



AGENDA FOR ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 26th September 2023

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to clause 7 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice that the Ordinary Council Meeting of Walgett Shire Council will be held on **26 September 2023** commencing at **9:00am** to discuss the items listed in the Agenda.

Please Note: The Council Meetings are live streamed and recorded.

Hugh Percy
ACTING GENERAL MANAGER

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

What is a “Conflict of Interests” – A conflict of interests can be two types:

Pecuniary – an interest that a person has in a matter because of a reasonable likelihood or expectation of appreciable financial gain or loss to the person or another person with whom the person is associated.

Non-Pecuniary – a private or personal interest that a Council official has that does not amount to a pecuniary interest as defined in the Local government Act (eg. A friendship, membership of an association, society or trade union or involvement or interest in an activity and may include an interest of a financial nature.)

Remoteness

A person does not have a pecuniary interest in a matter if the interest is so remote or insignificant that it could not reasonably be regarded as likely to influence any decision the person might make in relation to a matter or if the interest is of a kind specified in Section 448 of the Local Government Act.

Who has a Pecuniary Interest? – A person has a pecuniary interest in a matter if the pecuniary interest is the interest of:

- The person, or
- Another person with whom the person is associated (see below)

Relatives, Partners

A person is taken to have a pecuniary interest in a matter if:

- The person's spouse or de facto partner or a relative of the person has a pecuniary interest in the matter, or
- The person, or a nominee, partners or employer of the person, is a member of a company or other body that has a pecuniary interest in the matter.

N.B. “Relative”, in relation to a person means any of the following:

- (a) the parent, grandparent, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, lineal descends or adopted child of the person or of the person's spouse.
- (b) the spouse or de facto partners of the person or of a person referred to in paragraph (a)

No Interest in the Matter

However, a person is not taken to have a pecuniary interest in a matter:

- If the person is unaware of the relevant pecuniary interest of the spouse, de facto partner, relative or company or other body, or
- Just because the person is a member of, or is employed by, the Council.
- Just because the person is a member of, or a delegate of the Council to, a company or other body that has a pecuniary interest in the matter provided that the person has no beneficial interest in any shares of the company or body.

Disclosure and participation in meetings

- A Councillor or a member of a Council Committee who has a pecuniary interest in any matter with which the Council is concerned and who is present at a meeting of the Council or Committee at which the matter is being considered must disclose the nature of the interest to the meeting as soon as practicable.
- The Councillor or member must not be present at, or in sight of, the meeting of the Council or Committee:
 - (a) At any time during which the matter is being considered or discussed by the Council or Committee, or
 - (b) At any time during which the Council or Committee is voting on any question in relation to the matter.

No Knowledge – A person does not breach this Clause if the person did not know and could not reasonably be expected to have known that the matter under consideration at the meeting was a matter in which he or she had a pecuniary interest.

Non-Pecuniary Interest – Must be disclosed in meetings.

There are a broad range of options available for managing conflicts & the option chosen will depend on an assessment of the circumstances of the matter, the nature of the interest and the significance of the issue being dealt with. Non-Pecuniary conflicts of interest must be dealt with in at least one of the following ways:

- It may be appropriate that no action be taken where the potential for conflict is minimal. However, Councillors should consider providing an explanation of why they consider a conflict does not exist.
- Limit involvement if practical (e.g., Participate in discussion but not in decision making or vice versa). Care needs to be taken when exercising this option.
- Remove the source of the conflict (eg. Relinquishing or divesting the personal interest that creates the conflict)
- Have no involvement by absenting yourself from and not taking part in any debate or voting on the issue as if the provisions in S451 of the Local Government Act apply (particularly if you have a significant non-pecuniary interest)

Disclosure to be Recorded (S453 Act)

A disclosure (and the reason/s for the disclosure) made at a meeting of the Council or Council Committee or Sub-Committee must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

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## **Local Government Act 1993**

### **Chapter 3 section 8A**

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR COUNCILS**

### **(1) Exercise of functions generally**

*The following general principles apply to the exercise of functions by councils:*

- (a) Councils should provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning and decision-making.*
- (b) Councils should carry out functions in a way that provides the best possible value for residents and ratepayers.*
- (c) Councils should plan strategically, using the integrated planning and reporting framework, for the provision of effective and efficient services and regulation to meet the diverse needs of the local community.*
- (d) Councils should apply the integrated planning and reporting framework in carrying out their functions so as to achieve desired outcomes and continuous improvements.*
- (e) Councils should work co-operatively with other councils and the State government to achieve desired outcomes for the local community.*
- (f) Councils should manage lands and other assets so that current and future local community needs can be met in an affordable way.*
- (g) Councils should work with others to secure appropriate services for local community needs.*
- (h) Councils should act fairly, ethically and without bias in the interests of the local community.*
- (i) Councils should be responsible employers and provide a consultative and supportive working environment for staff.*

### **(2) Decision-making**

*The following principles apply to decision-making by councils (subject to any other applicable law):*

- (a) Councils should recognise diverse local community needs and interests.*
- (b) Councils should consider social justice principles.*
- (c) Councils should consider the long term and cumulative effects of actions on future generations.*
- (d) Councils should consider the principles of ecologically sustainable development.*
- (e) Council decision-making should be transparent and decision-makers are to be accountable for decisions and omissions.*

### **(3) Community participation**

*Councils should actively engage with their local communities, through the use of the integrated planning and reporting framework and other measures.*

## **STATEMENT OF ETHICAL OBLIGATIONS**

### **Oath or Affirmation of Office**

In taking the Oath or Affirmation of Office, each Councillor has made a commitment to undertake the duties of the office of Councillor in the best interests of the people of Walgett Shire Local Government Area and Walgett Shire Council and that they will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in them under the Local Government Act 1993 or any other Act to the best of their ability and judgment.

### **Conflicts of Interest**

A councillor who has a conflict of interest in any matter with which the council is concerned, and who is present at a meeting of the council when the matter is being considered, must disclose the interest and the nature of the interest to the meeting as soon as practicable. Both the disclosure and the nature of the interest must be recorded in the minutes of the Council meeting where the conflict of interest arises. Councillors should ensure that they are familiar with Parts 4 and 5 of the Code of Conduct in relation to their obligations to declare and manage conflicts of interests.

### **Meeting Recordings**

Walgett Shire Council takes an audio recording of all public meetings, which is then uploaded to Council's website at [www.walgett.nsw.gov.au](http://www.walgett.nsw.gov.au) for public record.

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## PUBLIC FORUM PRESENTATIONS

*The Council may hold a public forum prior to each Ordinary Meeting of the Council for the purpose of hearing oral submissions from members of the public on items of business to be considered at the meeting (listed on the Agenda).*

*Public forums may also be held prior to Extraordinary Council Meetings and meetings of committees of the Council. Public forums are to be chaired by the mayor or their nominee.*

*The General Manager or their delegate may refuse to allow such material to be presented. A person may apply to speak on no more than 2 items of business on the agenda of the Council Meeting.*

*The General Manager or their delegate may refuse an application to speak at a public forum. No more than three (3) speakers are to be permitted to speak 'for' or 'against' each item of business on the agenda for the Council Meeting. If more than the permitted number of speakers apply to speak 'for' or 'against' any item of business, the General Manager or their delegate may, in consultation with the mayor or the mayor's nominated chairperson, increase the number of speakers permitted to speak on an item of business, where they are satisfied that it is necessary to do so to allow the council to hear a fuller range of views on the relevant item of business.*

*Each speaker will be allowed five (5) minutes to address the Council. This time is to be strictly enforced by the Chairperson. The Chairperson of the meeting can grant one extension of up to a maximum of three (3) minutes, should further information, be considered to be important to the Council. This is solely at the discretion of the Chair.*

*Speakers at public forums must not digress from their nominated item on the agenda. If a speaker digresses to irrelevant matters, the Chairperson is to direct the speaker not to do so. If a speaker fails to observe a direction from the chairperson, the speaker will not be further heard.*

*A councillor (including the chairperson) may, through the chairperson, ask questions of a speaker following their address at a Public Forum. Questions put to a speaker must be direct, succinct and without argument. Debate will not be permitted by the speaker, Councillors or staff. Speakers are under no obligation to answer a question. Answers by the speaker, to each question are to be limited to three (3) minutes. Speakers at public forums cannot ask questions of the Council, Councillors or Council staff.*

*The general manager or their nominee may, with the concurrence of the chairperson, address the council for up to 5 minutes in response to an address to the council at a public forum after the address and any subsequent questions and answers have been finalised.*

| SPEAKER | TOPIC |
|---------|-------|
| Nil     | Nil   |



## 1. OPENING OF MEETING

*Proceedings of the meeting commenced at \_\_\_\_\_am*

## 2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

*I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the lands within the Walgett Shire and I would also like to acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who now reside within this Shire.*

## 3. APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR A LEAVE OF ABSENCE OR ATTENDANCE BY AUDIO-VISUAL LINK BY COUNCILLORS

| Leave of Absence                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Recommendation:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. That the leave of absence received from _____ is accepted and leave of absence granted; and</li><li>2. That the request to attend this meeting of Council via audio-visual link received from _____ is accepted and approval granted.</li></ol> <p><b>Moved:</b><br/><b>Seconded:</b></p> |

## **4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES/MATTERS ARISING**

### **4.1 MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD 22 AUGUST 2023**

| <b>Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting – 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2023</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Recommendation:</b></p> <p>That the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held 22 August 2023, having been circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings on the meeting.</p> <p><b>Moved:</b><br/><b>Seconded:</b></p> |

**Attachments:**

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held 22 August 2023



## **MINUTES FOR THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2023**

Megan Dixon  
GENERAL MANAGER

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL HELD AT  
THE WALGETT SHIRE CHAMBERS ON TUESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> AUGUST 2023 AT 9:00AM**

*The Deputy Mayor declared the meeting open at 9.02am*

**PRESENT**

Deputy Mayor Greg Rummery  
 Cllr Alf Seaton  
 Cllr Ian Woodcock  
 Cllr Jasen Ramien  
 Cllr Daniel Walford  
 Cllr Michael Cooke  
 Cllr Colin Hundy  
 Megan Dixon (General Manager)  
 Kimley Talbert (Director Environmental Services)  
 Hafiz Malik (Director Corporate Services)  
 Tim McLoughlin (Acting Director Engineering/Technical Services)  
 Kazi Mahmud (Director Engineering/Technical Services)  
 Sharon Smith (Minute Secretary)

**ABSENT**

Mayor Jane Keir  
 Cllr Sue Currey

**09/2023/1 Leave of Absence**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Ramien and Councillor Cooke that the leave of absence received from Mayor Jane Keir & Cllr Sue Currey is accepted and a leave of absence granted.

**Declaration of Pecuniary/Non-Pecuniary Interests**

| Councillor        | Item No. | Report title/ Subject matter                          | Pecuniary/Non-Pecuniary | Reason                   |
|-------------------|----------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Cllr Jasen Ramien | 9.3.1    | Monthly Maintenance Grading Report as at 30 July 2023 | Pecuniary               | Family Business interest |

**09/2023/2 Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting – 31 July 2023**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Cooke and Councillor Walford that the minutes of the meeting held 31 July 2023 as itemised in minute numbers 8/2023/1 to 8/2023/17 pages 2 to 8, be confirmed.

**09/2023/3 Mayoral Monthly Report**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Ramien and Councillor Seaton that the Mayoral Monthly Report for August 2023 be received and noted.

**09/2023/3 Reports of Committees/Delegates**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Woodcock and Councillor Seaton that the reports of Committee/delegates 7.1 Mining and Energy Related Council NSW – Ordinary Meeting 3 August 2023 and 7.1.2 Local Area Traffic Committee Meeting 9 August 2023 be received and noted.

**09/2023/4 Council's Decision Action Report – August 2023**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Woodcock and Councillor Seaton that the resolution register for August 2023 be received and noted.

**09/2023/5 Circulars Received from the NSW Office of Local Government**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Walford and Councillor Hundt that the information contained in the following Department circulars 23-09 through to 23-09 from the office of Local Government Division Department of Premier and Cabinet, be received and noted.

**09/2023/6 Important Dates for Councillors – Upcoming Meeting and Events**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Hundt and Councillor Seaton that Council receive and note the list of upcoming meetings and events.

**09/2023/7 Draft Advertising Policy**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Hundt and Councillor Walford that Council

1. Receive the report by General Manager on print media expenditure.
2. The draft Advertising Policy, attached as Appendix 1, be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days, inviting the public to make submissions.
3. That a further report be provided to Council following the public exhibition period.

**09/2023/8 Local Government NSW Annual Conference**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Ramien and Councillor Woodcock that Council:

1. receive the report by the General Manager on the Local Government NSW Annual Conference;
2. that the Mayor or their representative be the voting delegate for the Local Government NSW Annual Conference; and
3. forward proposed motions to the September Council meeting for endorsement for inclusion at the Local Government NSW Annual Conference.

Amendment moved for item 2 by Councillor Hundt and Councillor Cooke – originally read

2. nominate a voting delegate for the Local Government NSW Annual Conference;

**09/2023/9 Mayor and Deputy Mayor Elections**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Hundt and Councillor Seaton that Council:

1. receive the report by the General Manager on the Mayoral and Deputy Mayoral Elections.
2. note Circular to Councils 23-09 received from the Office of Local Government advising that Mayoral elections are to be held in September 2023 for the final year of the Council term; and
3. determine to hold an Extraordinary meeting of Council on 14 September 2023 for the purposes of holding elections for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

**Amendment moved for item 3** by Councillor Hundt and Councillor Cooke – originally read

3. determine to hold an Extraordinary meeting of Council on 26 September 2023 for the purposes of holding elections for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

**09/2023/9 Appointment of Acting General Manager 28 August 2023 to 20 October 2023**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Ramien and Councillor Seaton that Council:

1. receive the report by the General Manager on appoint of an Acting General Manager.
2. appoint Hugh Percy as Acting General Manager for the period 28 August 2023 to 20 October 2023 inclusive.
3. Delegate to the Acting General Manager the same terms as the Council's delegations to the General Manager.

**09/2023/10 Monthly Outstanding Rates Report as of 31 July 2023**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Ramien and Councillor Walford that Council receive and note the Monthly Outstanding Rates Report as of 31 July 2023

**09/2023/11 Cash and Investment as of 31 July 2023**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Hundy and Councillor Seaton that Council receive and note the Monthly Outstanding Rates Report as of 31 July 2023

*Councillor Ramien declared a Pecuniary Interest and left the meeting at 9.49am*

**09/2023/12 Monthly Maintenance Grading Report as of 31 July 2023**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Hundy and Councillor Seaton that Council receive and note the Monthly Maintenance Grading Report as of 31 July 2023

*Councillor Ramien returned to the meeting at 9.56am*

**09/2023/13 Service Progress Report as of 31 July 2023**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Hundy and Councillor Seaton that Council receive and note the Service Progress Report as of 31 July 2023

**09/2023/14 Monthly Major Projects Report as of 31 July 2023**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Woodcock and Councillor Seaton that Council receive and note the Monthly Major Projects Report as of 31 July 2023

**09/2023/15 Development Approvals 31 July 2023**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Ramien and Councillor Hundy that Council receive and note the Development Approvals as of 31 July 2023

**09/2023/16 Walgett RSL Club – 73 Fox Street WALGETT**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Hundy and Councillor Walford that Council approve the modification and removal of DA2023/14.0 condition 21 of development consent, for the Alterations and additions to registered club including new street façade, upgraded entry, new outdoor gaming terrace & related indoor planning adjustments or the development. Walgett RSL Club Ltd

**09/2023/17 Matters Generally for Brief Mention or Information Only**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Woodcock and Councillor Ramien that Council Matters Generally for Brief Mention or Information Only be received and noted.

***Meeting adjourned 10.41am***

**09/2023/18 Move into Closed Session**

**Time:10.55am**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Cooke and Councillor Hundy that the public be exclude from the meeting pursuant to Sections 10A 2 (a) & (b) of the Local Government Act 1993 on the basis that the items deal with;

(a) personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than Councillors)

(b) the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer

22 August 2023

Ordinary Council Meeting

Council Minutes

**09/2023/19 Return to Open Session**

**Time:11.30**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Ramien and Councillor Seaton that the Council return to open session

*Deputy Mayor Rummery read the resolutions passed in the closed session meeting.*

**9C/2023/1 Notice of Motion for Rescission – Walgett Memorial Swimming Pool**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Walford, Councillor Rummery and Councillor Keir that Council rescind the resolution 07C/2023/5 Walgett Memorial Swimming Pool

1. The Walgett Memorial Swimming Pool be decommissioned, and that Council immediately have plans prepared to replace the pool and then urgently source funding for such replacement.
2. The local swimming club and community be consulted on whether there is interest in transporting swimmers to the Lightning Ridge Pool on a regular basis.
3. That the local member for Barwon Mr. Roy Butler MP and The Hon Chris Minns MP be invited to Council to discuss funding options with Council.

The motion was carried with the Councillors voting unanimously

**09C/2023/2 Minutes of the Closed Meeting – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Seaton and Councillor Woodcock that the minutes of the Closed Council meeting held 31 July 2023 as itemised in minute numbers 8C/2023/1 to 8C/2023/5, pages 2 to 4 be confirmed.

**09C/2023/3 Walgett Swimming Pool**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Ramien and Councillor Seaton that:

1. Council agrees to work with the NSW Government to secure a funding source for the repairs required to open the pool for the 2023/24 season.
2. Council re-allocates operational budget for the 2023/24 swimming season.
3. Council call for tenders for a contract operator of the Walgett Swimming Pool for the 2023/24 season
4. Council proceeds to develop a masterplan for swimming facilities in Walgett township and then urgently source funding for such replacement.
5. Council establishes a community reference group with key stakeholders, to guide the development of a masterplan for swimming facilities in Walgett township.

**09C/2023/4 Lightning Ridge Commercial Property Review**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Walford and Councillor Hundy that That the Council utilize the HACC Centre for its own operational purposes and also lease out surplus office space to other businesses and organisations for a fair market value per office space monthly based on office space size and purpose.

With no further business the meeting was closed by Deputy Mayor Rummery at 11.15am

To be confirmed at the next meeting of Council.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
General Manager

22 August 2023

Ordinary Council Meeting

Council Minutes

## **4.2 MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD 14 SEPTEMBER 2023**

| <b>Minutes of Extraordinary Council Meeting – 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Recommendation:</b></p> <p>That the minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held 14 September 2023, having been circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings on the meeting.</p> <p><b>Moved:</b><br/><b>Seconded:</b></p> |

**Attachments:**

Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting held 14 September 2023





## **MINUTES FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

Hugh Percy  
ACTING GENERAL MANAGER

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL  
HELD AT THE WALGETT SHIRE CHAMBERS ON 14 THURSDAY 2023 AT 9.02 AM**

**OPEN FORUM**

**Public Presentations:**

*Nil*

**PRESENT**

Deputy Mayor Greg Rummery  
 Cllr Alf Seaton  
 Cllr Ian Woodcock  
 Cllr Jasen Ramien  
 Cllr Daniel Walford  
 Cllr Michael Cooke  
 Cllr Colin Hundy  
 Hugh Percy (Acting General Manager)  
 Kimley Talbert (Director Environmental Services)  
 Hafiz Malik (Director Corporate Services)  
 Kazi Mahmud (Director Engineering/Technical Services)  
 Sharon Smith (Minute Secretary)

**ABSENT**

Mayor Jane Keir  
 Cllr Sue Currey

**10/2023/1 Leave of Absence**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Ramien and Councillor Seaton that the leave of absence received from Mayor Jane Keir & Cllr Sue Currey is accepted and a leave of absence granted.

**Declaration of Pecuniary/Non-Pecuniary Interest**

*NIL*

**10/2023/2 Determination of Method of Voting for Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor by Councillors**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Cooke and Councillor Hundy that the method for the election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor be selected on the day.

The motion was carried with the Councillors voting unanimously

*Deputy Mayor Rummery handed the chair over to Returning Officer Hugh Percy – Acting General Manager*

*In accordance with Schedule 7 Section 1 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, the Acting General Manager acted as the returning officer to conduct this election. The Returning Officer invited nominations for the election of the office of Mayor and Deputy Mayor.*

*The Acting General Manager as the Returning Officer declared that as only one nomination was received for the position of the Mayor, Councillor Jasen Ramien is duly elected to the office of Mayor of the Walgett Shire for the duration of the Mayoral term one year).*

*The Acting General Manager as the Returning Officer declared that as only one nomination was received for the position of the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Colin Hundy is duly elected to the office of Deputy Mayor of the Walgett Shire for the duration of the Mayoral term (one year).*

*Acting General Manager handed the meeting over to Mayor Ramien*

With no further business the meeting was closed by Mayor Ramien at 9.06am

To be confirmed at the next meeting of Council.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
General Manager

## 5. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY/NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

*Councillors and senior staff are reminded of their obligation to declare their interest in any matters listed before them.*

*In considering your interest you are reminded to include pecuniary, non-pecuniary and conflicts of interest as well as any other interest you perceive or may be perceived of you.*

*Councillors may declare an interest at the commencement of the meeting, or alternatively at any time during the meeting should any issue progress or arise that would warrant a declaration.*

*Councillors must state their reasons in declaring any type of interest.*

| Councillor | Item No. | Pecuniary/Non-Pecuniary | Reason |
|------------|----------|-------------------------|--------|
|            |          |                         |        |
|            |          |                         |        |
|            |          |                         |        |
|            |          |                         |        |

## 6. MAYORAL MONTHLY REPORT

**REPORTING SECTION:** Office of Mayor  
**AUTHOR:** Jasen Ramien  
**FILE NUMBER:** 23/11/

---

| Monthly Mayoral Report September 2023                                                                                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Recommendation:</b></p> <p>That the Mayoral report for September 2023 be received and noted.</p> <p><b>Moved:</b></p> <p><b>Seconded:</b></p> |

To be tabled

## **7. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES/DELEGATES**

NIL

## 8. CORRESPONDENCE AND PETITIONS

### 8.1 LETTER RECEIVED FROM AUSTRALIAN OPAL CENTRE – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023



AUSTRALIAN  
**OPAL**  
**CENTRE**  
LIGHTNING RIDGE · NSW

Australian Opal Centre Limited  
ABN 20 377 425 512  
PO Box 229  
Lightning Ridge  
NSW 2834  
AUSTRALIA  
Tel. (+61) 2 6829 1667  
[www.australianopalcentre.com](http://www.australianopalcentre.com)

12 September 2023

Councillor Jane Keir  
Mayor  
Walgett Shire Council NSW  
77 Fox Street  
Walgett NSW 2832

Dear Jane

A note to convey our most sincere thanks for being part of the Construction Commencement Ceremony at the site of the new *Australian Opal Centre* on 28 August. We warmly recognise the wonderful support Council has given the project and are most grateful that you and Councillor Currey were able to be with us.

Council's support in helping the community's vision become a reality is, by virtue of the construction commencement, already generating economic benefits for the Shire. Those economic benefits along with those that will flow after opening day, will also benefit the social fabric of the broader Shire community. In economic terms, Council's support will see the 'multiplier effect' of its investment generate returns over many decades for both the Shire and Western NSW generally.

With a circa 12-14 months construction program, we are very much looking forward to inviting you and all Councillors to join us on opening day in the latter part of next year.

Jane, again, thank you for being with us at the ceremony. I will be grateful if you would please kindly convey our appreciation to Councillor Currey for her attendance, and to all Councillors for their ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

Australian Opal Centre Limited



Raymond Griffin  
Chair  
cc: Jenni Brammall

## **8.2 LETTER RECEIVED FROM ISOLATED CHILDREN & PARENTS ASSOCIATION**

| Walgett ICPA

Walgett NSW 2832

18<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Ms Dixon and the Walgett Shire Council,

On behalf of the Walgett Isolated Children & Parents Association Branch I would like to thank you very much for the financial assistance given to our volunteer organization through the Community Assistance Scheme Contribution 2023/2024.

These funds will go a long way to assist us with the costs associated with holding our Annual Tennis Day to be held on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023. We look forward to hosting this day for the children and families of Walgett District.

Thank you again for your generosity, it is greatly appreciated by the Branch.

Phillipa Beckwith

Walgett ICPA Branch Secretary



## 9. REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

### 9.1 GENERAL MANAGER

#### 9.1.1 CIRCULARS RECEIVED FROM NSW OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**REPORTING SECTION:** Executive  
**AUTHOR:** Hugh Percy – Acting General Manager  
**FILE NUMBER:** 12/14-03

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##### Circulars Received From the NSW Office of Local Government

**Recommendation:**

That the information contained in the following Department circular 23-10 through to 23-11 from the Local Government Division Department of Premier and Cabinet, be received and noted.

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

**Summary:**

Copies of circulars received from the Local Government Office Department of Premier and Cabinet are attached for Councillors information. Circulars are emailed to Councillors when published from LGNSW.

**Background:**

The General Manager has flagged the following circulars as requiring the particular attention of Councillors:

- 23-10 End of Year Reporting Requirements for 2022-23 and Additional Information for 2023-24
- 23-11 Effect of the NSW Government's policy on executive office holders' and senior executives' remuneration on general managers', executive officers' and senior staff remuneration

**Governance Issues:**

All circulars have Governance implications. Where necessary the subject of particular circulars will be raised in following reports.

**Stakeholders:**

Councillors and Walgett Shire Council staff.

**Financial Implications:**

Obviously some circulars will have a financial impact and where this is the case, Councillors particular attention will be drawn to them.

**Conclusion:**

Council will need to comply with the various requirements set out in the circulars.

**Attachments:**

Circulars



Office of  
Local Government

## Circular to Councils

|                             |                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Circular Details</b>     | 23-10 / 14 August 2023 / A857262                                                                 |
| <b>Previous Circular</b>    | 22-29, 22-28                                                                                     |
| <b>Who should read this</b> | Finance Staff / Revenue Professionals / Governance Staff / General Managers / Executive Officers |
| <b>Contact</b>              | Performance Team / 4428 4100 / <a href="mailto:olg@olg.nsw.gov.au">olg@olg.nsw.gov.au</a>        |
| <b>Action required</b>      | Information / Councils and Joint Organisations to Implement                                      |

### Subject

#### End of Year Reporting Requirements for 2022-23 and Additional Information for 2023-24

#### What's new or changing

End of year reporting information for the 2022-23 financial year, including annual report checklist, financial data return (FDR) and Financial Assistance (FA) Grant returns and 2023-24 permissible income working papers and calendar of compliance.

#### What this will mean for your council

- Councils and Joint Organisations (JOs) need to review the attached end of year reporting information.
- Councils and JOs should familiarise themselves with the reporting timeframes when submitting their 2022-23 financial statements, FDR, and FA Grant returns.
- Councils can access and download the annual report checklist, FDR for 2022-23 and FA Grant returns, as well as the 2023-24 Calendar of Compliance.
- The permissible working papers are available for use for the auditing process.

#### Key points

- Annexure 1 provides information to assist councils in submitting their 2022-23 financial statements and FDR.
- Annexure 2 provides information to assist JOs in submitting their 2022-23 financial statements and FDR.
- The FDR and permissible income working papers will be sent under separately with an explanatory email and will be available on the Office Local Government (OLG) Council Portal, in conjunction with this circular.
- All returns are available at <https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/council-portal/council-surveys/>.
- The financial statements and FDR are to be sent electronically to OLG by 31 October 2023.
- The FA Grants general return is to be submitted by 31 August 2023 and the National Local Roads (NLRDS) return to be submitted by 30 November 2023.
- Councils are required to submit the permissible income working papers following the auditing process.
- Instructions on where to email the returns are included on the cover sheet of the respective returns.
- Councils are reminded that they must place the Operational Plan, revenue policy and fees and charges on council's website within 28 days of adoption, with the Community Strategic Plan, Resourcing Strategy and Delivery Program.

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

**Where to go for further information**

- The Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting (the Code) for 2022-23 is available on OLG's website at:  
[www.olg.nsw.gov.au/councils/council-finances/financial-reporting/local-government-code-of-accounting-practice-and-financial-reporting/](http://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/councils/council-finances/financial-reporting/local-government-code-of-accounting-practice-and-financial-reporting/)
- The updated permissible income workpapers will be available on OLG's website at:  
<https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/councils/council-finances/financial-guidance-for-councils/rating-and-special-variations/>
- The 2022-23 annual report checklist is available at:  
<https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/councils/policy-and-%20legislation/guidelines-and-policy-information-resources-for-councils/council-annual-reporting-requirements/>
- The 2023-24 Calendar of Compliance can be accessed at:  
<https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/councils/policy-and-legislation/guidelines-and-policy-information-resources-for-councils/council-reporting-calendar-compliance/>
- The FDR, FA Grant general return and NLRD returns can be sourced from the Council Portal at: <https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/council-portal/council-surveys/>

**Brett Whitworth**  
**Deputy Secretary, Local Government**

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## **Annexure 1: Information to assist councils prepare 2022-23 Financial Statements**

### **Submission of Financial Statements**

- The general purpose financial reports, special purpose financial reports, special schedules and the Auditor's Reports are to be formatted into a single PDF document, titled using the format: "Council name – Financial Statements – 2022-23".
- All councils, county councils and joint organisations must lodge their financial statements by **31 October 2023**.
- The financial statements should be sent to [finance@olg.nsw.gov.au](mailto:finance@olg.nsw.gov.au).
- Statements received after this date will be considered as being submitted late and not in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act).
- Should council require an extension to lodge their financial statements, these should be requested by the general manager prior to 17 October 2023 and forwarded to [olg@olg.nsw.gov.au](mailto:olg@olg.nsw.gov.au).

### **The Code – Update 2022-23**

- The Code must be used to prepare the annual financial statements in accordance with the Act and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 (Regulation).
- The Code and supporting materials are available on the OLG website at: [www.olg.nsw.gov.au/councils/council-finances/financial-reporting/local-government-code-of-accounting-practice-and-financial-reporting/](http://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/councils/council-finances/financial-reporting/local-government-code-of-accounting-practice-and-financial-reporting/)

### **Communications during the preparation of financial statements and audit process**

- Finance professionals are encouraged to communicate with the Audit Service Providers/Audit Office representatives in relation to any matters that may arise.
- Audit, Risk and Improvement Committees may consider engaging committee members early to review the financial statements, key accounting estimates and accounting issues prior to audit.

### **FDR**

- The 2022-23 FDR will be emailed under separate cover.
- This is to be submitted by **31 October 2023** to [fdr@olg.nsw.gov.au](mailto:fdr@olg.nsw.gov.au) in Excel format only.
- The FDR should be accurate and align with the audited financial statements. The FDR will be returned to council should there be any errors, discrepancies or worksheets not completed.
- The return can also be accessed via the Council Portal on the OLG website.
- Information/data from the FDR is published in the Time Series Data and Your Council website and for the monitoring of council's performance. Data is also used in the calculation of councils FA grants.

### **Asset valuations and fair value assessments**

- Councils should ensure early commencement and completion of asset revaluations.
- Fair value assessments need to be conducted annually.

Office of Local Government  
5 O'Keefe Avenue NOWRA NSW 2541  
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T 02 4428 4100 F 02 4428 4199 TTY 02 4428 4209  
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- Adequate documentation, including position papers need to be readily available for the auditors, if requested.
- The necessary documentation should be agreed with the auditor prior to year-end.
- Restrictions on asset use, especially for community land and land under roads, should be taken into account when assessing valuation.
- NSW Valuer General's valuations may be used to represent the fair value of community land.
- Councils will then need to separately consider any improvements made to community land in the overall fair value assessment.

#### **Council Borrowings**

- The Proposed Borrowing Return should have been completed and forwarded to NSW TCorp ([lgs@tcorp.nsw.gov.au](mailto:lgs@tcorp.nsw.gov.au)) if you have not already done so.
- The return can be accessed via the Council Portal/Council survey and data returns on the OLG website.
- Councils are required to advise the Deputy Secretary, Local Government of amounts borrowed within 7 days when loans are drawn in accordance with clause 230 of the Regulation.
- Notification can be emailed to [finance@olg.nsw.gov.au](mailto:finance@olg.nsw.gov.au).
- Councils are also reminded of the need to complete the capital expenditure review requirements, as per OLG Circular 10/34, prior to the commencement of projects greater than \$1 million or 10% of council rating revenue. Please contact OLG's Performance Team if you have any questions in relation to this review on (02) 4428 4100.

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## **Annexure 2: Information to assist JOs prepare 2021-22 Financial Statements**

### **Submission of Financial Statements**

- The general purpose financial reports and the Auditor's Reports are to be formatted into a single PDF document, titled using the format: "JO name – Financial Statements – 2022-23".
- All JOs must lodge their financial statements by **31 October 2023**.
- The financial statements should be sent to [finance@olg.nsw.gov.au](mailto:finance@olg.nsw.gov.au).
- Statements received after this date will be considered to be submitted late and not in accordance with the Act.
- Should the JO require an extension to lodge their financial statements, these should be requested by the Chief Executive Officer prior to 17 October and forwarded to [olg@olg.nsw.gov.au](mailto:olg@olg.nsw.gov.au).

### **JOs Supplement to Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting (Supplement)**

- The Supplement must be used to prepare the annual financial statements in accordance with the Act and the Regulation.
- The Supplement is available on the OLG's website at [www.olg.nsw.gov.au/councils/council-finances/financial-reporting/local-government-code-of-accounting-practice-and-financial-reporting](http://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/councils/council-finances/financial-reporting/local-government-code-of-accounting-practice-and-financial-reporting)

### **JO FDR**

- The 2022-23 JO FDR will be emailed under separate cover.
- This is to be submitted by **31 October 2023** to [jofdr@olg.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jofdr@olg.nsw.gov.au) in Excel format only.
- The JO FDR should be accurate and align with the audited financial statements. The FDR will be returned to the JO should there be any errors, discrepancies or worksheets not completed.
- The return can also be accessed via the Council Portal on the OLG website.

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Office of  
Local Government

## Circular to Councils

|                             |                                                                                                    |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Circular Details</b>     | 23 -11 / 13 September 2023 / A869405                                                               |
| <b>Previous Circular</b>    | N/A                                                                                                |
| <b>Who should read this</b> | Councillors / General Managers / Senior Staff / Human Resources Staff                              |
| <b>Contact</b>              | Council Governance Team / 02 4428 4100/ <a href="mailto:olg@olg.nsw.gov.au">olg@olg.nsw.gov.au</a> |
| <b>Action required</b>      | Information                                                                                        |

### Effect of the NSW Government's policy on executive office holders' and senior executives' remuneration on general managers', executive officers' and senior staff remuneration

#### What's new or changing

- The Statutory and Other Offices Remuneration (Executive Office Holders and Senior Executives) Regulation 2023 (SOORT Regulation) has been prescribed. Clause 4(1) of the SOORT Regulation states that the Statutory and Other Offices Remuneration Tribunal (the SOORT Tribunal) is not to award an increase in remuneration for NSW Government executive office holders and senior executives before 1 July 2025.

#### What this will mean for your council

- Automatic annual increases in remuneration payable under the approved standard employment contracts for general managers of councils, executive officers of joint organisations and other senior staff are tied to determinations by the SOORT Tribunal.
- The SOORT Regulation means that automatic increases will not be available to general managers, executive officers and senior staff under their employment contracts before 1 July 2025.
- The SOORT Regulation was not intended to apply to local government. It remains open to councils and joint organisations to approve discretionary increases under the approved employment contracts where the employee's performance has been assessed as being of a better than satisfactory standard.

#### Key points

- The SOORT Regulation prohibiting a remuneration increase for executive office holders and senior executives until 1 July 2025 is not intended to apply to local government.
- Councils can pay their general managers, executive officers, and senior staff an increase in remuneration. The approved standard contracts of employment provide that an increase in an employee's remuneration may be approved where their performance is assessed as being better than satisfactory.

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**Where to go for further information**

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



**Brett Whitworth**  
Deputy Secretary, Local Government

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### 9.1.2 IMPORTANT DATES – UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

**REPORTING SECTION:** Executive  
**AUTHOR:** Hugh Percy – Acting General Manager  
**FILE NUMBER:** 12/14-03

---

| Important Dates For Councillors – Upcoming Meetings & Events                                                                                           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Recommendation:</b></p> <p>That Council receive and note the list of upcoming meetings and events.</p> <p><b>Moved:</b><br/><b>Seconded:</b></p> |

**Summary:**

A list of upcoming meetings and events is provided for Councillors to make notes of to avoid any clashes of commitments.

**Discussion (including issues and background):**

This report allows Councillors and senior management staff to plan their activities and spread their work load having regard to upcoming commitments. It also avoids situations where some Councillors missed meetings or are not aware of when they have been scheduled. In addition, outside organisations have been requested to send meeting notice and minutes direct to Council's various representatives. Where notification is received meeting dates will be listed on the strategic tasks, events and meetings calendar and the representative(s) names flagged.

**Current Position:**

Councillors are requested to raise any queries prior to the meetings listed.

**Governance Issues:**

Good governance centres in part on good communication and forward planning. Councillors are requested to advise the General Manager's Executive Assistant of any coming community or Councillor function so as to avoid any clashes of commitments.

**Environmental Issues:**

Not applicable.

**Stakeholders:**

Councillors and Walgett Shire Council staff.

**Alternative Solutions/Options:**

Not applicable.

**Conclusion:**

Provided there are no changes it is appropriate to receive and not the information.

**Attachments:**

Upcoming meetings and events schedule.

**IMPORTANT DATES – Upcoming Meetings and Events**

| DATE                  | MEETING/FUNCTION                   | LOCATION         | NOTES                                         |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 26 September 2023     | Council Meeting                    | Walgett Chambers | Councillors, GM and Executive Staff to attend |
| 24 October 2023       | Council Meeting                    | Walgett Chambers | Councillors, GM and Executive Staff to attend |
| 3 November 2023       | Country Mayors Assoc. Meeting      | Sydney           | Mayor and General Manager                     |
| 8 November 2023       | LEMC Meeting                       | Walgett          | Mayor and General Manager                     |
| 12 – 14 November 2022 | Local Government Annual Conference | Sydney           | Mayor, General Manager and Councillors        |
| 28 November 2023      | Council Meeting                    | Walgett Chambers | Councillors, GM and Executive Staff to attend |
| 19 December 2023      | Council Meeting                    | Walgett Chambers | Councillors, GM and Executive Staff to attend |

### 9.1.3 SALE OF LANDS FOR UNPAID RATES

**REPORTING SECTION:** Executive  
**AUTHOR:** Barry Thomas – Debt Recovery Officer  
**FILE NUMBER:** 12/14-03

#### Sale of Unpaid Rates

##### Recommendation:

That Council determine whether buyers of the Residential Western Lands Leases can build on vacant lots in the Opal Preserved Zone

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

#### Summary

When preparing the current Section 713 Sale of land for unpaid rates, numerous properties were submitted to Department of Planning and Environment in Dubbo for Ministerial consent. Of the 27 properties approved for sale, 4 however were removed as rates were either paid or an arrangement accepted. A further 10 vacant lots in the Preserved Opal SP1 zone were removed due to advice from Council's Director of Environmental Services that DAs would not be approved for building in the SP1 zone as they failed to meet Council's requirement in that they do not front a public road.

The sale was a resounding success with over \$195,000 recovered in unpaid rates but could have been much better other than the dispute over building on vacant land. 63 people registered as bidders with over 100 people in attendance.

#### Background

To sell Western Land leases for unpaid rates Council obtained delegated consent from the Department of Planning and Development in Dubbo. The Department were keen for Council to pursue a Section 713 sale, as it wants the Opal SP1 zoned land to be cleaned up with better standard houses and also to recover their unpaid rent. The Department indicated that the SP1 zoned land was moving from the mining phase to residential phase, and that tenant would be offered a 50-year Crown leases when their existing Western Land lease expires.

Unfortunately, the concerns were not raised until the last weeks of the sale when a prospective buyer sought advice as to what he could erect on a lot he proposed to buy. This led to Council seeking legal advice as to the validity of the sale and the status of legislation governing the Western Land leases. As a result, 10 vacant lots were removed from the auctions listing which resulted in many angry calls particularly from people who had driven huge distances, but the decision to remove those properties was made in the interest of both the buyer and seller.

The concern over building rights has dramatic consequences for both future and current buildings. If, buyers cannot build on lots which don't front a public road they are theoretically unsaleable and the status of existing properties questionable. In addition, Council will lose considerable rate revenue and the viability of businesses would be reduced. It also brings into question the status of the recently commenced Opal Centre.

Of the 13 properties put up for sale only one failed to reach its Reserve. It will now be sold by private treaty. The terms and conditions are more restrictive when this occurs as Councillors and staff are excluded from the process.

Council can start the procedure again once the building issue is resolved and the deferred lots along with other assessments which meet the 5-year criteria can form the basis of the next Section 713 sale. This would likely lead to a sale sometime in February 2024.

**Relevant references and policies**

Delegated Ministerial approval to sell lots including, status of land and access tracks.

Legal advice from Waterhouse Ryan

Special condition included in the Development Control Plan

Council Policy 24<sup>th</sup> September 2013

Ministerial Order designating the SP1 zone for purpose of residence and tracks for public access.

**Governance issues**

Council must comply with the Local Government Act 1993 and integrated Planning and Reporting legislation.

**Financial issues**

Council must comply with the provisions of the NSW Local Government Act 1993

**Stakeholders**

Walgett Shire Council

Residents of Walgett Shire Council in particular Lightning Ridge viability

Department of Planning & Environment

### 9.1.4 LIGHTNING RIDGE EASTER FESTIVAL 2024

**REPORTING SECTION:** Executive

**AUTHOR:** Sherisse Fensom – Administrative Services Officer

**FILE NUMBER:** 23/11/0260

#### Lightning Ridge Easter Festival 2024

**Recommendation:**

That Council determine their 2024 sponsorship of the Lightning Ridge Easter Festival.

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

**Summary:**

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the requests made to Council by the Lightning Ridge Easter Festival Committee for 2024.

**Background:**

The committee has formally submitted a request for the following financial commitments from the Council:

1. An allocation of \$11,000.00 designated for the annual fireworks display.
2. An allocation of \$1,800.00 designated for the live reptile display.

This results in a combined total of \$12,800.00.

Furthermore, the committee has made a request for the payment of 2WEB outside broadcast fees, which would cover a two-day period at a cost of \$5,500.

In addition to the financial matters, the committee would like to initiate a discussion regarding the potential establishment of a permanent Council-funded coordinator position starting in 2024 and continuing thereafter. This proposition stems from the acknowledgment that the current volunteers involved in event planning, leadership, and organization have concurrent commitments and responsibilities that render it unsustainable for them to continue performing these roles. However, they have expressed their willingness to continue volunteering during the event weekend.

**Current Position:**

There is an allocation of \$10,000 in the budget for the 2024 event.

Presently, there is no Tourism Coordinator within the Council. The position of Event Manager, which played a supportive role in this year's festival, was entirely funded through the Reconnecting Regional grant. Should the Council decide to take on this responsibility, it has the potential to impact sponsorships, grants allocated to incorporated committees, and other funding streams. This could, in turn, lead to increased financial commitments and liabilities for the Council.

**Relevant Reference Documents/Policies:**

Nil

**Stakeholders:**

Walgett Shire Council  
Lightning Ridge Easter Festival Committee  
Businesses in Lightning Ridge

**Financial Implications:**

| Item                      | Cost     | Comments                   |
|---------------------------|----------|----------------------------|
| Fireworks Display         | \$11,000 |                            |
| Live Reptile Display      | \$1,800  |                            |
| 2WEB Broadcast for 2 days | \$5,500  |                            |
| Event Manager             | Unknown  | Cost of wages, travel etc. |

**Alternative Solutions/Options:**

Council considers increasing the funding to cover the extra expenses for one or all of the requests.

Council hires staff to coordinate these events for the foreseeable future.

Council keeps the budgeted \$10,000 and suggest the committee apply for the Community Assistance Grant in January.

Council remains as an event sponsor and not an organiser.

**Conclusion:**

Council has the opportunity to determine the 2024 sponsorship of the Lightning Ridge Easter Festival.

**Attachments:**

Nil

## **9.2 DIRECTOR CORPORATE & COMMUNITY SERVICES**

### **9.2.1 MONTHLY OUTSTANDING RATES AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023**

**REPORTING SECTION:** Corporate Services  
**AUTHOR:** Michael Stenmark – Acting Rates Clerk  
**FILE NUMBER:** 23/11/0233

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| <b>Monthly Outstanding Rates Report – August 2023</b>                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Recommendation</b></p> <p>The 31 August 2023 outstanding rates report be received and noted.</p> <p><b>Moved:</b><br/><b>Seconded:</b></p> |

**To be tabled**

### 9.2.2 CASH AND INVESTMENT AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

**REPORTING SECTION:** Corporate Services  
**AUTHOR:** Shirley Burraston – Management Accountant  
**FILE NUMBER:** 23/11/0257

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| Cash and Investment Report as at 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2023.                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Recommendation:</b><br/>That the Investment report be received and noted.</p> <p><b>Moved:</b></p> <p><b>Seconded:</b></p> |

**Summary:**

This report provides a summary and analysis of Council's cash and investments for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023.

**Background:**

The investment portfolio consists of on-call bank accounts and fixed rate interest bearing term deposits. The portfolio is regularly reviewed to maximise investment performance and minimise risk. Council's investment portfolio does not have a secondary market available for the trading of investments and is not subject to share market volatility.

Comparisons are regularly made between existing investments and other available products that meet Council policy guidelines. A comparison of Council's investment portfolio results is also made monthly to that of other NSW Councils and Walgett Shire's results from the portfolio continue to better than average.

The investments are compliant with the Relevant Reference Documents and Policies listed in this report.

**Current Position:**

Council at month end held a total of \$42,064,706 in on-call bank accounts and interest-bearing term deposits with financial institutions in Australia. The investments are compliant with the Local Government Act (NSW), the associated Regulations and Ministerial Order and Council's Investment Policy.

Council's detailed investment portfolio and compliance information is shown in Attachment 1 to this report. This information is represented graphically as well as digitally and shows Council's compliance to the investment policy for all key performance indicators in the policy.

Council's investment portfolio continues to perform well in comparison with other LGAs in NSW being one of the best performing councils in the state.

**Relevant Reference Documents/Policies:**

Local Government Act (NSW), 1993  
Local Government (General) Regulation 2005  
Ministerial Investment Order 5<sup>th</sup> January 2016  
Investment Policy (Revised and adopted in August 2022)



**Governance issues:**

Nil

**Environmental issues:**

Nil

**Financial Implications:**

As per report

**Alternative Solutions/Options:**

Nil

**Stakeholders:**

Walgett Shire Council

Residents of Walgett Shire Council

Financial Institutions

**Conclusion:**

As at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023 Walgett Shire Council's total cash and invested funds totalled \$42,064,706 decreasing the portfolio by \$1,394,009 from the previous month.

**Attachment:** Attachment 1 Walgett Shire Council's Portfolio reports from Imperium Markets.

**Certification – Responsible Accounting Officer**

1. I hereby certify that the investments listed in the attached report have been made in accordance with Section 625 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, clause 212 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*, the *Investment Order (of the Minister) 5<sup>th</sup> January 2016*.
2. I hereby certify that Council's Cash Book and General Ledger have been reconciled to the bank statement as at the end of month.

Hafiz Malik

**Director Corporate and Community Services**

### **9.2.3 REPORT TO COUNCIL- COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & CAPACITY BUILDING: APRIL 2023 – AUGUST 2023**

**REPORTING SECTION:** Corporate Services  
**AUTHOR:** George McCormick – Manager Community Development  
**FILE NUMBER:** 23/11/0259

#### **Community Development & Services Information Report April – August 2023**

##### **Recommendation:**

That the report for Community Development: April - August 2023 be received and noted.

##### **Moved:**

##### **Seconded:**

##### **Summary**

During the reporting period Council's community services and development teams managed projects related and targeted community engagement, community consultations, cultural development and recognition, group capacity building, Aboriginal affairs, Senior's events, facilitating and supporting collaborative events targeting youth & early childhood initiatives.

##### **Background**

This report summarises project progress, implementation and outcomes of our community and youth development teams, libraries and Aboriginal and Multi-Cultural Affairs, community capacity building supported by delivery to community during the reporting period, April 2023 – August 2023

##### **Current Position**

Council services incorporating, Youth Services, Libraries services, Aboriginal affairs, Seniors, multi-cultural affairs, disabilities and capacity building of all residents has aligned programs, initiatives and opportunities with community targeted plans and strategies all underpinned by Council's *Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027*.

The continued high participation statistics of residents and visitors to our Local Government Area at Council events, programs and initiatives either directly delivered by Council or in many cases in partnership with supporting services and agencies have again demonstrated that Walgett Shire residents and visitors alike are keen to be involved when opportunities arise across the Shire for them to engage, connect socially and enjoy options in which Council deliver. Our teams continue to be focused on community engagement, awareness, education, community capacity building, initiated and supported projects and have partnered in programs, working with service providers and community alike as outlined below.

#### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CAPACITY BUILDING**

Council community development staff work closely with communities across our Shire with groups, organizations, agencies and peak bodies to meet local needs, advocating, facilitating and negotiating where needed and encourage partnerships with community stakeholders to deliver tangible benefits to the community. During this reporting period our department has delivered and supported numerous events, celebrations, recognition events, initiatives, educational opportunities advocating for inclusiveness, continuing to build social capital

across our vast Shire. Council's community development team, youth and Library staff continue to facilitate community meetings in a bid to develop *working groups* around each event in each community ensuring residents services and supports have input into what takes place in their community.

### **Highlights overview:**

- Successful funding outcomes and implementation of four (4) weeks of holiday programs at three centers Walgett, Lightning Ride and Collarenebri.
  - April - *"Connect -Share -Participate Initiative."*
  - July - *"Youth Autumn Activation Program"*
- Outstanding series of events across communities: celebration and recognizing 2023 NAIDOC WEEK – *"For Our Elders"*
- Community consultation, meetings and planning sessions regarding programing and event management and delivery
- Partnerships with WAMS and other services value adding to Health EXPO event in Walgett.
- Finalists in NSW LG youth week awards for 2023
- Support of Walgett, Collarenebri and Lightning Ridge Inter-agency groups and committees.
- Positive community involvement in LG WEEK 2023 at Collarenebri
- Successful Mural project promoting Harmony in Walgett
- Outstanding participation of community and visitors to the Jimmy Little Memorial Music & Arts Festival 2023
- Dolly Patrons Imagination Library- 71 babies enrolled (one of highest in State)

### **Mural Project: Harmony**

Over a two-week period, youth and community members supported local reputable artists John Murray and Frank Wright in the artwork painted on Wong's Café in Fox Street Walgett. The building was identified as one of the most targeted buildings in relation to graffiti and such and by utilizing our canvas we envisaged this would decrease. Staff workshopped with the artist around the message we sought to deliver at this was promoting harmony and inclusiveness in our community. The initiative was undertaken and aligned with Walgett Shire Youth Week with young people engaged in the mural showcasing & highlight inclusivity and harmony in community. The Aboriginal storyline on the painting showcases the river system through Walgett, emu characters are dressed & styled up representing diverse groups of people across community. Positively since completion of the mural there has been nil cases of graffiti on the building aligning with beautification of Walgett's main street.

### **Walgett Shire Local Government Week 2023**

Walgett Shire Council's commitment of keeping its residents informed of Councils services and processes was on show in the Collarenebri community on Thursday 10 August. Many locals attended the event connecting with Council staff and gaining information. Councils Library services offered free books for participants and membership incentives promoting early literacy initiatives and promoting its services provided to the broader communities within its Shire. Youth, culture and community development staff were on hand to offer information of the services it provides its residents and distributed information on programs and initiatives. The environmental services staff engaged with residents supported by Ranger staff who were in attendance promoting and sharing knowledge of animal owner responsibilities. Some

residents undertook the opportunity to have their animal micro chipped on the day while staff representing rural and urban teams had machinery on show and also offered residents information. Next year the event will be staged in Walgett and Council looks forward to promoting its services and information with community.

### **Jimmy Little Memorial Music & Arts Festival 2023 “Rock ’n in the Ridge”**

The June long weekend saw thousands of people attend the inaugural Jimmy Little Music & Arts Festival offered across two days with headline acts including, *Kasey Chambers*, original *Angels* and *Gang-Gajang* band members, X Factor fame singer *Dean Ray*, *James Blundell* and more coming together to recognise the contribution and legacy the late Jimmy Little made for this country and its people. Through funding from the State Governments “*Reconnecting NSW*” the 2-day event featured over 30 stall holders and a talent quest which created an opportunity of our Shires own musicians and artists performance time on the big stage. The underlying message of the drug and alcohol-free music and arts festival was that “yes”. we can all have an amazing time out with friends and family without the use of drugs and alcohol. Due to the heralded success from many, Council staff are working with artists and members of the late Jimmy Little’s family to assess the feasibility of future funding opportunities and options for this festival to be potentially staged annually or bi-annually dependant on funding opportunities and time frames.

## **HEALTH AND WELL-BEING.**

### ***Community Gardens***

The council has been a founding supporter of this initiative in Lightning Ridge since its inception several years ago. The council promotes and supports this project by offering residents a place to gather fresh produce for the family at a minimal cost (gold coin donation). This is truly community focused work at its best and Council has committed to continuing to support such a meaningful initiative driven by community minded champions and also supported by Rotary and local business houses. Planning is in place for youth who attend the afterschool program an afternoon a week to assist with the upkeep, supervised by youth workers in a bid to expose young people to life skills and healthy options. A large-scale community gathering is planned in the coming months to promote to the wider community seeking increases of volunteers to maintain this outstanding garden, supporting community.

### ***Walgett Aboriginal Medical Services Health Expo 2023***

The *Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Health Expo 2023* staged at Number 1 Oval recorded exceptionally high numbers of people engaged, entertained and informed and Council is thankful we are able to play a role in this event promoting healthy lifestyles and choices. Our teams promoted many of council’s programs relating to young people and supported the organisers with event planning, MC duties and implementation of program.

### ***2023 Goanna Academy Program***

Walgett Shire Council has partnered with Bourke Shire Council with a joint funding submission for the Goanna Academy to engage the youth and broader community. Targeting mental health and wellbeing the successful grant funding both Walgett and Bourke Councils received through *Department of Regional NSW* enabled the Walgett PCYC and supporting services to

deliver an amazing series of workshops and community events delivered by former NRL great Greg Inglis and the GOANNA Academy to many youths in the Shire. The program delivered skills and awareness to youth and the broader community through workshops and mentorships over the course of the program.

### ***GROW festival – Grawin:***

The Grawin Health Expo also informed Grawin / Glengarry/ Sheeppyard folks about the many services and supports on offer throughout the Shire and again Councils teams supported the event targeting “keeping our residents informed and connected” through service providers across the Shire. Our teams were supported by the Ranger services who shared information to those in attendance. Planning is underway to deliver a similar model of delivery in the Lightning Ridge community.

### **COMMUNITY EVENTS, PROMOTION & AWARENESS**

#### ***Walgett Careers Expo 2023***

For the second successive year our Council has played a lead role in supporting and promoting the Careers Expo staged in Walgett at the Showgrounds. This year has been the biggest to date with a multitude of organisations and companies showcasing youth employment opportunities. The NSW Department of Education and Careers Pathways have applauded the support in bringing together 178 young people in this employment and futures expo. Council showcased several departments job opportunities and promoted a range of different options for young people.

#### ***NAIDOC WEEK 2023***

Every July, Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week ceremonies and celebrations are proudly undertaken across all three larger communities in our LGA with collaborations and partnerships of local services again proving a winner, delivering great community days, increased awareness to traditions and culture and well attended events. The 2023 NAIDOC Week in the Walgett Shire was an extraordinary celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture and accomplishments. The commendable efforts of the NAIDOC working committees deserve heartfelt recognition. Under the theme ‘For Our Elders,’ the week featured numerous performers, presentations, events, competitions and guest speakers acknowledging the importance and significance of our Elders. These remarkable individuals play a pivotal role across generations as cultural custodians, pioneers, nurturers, advocates, teachers, leaders and our loved ones. The festivities commenced with an Opening Ceremony on the front lawn of the Council Administration Building. Deputy Mayor of Walgett Shire, Greg Rummery, Local Aboriginal Elder Uncle Clem Dodd and Pastor George Ferguson opened the proceedings with a flag-raising ceremony. The cake-cutting and morning tea brought everyone together in celebration. The Shire was bustling with events organised by various local services and agencies. The NAIDOC Community Fun Day at Ricky Walford Oval in Walgett was a highlight. Master of Ceremonies Joanne Flick led the festivities, setting the tone for a day filled with warmth and appreciation. Special welcome and heartfelt words from the Elders, accompanied by a smoking ceremony, traditional dancing by Milan Dhiyaan and competitions

in damper cooking and Shake a Leg were enjoyed by all. Live music by Chris Hunt filled the year, honouring the theme “For Our Elders”.

In Lightning Ridge, several events unfolded throughout the week. The Family NAIDOC Day event drew hundreds of participants and showcased a collaboration among various services. The Wiiringahs Group performed the Opening Ceremony, followed by a memorable dance by the Ridge Aboriginal Dance Group. Local agencies delivered a fun day of entertainment with an Elders’ dance competition, face painting, a jumping castle, and delicious food. Collarenebri also hosted popular events during the week, with the NAIDOC Community Event at Lions Park drawing a large crowd. Auntie Roz McGregor's warm welcome and the enthusiastic participation of the community's youth during the cake-cutting ceremony added to the celebration. There were engaging events, competitions, and live music by Uncle Ducky Dennis, enjoyed by all.

### ***2023 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander- Kids Day***

Council staff partnered with Mission Australia to offer young people an afternoon of fun and games at a series of discos throughout the communities. Attendance numbers were outstanding and demonstrates that young people, if given the opportunity will engage in suitable activities. The events promoted healthy eating, respect and friendships for our youth and young people.

## **YOUTH & YOUNG PEOPLE**

### ***Walgett Youth Services***

Walgett Youth Centre, under direction of the Act General Manager have relocated back to the original youth centre on Pitt St Walgett. Young people from the ages of 5 to 12 (Primary school ages) are the priority target group and numbers are floating around the 25-30 daily. Walgett Youth Development staff have been delivering programs to meet the needs of young people offering a variety of activities within the centre. Plans are in place to address some areas of repair within the building and invest in the Council owned facility. Holiday attendance have also risen with 30 to 40 young people participating in activities.

### ***Lightning Ridge Services:***

Lightning Ridge youth center is fully functional and delivers after-school and holiday programs. As we now have more space to deliver programs young people have been very vocal in their input into the programs, some programs delivered have been science experiments, obstacle courses, arts and craft, life skills cooking programs. Positive outcomes in building “connected young people” is youth participation with enrolment numbers on the increase. After school programs are seeing a significant increase with 35 to 45 young people attending and engaging in afternoon programs from 3pm to 6pm. We are also fortunate to be able to have direct access to the football oval- tennis, netball and basketball courts which creates more activities for young people to be engaged in. Holiday programs have also seen an increase in young people’s numbers with an average of 40 to 50 young people accessing the service from 9am-2pm. All young people are encouraged to have input in the programs that they are wanting to participate in. Youth/young people have a sense pride when other services visit the center. Service and agency collaboration and

partnerships have been key to supporting the programs and initiatives delivered to our young people.

### ***Collarenebri Youth Services***

*Collarenebri* youth centre continues to provide engaging activities for young people from the Red shed with thanks to Murdi Paaki for their continued support in providing the space to facilitate programs for our young people. Many new programs have been implemented with the new Team leader on board, who has been working closely with the staff and young people to deliver programs that directly relate to the young people of Collarenebri Utilising the use of all facilities (Skate Park, football ovals) as well as partnering with other services to deliver meaningful programs. Holiday activities see an average of 25 to 40 young people attending.

### ***Walgett Shire Youth Week 2023 & NSW Local Government Awards***

National Youth Week 2023 was rolled out across communities in April this year recording the highest number of youth participation to date delivering a variety of high quality and meaningful programs and initiatives offered to the youth and young people of Walgett Shire. The success of the program saw the Shire for the (16<sup>h</sup>) sixteenth consecutive year, gaining recognition at State level with Walgett Shire Council judged top 5 finalists in two (2) of the four (4) eligible categories of the NSW Local Government Youth Week Awards 2023. The Youth Week Young People's Advisory Committee (a sub-committee of the NSW Youth Advisory Council) judged the Local Government Youth Week Awards at their final meeting in July 2023. The assessment of the Awards is based on a range of information and criteria, including information provided in the Council's evaluation of 2023, Youth Week history of previous Local Government Award recipients over the past 3-5 years, and how well the Council incorporated the aims of National Youth Week in their Youth Week Program

Over 35 individual events and programs aligning with needs of youth and young people were rolled out across communities ensuring opportunities were available to all. Our 40 strong, visiting JITA youth team from Sydney always value adds to programs with the annual youth cultural sharing and exchange a feature of youth week programs in our Shire for many years. The sustainability of the relationship with the JITA Team and Council is now 17 years on and its outcomes gain more strength and meaning every year. Although Council missed the winners podium ( only the second time we missed a winners award in 16 years), being recognized as a top 5 finalist against 128 local councils in NSW is an outstanding result which again, for the (16<sup>th</sup>) sixteenth consecutive year saw Walgett Shire Council and communities acknowledged by their peers. Underpinning the success is the sustained partnerships and best practice processes of delivery in providing young people with opportunities, decision making and participation in the youth week programs, and a commitment from our Youth Development Officer and teams of youth and community staff to make a positive difference in the lives of our youth and young people.

### ***Walgett Shire - School 2 Work Program:***

The council's community development staff continue to promote and engage young people attending school with options in relation to the school 2 Work Program. Areas of work in which youth are engaged are libraries, youth centers, finance, outdoor staff visitor information centers and community development. Currently there are (6) six students engaged in the program in Walgett, Collarenebri and Lightning Ridge. Council staff work

with careers advisors and senior school employees to identify youth keen to participate in the program.

### **Libraries- Services, Connection & Promotion**

#### **Walgett:**

##### **Patrons and usage**

The Shire Libraries in both Lightning Ridge and Walgett along with deposit stations in Burren Junction and Collarenebri have had a significant increase in memberships and are important central hubs for people in the local community to get together and interact. (current members 1265). Our Libraries continue to provide the space and support of the library staff for community programs, workshops, exhibitions and meetings reflecting and responding to the locals needs. Our libraries offer a range of materials that you can access free of charge including books, newspapers and magazines, DVD's, audio books and eBooks. We also offer free programs and resources ranging from early childhood, community interest, education, literacy, and recreational programs that cover a multitude of interests and topics suitable for all ages. Community members use our computers to access the internet and Microsoft Office, plus printing and scanning facilities. Free Wi-Fi remains available at both of our branches. We provide free 24/7 access to our eResources including eBooks, eMagazines via an internet connection. New members for the reporting period totalled (24) boosted by (24) members re-registering giving a total of 679 current members. During reporting period 1291 items were borrowed from the library and 90 computer bookings were placed.

##### **Preschool literacy**

Bulk borrowing to all preschools takes place each term as this helps build children's early literacy skills that help them go on to read successfully later in childhood. Each term picture books are delivered to the three preschools in Walgett that are relevant to their current learning topics.

##### **Dolly Patrons Imagination Library**

United Way Australia is a non-profit organisation and licence holder of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, working to ensure every Australian child has access to books in their homes and the chance to reach their full potential. Each month a new book is posted to the child free of charge until the child starts school. To be eligible the child must have been born after 1 January 2022. To date Walgett Shire Council working with Early Childhood health services have 71 babies enrolled in this program across the shire.

##### **Library programs:**

Tuesday mornings Council host the knitting/coffee club, with 13 members engaged in the program. Currently the group are busy hand knitting warm blankets and beanies for the homeless for the coming winter. They are all busy creating for our upcoming local show. The local painting group use the Library on Thursdays with painting and art activities. Fridays we host a babies and toddlers rhyme time playgroup. Which has been very popular with the Mums and bubs enjoying books, music and craft with a cuppa. Technology



awareness continues being promoted through our e-platforms to Library members helping them download eBooks, eMovies, eMagazines and eAudio on their own devices.

### **Deposit stations**

Both deposit stations at Mason's Collarenebri and The Post Office Burren Junction continue to thrive and locals appreciate their collections of books, audio books and DVD's that are renewed every eight weeks. We have continued weeding books from the library and delivering them to Burren Junction Bore Baths and our libraries as free books and swapping stations for locals and visiting tourists.

### **Book Club**

Book club members continue to grow with 15 members that meet every second Wednesday of the month to discuss the book of the month and enjoy morning tea. Book clubs are a great way to establish a sense of community with other readers. You can make new friends and feel involved within the community.

### **Homebound**

The library provides a free book on wheels delivery service to housebound members of the local community who are physically unable to visit the library.

### **Lightning Ridge Library:**

#### **Patrons and usage**

Lightning Ridge offers a range of materials that you can access free of charge including books, newspapers and magazines, DVD's and audio books as well as eBooks. Also available are free programs and resources ranging from early childhood, community interest, education, literacy, and recreational programs that cover a multitude of interests and topics suitable for everyone within our local community. New members for the reporting period totalled (19) plus (23) members re-registering giving a total of 581 members. During this reporting period 1500 items were borrowed from the library and 120 computer bookings were placed. Continuous liaison with the NSW State Library with (ILL) Inter Library Loans allows us to source a large range of Multicultural and HSC literature which is available for our members to loan.

#### **Preschool literacy**

Books and Babies is an ongoing program targeting ages 0 – 5 years, held Tuesday mornings from 10am – 11am. Using stories, songs, rhymes, dancing and music which will provide you with the tools and resources to nurture your child's love of reading.

#### **School Holiday & After School Programs**

Youth 10 years and over are encouraged to participate in afternoon programs in the library to enhance their literacy skills and awareness of facilities offered at the library including board games, craft activities and computer workshops. This program is offered Wednesday

and Thursday afternoons and continues to be popular during this quarter we have had over 150 youth and young people attending this program.

### **Book Club**

Book Club is still very popular with the community. Book clubs are great social forums and provide many opportunities to meet new people as well as providing an enjoyable and meaningful addition to your social calendar. We currently have 14 members involved in the Book club who meet every Friday from 10am – 12pm discussing various books and subjects and enjoying morning tea together.

### **Up Coming Events and Programs**

#### **R U OK Events –**

Council partnering with Wellways, Royal Flying Doctors, Mission Australia and Healthy Communities will be delivering four different events to community members across the three larger communities of Walgett, Lightning Ridge and Collarenebri to promote and create awareness to mental Health and Suicide Prevention.

#### **Art Attack in the Outback**

Following successful funding submission to the Department Regional Youth Council will deliver two weeks of programs over the Sep/Oct school holiday period in the three larger communities.

#### **Information sessions - People with Disabilities –**

Council's community development staff will be hosting information sessions with people with disabilities and their carers to seek input into the current update of the Disability Inclusion Action Plan. Workshops will be conducted in the three larger communities supported by NDIS services and providers.

#### **Youth Development Strategy review and update –**

Staff are currently working towards a consultation plan to undertake extensive consults across communities in the coming months with youth and young people and those providing services and supports too and for them.

#### **Planning and development of a young men's and boy's group-**

Council will support an initiative working and supporting the Lightning Ridge Land Council in seeking to engage young boys and men in meaningful ways through a series of workshops and skill development sessions. Although only in planning stage the value of a program like this is significant and in some cases life changing in the development of connected, informed young citizens on the journey to adulthood. Council are working with groups supporting young women and girls and have set up discussion and planning meetings in the weeks ahead.

#### **Relevant Reference Documents/Policies:**

Walgett Shire Council Community Strategic Plan 2017 – 2027,  
Walgett Shire Council Aboriginal Community Development and Reconciliation Plan 2020-2025,  
Walgett Shire Council Disability and Inclusion Plan 2017-2022,  
Walgett Shire Community Safety & Crime Prevention Plan 2016-2020,  
Walgett Shire Youth Development Youth Strategy 2009 – 2014.

**Governance issues:**

The development of programs and activities are conducted with a whole of Shire focus to enhance access and equity for Shire residents. Larger scale programs and initiatives are developed to target all larger communities with a focus on inclusivity for all residents.

**Environmental issues:**

There are no identified environmental issues in relation to this report.

**Stakeholders:**

Walgett Shire community members, organisations and agencies with an interest in the social outcomes of people residing, working in, and visiting, the Walgett Shire.

**Financial Implications:**

Activities conducted within applicable budgets and successful funding submissions.

**Alternative Solutions/Options:**

Not applicable

**Conclusion:**

The Community Development team have progressed projects and programs this period in accordance with The Walgett Shire Council Community Strategic Plan 2017 – 2027, Walgett Shire Council Aboriginal Community Development and Reconciliation Plan 2020 – 2025, Walgett Shire Council Disability and Inclusion Plan 2017-2021, Walgett Shire Community Safety & Crime Prevention Plan 2016-2020, Youth Development Youth Strategy 2009 – 2014.

## 9.3 DIRECTOR ENGINEERING/TECHNICAL SERVICES

### 9.3.1 MONTHLY MAINTENANCE GRADING REPORT AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

**REPORTING SECTION:** Engineering / Technical Services  
**AUTHOR:** Kazi Mahmud – Director of Engineering and Technical Services  
**FILE NUMBER:** 23/11/0249

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#### Monthly Maintenance Grading Report – August 2023

**Recommendation:**

That Council receive and note the monthly maintenance grading works report for August 2023

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

**Summary:**

The purpose of this report is to update Council about the road maintenance programme on Shire Roads for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023.

**Background:**

The maintenance budget has been prepared based on the available funding to maintain the Unsealed Local and Regional Roads to provide an acceptable level of service. This budget will be used to maintain the roads as per demand and Unsealed Road Best Practice Guide v2.

Details of maintenance grading and flood work locations are detailed in the attached report.

**Documents/Policies:**

Council's approved 2023/2024 Shire Roads Maintenance Grading Works schedule.

**Stakeholders:**

Walgett Shire Council  
Walgett Residents  
Tourists

**Financial Implications:**

As of 31<sup>st</sup> August, actual spend is **\$102,426**

**Alternative Solutions/Options:**

Nil

**Conclusion:**

Council has established a system to monitor progress continually to keep within the approved budget.

**Attachments:**

*Monthly Maintenance grading location report*

WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL AGENDA – 26 SEPTEMBER 2023 – ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

| Road Name                    | Total Length of Road | Budget Required for Entire Road | Road Category | Expenditure For July 2023 | Expenditure For August 2023 | Expenditure For Sept. 2023 | Expenditure For Oct. 2023 | Expenditure For Nov. 2023 | Expenditure For Dec. 2023 | Expenditure For Jan. 2024 | Expenditure For Feb. 2024 | Expenditure For March 2024 | Expenditure For April 2024 | Expenditure For May 2024 | Expenditure For June 2024 | Total Cost to Date  |
|------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Zone 1</b>                |                      |                                 |               |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | ..                  |
| Bowra Road SR34              | 3.95                 | \$ 4,278.00                     | F             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Wanourie Road SR38           | 6.5                  | \$ 4,278.00                     | E             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Green and Branders Road SR41 | 11.3                 | \$ 7,006.00                     | F             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Regans Road SR58             | 3.2                  | \$ 4,278.00                     | F             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Marra Creek Road SR60        | 17.5                 | \$ 10,850.00                    | E             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Lochlomond Road SR74         | 8.4                  | \$ 5,208.00                     | E             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Maroubra Road SR76           | 8.3                  | \$ 5,146.00                     | E             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Nedgara Road SR77            | 10.7                 | \$ 6,634.00                     | F             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Mac Masman Road SR81         | 8                    | \$ 4,960.00                     | E             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Binghi Road SR113            | 20.1                 | \$ 12,462.00                    | E             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Aberfoyle Road SR115         | 26.2                 | \$ 16,244.00                    | D             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Gungalman Road SR31          | 43.7                 | \$ 27,094.00                    | D             |                           | \$ 21,735.00                |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ 21,735.00        |
| Gilwamy Road SR32            | 7.9                  | \$ 4,898.00                     | F             |                           | \$ 2,470.00                 |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ 2,470.00         |
| Teranyan Road SR33           | 13.7                 | \$ 8,494.00                     | D             |                           | \$ 6,365.00                 |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ 6,365.00         |
| Bogewong Road SR114          | 48.7                 | \$ 30,194.00                    | D             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Ginghet Road SR40            | 47.6                 | \$ 29,512.00                    | D             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Bushs Road SR43              | 8.7                  | \$ 5,394.00                     | D             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Miralwyn Road SR73           | 17.9                 | \$ 11,098.00                    | D             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Brewon Road SR112            | 54.7                 | \$ 33,914.00                    | C             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Billybingbone Road RR7516    | 18.67                | \$ 11,532.00                    | C             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Merri Merri Road RR202       | 6.57                 | \$ 7,166.00                     | C             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| <b>Sub total Zone 1</b>      | <b>392.29</b>        | <b>\$ 250,640.00</b>            |               | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ 30,570.00</b>         | <b>\$ -</b>                | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>                | <b>\$ -</b>                | <b>\$ -</b>              | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ 30,570.00</b> |

| Road Name                | Total Length of Road | Budget Required for Entire Road | Road Category | Expenditure For July 2023 | Expenditure For August 2023 | Expenditure For Sept. 2023 | Expenditure For Oct. 2023 | Expenditure For Nov. 2023 | Expenditure For Dec. 2023 | Expenditure For Jan. 2024 | Expenditure For Feb. 2024 | Expenditure For March 2024 | Expenditure For April 2024 | Expenditure For May 2024 | Expenditure For June 2024 | Total Cost to Date  |
|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Zone 2</b>            |                      |                                 |               |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           |                     |
| Boorooma Creek Road SR48 | 19.1                 | \$ 11,842.00                    | E             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Wimbledon Road SR64      | 3.4                  | \$ 4,278.00                     | E             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Tungra Road SR85         | 12.7                 | \$ 7,874.00                     | F             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Strathmore Road SR92     | 16.42                | \$ 11,904.00                    | E             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Narran Lake Road SR111   | 61                   | \$ 37,820.00                    | D             |                           | \$ 12,410.00                |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ 12,410.00        |
| Lone Pine Road SR70      | 9.6                  | \$ 5,952.00                     | D             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Kurrajong Road SR110     | 27.8                 | \$ 17,236.00                    | D             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Wilby Wilby Road SR101   | 28.7                 | \$ 17,794.00                    | D             |                           | \$ 7,480.00                 |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ 7,480.00         |
| Grawin Opal Fields Road  | 0.9                  | \$ 557.00                       | C             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Woodlands Road SR 130    | 2.33                 | \$ 1,445.00                     | D             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Cumborah Town Roads      |                      |                                 | E             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| <b>Sub total Zone 2</b>  | <b>181.95</b>        | <b>\$ 116,702.00</b>            |               | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ 19,890.00</b>         | <b>\$ -</b>                | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>                | <b>\$ -</b>                | <b>\$ -</b>              | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ 19,890.00</b> |

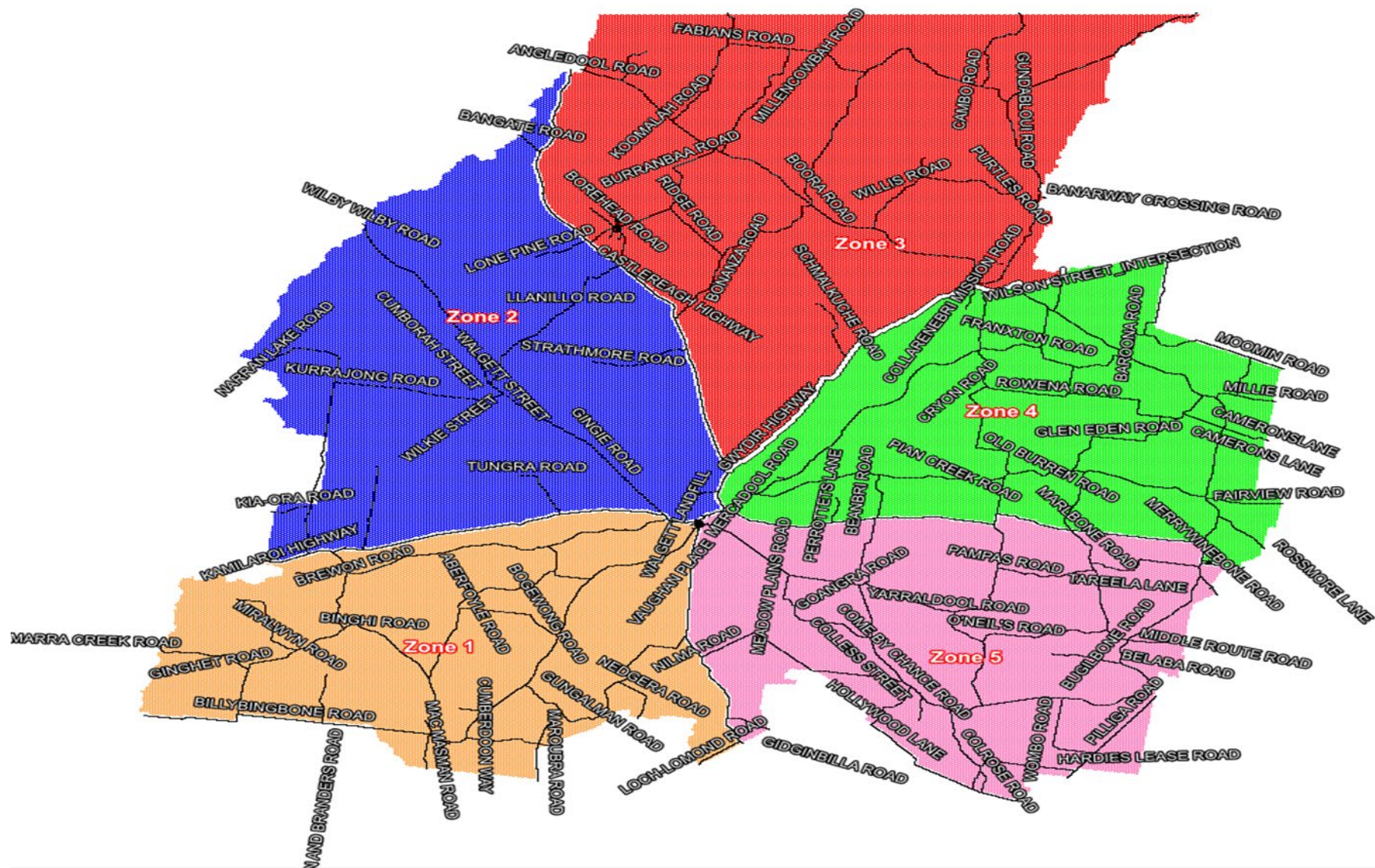
WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL AGENDA – 26 SEPTEMBER 2023 – ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

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## WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL AGENDA – 26 SEPTEMBER 2023 – ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

| Road Name                  | Total Length of Road | Budget Required for Entire Road | Road Category | Expenditure For July 2023 | Expenditure For August 2023 | Expenditure For Sept. 2023 | Expenditure For Oct. 2023 | Expenditure For Nov. 2023 | Expenditure For Dec. 2023 | Expenditure For Jan. 2024 | Expenditure For Feb. 2024 | Expenditure For March 2024 | Expenditure For April 2024 | Expenditure For May 2024 | Expenditure For June 2024 | Total Cost to Date   |
|----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Zone 5</b>              |                      |                                 |               |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           |                      |
| Pampas Road SR7            | 16.3                 | \$ 10,106.00                    | E             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                 |
| Wombo Road SR25            | 17.7                 | \$ 10,974.00                    | E             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                 |
| Hardys Lease Road SR26     | 16                   | \$ 9,920.00                     | E             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                 |
| Colrose Road SR27          | 20.6                 | \$ 12,772.00                    | E             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                 |
| Wingadee Road SR28         | 11.8                 | \$ 7,316.00                     | E             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                 |
| Epping Road SR57           | 15.4                 | \$ 9,548.00                     | E             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                 |
| Middle Route Road SR72     | 9.6                  | \$ 5,952.00                     | E             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                 |
| Gidginbilla Road SR75      | 7.4                  | \$ 4,588.00                     | E             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                 |
| Proctors Road SR82         | 4.4                  | \$ 4,278.00                     | F             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                 |
| Drilldool Road SR83        | 5.1                  | \$ 4,278.00                     | F             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                 |
| Belaba Road SR89           | 11.2                 | \$ 6,944.00                     | F             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                 |
| Hollywood Lane SR119       | 29.9                 | \$ 18,538.00                    | E             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                 |
| O'Niels Road SR131         | 31.1                 | \$ 19,282.00                    | D             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                 |
| Tareela Road SR17          | 19.4                 | \$ 12,028.00                    | D             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                 |
| Meadow Plains Road SR21    | 23.9                 | \$ 14,818.00                    | D             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                 |
| Marlbone Road SR24         | 28.4                 | \$ 17,608.00                    | D             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                 |
| Nilma Road SR30            | 37.8                 | \$ 23,436.00                    | D             |                           | \$ 17,480.00                |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ 17,480.00         |
| Bugilbone Road SR103       | 28.7                 | \$ 32,725.00                    | C             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                 |
| Goangra Road SR116         | 16.4                 | \$ 10,168.00                    | D             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                 |
| Yarraldool Road SR118      | 41.3                 | \$ 25,606.00                    | C             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                 |
| Haynes Hut SR68            | 4.5                  | \$ 2,790.00                     | E             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                 |
| Come By Chance Road RR7716 | 60.9                 | \$ 65,450.00                    | C             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                 |
| <b>Sub total Zone 5</b>    | <b>457.8</b>         | <b>\$ 329,125.00</b>            |               | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ 17,480.00</b>         | <b>\$ -</b>                | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>                | <b>\$ -</b>                | <b>\$ -</b>              | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ 17,480.00</b>  |
| <b>Total</b>               | <b>1,905.45</b>      | <b>1,295,183.00</b>             |               | <b>\$ 11,804.82</b>       | <b>\$102,426.81</b>         | <b>\$ -</b>                | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>                | <b>\$ -</b>                | <b>\$ -</b>              | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ 114,231.63</b> |
| <b>Actual Budget</b>       |                      |                                 |               |                           |                             |                            | <b>Month total</b>        |                           | <b>\$ 90,621.99</b>       |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           |                      |







**9.3.2 SERVICE PROGRESS REPORT AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023****REPORTING SECTION:** Engineering / Technical Services**AUTHOR:** Kazi Mahmud – Director of Engineering and Technical Services**FILE NUMBER:** 23/11/0248**Monthly Progress Report August 2023****Recommendation:**

That Council receive and note the Engineering Services monthly works progress report for August 2023

**Moved:****Seconded:****Summary:**

The purpose of this report is to update Council with regards to the Engineering Services progress works up to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023.

**Background:**

The revised budget of the Engineering and Technical Services Department for Capital & Maintenance Works, Quarry Management, Fleet Management, Water & Sewerage works, Parks & Garden and Engineering Administration for 2023/2024 is \$47,709,376

The breakdown of the budget is as follows.

**Breakdown of budgets:**

| Items                                               | Budget              | Expenditure Up to 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2023 | Percentage (%) |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Engineering Technical Services including RMCC Works | \$43,119,820        | \$25,455,837                                   | 59             |
| Water - Maintenance                                 | \$2,448,400         | \$274,140                                      | 11             |
| Water - Capital                                     | \$1,000,000         | \$96,818                                       | 10             |
| Sewer - Maintenance                                 | \$741,156           | \$52,541                                       | 7              |
| Sewer - Capital                                     | \$400,000           | \$0                                            | 0              |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                        | <b>\$47,709,376</b> | <b>\$25,879,336</b>                            | <b>54</b>      |

**Relevant Reference Documents/Policies:**

2023/24 Operational Plan and Budget

**Governance issues:**

Due processes are followed on a routine basis i.e. procurement and tendering.

**Environmental issues:**

Various environmental issues are assessed on a project-by-project basis to ensure any environmental legislation is complied with.

**Stakeholders:**

Walgett Shire

Walgett Shire Residents and Rate Payers

**Financial Implications:**

As of 31st August 2023, \$25,879,336 expended.

**Alternative Solutions/Options:**

Nil

**Conclusion:**

Council will continue to monitor the work progress of all the activities to ensure the works are completed within the guidelines and project estimates.

**Attachment:**

Nil

### 9.3.3 MONTHLY MAJOR PROJECTS REPORT AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

**REPORTING SECTION:** Engineering / Technical Services  
**AUTHOR:** Kazi Mahmud – Director of Engineering and Technical Services  
**FILE NUMBER:** 23/11/0249

#### Monthly Major Project Progress Report– August 2023

**Recommendation:**

That Council receive and note the Monthly Major Projects Report for August 2023.

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

**Summary:**

The purpose of this report is to update Council about the Major Projects programme in the Shire for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023.

**Background:**

The shire currently has several major projects in progress being:

- **Gongora Bridge** – Bridge is complete. Seal will be installed after Harvest traffic.
- **Come by Chance Road Reconstruction and seal** – Contractor has cleared vegetation from the length of the project and temporary sidetracks. Bulk earthworks are up to grade for the first 22km from the Walgett end.
- **Burrnbaa Road Reconstruction and reseal** – All Gravel on site. Contractor profiling and compacting gravel. Stages yet to be completed include Sealing, Road Furniture and Road marking. Approx. 7 weeks to completion
- **Lorne Road Reconstruction and reseal** – Lorne Road is open to traffic. Line marking and some road furniture yet to be installed.
- **Cryon Road**- Early stages of Project Implementation. Geotechnical Design, Geometric Design, Review of Environmental Factors (REF) and other preliminary reports are yet to be completed.

**Relevant Reference Documents/Policies:**

NIL

**Stakeholders:**

Walgett Shire Council  
 Walgett Residents  
 Funding Bodies

**Alternative Solutions/Options:**

Nil

**Conclusion:**

Council has established a system to monitor progress continually to keep within the approved budget.

### 9.3.4 REPORT TO PROVIDE UPDATE ON LIGHTNING RIDGE BORE LINE PROJECT

**REPORTING SECTION:** Engineering / Technical Services  
**AUTHOR:** Kazi Mahmud – Director of Engineering and Technical Services  
**FILE NUMBER:** 23/11/0251

#### Report to Provide Update on Lightning Ridge Bore Line Project

##### Recommendation:

That Council Considers:

1. canvassing to the minister for funding in relation to Lightning Ridge Bore No 1 pipeline replacement project as a first option, or
2. In the event that, a grant fund is not forthcoming, Council considers a low interest loan as second option, or
3. Council considers funding the project from water reserve as a third option.

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

##### Summary:

This report provides the Council with an update regarding the inquiries raised during the October 2023 Council meeting concerning the Lightning Ridge Bore No 1 pipeline.

##### Background:

Historically, the Lightning Ridge township relied on Bore No 1 as its primary water supply, which was delivered through a 200mm diameter Ductile Iron Cement Lined (DACL) pipeline constructed in the 1980s. However, due to the corrosive nature of the local soil, flood water intrusion over time led to corrosion of the pipe, resulting in frequent breaks. Upon examination, it was found that the external ductile iron material of the pipe was failing due to contact with corrosive chemicals present in the highly reactive soil, while the internal cement lining remained intact.

Council, in recent years, constructed a new bore, Bore No 2, to extract groundwater. Initially, this bore produced water with a strong odour due to sulphur-containing compounds. Continuous extraction has since improved the aesthetic and odour aspects of the groundwater. Regulatory sampling over nine months has confirmed that sulphur-containing compounds are now within the allowable limits defined by the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG).

As the summer months approach and a drought is forecasted, relying solely on Bore No 2 for Lightning Ridge's water supply is not advisable. Any mechanical or electrical failure in Bore No 2 infrastructure necessitates bringing Bore No 1 online. However, the current condition of the delivery pipe for Bore No 1 does not ensure an uninterrupted supply. It is crucial for the Council to expedite design and construction works. A recommendation is made for the construction of a new 200mm pipeline using High Density Poly-Ethylene (HDPE) as a replacement.

A previous report dated July 05, 2023, estimated the construction cost of the pipeline at approximately \$2.3M for a 5.1 km stretch, equating to \$451 per linear meter. This estimate includes project management and design costs, based on averages of similar projects within NSW. However, this report did not identify the source of funding.

**The Council should consider three potential funding options:**

1. Grant Funding:

Council should prioritize initiating discussions with the minister to canvass for funding related to the Lightning Ridge Bore No 1 pipeline replacement project. While initial conversations with DPIE water delegates for the Western Region did not yield positive results for grant funding, engaging directly with the minister is advisable. Given the recognized priority of water issues in Walgett Shire, this proactive approach may secure the necessary funding.

2. Loan Funding:

Should the primary option of securing grant funding not materialize, Council should consider pursuing a low-interest loan for financing the project. This approach would allow the Council to manage the financial burden over an extended period without exerting excessive stress on the water reserve.

3. Council's Water Reserve:

If both grant funding and low-interest loans prove unviable, the Council may opt to allocate the necessary funds from its water reserve. However, this option should be approached with caution due to the forecasted drought. Allocating \$2.3M from the water reserve for the project may limit available resources in case of emergency, warranting careful consideration.

**Relevant Reference Documents/Policies:**

Council Report on Lightning Ridge Bore Line - 5 July 2023  
Australian Drinking Water Guideline (ADWG).

**Stakeholders:**

Walgett Shire Council  
Walgett Residents  
Tourists  
Department of Planning, Industry, and Environment (DPIE)

**Financial Implications:**

A budget of \$2.3M

**Alternative Solutions/Options:**

Nil

**Conclusion:**

The Council should carefully consider the outlined funding options, prioritise in the order outlined within the report and proceed with project implementation as a priority.

**Attachment:**

Analytical Sampling Results for Lightning Ridge Water Supply

## Result Summary Report

|                |                                   |                  |     |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|-----|
| Program:       | Drinking Water Monitoring Program | Barcode:         | All |
| Date Range:    | 01-01-2023 - 14-09-2023           | Analysis Type:   | All |
| Water Utility: | All                               | Characteristics: | All |
| Supply System: | Lightning Ridge WG03              | Sample Types:    | All |

Sample Count:  
33

| Analysis Type | Characteristic                      | Guideline Value | Units            | Mean     | Median   | Standard Deviation | Min     | Max     | Sample Count | Exception Count | 95th Percentile | 5th Percentile | % meeting guideline |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------|----------|--------------------|---------|---------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Chemistry     | Aluminium                           | 0.2000          | mg/L             | 0.0100   | 0.0100   | 0.0000             | 0.01    | 0.01    | 1            | 0               | 0.01            | 0.01           | 100.00              |
|               | Antimony                            | 0.0030          | mg/L             | 0.0001   | 0.0001   | 0.0000             | 0.00005 | 0.00005 | 1            | 0               | 0.00005         | 0.00005        | 100.00              |
|               | Arsenic                             | 0.0100          | mg/L             | 0.0005   | 0.0005   | 0.0000             | 0.0005  | 0.0005  | 1            | 0               | 0.0005          | 0.0005         | 100.00              |
|               | Barium                              | 2.0000          | mg/L             | 0.0221   | 0.0221   | 0.0000             | 0.0221  | 0.0221  | 1            | 0               | 0.0221          | 0.0221         | 100.00              |
|               | Boron                               | 4.0000          | mg/L             | 0.1656   | 0.1656   | 0.0000             | 0.1656  | 0.1656  | 1            | 0               | 0.1656          | 0.1656         | 100.00              |
|               | Cadmium                             | 0.0020          | mg/L             | 0.0001   | 0.0001   | 0.0000             | 0.00005 | 0.00005 | 1            | 0               | 0.00005         | 0.00005        | 100.00              |
|               | Calcium                             | #####           | mg/L             | 2.0000   | 2.0000   | 0.0000             | 2       | 2       | 1            | 0               | 2               | 2              | 100.00              |
|               | Chloride                            | 250.0000        | mg/L             | 68.0000  | 68.0000  | 0.0000             | 68      | 68      | 1            | 0               | 68              | 68             | 100.00              |
|               | Chromium                            | 0.0500          | mg/L             | 0.0020   | 0.0020   | 0.0000             | 0.002   | 0.002   | 1            | 0               | 0.002           | 0.002          | 100.00              |
|               | Copper                              | 2.0000          | mg/L             | 0.0020   | 0.0020   | 0.0000             | 0.002   | 0.002   | 1            | 0               | 0.002           | 0.002          | 100.00              |
|               | Fluoride                            | 1.5000          | mg/L             | 0.5500   | 0.5500   | 0.0000             | 0.55    | 0.55    | 1            | 0               | 0.55            | 0.55           | 100.00              |
|               | Iodine                              | 0.5000          | mg/L             | 0.0500   | 0.0500   | 0.0000             | 0.05    | 0.05    | 1            | 0               | 0.05            | 0.05           | 100.00              |
|               | Iron                                | 0.3000          | mg/L             | 0.0200   | 0.0200   | 0.0000             | 0.02    | 0.02    | 1            | 0               | 0.02            | 0.02           | 100.00              |
|               | Lead                                | 0.0100          | mg/L             | 0.0001   | 0.0001   | 0.0000             | 0.0001  | 0.0001  | 1            | 0               | 0.0001          | 0.0001         | 100.00              |
|               | Magnesium                           | #####           | mg/L             | 0.0300   | 0.0300   | 0.0000             | 0.03    | 0.03    | 1            | 0               | 0.03            | 0.03           | 100.00              |
|               | Manganese                           | 0.5000          | mg/L             | 0.0079   | 0.0079   | 0.0000             | 0.0079  | 0.0079  | 1            | 0               | 0.0079          | 0.0079         | 100.00              |
|               | Mercury                             | 0.0010          | mg/L             | 0.0004   | 0.0004   | 0.0000             | 0.0004  | 0.0004  | 1            | 0               | 0.0004          | 0.0004         | 100.00              |
|               | Molybdenum                          | 0.0500          | mg/L             | 0.0020   | 0.0020   | 0.0000             | 0.002   | 0.002   | 1            | 0               | 0.002           | 0.002          | 100.00              |
|               | Nickel                              | 0.0200          | mg/L             | 0.0002   | 0.0002   | 0.0000             | 0.0002  | 0.0002  | 1            | 0               | 0.0002          | 0.0002         | 100.00              |
|               | Nitrate                             | 50.0000         | mg/L             | 0.5000   | 0.5000   | 0.0000             | 0.5     | 0.5     | 1            | 0               | 0.5             | 0.5            | 100.00              |
|               | Nitrite                             | 3.0000          | mg/L             | 0.0500   | 0.0500   | 0.0000             | 0.05    | 0.05    | 1            | 0               | 0.05            | 0.05           | 100.00              |
|               | pH                                  | 6.5 - 8.5       |                  | 8.6000   | 8.6000   | 0.0000             | 8.6     | 8.6     | 1            | 1               | 8.6             | 8.6            | 0.00                |
|               | Selenium                            | 0.0100          | mg/L             | 0.0035   | 0.0035   | 0.0000             | 0.0035  | 0.0035  | 1            | 0               | 0.0035          | 0.0035         | 100.00              |
|               | Silver                              | 0.1000          | mg/L             | 0.0001   | 0.0001   | 0.0000             | 0.0001  | 0.0001  | 1            | 0               | 0.0001          | 0.0001         | 100.00              |
|               | Sodium                              | 180.0000        | mg/L             | 216.0000 | 216.0000 | 0.0000             | 216     | 216     | 1            | 1               | 216             | 216            | 0.00                |
|               | Sulfate                             | 250.0000        | mg/L             | 1.0000   | 1.0000   | 0.0000             | 1       | 1       | 1            | 0               | 1               | 1              | 100.00              |
|               | Total Dissolved Solids              | #####           | mg/L             | 429.0000 | 429.0000 | 0.0000             | 429     | 429     | 1            | 0               | 429             | 429            | 100.00              |
|               | Total Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub> | #####           | mg/L             | 5.1000   | 5.1000   | 0.0000             | 5.1     | 5.1     | 1            | 0               | 5.1             | 5.1            | 100.00              |
|               | True Colour                         | 15.0000         | Hazen Units (HU) | 1.0000   | 1.0000   | 0.0000             | 1       | 1       | 1            | 0               | 1               | 1              | 100.00              |
|               | Turbidity                           | 5.0000          | NTU              | 0.9000   | 0.9000   | 0.0000             | 0.9     | 0.9     | 1            | 0               | 0.9             | 0.9            | 100.00              |
|               | Uranium                             | 0.0170          | mg/L             | 0.0001   | 0.0001   | 0.0000             | 0.00005 | 0.00005 | 1            | 0               | 0.00005         | 0.00005        | 100.00              |
|               | Zinc                                | 3.0000          | mg/L             | 0.0050   | 0.0050   | 0.0000             | 0.005   | 0.005   | 1            | 0               | 0.005           | 0.005          | 100.00              |
| Microbiology  | E. coli                             | 0.0000          | mpn/100 mL       | 0.0000   | 0.0000   | 0.0000             | 0       | 0       | 32           | 0               | 0               | 0              | 100.00              |
|               | Free Chlorine                       | 0.2 - 5         | mg/L             | 1.0300   | 1.0300   | 0.0000             | 1.03    | 1.03    | 2            | 0               | 1.03            | 1.03           | 100.00              |
|               | pH                                  | 6.5 - 8.5       |                  | 8.2220   | 8.2300   | 0.1947             | 7.55    | 8.84    | 30           | 1               | 8.37            | 7.93           | 96.67               |
|               | Temperature                         | 30.0000         | C                | 29.0844  | 28.6500  | 7.9920             | 16      | 45.4    | 32           | 14              | 40.8            | 18.5           | 56.25               |
|               | Total Chlorine                      | 5.0000          | mg/L             | 1.1700   | 1.1700   | 0.0000             | 1.17    | 1.17    | 2            | 0               | 1.17            | 1.17           | 100.00              |
|               | Total Coliforms                     | 0.0000          | mpn/100 mL       | 0.1875   | 0.0000   | 0.5923             | 0       | 3       | 32           | 4               | 1               | 0              | 87.50               |
|               | Turbidity                           | 5.0000          | NTU              | 0.4166   | 0.3650   | 0.2287             | 0.04    | 1.01    | 32           | 0               | 0.84            | 0.08           | 100.00              |

## 9.4 DIRECTOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

### 9.4.1 DEVELOPMENT APPROVALS JULY 2023

**REPORTING SECTION:** Planning  
**AUTHOR:** Kimley Talbert - Director Environmental Services  
**FILE NUMBER:** 23/11/0252

#### Development Approvals August 2023

**Recommendation:**

That Council receive and note the Development Approvals Report for August 2023.

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

**Summary:**

This report is to advise the August 2023 development approvals for the information of Council and to ensure compliance with Section 4.59 of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979* and Section 124 of the associated Regulation.

**Background:**

To ensure the validity of a development consent in any legal proceedings, all development consents and complying development certificates are to be notified to the public within 3 months of the date of consent. The only exception is any development that may have Court proceedings commenced before the expiration of 3 months from the date on which the public notice was given.

**Current Position:**

To ensure compliance with Section 4.59 of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979* and Section 124 of the associated Regulation, Council publishes a notice each month on/in Council's website, E-Bulletin and Facebook Page in relation to development approvals for the previous month.

For Councillor Information purposes, the following developments have been lodged and are currently waiting a determination. **Please note, this is only current as at 1 August–1 July**

| Appl. No  | Address                                 | Title                     | Development                                                                       | Status                  |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| DA2023/31 | 24 Euroka Street<br>Walgett             | Lot 22 DP<br>253488       | Rural Fire Shed 4x<br>bay, 1 x Multi<br>function area, 3x<br>toilet, 1x storeroom | Awaiting<br>information |
| DA2023/32 | 25 Bugilbone<br>Road Burren<br>Junction | Lot 10 & 11<br>DP 1067218 | Construction<br>30,000 tonnes new<br>bunkers grain                                | Awaiting<br>information |

|            |                                            |                                                    |                                                                      |                                                                                       |
|------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|            |                                            |                                                    | storage two weighbridges and sample stand                            |                                                                                       |
| DA2023/20  | 26 Pandora Street Lightning Ridge          | Lot 1 DP 125775                                    | Construction of new dwelling workers accommodation manufactured home | Approved                                                                              |
| DA2023/25  | 2 Pandora Street Lightning Ridge           | Lot 1 section 25 DP 758612                         | Demolish existing derelict preschool and construct a new Preschool   | Approved                                                                              |
| S682023/14 | 26 pandora Street Lightning Ridge          | Lot 1 DP1257775                                    | Hospital workers accommodation manufactured home                     | Approved                                                                              |
| CDC2023/5  | 152-156 Fox Street Walgett<br>“Pink House” | Lot 4 DP 803866                                    | Knock-down existing carports & construct New double garage           | Approved                                                                              |
| S68/2023/2 | 5 Morilla Street LIGHTNING RIDGE           | Lots 1 section 9, lot 1 DP 623130 & Lot 2 DP 40628 | Caravan Park License                                                 | Assessment awaiting application<br><br>Fire safety Statement covering Fire Hose reels |
| CC/2023/6  | 142-186 Pandora Street Lightning Ridge     | Lot 2 DP1079966                                    | Caravan park Mini Observatory                                        | Awaiting Additional information                                                       |
| CC2023/13  | 7993 Come By Chance Road Pilliga           | Lot 23 DP 750258                                   | Large Rural Shed                                                     | Approved                                                                              |
| DA2023/37  | 126 Belarra Road Rowena                    | Lot 1 DP 819394                                    | Workers Accommodation units staged development                       | Approved                                                                              |
| S682023/20 | 126 Belarra Road Rowena                    | Lot 1 DP 819394                                    | Workers accommodation units Staged development                       | Awaiting additional information                                                       |



|            |                                       |                  |                                                              |            |
|------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| S682023/18 | Walgett Shire area                    |                  | Approval to conduct a septic tank pumping service            | Approved   |
| DA2023/39  | 68 Black Prince Drive Lightning Ridge | Lot 119 DP 45077 | Detached Single storey brick veneer color-bond roof Dwelling | Assessment |

**Governance issues:**

Nil

**Environmental issues:**

Nil.

**Stakeholders:**

- Walgett Shire Council
- Developer
- Residents of Walgett Shire Council

**Financial implications:**

Nil

**Alternative solutions:**

Nil

### 9.4.2 NBN UPGRADE – LIGHTNING RIDGE

**REPORTING SECTION:** Environmental Services  
**AUTHOR:** Bob Harris – Assistant Director Environmental Services  
**FILE NUMBER:** 23/11/0256

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#### NBN Upgrade - Lightning Ridge

**Recommendation:**

That the information be received and noted.

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

**Summary:**

Council has been informed by Downer P/L contractors of a proposed upgrade to the existing NBN radio network facility at 21 Morilla St Lightning Ridge. The facility is part of the established NBN Fixed Wireless network providing broadband services to local communities and businesses.

The proposed upgrade works are aimed at improving service levels in response to customer demand and will involve introduction of new advanced wireless technologies.

Details of the work are provided in the attachments document.

**Background:**

The proposed works are considered by the proponent to be a Low Impact Facility in accordance with the *Telecommunications (Low-impact Facilities) Determination 2018 (Cwlth)*. As such no formal planning approval is required in accordance with Clause 37 of Schedule 3 of the *Telecommunications Act 1997 (Cwlth)*.

**Relevant reference document/policies:**

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979  
Local Government Act (NSW) 1993 & Regulations

**Governance issues:**

No governance issues have been identified.

**Environmental issues:**

Potential impacts are outlined in the attachment documents.

**Stakeholders:**

Walgett Shire Council  
Residents of Walgett Shire Council

**Financial implications:**

Nil.

**Alternative solutions:**

It is recommended that Council not oppose the proposal. If that was the case independent legal advice would be required.

**Conclusion:**

It appears that Council consent is not required and the NBN have provided Council with advice informing them of proposed site works as a courtesy.



Attention: Planning Department  
Walgett Shire Council  
PO Box 31, Walgett, NSW 2832

[admin@walgett.nsw.gov.au](mailto:admin@walgett.nsw.gov.au)

17 August 2023

**Notification of Proposed Upgrade Works to an Existing nbn Radio Network Base Station Facility**

I am writing on behalf of nbn to inform you of a proposed upgrade works to an existing nbn radio network base station facility at 21 Morilla St Lightning Ridge NSW 2834, The facility is part of the established nbn Fixed Wireless network providing broadband services to local communities and businesses.

The proposed upgrade works are aimed at improving service levels in response to customer demand and will involve introduction of new advanced wireless technologies.

nbn has engaged Downer to delivery these service improvements.

The proposed works are considered to be a Low Impact Facility in accordance with the *Telecommunications (Low-impact Facilities) Determination 2018 (Cwlth)*. As such no formal planning approval is required in accordance with Clause 37 of Schedule 3 of the *Telecommunications Act 1997 (Cwlth)*. The reasons for this conclusion are outlined in the attached document.

The existing installation and the proposed works is not related to Mobile Phone network infrastructure and as such nbn are not bound to comply with the provisions of the Mobile Phone Base Station Deployment Code (C564:2020). nbn is still committed to engagement with local council's and informing them of proposed site works.

Further details about this proposal, including sources of additional information, are provided in the attached table.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ash Mathulla'.

Ash Mathulla  
Town Planner – Wireless  
Downer Group

### Description of Proposed Works and Regulatory Context

|                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Address                                                                    | 21 Morilla St Lightning Ridge NSW 2834.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| RFNSA Site reference number:                                               | The RFNSA is a database of information pertaining to all existing and proposed mobile phone & radio network base stations in Australia. Th is database is fully accessible to the public at <a href="http://www.rfnsa.com.au">www.rfnsa.com.au</a><br>The RFNSA Site reference number for the subject installation is: 2834001.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Description of the proposed installation                                   | The proposed works at the existing facility will involve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove three existing panel antennas at a height 29.5m.</li> <li>Install two new mini-lens antennas at a height 29.5m.</li> </ul> Drawings outlining the proposed works are attached.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Does it require Council approval?                                          | This facility is exempt from Local & State Government approval in accordance with the Telecommunications (Low-impact Facilities) Determination 2018 (LIFD). The following provisions of the LIFD apply for reference:<br>Principle Designated Use (Part 2): Commercial<br>Facility Items reference under Schedule of LIFD: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schedule Part 3 – Low-impact facilities, 3.1 Facilities (ancillary equipment)</li> <li>Schedule - Facilities and areas, Part 1 - Radio Facilities, Item 4 (Panel antenna)</li> <li>Schedule - Facilities and areas, Part 1 - Radio Facilities, Item 6 (Not more than 1.2m dish)</li> <li>Schedule - Facilities and areas, Part 1 - Radio Facilities, Item 7 (Not more than 1.8m dish)</li> <li>Schedule - Facilities and areas, Part 3 - Above ground housing, Item 4 &amp; 5 (equipment shelter/cabinet)</li> <li>Schedule - Facilities and areas, Part 8 - Co-located facilities, Item 1, 2 (co-located facilities)</li> </ul> |
| Does it comply with Australian Standards for Electromagnetic Energy (EME)? | The facility will comply with Australian government regulations in relation to emission of electromagnetic energy (EME), this specifically being the Standard for Limiting Exposure to Radiofrequency Fields - 100KHz to 300 Ghz (Rev.1) (RPS S-1) 2021.<br><br>The latest EME Environmental Report pertaining to the subject site is attached.<br><br>Further information pertaining to EME related issues please refer to <a href="http://www.rfnsa.com.au">www.rfnsa.com.au</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Further information about this proposal is available from                  | Name: Ash Mathulla<br>Position: Town Planner - Downer<br>Address: T1 Building 2, 39 Delhi Road, North Ryde NSW 2113<br>Email: ash.mathulla@downergroup.com<br>Phone: 0467953938                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

### 9.4.3 MATTERS GENERALLY FOR BRIEF MENTION OR INFORMATION FROM DIRECTOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

REPORTING SECTION: Environmental Services  
AUTHOR: Kimley Talbert - Director Environmental Services  
FILE NUMBER: 23/11/0252

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#### Matters Generally for Brief Mention or Information Only – Director Environmental Services

**Recommendation:**

That Council receive and note this report.

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

This report provides notes on items for brief mention, or information only, on more significant matters recently arising in the Planning & Regulatory Services Division.

For Councillor Information purposes, the following applications were received during August 2023

**Outstanding Notice Certificate**

1

**Construction Certificate**

3 approved

**Food Shop Inspections**

1 Complaint food premises

**Swimming Pool Compliance Certificates**

1

**Activity Approvals**

Five Activity Approval applications received for various new projects.

**Final Occupation Certificate**

1

**Current Building Project Under Construction**

Shop/Office and five cabins at 20 Morilla Street Lightning Ridge

Private garage @ 38 Warrena Street Walgett

Storage Units @ 40 Nobby Road Lightning Ridge

99 Wee Waa Street Walgett Multi Unit housing project

88 Pandora Street Lightning Ridge Dual Occupancy – Manufactured Home

2441 Pian Creek Road Walgett - Rural workers dwelling – Manufactured Home

6560 Castlereagh Highway Walgett – Large Rural metal shed

24-58 Montkeila Street Walgett – Splash Park

403 Come By Chance Road inground swimming pool

62 Walgett Street Collarenebri Hospital Staff Multi unit Housing accommodation

141- 159 Fox Street Walgett Hospital Staff Multi Unit Housing Accommodation

1360 Wilby Wilby Road Cumborah Rural Property Garage and dwelling

3/26 Morilla Street Lightning Ridge Beautician shop conversion

43 Opal Street Lightning Ridge Jewel Shop Conversion

23 Chrystal Street Lightning Ridge Golf Club Storm Damaged New Roof construction

18 Grawin Street Cumborah New metal shed

1060 Moomin Road Rowena New Manufactured Home

### **Other Activity**

EPA License issue concerning contaminated concrete, response was received and a further submission has been dispatched, now awaiting the response. Current enquiry concerning costing of recycling of clean waste concrete.

Roads To Home have stated that they are cleaning-up Non-friable asbestos wastes at Namoi and Gingie Villages, to the extent of approximately 40,000 cubic metres of material, this is meant to happen during the month of March 2023, to be disposed of at Walgett Waste Depot. Application has been submitted to EPA for the License extension covering the quantity of contaminated asbestos waste, now waiting EPA response. Response received requesting additional information to be provided.

Two house fires have occurred with aboriginal housing, one at Walgett and the other occurring at Collarenebri both buildings have had emergency demolition orders issued. Recently a new arson attack on two Walgett Primary School buildings one class-room and a storage shed both had emergency demolition orders issued.

A Waste depot fire occurred at Collarenebri over the last month.

Application recently submitted for EPA Grant covering illegal dumping has been approved.

With the resignation of Council's Heritage Advisor Kate Higgins, council has procured the services from a new Heritage Advisor Contractor Peter Kabaila, Peter will commence work in September 2023.

### **Planning Certificates:**

August 2023- Forty-Seven (47) 10.7 Planning Certificates has been issued.

### **OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ACTIVITIES**

#### **MOSQUITO TRAPS PROGRESS**

Council has received from NSW Western Health a grant \$32,200 covering mosquito control, advertising along with offering mosquito prevention products to local communities, staff are now progressing the expenditure of the funds, with the purchase of signs and personal insect protection.

A response from NSW Government Infrastructure Betterment Fund Application BO-0282 Betterment of Walgett Animal Pound Facility, offering a letter advising that to regret to inform council that the application was unsuccessful on this occasion.

#### **August 2023 Animal Impounding Records**

Month of August- 41 dogs including pups, 7 seized and 34 dogs surrendered, the break-up of animals is 36 dogs rehomed 1 returned to owner and four dogs unsuitable for re-homing were euthanised. Feral Cats numbering 27 were apprehended During the month, and all feral cats were euthanised.

Once again, we have removed a large number of animals from the community. Most animals coming Lightning Ridge, this is the reason for the De-sexing program we are conducting for the first time on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023 in the Opal Field area, the response at this stage is extremely positive.

#### **Grawin Waste Bin Location**

Crown License was issued covering the two waste cells and not including the Bin bank. The Bin bank proposed location is to be within the Crown Road “track”, covering public road area where the new wheelie bins waste collection point and installation is to be located. Council is currently negotiating with Crown Lands for possible changing the status of unsealed track to Grawin to a public road, when this has been legally negotiated then Council can proceed with the Bin Bank installation.



#### 9.4.4 MATTERS GENERALLY FOR BRIEF MENTION OR INFORMATION FROM DIRECTOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

**REPORTING SECTION:** Environmental Services  
**AUTHOR:** Bob Harris – Assistant Director Environmental Services  
**FILE NUMBER:** 23/11/0258

##### Matters Generally for Brief Mention or Information Only – From Assistant Director Environmental Services

**Recommendation:**  
 That Council receive and note this report.

**Moved:**  
**Seconded:**

This report provides notes on items for brief mention, or information only, on more significant matters recently arising in the Planning & Regulatory Services Division.

For Councillor Information purposes.

##### Exempt Development

28525 Kamilaroi Highway, Burren Junction - Optus have advised of a new fixed link telecommunications upgrade at Bugilbone Rd, Pilliga. The proposed work will provide both linkage into the wider Optus network and support the introduction of 5G to the Optus network. Typically, these proposals consist of a dish shaped antenna. Fixed link systems operate at very low power, similar to that of a mobile phone. Further details are included in the attachments.

Bugilbone Road - Optus have advised of a new fixed link telecommunications upgrade at Bugilbone Rd, Pilliga. The proposed work will provide both linkage into the wider Optus network and support the introduction of 5G to the Optus network. Typically, these proposals consist of a dish shaped antenna. Fixed link systems operate at very low power, similar to that of a mobile phone. Further details are included in the attachments.

Collarenebri Jockey Club – Liquor License Application – Annual Race Meeting.

##### Development Applications & Approvals

PAN-359453 - DA2023/29 – Dwelling – NSW Government - 68 Black St Lighting Ridge – Is currently being assessed by the Regional Housing Flying Squad on behalf of Walgett Shire Council.

##### Planning Proposals – Walgett LEP 2013 Amendment

Rural Residential subdivision – Proposal for Rural Residential subdivision negotiations with planning consultants Gyde Planning are ongoing.

“Intensive Agriculture” - Proposal for LEP Amendment negotiations with planning consultants continuing following receipt of quotations.

PP 2023/2 - Gingie-Namoi-Walli – LEP lot size amendments – Department of Planning, Industry and Environment in Dubbo are assessing gateway determination. Then Council will

only be responsible for exhibition of the Planning Proposal a final report will then be submitted to Council for finalisation.

**Return & Earn – Walgett - Collarenebri - Lightning Ridge**

No issues identified.

**Fire Safety Upgrades**

Discussions with various owners over the last few weeks regarding compliance with fire safety provisions. Correspondence sent to approximately 20 property and Caravan Park owners.

Advertisements have been placed in local media promoting \$250 reimbursement by Council for expenditure on fire safety reports.

Council properties co-ordinator has authorised fire services contractor to undertake inspections to bring Council owned buildings into compliance with fire safety requirements.

**Activity Applications and Approvals**

Nil

**Asbestos removal – Gingie, Namoi and Walli Villages**

Consultants from Roads to Home are liaising with NSW Environment Protection Authority and preparing a detailed analysis of sites and filling plans for Walgett Landfill.

**Walgett Animal Pound Replacement**

A report regarding funding is being prepared.

**Environmental Monitoring**

Annual reports for environmental groundwater monitoring at Walgett Landfill and Walgett Sewerage Treatment Plant Outflow. Additional information has been requested in relation to future monitoring reports.

Copies of the reports are available on request.

**Walgett Shire Cemeteries** - All cemetery and crematorium operators in NSW are now required under the Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2013 (the Act) and Cemeteries and Crematoria Regulation 2022 (the Regulation) to be licensed to operate (as per Part 2A clause 4B of the Regulation). The information in this Form will be used to update the Cemeteries & Crematoria Register for new operators as required under Section 27 of the Act.

Further details are available on request.

**Agritourism Reforms**

Amendments to NSW Planning Regulations have amended Councils LEP to make it easier for farmers to use their land for agritourism to complement their existing agricultural businesses. This includes farm experiences, cellar doors, cafés, retreats, roadside stalls, fruit picking, hosting small weddings and other activities.

Planning reforms were introduced in December 2022 and have now been expanded to more areas across the state.

The agritourism planning rules:

- help landowners add value to their existing agricultural operations and encourage the next generation to farm the land
- help make farms more resilient to the economic impacts of natural disasters and other unexpected events
- support sustainable tourism, giving people more reasons to visit regional and rural NSW.

Agritourism businesses already lawfully operating are not affected by the reforms.

### 9.4.5 UPDATED NSW FLOOD MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

**REPORTING SECTION:** Environmental Services  
**AUTHOR:** Bob Harris - Assistant Director Environmental Services  
**FILE NUMBER:** 23/11/0253

#### Updated NSW Flood Management Guidelines

**Recommendation:**

That Council receive and note this report.

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

**Summary:**

The Department of Planning and Environment (Environment Heritage Group) have advised Council that the *Flood Risk Management Manual: the policy and manual for flood liable land* (2023) has been gazetted. The 2023 manual replaces the *Floodplain Development Manual* (2005) as the manual for flood liable land under S733 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

The manual and an updated toolkit are available on the environment website at <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/water/floodplains>. The toolkit provides extra support to assist councils to understand and manage flood risk to their communities.

Additional details are provided in the attachments document.

**Background:**

The 2005 Floodplain Development Manual has been utilised in determining requirements for Councils Development Control Plan 2016 and Council Local Environmental Plan 2013.

Future planning policies will need to be based on the updated manual.

Further questions about this issue can be directed to the Environment Line on 131 555 or [info@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@environment.nsw.gov.au) or the Marine Coast Estuary and Flood Team at [floodteam@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:floodteam@environment.nsw.gov.au)

**Relevant reference document/policies:**

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979  
Local Government Act (NSW) 1993 & Regulations

**Governance issues:**

No governance issues have been identified.

**Environmental issues:**

Potential impacts are outlined in the attachment documents.

**Stakeholders:**

Walgett Shire Council  
Residents of Walgett Shire Council

**Financial implications:**

Council needs to ensure compliance with State Guidelines and best practice to ensure that flood policy is implemented and flood impacts are minimised.

**Alternative solutions:**

None identified

**Conclusion:**

The new guidance documents and policies will impact future planning assessments and decision-making processes.

### 9.4.6 DRAFT FIRE SAFETY POLICY – WALGETT SHIRE CARAVAN PARKS

**REPORTING SECTION:** Environmental Services

**AUTHOR:** Bob Harris, Assistant Director Environmental Services

**FILE NUMBER:** 23/11/0254

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#### Fire Safety Policy – Walgett Shire Caravan Parks

**Recommendation:**

1. That Council adopt the following policy;

Fire Safety Policy – Walgett Shire Caravan Parks

a) In granting approval for the continued operation of existing Caravan Parks within the Walgett Shire conditions of approval may allow a maximum period of five years for completion of a fire safety upgrading program.

b) Caravan Park owners operating under a Council approved fire safety upgrading program are required to make annual progress towards completion of the upgrading program.

c) Failure to make annual progress on fire safety upgrading will result in lapsing of Council approval and commencement of action to close the Caravan Park.

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

**Summary:**

There are five existing Caravan Parks in the Walgett Shire where the continued operation of the Caravan Park requires Council approval under the Local Government Act 1993. All of these Caravan Parks are located in the Lightning Ridge area.

Council resolved at it's meeting in July 2023 to adopt a draft policy allowing the opportunity for Caravan Parks with non-compliant fire safety equipment to upgrade over an agreed period of time.

The draft policy was advertised for public comment and no submissions have been received.

**Background:**

The NSW Local Government Act 1993 and NSW Local Government (Manufactured Home Estates, Caravan Parks, Camping Grounds and Moveable Dwellings) Regulation 2021 provide the statutory framework for all of NSW.

Fire safety standards in Caravan Parks have continued to evolve over many years and all of the existing regulated parks now have issues with fire safety compliance. The issue of Council approvals has in some cases been delayed due to non-compliance with fire safety standards.

These Caravan Parks are currently operating without Council approval.

All of the existing Caravan Parks have fire safety compliance issues to varying degrees, compliance issues in one case goes back to 2015. Delays in finalising compliance issues

has occurred for a number of reasons. Owners and fire safety consultants causing delays, council staff turnover, complexity of issues and availability of time and money.

The cost of upgrading works varies but in some cases will be quite significant and compliance would mean closing of some Caravan Parks. Council officers have been working with owners to resolve these issues but progress has been slow.

There are a number of unregulated private and public camping grounds and overnight stopovers that are not considered in this report. These sites are generally of a smaller nature and less densely occupied.

**Current Position:**

Council staff have been in discussions with Caravan Park owners regarding a request to allow an upgrade of fire safety equipment over a period of up to 7 years in order to achieve compliance.

Rather than consider the fire safety issues and installation details of individual caravan parks it is recommended that Council consider a policy for fire safety upgrading works that would apply to all caravan parks.

As Council approvals can apply for a period of up to five years it is problematic to extend a fire safety program for a longer period. In most cases a shorter time frame would be suitable for completion of fire safety upgrading work.

Alternatively, approvals could be issued for 12 months requiring the owner to submit proof of progress before each annual renewal.

Should Council adopt a policy that would reduce the level of fire safety required for an interim (5 year) period Council may incur an additional liability for damages in the event of a fire. Prior to adoption of the draft policy it would be prudent to consult Council insurers.

**Relevant reference document/policies:**

Local Government Act (NSW) 1993 & Regulations

NSW Local Government (Manufactured Home Estates, Caravan Parks, Camping Grounds and Moveable Dwellings) Regulation 2021

**Governance issues:**

Attached is advice from the Department of Planning and Industry confirming discussions regarding the fire safety issues.

As indicated in the attachment there is currently no state wide policy in relation to this matter and different Council's are approaching the matter differently.

**Environmental issues:**

Potential impacts on fire safety for Caravan Park residents

**Stakeholders:**

Walgett Shire Council

Residents of Walgett Shire Council

Tourists and Caravan Park owners

**Financial implications:**

Council insurers may advise of relevant financial implications.

**Alternative solutions:**

The alternative solution is to require closure of non-compliant Caravan Parks.

**Conclusion:**

Independent advice has been sought from the NSW Department of Local Government and their response is attached.

The draft policy was advertised for a period of 21 days and at the time of writing one submission has been received in support of the proposal.

Caravan Parks are often used for long-term accommodation and due to current housing shortages it is incumbent on Council to find a solution that will not result in a reduction of available housing.



## **10. MOTIONS OF WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN**

### **1. Notice of Motion – Cr Woodcock & Cr Ramien**

That a full report of all funds be brought to Council on the Lightning Ridge water fund.

## **11. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE**

NIL



## **AGENDA FOR CLOSED COUNCIL MEETING**

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** pursuant to clause 7 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice that the Closed Council Meeting of Walgett Shire Council will be held at Walgett Shire Council Chambers on **26<sup>th</sup> September 2023** to discuss the items listed in the Agenda.

Hugh Percy  
**ACTING GENERAL MANAGER**

## **AGENDA**

### **12. MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION**

#### **MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION**

**Time:** .....

That the public be excluded from the meeting pursuant to Sections 10A (2) (c) & (d) of the Local Government Act 1993 on the basis that the items deal with:

(c) That information that would, if disclosed confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting business (or proposed to conduct business)

(d) That the matter and information is commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

### **13. CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS/CLOSED COUNCIL MEETING**

#### **13.1 GENERAL MANAGER**

**13.1.1 Minutes of the Closed Meeting – 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2023**

**13.1.2 Flamingo Street – Lightning Ridge**

**13.1.3 Reconnecting Regional Grant Variation**

## 14. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

### Return to open session

**Recommendation:**

That Council return to open session.

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

## 15. ADOPTION OF CLOSED SESSION REPORTS

### Adoption of closed session reports

**Recommendation:**

That Council adopt the recommendations of the Closed Committee Reports

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

## 16. CLOSE OF MEETING

**Time:** .....