australian Government funding in 2007-08 under RASP have now closed, with the second round of applications expected to open in the new year for funding in 2008-09. I encourage the Shire of Walgett to submit an application for funding under the Programme at that time. The expectation is that the Australian Government will provide a matching contribution toward the cost of each approved project, with the balance being met by the applicant, either solely, or through an agreed funding arrangement with the aerodrome owners/operators and/or State and Local Government.

Should an application be received it will be assessed against the eligibility criteria outlined in the guidelines and against other projects located in remote Australian communities. The total funding available under RASP for the financial year 2008-09 is for a total of $5 million nationwide.

Yours sincerely

JOHN DOHERTY
Executive Director
Aviation and Airports
19 November 2007

Walgett Shire Council
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FILE: 005/10/01/48
LETTER No: 10098

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262/07 Remote Aerodrome Safety Programme

RESOLUTION: -

It was resolved on the Motion of the Administrator:-

That Council note the calling for applications for eligible projects under the "Remote Aerodrome Safety Programme" and further consideration be given at the September 2007 meeting of Council as to the submission of an application.

Carried

263/07 Timber Bridge Partnership Programme

RESOLUTION: -

It was resolved on the Motion of the Administrator:-

1. That Council note the allocation of $290,000 from the Timber Bridge Partnership Programme for the replacement of the bridge over Pian Creek on Regional Road No 329 north of Burren Junction.

2. That Council fund its proportion of the project from the 2007/08 Block Grant.

3. That Council invite tenders at an appropriate time, using the open tendering method, for the design and construction of a replacement structure.

Carried

264/07 Beanbri Silo

RESOLUTION: -

It was resolved on the Motion of the Administrator:-

1. That Council accepts a proposal from AWB Limited to contribute $250,000 in three instalments payable in October 2007, October 2008 and October 2009 to enable the sealing of the access road to their Beanbri Silo from the Kamilaroi Highway, subject to the signing of a letter of agreement suitable to both parties.

2. That the work be completed in advance of the 2007 grain harvest period.

3. That the work be funded by deferring replacement of the bridge over Michome Creek on Shire Road No 120 from 2007/08 to 2008/09 and reducing funding allocated for Shire Roads reforming from $538,000 to $473,000.

Carried

296/07 – Rest Area Naming

RESOLUTION:

It was resolved on the Motion of the Administrator:

1. That Council submits the name "Barwon Inn Rest Area" to the Geographical Names Board of New South Wales, for consideration as the name for the rest area on the banks of the Barwon River near the Dangar Bridge west of Walgett.

2. That Council submits the name 'Monty Morgan Bridge' to the Geographical Names Board of New South Wales, for consideration as the name for the replacement bridge over the Castlereagh River on RR333 upon its completion.

Carried.

297/07 – Remote Aerodrome Safety Programme

RESOLUTION:

It was resolved on the Motion of the Administrator that Council not submit an application in 2007/08, under the Remote Aerodrome Safety Programme, for fencing works at Walgett, Lightning Ridge and Collarenebri Aerodromes.

Carried.

298/07 – Timber Bridge Partnership Programme

RESOLUTION:

It was resolved on the Motion of the Administrator that Council notes the provision of funding, from the Timber Bridge Partnership Programme in 2008/09, for the replacement of the bridge over the Castlereagh River on Regional Road No 333.

Carried.

299/07 – REPAIR Programme – 2008/09

RESOLUTION:

It was resolved on the Motion of the Administrator: that Council notes the submission of applications, each in an amount of $400,000, for REPAIR programme funding for 2008/09 to extend the bitumen seal on Regional Road No 333 (Walgett-Carinda), Regional Road No 457 (Collarenebri-Mungindi) and Regional Road No 329 (Collarenebri-Burren Junction).

Carried.

MANAGER ENGINEERING REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 11 DECEMBER 2007

Item No: 26

Subject: Apprentice Training

Author: Alan Nelson – Manager Engineering

File No: 295/01/16/00

Summary:

This report has been presented to Council to seek formal Council acceptance of an arrangement whereby Council's apprentice plant mechanic and a privately employed apprentice travel together and share accommodation in Dubbo during block release training periods.

Comments (including issues and background):

Council's Apprentice Mechanic travels to Dubbo several times a year for block release training. Council has been in the practice of supplying a vehicle for him to travel to and from Dubbo, as well as meeting his accommodation and meal expenses whilst away from Walgett. This is consistent with the support afforded to other employees undertaking off the job training relevant to their position with Council.

A second apprentice mechanic, employed by a private company in Walgett, has been travelling with Council's apprentice and sharing the accommodation which Council provides. The second apprentice meets the costs above which Council would pay if its apprentice travelled alone. This is not an equal sharing of costs, with Council meeting the majority of expense.

Contact was made with the employer of the second apprentice, seeking an arrangement where costs would be shared equally. The employer responded that they did not, and would not, meet the training costs of their apprentice, these costs being the responsibility of the individual. Accordingly, if Council elected not to allow the current situation to continue, there would be no saving to Council but considerable additional expense for the apprentice employed by the private company.

The two apprentices travelling and staying together allows them to share ideas and study together, with a benefit to both persons. For this reason alone, a continuation of the present arrangement, whereby Council is assisting this other apprentice, is supported.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Correspondence with employer of second apprentice mentioned in this report. (not attached)

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council
Privately employed apprentice

Financial Implications:

Nil – there is no extra cost to Council in allowing the privately employed apprentice to travel and accommodate with Council's apprentice.

Recommendation:

That Council approve of arrangements, whereby a privately employed apprentice mechanic travels to block release training with Council's apprentice and shares accommodation on the understanding that there is no cost to Council stemming from this arrangement.

MANAGER ENGINEERING REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 11 DECEMBER 2007

Item No: 27

Subject: Solid Waste Services – Asset Management Plan

Author: Alan Nelson – Manager Engineering

File No: 185/02/11/00

Summary:

This report details a recommended programme for establishing a draft Asset Management Plan for solid waste services in Walgett Shire.

Comments (including issues and background):

This report has been written in response to a resolution passed at Council's October 2007 meeting, requiring the presentation of a report to this meeting detailing a programme for completing a draft Asset Management Plan for solid waste services in Walgett Shire.

Reliable data, upon which to base future planning for solid waste services throughout Walgett Shire, is not in place to the extent that one could confidently use it. In any case, even if it were available, the emergence of recycling as a means of minimising the waste stream into landfill, requires further research such that future facilities, service levels and assets are consistent with planned needs. Accordingly, the first step in producing an asset management plan for solid waste services in Walgett Shire is considered to be a community survey, professionally designed and carried out, such that the next steps can be undertaken with greater confidence than would otherwise be the case.

It is considered that a community survey can be undertaken and results evaluated such that shortcomings in current service levels can be adequately identified, with a report being presented to the February 2008 meeting of Council.

A draft asset management plan, incorporating associated financial and risk management plans, could then be prepared on the basis of accepted deficiencies in current service levels by the May 2008 meeting of Council. This would tie in well with the annual budgeting process of Council. The draft asset management plan could then be subjected to community feedback with Council in a position to adopt the plan in final form at its June 2008 meeting.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Council Resolution No 338/07 – October 2007
Council Resolution No 339/07 – October 2007

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council
Contract Operators of Landfills at Walgett and Lightning Ridge
Department of Environment and Conservation
Residents and other users of waste services and facilities within Walgett Shire

Financial Implications:

Council has allocated funds for the engagement of engineering consultants to assist with project delivery. This funding can finance the community survey mentioned in this report.

Recommendation:

That Council endorse the programme contained in this report to deliver a draft Asset management Plan for solid waste services in Walgett Shire by May 2008.

337/07 – Achieving Sustainable Groundwater Entitlements Program Payment Offer

RESOLUTION:

It was resolved on the motion of the Administrator that following receipt of the Deed confirming Council's future rights to compensation for non Achieving Sustainable Groundwater Entitlements Program matters from NSW Department of Water and Energy, and subject to the General Manager being satisfied that this Deed and the Deed of Indemnity and Release Upper and Lower Namoi Groundwater Sources together do not expose Council to an unacceptable financial risk, approval is granted for both Deeds to be executed by the Administrator and General Manager and Council's seal to be affixed to each.

Carried

338/07 – Carinda Waste Transfer Station

RESOLUTION:

It was resolved on the motion of the Administrator that:

1. Council not proceed to develop a waste transfer station at Carinda until Council has adopted an Asset Management Plan for Solid Waste Services in Walgett Shire; and

2. The Manager Engineering prepare a report detailing a program for completing a draft Asset Management Plan for Solid Waste Services in Walgett Shire by Council's December 2007 ordinary meeting.

Carried

339/07 – Engineering Consultants

RESOLUTION:

It was resolved on the motion of the Administrator that Council reallocate $76,000 from 11.2206.1210 Engineering Staff Salaries to 11.2206.1501 Engineering Contract Consultancy Fees to allow for the commissioning of engineering consultants to provide professional services for engineering works.

Carried

340/07 – Natural Disaster Mitigation Program – Walgett Levee Approval

RESOLUTION:

It was resolved on the motion of the Administrator that approval is granted for the contractual documents associated with the 2007-08 round of funding of the Natural Disaster Mitigation Program to be executed by the General Manger and Administrator and Council's seal to be affixed to each.

Carried

MANAGER ENGINEERING REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 11 DECEMBER 2007

Item No: 27

Subject: Property Sale – Lot 954 Pandora Street, Lightning Ridge

Author: Alan Nelson – Manager Engineering

File No: 005/02/09/00

Summary:

This report advises Council that an offer has been accepted for the purchase of Lot 954, Pandora Street, Lightning Ridge.

Comments (including issues and background):

An offer of $50,000 has been accepted by the former General Manager for the purchase of Lot 954 Pandora Street, Lightning Ridge. It is now in order for Council to execute the contract document and affix the Common Seal thereto.

A resolution has previously been carried authorising the Administrator and General Manager to sign and affix the Common Seal to relevant documentation associated with the sale of this parcel of land.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Contract For Sale (not attached)
Closed Meeting Minutes – November 2007

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council
Purchaser of Lot 954

Financial Implications:

Property sale revenue will most likely be well in excess of the $80,000 provided for in the 2007/08 budget.

Recommendation:

That Council notes the sale of Lot 954 Pandora Street, Lightning Ridge.

MANAGER ENGINEERING REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 11 DECEMBER 2007

Item No: 29

Subject: Walgett Bore Baths

Author: Alan Nelson – Manager Engineering

File No: 280/04/06/00

Summary:

This report recommends that Council considers works, to facilitate a reopening of the Walgett Bore Baths, when the budget for 2008/09 is determined. Deferral to 2008/09 is recommended owing to the fact that funds to facilitate the necessary security upgrading works cannot be found within the current budget.

Comments (including issues and background):

Representatives of a number of Walgett community organisations met last month with Council's Administrator to express their concern that the Walgett Bore Baths remain closed. Subsequent to this meeting, investigations have been undertaken in an effort to determine means by which the facility can be reopened without incurring the problems that caused Council to close the facility earlier this year.

The main issue confronting the facility is the perimeter fence. The current chainwire fence is relatively easily breached. The estimated cost of a more substantial fence, of similar specification as that which encloses the Walgett Primary School, is $25,000. This includes two pedestrian gates, one leading from the street into the pool enclosure, the other from the pool enclosure into the toilet/change room. The availability of this toilet/change room, at the eastern end of the female swimming pool change facilities, is considered to make the request for a change facility, within the bore baths enclosure, unnecessary at this stage.

Other issues which should be addressed prior to any reopening of the facility include leakage of water from the pool and repair of some plumbing defects. The cost of this is in the order of $8,000. A large tree, ringbarked by vandals has already been removed at a cost of $1,200. This was done after an assessment by an arborist who indicated the tree could not be saved.

Council staff could open the facility in the morning and close it again towards the end of their working day. This would allow for about eight hours operation per day throughout the week (say 8am to 4pm). Control of access into the pool enclosure outside normal Council operating hours is essential, otherwise the problems of the past are certain to reoccur. An approach has been made to the Walgett District Sporting Club, to ascertain if they were in a position to assist by holding a key that could be used for after hours entry under controlled conditions. The club's Secretary/Manager indicate a high probability the Club's Board would endeavour to assist. However, the restrictions on key entry outside the unrestricted hours will need to be quite onerous, otherwise past problems with vandalism and anti-social behaviour are likely to return. It is suggested

that limited operation between the hours of 8am and 4pm (weekdays only) be implemented initially for a three month period and the success of this be evaluated before considering extended hours with the assistance of the Walgett District Sporting Club.

There are no funds in the current budget to provide for the expenditure required to reopen this facility in 2007/08. It is unlikely that provision for the reopening can be provided at the next budget review, unless a decision to defer or abandon another project is taken. The likelihood of savings being made within the overall pools operational budget to accommodate this expenditure is also very remote. Accordingly, it is suggested that works to facilitate the reopening of Walgett Bore Baths be considered in the context of the 2008/09 budget and that those community groups which met with Council last month be advised of this decision.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Nil

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council
Walgett District Sporting Club Inc
Users of Bore Baths

Financial Implications:

There are no available funds in the current budget to facilitate the reopening of Walgett Bore Baths.

Recommendation:

That Council note the contents of this report and the reopening of Walgett Bore Baths be considered at the time the budget for 2008/09 is determined.

MANAGER ENGINEERING REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 11 DECEMBER 2007

Item No: 30

Subject: Cartage of Water – Grawin Opal Fields

Author: Alan Nelson – Manager Engineering

File No: 275/01/05/00

Summary:

This report briefs Council on new subsidy arrangements to cart water to the Grawin Opal Fields in times when local rainfall falls into the below average or worse category by the Bureau of Meteorology.

Comments (including issues and background):

An offer of subsidy, to cart water to the Grawin Opal Fields, expired in June 2007 on account of what appeared to be a return to normal rainfall patterns. However, when it became clear that the drought was still evident, an approach was made to the State Government to reinstate the subsidy.

Advice has now been received from the Hon Nathan Rees MP, Minister for Water Utilities, that this subsidy has been reinstated to 30 June 2008 in accordance with previous offers of assistance. A further condition has been imposed, this relating to the volume of water which can attract subsidy. This additional condition is not considered unreasonable.

The Minister has been thanked for his offer of assistance and contact has been made with the Department of Water and Energy to facilitate the administrative aspects of the funding offer.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Letter from The Hon Nathan Rees, Minister for Water Utilities
Council File No 275/01/05/00 (not attached)

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council
New South Wales Government
Department of Water and Energy
Residents of Grawin Opal Fields

Financial Implications:

The subsidy arrangements provide for Council meeting the first $3.73 per kilolitre of water carted. Over the period the subsidy may be in operation, an upper limit of approximately $4,000 from the General Fund would apply.

Recommendation:

That Council note new subsidy arrangements, which will remain in force until 30 June 2008, to cart water to the Grawin Opal Fields in times when local rainfall falls into the below average or worse category by the Bureau of Meteorology.

22/11 2007 12:23 FAX 002

New South Wales

The Hon Nathan Rees MP
Minister for Emergency Services
Minister for Water Utilities

07/1946

Mr Vic Smith
Administrator
Walgett Shire Council
PO Box 31
WALGETT NSW 2832

Dear Mr Smith

I refer to Walgett Shire Council's letter requesting an extension of financial assistance towards emergency water cartage to Grawin Opal Fields.

In accordance with Council's request I am pleased to provide financial assistance for water carting for Grawin Opal Fields for the period from 1 September 2007 until 30 June 2008, in accordance with the previous offers of assistance for carting.

The financial assistance will be based on the cartage of a long term average of 5 kilolitres per day to Grawin Opal Fields at a rate of $660 per 18 kL load or $36.67 per kilolitre up to a maximum of $1280 per week. Council will be required to meet the first $3.73 per kilolitre of water carted. Council will also be expected to meet the full cost of carting quantities in excess of 5 kilolitres per day as a long term average.

Please contact Mr Ian Burton in the Tamworth office of the Department of Water and Energy on (02) 6764 5917 regarding funding for this work.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely

Nathan Rees
Minister for Emergency Services
Minister for Water Utilities

Level 25, 9 Castlereagh Street, Sydney NSW 2000
Telephone (02) 9228 5050 Facsimile (02) 9228 5099
Email : reception@rees.minister.nsw.gov.au

MANAGER ENGINEERING REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 11 DECEMBER 2007

Item No: 31

Subject: REPAIR Programme – 2008/09

Author: Alan Nelson – Manager Engineering

File No: 195/04/00/00

Summary:

This report briefs Council on the initial Roads and Traffic Authority assessment of the three proposals Council has submitted for consideration under the 2008/09 REPAIR Programme.

Comments (including issues and background):

Council submitted three proposals for consideration under the 2008/09 REPAIR Programme. Given the fact that a funding ceiling applies, it would be of no advantage to Council if more than one proposal was ultimately funded.

The three proposals submitted involved reconstruction and sealing on Regional Roads Nos 329 (Burren Junction-Collarenebri), 333 (Walgett-Carinda) and 457 (Collarenebri-Mungindi). Each project if funded would assist Council in meeting the local component of funding required on each of these roads to match the funding received under the Auslink Programme. The proposals were assessed as follows :

Regional Road No 329 – 22 points
Regional Road No 333 – 26 points
Regional Road No 457 – 18 points

On the basis of recent experience, it is quite probable that the proposal for Regional Road No 333 will be funded, however the chances for the other two proposals are remote at best. The principle reason that Regional Road No 333 achieves a greater number of points relates to an admission that, despite a sealed road to Warren being in existence, in practical terms Carinda is currently denied a convenient sealed access to a larger centre.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Application for REPAIR Programme funding – 2008/09 (not attached)
RTA Assessment of REPAIR Programme applications (not attached)

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council
Roads and Traffic Authority

Financial Implications:

The forward budget for 2008/09 has been framed on the understanding that a REPAIR Programme grant would be received for Regional Road No 333 only.

Recommendation:

That Council note the initial assessment of REPAIR Programme proposals submitted to the Roads and Traffic Authority for 2008/09.

MANAGER ENGINEERING REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 11 DECEMBER 2007

Item No: 32

Subject: Walgett Swimming Pool – Admittance during School Hours

Author: Alan Nelson – Manager Engineering

File No: 280/06/01/00

Summary:

This report recommends a minor change to the advertised conditions of entry to Walgett and Collarenebri Swimming Pools to avoid a situation where school age children could be unfairly prevented from entry to these pools.

Comments (including issues and background):

At the current time, a sign at the Walgett Swimming Pool listing the conditions of entry indicates that school age children shall not be admitted during school hours (9am-3pm) except under school supervision. The intent of this is obviously to discourage truancy from school, however it does not allow for the situation where a school age child, in the company of a parent or guardian, has a justifiable reason to seek entry into the pool. An example could be a child from Queensland, travelling through Walgett on a holiday with their parents. Queensland school holidays are typically different from New South Wales, however the present sign could potentially prevent a child from otherwise legitimate entry into the pool.

If the sign was changed to read “school age children shall not be admitted during school hours (9am-3pm schooldays) except under adult supervision”, this potential conflict would be removed. The same arrangement should also apply at Collarenebri Swimming Pool. Local schools should be notified of this amendment.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Nil

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council
Walgett Swimming Pool Patrons

Financial Implications:

Nil

Recommendation:

1. **That a condition of entry to both Walgett and Collarenebri Swimming Pools be "School age children shall not be admitted during school hours (9am-3pm schooldays) except under adult supervision".**

2. **That local schools be notified of this amendment.**

MANAGER ENGINEERING REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 11 DECEMBER 2007

Item No: 33

Subject: Arthur Street Flats

Author: Alan Nelson – Manager Engineering

File No: 005/02/09/00

Summary:

This report briefs Council on the sale of 12 Arthur Street, Walgett for the sum of $85,000.

Comments (including issues and background):

An offer of $85,000 has been received for the two flats at 12 Arthur Street, Walgett. This offer represents nearly 95% of the market valuation obtained from a local real estate agent in August 2007. Council resolved, at its meeting held on 20 November 2007, to authorise the General Manager to accept an offer which was not less than 90% of this market valuation.

Accordingly, the offer has been accepted and it is now in order for Council's Administrator and General Manager to affix Council's Common Seal to the Contract and transfer documents. This action is authorised by a resolution made at Council's November meeting.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Purchase Offer (not attached)
Contract for Sale (not attached)

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council
Purchaser of 12 Arthur Street, Walgett

Financial Implications:

Sale of the property was not envisaged when the current budget was adopted, accordingly sale proceeds represent additional income. This income will be transferred into a restricted account for future housing purchases.

Recommendation:

That Council note the sale of 12 Arthur Street, Walgett for a sale price of $85,000.

MANAGER ENGINEERING REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 11 DECEMBER 2007

Item No: 34

Subject: Community Water Grants – Round Three

Author: Alan Nelson – Manager Engineering

File No: 195/04/00/00

Summary:

This report corrects incorrect advice to Council that a Community Water Grant has been provided to assist with the installation of water meters in Carinda.

Comments (including issues and background):

A report was presented to the November meeting of Council, indicating that Council was successful with four applications under Round Three of the Community Water Grants Programme.

With further information received from Community Water Grants, it is apparent that one aspect has been incorrectly reported to Council. It was advised that $19,545 (excluding GST) had been provided to assist with the installation of water meters throughout the village of Carinda. This funding was in fact offered to assist with installation of water meters in Rowena, however the amount of the grant remains the same as previously reported.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Community Water Grants Website

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council
Commonwealth Government

Financial Implications:

Council will need to fund the additional cost, (estimated at $19,545) above the grant allocation. This will need to be met through the water fund.

Recommendation:

That Council note that a Community Water Grant has been made available to assist with the installation of water meters in the village of Rowena, and not Carinda as previously reported.

MANAGER ENGINEERING REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 11 DECEMBER 2007

Item No: 35

Subject: Property Sale – Lots 5, 6, 7 and 8 DP 846336 Lightning Ridge

Author: Alan Nelson – Manager Engineering

File No: 005/02/09/00

Summary:

An offer of $27,000 per lot for four lots in Pandora street, Lightning Ridge has been accepted and it is now in order for Council to execute the contract documentation.

Comments (including issues and background):

Earlier this year, Council resolved to offer Lots 5, 6, 7 and 8 DP 846336 to a particular individual on the basis that it was standing by an earlier commitment made by the elected Council several years ago. The offer has been accepted and an earlier request from the purchaser, that the sale be subject to certain conditions, was withdrawn.

The Contract for Sale has been prepared by Council's Solicitor and it is now in order for Council to execute this document under Common Seal.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Contract for Sale (not attached)
Closed Meeting Minutes – July 2007 (not attached)

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council
Purchaser of Lots 5, 6, 7 and 8 DP 846336

Financial Implications:

Property sale revenue will most likely be well in excess of the $80,000 provided for in the 2007/08 budget.

Recommendation:

That Council authorise the Administrator and General Manager to sign, under seal the Contract Documentation for the sale of Lots 5, 6, 7 and 8 DP 846336.

MANAGER ENGINEERING REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 11 DECEMBER 2007

Item No: 36

Subject: Property Sale – Lot 33 DP 253488 Euroka Street, Walgett

Author: Alan Nelson – Manager Engineering

File No: 005/02/09/00

Summary:

This report advises Council that an offer has been accepted for the purchase of Lot 33 DP 253488, Euroka Street, Walgett.

Comments (including issues and background):

An offer of $13,000 has been accepted by the former General Manager for the purchase of Lot 33 DP 253488 Euroka Street, Walgett. It is now in order for Council to execute the contract document and affix the Common Seal thereto.

A resolution has previously been carried authorising the Administrator and General Manager to sign and affix the Common Seal to relevant documentation associated with the sale of this parcel of land.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Contract for Sale (not attached)
Closed Meeting Minutes – November 2007

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council
Purchaser of Lot 33 DP 253488

Financial Implications:

Property sale revenue will most likely be well in excess of the $80,000 provided for in the 2007/08 budget.

Recommendation:

That Council notes the sale of Lot 33 DP 253488 located in Euroka Street, Walgett.

COMMITTEE MINUTES TO COUNCIL MEETING 11 DECEMBER 2007

Item No: 37

Subject: Local Area Traffic Committee Meeting – 15 November 2007

Author: Local Area Traffic Committee

File No: 145/04/00/00

MINUTES OF THE LOCAL AREA TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING HELD THURSDAY 15th NOVEMBER 2007 AT 1.00PM IN THE WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL MEETING ROOM FILE:145/04/00/00

PRESENT:

Alan Nelson, Chair	Manager Engineering, Walgett Shire Council
David Vant	Roads &Traffic Authority
Steve Lincoln	NSW Police Force

1. APOLOGIES:

Mary Casey-Marshall (Local Member's Representative)

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES

Moved David Vant Seconded Alan Nelson that the minutes of the June 2007 meeting held in the Walgett Shire Council Administration Building be accepted as a true and accurate record of proceedings. CARRIED

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Nil

4. INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE

Covered in subsequent items.

5. APPLICATION FOR SIGNPOSTING – KOOLYNGARRA PRESCHOOL

A request has been received from Koolyngarra Preschool Aboriginal Corporation for a fingerboard sign at Fox Street and Cedar Street, pointing to their property in Cedar Street.

Moved David Vant Seconded Alan Nelson that the request be denied as it lies outside the RTA's signposting guidelines.
CARRIED

6. APPLICATION FOR PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

A request has been received from the Lightning Ridge Community Working Party, that a marked pedestrian crossing be provided across Pandora Street, Lightning Ridge, at Gem Street. It is suggested this is necessary because of the number of children walking to the Sports Centre and Swimming Pool areas.

Moved David Vant Seconded Alan Nelson that Council arranges for pedestrian and vehicle counts to be undertaken to ascertain if a warrant exists for the crossing. The results of these counts should be tabled at the next meeting of the Traffic Committee for consideration.
CARRIED

6. MOVEMENT OF FARM MACHINERY THROUGH WALGETT

A request has been received that parking be abolished on one side of Warrena Street, Walgett, between Pitt and Namoi Streets, to facilitate the movement of farm machinery from the north of Walgett to the eastern side of Walgett. It was suggested that traffic parking on both sides of this street limited the available road space that wide machinery can travel along. Following discussion, it was agreed that these movements would be seasonal at most and, to abolish parking for the occasional movement of wide machinery would be unreasonable.

Moved David Vant Seconded Steve Lincoln that the request to restrict parking in Warrena Street be denied and that the use of Pitt and Euroka Streets be suggested as a satisfactory alternative to move from north of Walgett to east of Walgett.
CARRIED

7. LIGHTNING RIDGE RODEO ASSOCIATION – SIGNAGE REQUEST

The Lightning Ridge Rodeo Association has sought approval to erect permanent signposting on the Castlereagh Highway, both north and south of Lightning Ridge, to advertise their annual rodeo event as well as other town activities held on the Easter weekend.

Moved David Vant Seconded Alan Nelson that the request be denied as it does not fit with guidelines for signage within the road reserve. Furthermore, that the Lightning Ridge Rodeo Association be encouraged to seek out appropriate land outside the road reserve and submit a Development Application to Council to provide a suitable outcome for them.
CARRIED

9. SPEEDING TRAFFIC – LIGHTNING RIDGE

A request has been received from the Lightning Ridge Community Working Party, that speed bumps be installed in Black Prince Drive, Cardinal Road and Butterfly Avenue in an effort to slow down speeding traffic. Prior to the meeting, Council installed a traffic classifier in Black Prince Drive and Butterfly Avenue to allow the Traffic Committee to gain an appreciation of the seriousness of the problem. A classifier is currently installed in Cardinal Road, however results were not available to the meeting. The results did not indicate a serious problem with speeding traffic with less than 10% of traffic exceeding the speed limit of 50 kilometres per hour with most of this speeding traffic travelling less than 60 kph. The results for both streets were similar. All members of the Traffic Committee indicated opposition to speed bumps on public streets in this situation.

Moved Alan Nelson Seconded David Vant that no action be taken to install speed bumps in Black Prince Drive or Butterfly Avenue and that a decision on Cardinal Road be taken when traffic classifier information is available.
CARRIED

10. SCHOOL BUS PICK UP POINTS – LIGHTNING RIDGE

A request has been received from the Lightning Ridge Community Working Party, that signage be erected on the approaches to school bus pick up points within the Lightning Ridge urban area. The Traffic Committee was not supportive of this as it was considered that the urban speed limit is 50 kph, which drops to 40 kph when a bus is stopped, has its flashing lights on and is picking up or setting down passengers. Further signs are considered unnecessary, particularly in an urban area.

Moved Alan Nelson Seconded Steve Lincoln that the request to erect signs at school bus pick up points within the Lightning Ridge urban area be denied.
CARRIED

11. PROPOSED SCHOOL/MARKED CROSSING – ARTHUR STREET

Council was experiencing difficulty in obtaining competitive quotes for the construction of a school/marked pedestrian crossing in Arthur Street, Walgett. Community pressure to provide this facility appears to have dropped significantly to the point where it is questionable if the work should proceed.

Moved David Vant Seconded Alan Nelson that the school/marked pedestrian crossing in Arthur Street Walgett be placed on hold for the present time and that Inspector Peter Szaak of NSW Police be informed accordingly.
CARRIED

12. LIGHTNING RIDGE CARAVAN PARK

A caravan park development, in Pandora Street, Lightning Ridge was approved by Council several years ago, however the development never proceeded. Subsequent to this, the proposal has been re-submitted for approval with some amendments by a new applicant. A new access point to Pandora Street is proposed, however this is unlikely to prove to be an obstacle.

Moved David Vant Seconded Steve Lincoln that the Traffic Committee indicate general concurrence with the entrance/exit provisions for the proposed Lightning Ridge Caravan Park in Pandora Street, however, given the fact that Pandora Street at this point is a regional road, formal consultation with the Roads and Traffic Authority is required.
CARRIED

13. NEXT MEETING

To be advised.

Meeting concluded at 1.55pm.

Recommendation:

That Council receive and note the minutes of the Local Area Traffic Control Meeting held on the 15 November 2007.

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS TO COUNCIL MEETING 11 DECEMBER 2007

Item No: 38

Subject: Camps on Claims Working Group Meeting

Author: Matthew Goodwin - Manager Planning and Regulation

File No: 135/02/01/03

Summary:

The Manager Planning and Regulation attended a Camps On Claims Working Group meeting on Wednesday, 28 November 2007 as Walgett Shire Council's delegate. This report provides an overview of the matters discussed which were relevant to Council's core responsibilities. It is recommended that Council resolve to note those discussions.

Background:

The Camps On Claims Working Group meeting was held at 12.30PM on Wednesday, 28 November 2007 at the Lightning Ridge Bowling Club.

Bob Hewlett and Lyn Carney attended the meeting as advisers on behalf of Walgett Shire Council, whilst the Manager Planning and Regulation attended as Walgett Shire Council's delegate.

Items discussed which were directly relevant to Council's core responsibilities, included:

- Walgett Shire Council Land Use Study and Draft Strategy.
- Acquisition of land for urban expansion adjoining Fantasia St.
- Policy reserve area near Lightning Ridge aerodrome.

Land Use Study and Draft Strategy:

The Manager Planning and Regulation informed the working group that:

- Exhibition of the Walgett Shire Growth Management Study and Draft Strategy ceased on 30 September 2007.
- About twenty five submissions had been received.
- Council's consultant planner, Ian Sinclair was presently analysing the submissions with a view to determining whether any recommendations contained in the publicly exhibited document should be amended.
- A report on Ian Sinclair's analysis will be presented to a meeting of Walgett Shire Council to be held on 11 December 2007 where Council would decide whether to adopt the recommendations contained in the Walgett Shire Growth Management Study and Draft Strategy in the form they were exhibited, or in an amended form.

Lightning Ridge urban extension:

The Manager Planning and Regulation informed the working group that:

- Council had approved a Development Application at a meeting held on 20 November 2007 for the subdivision of a 25 hectare area in the vicinity of Lappkalle St, Fantasia St and the 3 Mile road.
- Council was now taking action to have the subdivision registered with the Land Titles Office and acquire the 25 hectare area from the Department of Lands.

Policy reserve near the Lightning Ridge aerodrome:

The Manager Planning and Regulation informed the working group that:

- At the last Lightning Ridge Mining Board meeting the Lightning Ridge Miners Association continued to push for Walgett Shire Council to agree to allow access to the whole of the residual of the policy area between area between Lappkalle/Fantasia Sts and the Lightning Ridge Aerodrome (apart from the 25 hectares currently being acquired for urban expansion). It also asked that Council consider other areas that were not available for opal mining and prospecting.
- The board had requested that Council consider and convey its position to the Department of Primary Industries.
- At a recent meeting Council resolved to allow access to:
    - Up to 25% at a time of the policy reserve area near the Lightning Ridge aerodrome.
    - Up to 50% of the freehold land near the intersection of the Bill O'Brien Way and the Castlereagh Highway.
    - Up to 50% of the statutory reserve located near the Lightning Ridge gun club.
- Council's position has been conveyed to the association, but it has not yet received a formal response.

Relevant Reference Documents:

- Walgett Shire Growth Management Study and Draft Strategy prepared by Edge Land Planning, dated July 2007.

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council, public.

Financial Implications:

Nil.

Recommendation

That Walgett Shire Council resolve to:

1. **Note the report provided by the Manager Planning and Regulation, Matthew Goodwin, on his attendance as Walgett Shire Council's delegate at the Camps on Claims Working Group meeting held on 28 November 2007.**

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS TO COUNCIL MEETING 11 DECEMBER 2007

Item No: 39

Subject: Lightning Ridge Mining Board Meeting

Author: Matthew Goodwin - Manager Planning and Regulation

File No: 135/02/01/03

Summary:

The Manager Planning and Regulation attended a Lightning Ridge Mining Board meeting on 29 November 2007 as Walgett Shire Council's delegate. This report provides a summary of the matters dealt with which were directly related to Council's core responsibilities and recommends that Council resolve to note this report.

Background:

The Lightning Ridge Mining Board meeting was held at 10.30AM on 29 November 2007 at the Lightning Ridge Bowling Club. The Manager Planning and Regulation, Matthew Goodwin, attended as Walgett Shire Council's delegate.

Items discussed which were directly relevant to Council's core responsibilities, included:

- Gazetted reserves/policy reserves.
- Mining SEPP.
- Trespassing on Western Lands Leases and Mineral Claims.

Gazetted reserves/policy reserves:

The Manager Planning and Regulation informed the Board that:

- At a recent meeting Council resolved to allow access to:
  - Up to 25% at a time of the policy reserve area near the Lightning Ridge aerodrome.
  - Up to 50% of the freehold land near the intersection of the Bill O'Brien Way and the Castlereagh Highway.
  - Up to 50% of the statutory reserve located near the Lightning Ridge gun club.
- Council's position has been conveyed to the Department of Primary Industries and the Lightning Ridge Miners Association (LRMA), but it has not yet received a formal response.

The LRMA representatives stated that a formal response would be forthcoming.

Mining SEPP:

The Manager Planning and Regulation informed the Board that he had been involved in ongoing discussions with Department of Primary Industries staff about the Mining SEPP. Those discussions suggested the SEPP was incomplete because it provides no indication whether development consent is, or is not, required to allow the renewal of a Mining Purposes Lease. In that context Council would be writing to the Department of Planning to seek clarification of the matter.

Trespassing on Western Lands Leases and Mineral Claims:

Landholder representatives sought an indication whether Walgett Shire Council would be willing to participate in the erection of signs along, or at the end of, public roads indicating unauthorised access to Western Lands Leases or mining areas was prohibited.

The Manager Planning and Regulation stated that he thought such assistance would be outside Council's core responsibilities, and hence unlikely. Nevertheless, Council would consider any formal request it received via a letter.

The Manager Planning and Regulation also advised the Board that issues raised at the previous board meeting regarding unauthorised access were being given appropriate consideration by Council's tourism staff in course of revising tourism related brochures.

Relevant Reference Documents:

- Agenda papers for the Lightning Ridge Mining Board meeting of 29 November 2007.

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council, public.

Financial Implications:

Nil.

Recommendation

That Walgett Shire Council resolve to:

1. **Note the report provided by the Manager Planning and Regulation, Matthew Goodwin, on his attendance as Walgett Shire Council's delegate at the Lightning Ridge Mining Board meeting held on 29 November 2007.**