



AGENDA FOR ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING PUBLIC COPY

Tuesday 28th November 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 **28 November 2023** commencing at **9:00am** to discuss the items listed in the Agenda.

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

Megan Dixon
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 of 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.*

| <b>SPEAKER</b> | <b>TOPIC</b>           |
|----------------|------------------------|
| Ray Griffin    | Australian Opal Centre |



## 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.*

## ONE MINUTE OF SILENCE

For Captain Leonardus 'Leo' Fransen a life member of the Diamond Beach Rural Fire Brigade who sadly lost his life battling the Hudson fire.

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

NIL

## 4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES/MATTERS ARISING

### 4.1 MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD 26 OCTOBER 2023

#### Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting – 26 October 2023

##### Recommendation:

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held 26 October 2023, having been circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings on the meeting.

##### Moved:

##### Seconded:

##### Attachments:

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held 26 October 2023



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

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

Megan Dixon  
GENERAL MANAGER

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL HELD AT  
THE WALGETT SHIRE CHAMBERS ON THURSDAY 26 OCTOBER 2023 AT 9:00AM**
**OPEN FORUM****Public Presentations:**

Josh Eagleton - Planning Proposal – Intensive Agriculture  
 Planning Proposal – Rural Residential Strategy  
 Pauline Kearl – Lighting Ridge Easter Festival Funding

The Mayor declared the meeting open at 9.25am

**PRESENT**

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

**ABSENT**

Nil

**11/2023/1 Leave of Absence**

Nil

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

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

**11/2023/2 Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting – 26 September 2023**

Resolved on the motion of Councillor Keir and Councillor Rummery that the Minutes of the meeting held 26 September 2023 as itemised in Minute Numbers 9/2023/1 to 9/2023/19 pages 2 to 6, be confirmed with the changes made as discussed.

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**11/2023/3 Mayoral Monthly Report**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Ramien and Councillor Cooke that the Mayoral report for September 2023 be received and noted.

**11/2023/4 Reports of Committees/Delegates**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Keir and Councillor Hundy that the minutes of the Local Area Traffic Committee Meeting held 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023 having been circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings on the meeting.

*A report to November Council meeting on schedule of representatives and delegates for the period terminating September 2024.*

**11/2023/5 Circulars Received from the NSW Office of Local Government**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Seaton and Councillor Keir that the information contained in Departmental Circular 23-12 from the office of Local Government Division, Department of Premier and Cabinet, be received and noted.

**11/2023/6 Important Dates – Upcoming Meeting and Events**

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

*General Manager to email Councillors to check availability to change the December meeting date to 14th December 2023*

**11/2023/7 Lightning Ridge Easter Festival 2024**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Keir and Councillor Rummery that Council subject to the Lightning Ridge Easter Festival Committee meeting the requirements of an incorporated association that \$10,000 be allocated to the Lightning Ridge Easter Festival.

**11/2023/8 Safety Summit Conference - Sydney**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Hundy and Councillor Rummery

1. That Council acknowledge the seriousness of this major incident by conducting a one-day safe work seminar for all Council staff & Council's main contractors (some of whom were involved with the work site at Cryon) with an invitation to conduct such seminar to be given to Lisa Moore, Transport for NSW, and that the presenters at this seminar include:

- Transport for NSW
- Greg Wear – Traffic Control Management Consultant
- Patrizia ~~Cassaniti~~ – Work Health & Safety Advocate,

2. Attendance at such seminar be compulsory for staff and that Council business be suspended for the day to facilitate the conduct of the seminar,

3. And further that David Callander, Council's WHS Officer, Rehabilitation Coordinator be authorized to co-ordinate this proposed seminar with Transport for NSW.

**11/2023/9 Lightning Ridge Welcome Sign**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Cooke and Councillor Hundy that John Murray be engaged to undertake the refurbishment of the welcome sign at the corner of Bill O'Brien Way and the Castlereagh Highway in accordance with the proposal lodged for the work at a cost of \$10,200 and that such cost be funded from the Marketing and Promotion Account – 11.3763.2250

**11/2023/10 Collarenebri Water Meters**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Seaton and Councillor Hundy that the General Manager continue endeavours to:

1. Obtain copies of the documents committing the Council to this Project.
2. To clarify the ongoing costs of the project and
3. Report these matters to the Council for consideration of what may be done to limit those costs.
4. and review Council's delegation to the General Manager in the amount of \$1m.

**11/2023/11 Everyone Can Play Park – Lightning Ridge**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Hundy and Councillor Seaton that Council determines whether to proceed with the development or terminate the funding for the Everyone Can Play Park.

A vote was undertaken for the Everyone Can Play Park to go ahead.

|              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| For          | Against     |
| Clr Seaton   | Clr Walford |
| Clr Woodcock | Clr Hundy   |
| Clr Cooke    |             |
| Clr Rummery  |             |
| Clr Currey   |             |
| Clr Keir     |             |

**11/2023/12 Monthly Outstanding Rates as at 30 September 2023**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Seaton and Councillor Keir that the 30 September 2023 outstanding rates report be received and noted.

**11/2023/13 Cash and Investment as of 30 September 2023**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Keir and Councillor Hundy that Council receive and note the Monthly Outstanding Cash and Investment Report as of 30 September 2023.

**11/2023/14 Investment Policy and Procedure Reviewed 2023**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Currey and Councillor Woodcock that Council adopts the revised Investment policy and procedure.

**11/2023/15 Annual Financial Statement 2022 - 2023**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Hundy and Councillor Keir

1. The Draft Annual Financial Reports for 2022/2023 be referred to Council's Auditor;
2. The Mayor, Deputy Mayor, General Manager and Director Corporate Services be authorised to sign the necessary Financial Statements;
3. On receipt of the Audit Report, a copy be forwarded to the Office of Local Government and any other relevant statutory body;
4. Council delegate to the General Manager the authority to set the date at which the Auditor's report and the Financial Statements be presented to the public;
5. The Financial Statements be reviewed / adopted by Council formally when completed subject to Section 418 of the Local Government Act 1993 and its requirements.

*At 12:16pm Mayor Ramien and Clr Keir declared a pecuniary interest and exited the Council Chamber.*

*Deputy Mayor Hundy took the Chair.*

**11/2023/16 Monthly Maintenance Grading Report as of 30 September 2023**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Rummery and Councillor Seaton that Council receive and note the Monthly Maintenance Grading Report as of 30 September 2023

*Councillor Ramien returned to the meeting at 10.46am*

*Councillor Keir returned to the meeting at 10.47am*

**11/2023/17 Service Progress Report as of 30 September 2023**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Woodcock and Councillor Currey that Council receive and note the Service Progress Report as of 30 September 2023

**11/2023/18 Monthly Major Projects Report as of 30 September 2023**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Rummery and Councillor Seaton that Council receive and note the Monthly Major Projects Report as of 30 September 2023

**11/2023/19 Various Matters Come-By-Chance Road Reconstruction as of 30 September 2023**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Rummery and Councillor Keir that Council receive and note this report

**11/2023/20 Report to Provide Update on Additional Works Required to Open Walgett Splash Park Project and Actions Taken by Council Staff**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Rummery and Councillor Currey that the actions of Walgett Shire Council staff in finalising works to enable Walgett Splash Park to open be endorsed by Council

**11/2023/21 Development Approvals September 2023**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Woodcock and Councillor Keir that Council receive and note the Development Approvals Report for September 2023

**11/2023/22 Matters Generally for Brief Mention or Information Only**

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

**11/2023/23 Walgett Derelict Dwelling Demolition – 85 Neilly Street Walgett**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Cooke and Councillor Woodcock that the Council approve the funding for the demolition of dwelling clean-up and removal of wastes of the vacant property at 85 Neilly Street Walgett.

**11/2023/24 Local Heritage Assistance Fund – Grant Recommendations 2023 - 2024**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Keir and Councillor Hundy that the Council disperse a maximum of \$5,000 from the Walgett Shire Council Local Heritage Fund 2023-2024 in accordance with the recommendations of Council's Heritage Advisor.

**11/2023/25 Matters For Brief Mention or Information Only from Bob Harris**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Cooke and Councillor Seaton that the Council report of Matters for Brief Mention or Information Only from Bob Harris be received and noted.

**11/2023/26 Pet Care and Education**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Cooke and Councillor Hundy that the Council receive a further report to consider options for additional Pet Care and Education resources to further promote responsible pet ownership within the community.

**11/2023/27 Draft Fire Safety Policy – Walgett Shire Caravan Parks**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Keir and Councillor Rummery that the Council  
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 by Council to close the Caravan Park.

d) Walgett Shire Council will carry out annual inspections to determine compliance with Fire Safety Upgrading Programs.

#### **11/2023/28 Planning Proposal – Rural Residential Strategy**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Rummery and Councillor Seaton that the Council

1. That receive and note a preliminary presentation from senior planner Mr Josh Eagleton of Barnson PL in relation to the planning proposal for a Rural Residential Strategy.

2. That Council adopt the draft bridging report and delegate authority to the General Manager to exhibit the proposal in accordance with Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and a further report be provided to Council.

#### **11/2023/29 Planning Proposal – Intensive Agriculture**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Seaton and Councillor Keir that the Council

1. That Council receive and note a preliminary presentation from senior planner Mr Josh Eagleton of Barnson PL in relation to the planning proposal for Intensive Agriculture.

2. That Council adopt the following resolution, that Walgett Shire Council resolves to:

- a. Prepare a Planning Proposal to amend the Walgett Local Environmental Plan 2013 by relocating "intensive plant agriculture" from Permitted with consent to Permitted without consent in the RU1 Primary Production zone.
- b. Forward the planning proposal to NSW planning, industry & environment with a request for a gateway determination.
- c. Request delegation from the Minister to "make" the amendment to the Walgett Local Environmental Plan 2013.
- d. Give delegation to the General Manager to make any minor alterations as requested by NSW Planning, Industry & Environment; and
- e. Undertake the state agency and public consultation as per the requirements of the Gateway Determination and Schedule 1, Clause 4 of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979.

#### **11/2023/30 Street Dining Extension of Hours**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Keir and Councillor Seaton that the Council to approve the modification of AA2022/56 extension of operating hours from 6.30am to 10.00pm from Monday to Sunday at 58 Fox Street Walgett (Stone's Throw café) for a trial period of three months, following the expiry of this time period, should no issues transpire from the operation, then the approval can be extended until expiry of the Local Activity approval for street dining until 8 November 2027.

#### **Motions of Which Notice Has Been Given**

##### **1. Notice of Motion – Cr Seaton & Cr Hundy**

Councillor Seaton amended his motion to: ***That the General Manager provide a report to Council on the legalities and logistics of forming community working parties in Lightning Ridge, Walgett and Collarenebri.***

##### **1. Notice of Motion – Cr Cooke & Cr Hundy**

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Councillor Cooke amended his motion to '*That Council adopt a policy providing for appropriate interaction between senior staff and Councillors, being a policy that is not inconsistent with the requirements of the Walgett Shire Council Code of Conduct and Procedures 2022, including but not limited to Part 7 of that document.*

**2. Notice of Motion – Cr Hundy & Cr Cooke –** Councillor Hundy amended his motion to:

**Roads Contracts**

That a full review of the contracts for the

- (a) Come by Chance Road
- (b) Burrembaa Road
- (c) Lorne Road

Be undertaken by the **General Manager**, such report to include but not limited to;

- i. Original contract cost
- ii. Project or total cost of each project (road)
- iii. Any and all alterations (additions) to the original contract including the manner of authorisation
- iv. Cost to Council to meet the commitment made by Council to provide gravel to the contractor at no cost to the contractor
- v. Who made the commitment to provide gravel at no cost
- vi. Manner of recording the amount of gravel being supplied by Council
- vii. Who is responsible for winning and transporting Council gravel for these projects including costs

And further, that this review be reported to Council at the earliest opportunity and if necessary to an extraordinary meeting of Council.

**4. Notice of Motion – Cr Hundy & Cr Seaton**

That a review panel be formed, and a performance agreement be signed by the General Manager regarding a performance review in December 2023.

**5. Notice of Motion – Cr Keir & Cr Rummary – Walgett Swimming Pool – Motion withdrawn**

**11/2023/31 Move into Closed Session**

**Time:12:02pm**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Cooke and Councillor Hundy that the council move into Closed Session and that the public be excluded 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

**11C/2023/1 Minutes of the Closed Meeting – 26 September 2023**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Rummary and Councillor Woodcock that the minutes of the Closed Council meeting held 26 September 2023, itemised in minute numbers 10C/2023/1 to 10C/2023/3 pages 1 to 2, be confirmed.

**11C/2023/2 Sale of Land Unpaid Rates Stage 2**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Cooke and Councillor Woodcock that Council hold the Section 713 sale for the listed 19 properties at Lightning Ridge Multi-Purpose Centre on Saturday 10th February 2024 and appoint Kelly's Real Estate to conduct the Auction.

*The General Manager to ensure proper identification of the blocks of land prior to sale*



**11C/2023/3 Possible Purchase of Land Adjacent to the Collarenebri Bore Bath**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Cooke and Councillor Seaton that the Council adopt a position on acquiring the block or not, and if a decision is made to proceed that an upper limit of what Council is prepared to pay be set.

**11C/2023/3a Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Keir and Councillor Seaton that the Council approve the General Manager to submit a \$25,000 offer to the Real Estate Agent for both land blocks, good for 30 days.

**11C/2023/4 Headstone in the Presbyterian Lawn Section**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Seaton and Councillor Cooke that a further report be provided to Council on the review of the cemetery policy.

**11C/2023/5 Lightning Ridge HACC Centre Lease of Space**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Cooke and Councillor Seaton that the Council enter into a lease agreement with Australian Unity Home Care for \$1,235.00 a month, not including GST, with the lease to include a share of the outgoings, including but not limited to electricity, cleaning, water, maintenance, etc.

**11C/2023/6 Walgett Splash Park**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Woodcock and Councillor Seaton

1. That the Council approves to negotiate with PCYC to manage the Splash Park for the 2023/2024 summer season, including operating the canteen at its own expense and profit and a \$2.00 entry fee per person with hours of operation as follows: Monday- Friday 1:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m., Saturday- Sunday 11:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m., and School Holidays 10:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m.

2. That the Council approves to use Walgett Swimming Pool budget for operating Splash Park for 2023-2024 summer season.

**Motions of Which Notice Has Been Given**

1. Notice of Motion – Cr Hundy & Cr Walford - Withdrawn

**11/2023/32 Return to Open Session**

**Time:12.41pm**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Cooke and Councillor Walford that the Council return to open session

**11/2023/32 Adoption of Closed Session Reports**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Keir and Councillor Hundy that Council adopt the recommendations of the Closed Committee Reports

With no further business the meeting was closed by Mayor Ramien at 12.58 pm

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:** 23/11/0308

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### Mayoral Monthly Report

#### Recommendation:

That the Mayoral report for October 2023 be received and noted.

#### Moved:

#### Seconded:

#### Summary:

This report provides Council with information regarding the activities of the Mayor for the past month.

#### Background:

It has been a very busy and trying month across the Walgett Shire.

I was honoured to lay the wreath on Remembrance Day on behalf of the Council. I attended the Local Government NSW Annual Conference 2023 in Rosehill with the General Manager. It was a great networking event and provided an opportunity to contribute to policies that shape Rural NSW. As a voting delegate I was able to cast my vote on matters concerning rural and regional NSW.

I met with John Clement in Collarenebri to discuss the plans for the new artesian bore bath.

I had a discussion with the GGSMA and the Lightning Ridge Miners Association regarding small mineral claims and challenges in the mining industry.

As you are aware, this has been an exceptionally challenging time for our Shire. The Hudson Fires prompted the declaration of an emergency situation, during which I actively participated in the field as both a heavy plant operator and a firefighter. Additionally, I played a role in the management and coordination of resources.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to every individual involved in these efforts. Special appreciation goes to the volunteers from the Rural Fire Service, whose courage and dedication were instrumental in safeguarding the lives and homes of our community members.

Acknowledgment is also due to the Council staff who served as a crucial support agency. They contributed significantly, from operating heavy plant machinery to coordinating activities at the airports and assisting with resources and communications.

It is with deep sadness that I acknowledge the loss of Captain Leo Fransen, who lost his life in the line of duty. On behalf of Council and the Walgett Shire, we extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends and colleagues of the Diamond Beach Rural Fire Service.

Throughout this trying period, I am proud of the resilient community spirit and support within our Shire. The residents of Walgett Shire have showcased remarkable kindness through fundraisers, donations and hands-on volunteering. This collective effort has been a testament to the strength and unity of our community.

## 7. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES/DELEGATES

Nil

## 8. CORRESPONDENCE AND PETITIONS

| MERC Newsletter – October 2023                                                                                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Recommendation:</b></p> <p>That the MERC Newsletter – October 2023 be received and noted.</p> <p><b>Moved:</b></p> <p><b>Seconded:</b></p> |



## MERC NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2023

### Introduction

Delegates, here is the MERC October Newsletter, please circulate the Newsletter to your fellow Councillors and senior staff this week, so they can appreciate and understand the excellent work the Association and you are doing on behalf of your Council and community, with regard to mining and energy related matters.

COVID-19 Virus Impact on MERC - In 2023, MERC has been resuming its' meeting cycle activities in the normal manner. What this means for MERC delegates is that all meetings will be as "face to face" meetings. A lot of value is gleaned from being at a meeting in person and this can be lost when delegates attend by zoom. The focus will always be on giving delegates an opportunity to attend meetings. However, delegates must be present to vote for the AGM in view of the voting system in the constitution.

Next Meetings of Association. In trying to get the next MERC AGM meeting in Sydney, NSW Parliament House during parliament sitting times in Jubilee Room is becoming difficult due to the renovations going on. Next sittings of parliament are Tuesday-Thursdays on 21st-23rd and 28th-30th November 2023 and only suitable day that didn't clash with member's monthly meetings was 30<sup>th</sup> November, but the Jubilee has been booked on that day. The other option was the following week but because parliament is not sitting (albeit 5<sup>th</sup>- 7<sup>th</sup> December is reserved for a sitting) the Jubilee Room not available these days due to renovations.

It has been determined that the best option is to go back to the Club York rooms in Sydney for Executive Committee meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023 in the Club York. Board room from 2-5pm and the AGM/Ordinary meeting in the York Rooms on 8<sup>th</sup> December from 9am to 1pm. Please advise the Executive Officer as soon as possible if you are attending or are an apology for catering and quorum purposes.

Future 2024 Forum (REIIF) The REIIF date slots have been temporarily booked for next year in the week 5-7th June 2024 but only over 3 days. The delegates at Ordinary meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> August confirmed that the conference will be run in partnership with RDA Orana with MERC's Ordinary meeting being held on first day 5th June 2023, followed by site visits, networking dinner in evening, then a conference day for councils, politicians, experts and having non members and potentially new members attend as observers, then the business/industry day is on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

RDA Orana Update - RDA Orana has appointed Justine Campbell as CEO to commence on 8<sup>th</sup> November. The Executive Officer will attend the Forum they have organised for 10<sup>th</sup> November in Dubbo to meet the new CEO and lock in the REIIF for 2024 and start preparations to make it a bumper event, it has the potential to be. The Chair RDA Orana, Brad Cam had this to say on the appointment of new CEO and progress with RDA Orana:

*"On behalf of the RDA Orana Board, I am pleased to announce the appointment of Justine Campbell as our new Chief Executive Officer (CEO), who will begin her role*



*with the organisation on 6 November. We were overwhelmed with the quality of applications received, however Justine stood out from the other candidates as a highly motivated leader with vision, drive and passion for economic development, and an impressive track record.*

*Justine is an accomplished and recognised leader who brings a wealth of experience to RDA Orana, with more than 30 years of expertise in business management and development, private and not-for-profit development, government, governance, place management, grant writing, stakeholder management, and board and organisational leadership. She is looking forward to delivering economic development outcomes in the region, working alongside the Board, all levels of government and the wider business community. The Board and staff at RDA Orana look forward to an era of continued growth, innovation, and success under her leadership.*

*The countdown is on, with only **two weeks** until the Orana Outlook Forum, which will be held on Friday, 17 November at Lazy River Estate. This year's forum has been strategically planned to provide business and industry leaders with information and knowledge to help guide them with decision-making for the year ahead.*

*Thanks to our major sponsor, The Stable Group, nine speakers will present during the forum covering a range of topics, including tourism, agriculture, energy, transport and housing, along with a government perspective of what the future holds from the Minister for Agriculture, Regional NSW and Western NSW, the Hon Tara Moriarty MLC.*

*Our lunchtime keynote speaker, Circular Australia's CEO Lisa McLean, will explain the benefits of building a regional circular economy, the opportunities available and why regional businesses need to change business-as-usual habits of take, make and waste behaviour to create a sustainable future. The forum will also provide an opportunity for attendees to meet our new CEO, Justine Campbell. Tickets for the Orana Outlook Forum are selling fast and close next Friday, 10 November 2023\*.*

Meeting with Hon Courtney Houssos on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023 in Lithgow

The Chair and Executive Officer have been invited to attend a meeting with Minister for Natural Resources in Lithgow on 10<sup>th</sup> November, from 1.30-3.30pm, at a Future Jobs and Investment Authorities Roundtable. – Central Western Region.





The NSW Government says it is committed to guiding transition and diversification in coal mining regions across NSW. Questions to discuss are:

- Breaking down Barriers - How can the NSW Government help industry groups, employers, and employees work together to secure outcomes for Lithgow.
- Securing our Future - How can those represented here today collaborate with each and the NSW Government to support new economic opportunities.

A similar forum was held in the Hunter Valley in August that MERC wasn't invited too, however expressed a desire to be present in future meetings. It is refreshing to see the new State Government wanting MERC at the table for these discussions on behalf of members. No doubt some coal mining member LGA's in the region such as Mid - Western Regional Council and possibly Wollondilly Shire Council will be in attendance.

The Future Together Group (Martin Rush) spoke about the need for a planned transition strategies and policy development approach for NSW AND Federal Governments in Dubbo in June and Parliament House in August meetings of MERC.

Meeting with Minister Hon Tara Moriarty on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023 in Sydney

A delegation from MERC has been invited to address the Minister for Western NSW, Agricultural and Regional NSW, on the need to ensure Resources for Regions programs are replaced with a similar and improved program funded from the Regional Development Trust Fund \$350m.

The meeting was organised by MP for Barwon Roy Butler with a request that delegates from his electorate be in attendance, if available, such as Broken Hill City Council and Cobar Shire, and other LGA's such as Forbes Shire as a Council in between mining activities and Orange City Council, if possible.

We need all members to receive at least the same quantum as per the recent program, include all mining affected Councils on the list of LGA's plus pick up others that didn't meet the criteria in the past, such as the Employment Location Quotient etc and ensuring that LGA's outside the Sydney Greater Sydney Region such as Wollondilly and Wollongong are regarded as regional. Any enquiries on this or ideas you might have that need to be in discussions please contact the Executive Officer who will be contacting potential delegates shortly. And working with Roy Butlers office on this.

Some delegates will recall in the past meetings/workshops that were held with former Minister Regional NSW (John Barilaro) and the departmental senior staff were beneficial to MERC members and non-members, albeit there was always still improvement to come. This is a very important meeting and MP for Barwon has done a great job for MERC to organise this meeting with the Minister for us given the following announcement. The Executive Officer will see her in Dubbo on 17<sup>th</sup> November as introduction only, if possible. See Resources for Regions commentary below.



#### Resources for Regions (R4R)

Members in receipt of current R4R would be aware by now that in the recent NSW Government Budget the program is not available for 23/24 budget and onwards. However, it is understood that the Regional Development Trust fund of \$350m has been established to replace this program and others, with the details yet to be developed. (MERC has applied to be involved and meeting through Roy Butler's office which has been granted for 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023).

Note the following media release from Department of Regional NSW Minister Tara Moriarty's office:

*"The Minns Labor Government is delivering on its commitment to regional NSW communities by ensuring they receive their fair share of funding with a \$350 million boost to the new NSW Regional Development Trust Fund and by reforming the Regional Development Act to better reflect their needs.*

*This Trust defines a new approach to supporting people living in rural, regional, and remote areas. The Trust will focus on improving the wellbeing of people, by improving local amenities, social cohesion, and job opportunities. Funding decisions of the Trust will be guided by a new Regional Development Advisory Council that will also play a key role in engaging communities to update the Regional Development Act. This legislation requires a makeover so it can better deliver on its economic and social growth objectives. As part of the reforms, the NSW Government will:*

- *seek community input on updating the Regional Development Act 2004 to better reflect the priorities of regional and remote communities.*
- *make a starting investment of \$350 million into the Regional Development Trust.*
- *establish the Regional Development Advisory Council to provide governance and expert advice on the priority matters requiring the Trust's investment and advising on the reform of the Regional Development Act. The Regional Development Trust Fund will strategically invest in four focus areas:*
  1. *Sustainable regional industries, including emerging and engine industries.*
  2. *Aboriginal economic development and enterprise.*
  3. *Community infrastructure and capacity building.*
  4. *Improving regional service delivery.*

*Decision making on investment from the Trust will be guided by the investment principles of the Australian Government's Regional Investment Framework. Establishment of the Advisory Council and public consultation on reforming the Act will get underway as soon as possible.*

*Minister for Regional NSW and Western NSW Tara Moriarty said: "These reforms to grant funding and the Regional Development Act demonstrate our government is putting the needs of regional people at the heart of our decision making. Our communities deserve this after a decade of waste, pork barrelling and poor results.*

*"We are committed to ensuring rural, remote, and regional communities not only get their fair share but that we are making a real and positive difference to their lives, towns and businesses. We are also committed to distributing funds to where they are needed most."*





Speakers for Next Meeting in Sydney – The relevant Ministers that MERC needs to talk to such as Natural Resources, Planning, Climate Change, Energy, Environment, Treasury & Local Government etc will be approached to speak at future meetings once the meeting day has been determined.

Inland NSW Growth Alliance (INGA) (formerly Orana Opportunity Network - O2N) – MERC is trialling as a Bronze Member of INGA for 12 months. Their Newsletters are available on their website on [rdaorana.org.au](http://rdaorana.org.au).

CRC Transformation in Mining Economies (CRCTIME) Post Mining - MERC is a partner with CRC TIME on a no cost but consultative basis. They provide quarterly updates on progress with an opportunity for members to join webinars, workshops, surveys etc. See Website [www.crctime.org.au](http://www.crctime.org.au)

Executive Officer Services Replacement Update. The Executive Committee has completed the process for the engagement of an entity to provide Executive Officer services, utilising LGNSW Management Solutions to help with the engagement. Contracts are being signed shortly and once that occurs the Chair will announce the appointment and from when.

The current Executive Officer has not been involved in any shortlisting or the interview process which is being dealt with by the Executive Committee and Local Government Management Solutions, so if there are any enquiries in relation to the process or who it is so forth, please refer to the Chair, Cr Kevin Duffy, Orange City Council, contact details are at the end of this newsletter.

Engagement of Future Together Group (FTG) & Three Pillars Advisory. MERC has engaged Martin Rush and Amer Hussein from FTG and Three Pillars Advisory respectively, to undertake a review of MERC as follows:

- (1) Review and refresh MERC's value proposition, sharpen the future strategic planning review processes and membership derived value.
- (2) Review Constitution to:
  - o Support organisational effectiveness.
  - o Facilitate greater membership and external cut through.
  - o Enhance direct and in-kind resourcing.
- (3) Develop a Policy Platform Structure Plan:
  - o A policy gap analysis – Local Government Interest in mining & energy.
  - o Prioritisation of policy – relevance to current and/or prospective members.
  - o A policy and position paper roadmap in short-medium term.
- (4) Update MERC Financial & Resourcing Plan.

The Reports have been received from Three Pillars Advisory for Items 1, 2 & 4 and FTG for item 3. The recommendations are many and will be assessed by the Executive Committee on 7<sup>th</sup> December. It is a timely review with new State Government and councils grappling with issues associated with the roll out in some areas of renewable energy developments and a new Executive Officer services provider for MERC. Meantime, current arrangements are continuing with the provision of Executive Officer services until the changeover is completed.



#### **AGM - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS**

Under its constitution, MERC is required to have one General Meeting (the Annual General) a year and as many other General (Ordinary) Meetings as the Executive Committee determine. MERC must have four Executive Committee meetings a year. The Executive is to be elected annually at the AGM by delegates.

There is no provision in the constitution for postal voting (Clause 14.3) or provision for those attending the meeting by video or tele-conference on how to vote, even though if requested, tele-conferencing facilities are to be made available for delegates to attend the meeting (Clause 4.4). What does this mean to delegates? Are delegates regarded as being present at the meeting if on video or phone and if so can they vote remotely in this present day and age since Covid? Every delegate must be given the opportunity to vote, however the MERC voting system in its constitution requires delegates to be present to vote, as this is dependant on the number of candidates for the positions. See below an explanation of the MERC voting system.

##### **(i) MERC Voting System Overview**

Chair If more than 2 delegates stand for the position of Chair, the voting system is to be preferential, otherwise if only 2 stand, the voting system is to be by either Open Voting (show of hands) or Ordinary Ballot (secret ballot);

Deputy Chair For the Deputy Chair (two positions), if contested, ie more than 2 nominations, the voting system that must be used is to be by preferential.

Executive Committee For the 3 Executive Committee positions, if contested, ie more than 3 nominations, the voting system used must be preferential.

Voting What this means is that delegates need to be in attendance to vote, no postal or zoom.

Call for Nominations Due Date If an election is to be held, the nominations in the prescribed form, must be in to the Executive Officer no later than 2 weeks prior to the AGM, so that will be by 4.30pm 23rd November 2023.

Nomination Process Nominations are to be seconded by a current delegate signed or emailed to Executive Officer with an intention to sign plus have the option of attaching a resume. Delegates can nominate for all three positions but only one from each member Council can be on the Executive Committee. Nominations are to be with Executive Officer one week from the AGM ie by 4.30pm 29th November 2023.

##### **(ii) The Election of Executive Committee Positions Process (Extract from Constitution)**

Voting Clause 14.6 Elections for a position on the Executive and Executive Committee shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions outlined in the sub clauses 14.6.1, 14.6.2, 14.6.3 and 14.6.4, of the MERC constitution following.

###### **14.6.1 Contested Elections – Chairperson & Deputy Chairperson**

- (1) If the number of candidates nominated for the positions of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson is greater than one or two, the election is to be a contested election.



- (2) In the event of there being only two nominations for the election of one candidate for the indicated positions in (1), the voting system in such contested election will be by Ordinary Ballot (secret ballot) or by Open Voting (show of hands);
- (3) In the event of more than two nominations for a position in (1), the voting system used for the election shall be the preferential system.
- (4) If a contested election is required for either Chairperson or Deputy Chairpersons, the decision on the voting method for (2) is to be made at the Annual General Meeting immediately prior to the election.

**14.6.2 Contested Election - Three positions for the Executive Committee**

- (1) If the number of candidates nominated for the three (3) remaining Executive Committee positions is greater than that number, the election is to be a contested election.
- (2) The voting system in a contested election for the three (3) positions will be preferential.

**14.6.3 Candidates' Nominations and Resumes**

- (1) Nominations for office bearer positions are to be called for by the Executive Officer no later than two (2) weeks prior to the Annual General meeting date.
- (2) The Candidates for the positions in clause 14.6.1 and clause 14.6.2 should forward their nominations on the form provided to reach the Executive Officer not later than 4.30pm one week prior to the Annual General Meeting. Candidates should ensure their nomination is seconded by a current Association delegate. This may take the form of the seconder signing the candidate's nomination form or alternatively by sending an email confirming their intent to second the nomination to reach the Executive Officer by the date of the election.
- (3) The nomination can be accompanied by a brief resume setting out details of the candidate's background in local government and the Association (if applicable) for distribution to delegates by the Executive Officer; **SEE ATTACHED FORM**

**NOMINATION FORM FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POSITIONS 2023/2024**

**Position Nominated – Please Circle\*:** *CHAIR/ DEPUTY CHAIR/ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.*

**Note1:** Chair (1 to be elected), Deputy Chair (2 to be elected) & Executive Committee (3 to be elected)

**Note2:** The election for all positions will be conducted in accordance with the Association's Voting Policy (if contested) ie by either Open Voting (show of hands) or Ordinary Ballot (secret ballot) for Chair and preferential for Chair if more than 3, and all Deputy Chair & Executive Committee positions.

**\*Note3:** You can nominate for all three positions, by circling the positions you are interested in above. If you are not elected as Chairperson, then your nomination for Deputy Chair will



apply. If not elected to one of the two Deputy Chair positions your nomination will be for the election of one of the 3 Executive Committee delegates.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNCIL \_\_\_\_\_

\*Seconded by Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconders' Council \_\_\_\_\_

Seconders' Signature \_\_\_\_\_ or email to Executive Officer (circle this option)

I agree to the nomination, please sign here Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
or email to Executive Officer your acceptance of nomination (tick this option here)

(Note: Constitution – Clause 14.6.3 Candidates' Nominations and Resumes:

Clause 14.6.3.1 states "Nominations for office bearer positions are to be called for by the Executive Officer no later than two weeks prior to the Annual General meeting date";

Cl 14.6.3.2 states "The candidates for the positions in Clauses 14.6.1 and 14.6.2 should forward their nominations on the form provided to reach the Executive Officer not later than 4.30pm one week prior to the Annual General Meeting.

Candidates should ensure their nomination is seconded by a current Association delegate. This may take the form of the seconder signing the candidate's nomination form or alternatively by sending an email (confirming their intent to second the nomination) to reach the Executive Officer by the date of the election."

Cl 14.6.3.3 states " The nomination can be accompanied by a brief resume setting out details of the candidates background in local government and the Association (if applicable) for distribution to delegates by the Executive Officer") Brief Resume attached (This is optional - Please circle Yes/No.)

Please forward the Nomination Form with resume (if relevant) to the Executive Officer by 4.30pm 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023 by Scanning/Email to: [info@miningrelatedcouncils.asn.au](mailto:info@miningrelatedcouncils.asn.au) or [greg@yourexecutiveservice.com.au](mailto:greg@yourexecutiveservice.com.au). Greg Lamont Executive Officer 0407937636

#### Mining & Renewable Energy articles

"Super Battery: Biggest Machine To be connected to Australian Grid Starts to Take Shape"  
Article by Gile Parkinson, 2nd November 2023, Renew Economy. "Most people think they understand what a battery is: Everyone has one in their phone, in their appliances, and in the car. But in terms of the grid, battery storage is probably the most misunderstood of all the technologies – mostly because it doesn't just store energy, as most assume. It has many strings to its bow.

The Waratah Super Battery is a case in point. When it is in full operation in early 2025, the 850 MW/1680 MWh facility will be the biggest battery in Australia, and one of the biggest of its type in the world. It will also be, according to developer and owner Akaysha Energy, which is itself now owned by global asset management giant Blackrock, the single biggest asset ever connected to the National Australia Market, the official name for the country's main grid.

"This will be the largest ever single DUID (dispatchable unit identifier) in the history of the NEM. There is no partitioning, just a single asset," Nick Carter, the CEO of Akaysha, said during a presentation at the All Energy, conference in Melbourne last week.





The primary function of the Waratah Super Battery is not to store energy for later use, at least not in the way that most people imagine it. It is best described as a giant "shock absorber", holding capacity in reserve (700 MW and 1400 MWh) that allows the major transmission lines bringing power to the major demand centres in Sydney, Wollongong and Newcastle to be used at greater capacity.

"We like to refer to this as a virtual transmission service," Carter says. "We think this is a really important use case for the energy transition because we always hear in the media issues around how much money it takes and how long it takes to build new transmission, and this particular project is a great example of what can be done today. The technology exists now. These services exist now. The way to think about this is really the utilisation of existing line infrastructure. Currently, those lines that are heading out to the renewable energy zone are only really run at about half the capacity at 500 megawatts each."

"When the Eraring power station is closed, the issue is evacuating the power from the renewable energy zones into that Sydney, Wollongong catchment. You can't do it without running the lines hard. "And the only way you can run the lines hard is to have this service with 700 megawatts, sitting in reserve. So, you can start to run both of those lines further up to up to around 850 megawatts each. And if one of them (transmission lines) trips, the battery ramps up and the renewable energy zone ramps down, so you keep that single line running, and that allows TransGrid to reconfigure the network in enough time to stop any kind of load shedding events.

"So we think that's a great service. We see applications for this type of service all around the world, so pretty much every transmission upgrade is looking at this option." Akaysha says it is on track to finish the project on time, and many of the concrete foundations have been poured. It has hosted dignitaries at the site, including state energy minister Penny Sharpe in recent weeks. "I have never seen so much conduit," Carter quipped. Akaysha has deliberately sized the battery above the contract with the Australian Energy Market Operator and Transgrid, so it will have another 150 MW and 280 MWh to trade in the arbitrage market and offer other services such as frequency control.

It is being built – like so many other big batteries across the grid – on the ruins of a shuttered coal-fired power station. And some, like Akaysha's Ulinda battery in Queensland, and many others, are being built next to existing coal fired power stations. In this case it is Munmorah, on the Central Coast, and the batteries are actually being installed on top of the old coal stockpile. "These big heaps of coal, that is where the battery is," said Danny Lu, the senior vice president at US-based Powin, which is providing the smarts for the battery management system, while pointing to an old picture of the Munmorah power station. "We are all playing a role in the energy transition. Just the fact that this project is turning that coal fired power station into an energy storage system is a real example of what is possible in this energy transition."

*"Drones used to X-Ray in Assessments on the Health of Solar Farms"* Jacinta Bowler, 2<sup>nd</sup> November, Renew Economy writes "Quality assurance company PV Lab Australia and tech company QE Labs have recently undertaken the first drone-based electroluminescence (EL) inspection to a solar farm in Australia. While traditional EL inspections – a kind of x-ray but for solar panels – would only be done on a sample of a farm's PV, the drone-based technique can analyse every single panel, rooting out faulty or damaged modules which look fine on the surface.

"Where you might have done a random sample before, now you can get a crystal-clear image of the quality of your entire solar plant, and any issues that you might be able to see," Lawrence



McIntosh, a partner from PV Lab, told RenewEconomy. "Hail damage or degradation; handling, transport or manufacturing defects – all that now becomes easily visible."

In May this year, PV Lab and QE Labs jointly did a EL drone inspection on 43,109 panels at a large solar farm. This was done over 9 nights, with over 36 hours of flight time. The inspection needs to be done at night because the solar panels are operated in 'reverse', with the energy leaving the solar panels turning them into what McIntosh calls essentially 'big, flat, infra-red LED lights. This allows the team to see any issues under the surface.

"The ability of drone EL mapping to accurately pinpoint problematic modules is a game-changer for us. We can now selectively replace the worst-performing modules, wherever they are in the plant," the company said in a statement. "This allows significant improvement of the overall system performance and for us to maximise our energy output."

While traditionally PV Lab Australia would undertake the EL inspections inside a lab, the technology had to undergo several changes before being strapped to a drone. "We run a lab in Canberra, and we do this all the time in a lab. That's got a camera that we hold still, we've got it in a dark room, we also hold the panel really still and the photo might take 30 to 40 seconds to expose," said McIntosh.

A drone on the other hand can't be perfectly still, it needs to take the images in just a fraction of a second, and it needs to be small enough to fit on a drone. "We really have to point to our partners, Singaporean QE labs for solving a great deal of these technical challenges." The thousands of images of solar panel data also lead to another issue though – how to analyse it. "The sheer volume of data that can be collected now also needs to be handled in such a different way, because we're talking about 1000s of images," said McIntosh. "That requires machine learning to analyse and assess what's seen in the images. That needs to be trained by people but to get a person to look at 40,000 images would just not be practical."

*Disclaimer The comments and details in the articles in this newsletter do not reflect the views, policies or position of the Association or its member Councils and are sourced and reproduced from public media outlets by the Executive Officer to provide information for members that they may not already be exposed to in their Local Government areas.*

**Contacts** Cllr Kevin Duffy (Chair) [cr.duffy@orange.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cr.duffy@orange.nsw.gov.au) or 0418652499 or Greg Lamont (Executive Officer) 0407937636, [info@miningrelatedcouncils.asn.au](mailto:info@miningrelatedcouncils.asn.au).

## 9. REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

### 9.1 GENERAL MANAGER

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

**REPORTING SECTION:** Executive  
**AUTHOR:** Megan Dixon - 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 23-12 – 23-14 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:

- 23-12 Guidelines on the withdrawal of development applications
- 23-13 Release of the Information and Privacy Commission's follow up audit of councils' compliance with open access requirements in relation to returns of interests
- 23-14 Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021 – Commencement of Special arrangements for stock animals in emergencies

**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>     | 23-12 / 5 October 2023 / A871143                                                      |
| <b>Previous Circular</b>    | <i>Not applicable</i>                                                                 |
| <b>Who should read this</b> | Councillors / General Managers / Planning staff                                       |
| <b>Contact</b>              | Policy Team 02 4428 4100 / <a href="mailto:olg@olg.nsw.gov.au">olg@olg.nsw.gov.au</a> |
| <b>Action required</b>      | Council to Implement                                                                  |

### Guidelines on the withdrawal of development applications

#### What's new or changing

- The Office of Local Government (OLG), with the concurrence of the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, the Hon. Paul Scully MP, has released the Guidelines on the Withdrawal of Development Applications (the Guidelines).

#### What this will mean for your council

- The Guidelines have been issued under section 23A of the *Local Government Act 1993* and councils are required to consider the Guidelines in exercising their development application (DA) assessment functions.
- The Guidelines include a policy statement that encourages councils to contribute to providing more appropriate housing to address the State's housing shortfall through the expeditious assessment and determination of DAs.
- The Guidelines require councils to allocate appropriate resources to their planning and assessment teams to ensure development applications are assessed and determined expeditiously.
- The Guidelines strongly encourage councils to avoid practices that delay DA assessment within reasonable timeframes.

#### Key points

- The NSW Government recognises the importance of providing more housing opportunities for people to help drive down the cost of housing and boost the economic productivity of the State.
- NSW councils have an important role to play in housing delivery through their planning and approval process.
- Many councils across the State, particularly in regional areas, have identified the need to urgently address growing unaffordability of housing.
- The NSW Government will continue to develop a range of policies to address NSW's shortfall in housing.

#### Where to go for further information

- The Guidelines on the Withdrawal of Development Applications are available on the OLG website.

**Brett Whitworth**  
Deputy Secretary, Local Government

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





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## Circular to Councils

|                             |                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Circular Details</b>     | 23 -13 / 30 October 2023 / A871320                                                               |
| <b>Previous Circular</b>    | Circular No 22 – 15 Guidance for Councils on the publication of disclosure of interest returns   |
| <b>Who should read this</b> | Councillors / General Managers / Council Governance Staff                                        |
| <b>Contact</b>              | Council Governance / <a href="mailto:olg@olg.nsw.gov.au">olg@olg.nsw.gov.au</a> / (02) 4428 4100 |
| <b>Action required</b>      | Information / Council to Implement                                                               |

### Release of the Information and Privacy Commission's follow up audit of councils' compliance with open access requirements in relation to returns of interests

#### What's new or changing

- The Information and Privacy Commission (IPC) has issued a report on the outcome of its follow-up audit undertaken on councils' compliance with the requirement to publish information in returns of interest lodged by councillors and designated persons on their websites. The IPC's recent audit follows an earlier audit conducted in July 2021 which identified significant compliance failures.
- The IPC's report is available [here](#).
- The IPC has made a commitment to develop further guidance to assist councils to comply with the "open access" requirements of the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (the GIPA Act).

#### What this will mean for your council

- The IPC's report found that while there has been significant improvement in councils' compliance with their obligations under the GIPA Act to publish information in returns of interests submitted by councillors and designated persons on their websites, some councils continue to be non-compliant.
- The report makes seven recommendations for councils to implement to promote openness, transparency, and accountability in relation to the disclosure of information in returns of interests.
- The IPC will continue to monitor compliance by the local government sector and, where relevant, assist the sector in its implementation of the recommendations set out in the report.

#### Key points

- The Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW requires councillors and designated persons to complete, and lodge returns of their interests with the general manager.
- The GIPA Act designates returns of interests as open access information. The public disclosure of information in returns of interests facilitates the identification and management of potential conflicts of interest that might arise where councillors and other key staff participate in decisions from which

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

they may directly or indirectly derive, or be perceived to derive, personal or financial benefit.

- The IPC's report found improvements in compliance with:
  - public availability of returns of interests by councillors and designated persons - a significant increase from 61% to 88% (46) fully compliant (+27%)
  - the ease of accessibility of returns of interests - significant improvements from 52% (27) to 88% (46) (+36%)
  - making returns of interests fully accessible without conditions - a significant increase from 65% to 88% (46) (+23%).
- The report also identified that the returns of interest of 19% (10) of councils were either not up to date or had not been published at all.

#### Where to go for further information

- The IPC's Guideline 1 assisting local councils to determine public interest considerations for and against disclosure of information contained in returns of interests is available [here](#).
- The IPC's video animation providing guidance to councils on the requirement to publish returns of interests is available [here](#).
- The IPC's Fact Sheet explaining to agencies that they are required to make a range of open access information publicly available under the GIPA Act and the *Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2018* unless there is an overriding public interest against disclosure of the information is available [here](#).
- The IPC has developed a toolkit titled, 'The Essential Guidance Toolkit on information access and privacy fundamentals' which is available [here](#).
- For more information on these requirements contact the IPC at 1800 472 679 or by email at [ipcinfo@ipc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ipcinfo@ipc.nsw.gov.au).
- The Office of Local Government (OLG) has issued guidance on the completion of returns of interests which is available [here](#).
- For more information on these requirements, contact OLG's Council Governance Team by telephone on 4428 4100 or by email at [olg@olg.nsw.gov.au](mailto:olg@olg.nsw.gov.au).



**Brett Whitworth**  
Deputy Secretary, Local Government

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



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## Circular to Councils

|                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Circular Details</b>     | 22-14 / 30 October 2023 / A872350                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Previous Circulars</b>   | 23-01 Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021 – Conclusion of the Grace Period and updated guidance<br>22-31 Commencement of Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021<br>22-19 Consultation on regulatory proposals for a new Public Spaces (Unattended Property) (PSUP) Regulation 2022 and to commence the PSUP Act<br>21-39 The NSW Government's Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021<br>19-30 Review of the Impounding Act 1993 and Release of Discussion Paper |
| <b>Who should read this</b> | Councillors/General Managers/Regulatory and Public Space management staff                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Contact</b>              | Policy Team / 02 4428 4100 / <a href="mailto:olg@olg.nsw.gov.au">olg@olg.nsw.gov.au</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Action required</b>      | Information                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

### **Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021 – Commencement of Special arrangements for stock animals in emergencies**

#### **What's new or changing**

##### **Stock animal emergency provisions**

- Section 19 of the PSUP Act was not commenced in late 2022 with the rest of the Act to enable time for detailed guidance to be developed to help authorities work together and with farming communities when dealing with emergencies involving stock.
- Guidance has now been developed with input from the Department of Primary Industries, NSW Police and key stakeholders, to help authorised officers balance public safety, animal welfare and biosecurity considerations. This guidance is included as a new Appendix B in the *Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Guideline for Councils and Other Authorities (PSUP Guidelines)*.
- With guidance now in place, section 19 of the PSUP Act has now been commenced by Ministerial Proclamation, effective **1 November 2023**.

##### **Feedback and Guidance Updates**

- Since the commencement of the PSUP Act the Office of Local Government (OLG) has been in regular contact with councils, members of the public and other stakeholders to answer policy queries and monitor implementation of the new laws.
- The *PSUP Guidelines* have been updated with new information to reflect the upcoming changes to the law from 1 November 2023 and to provide additional information to support councils to feel confident in implementing the new laws locally.

##### **Communication materials for local communities**

- OLG has also updated and published relevant fact sheets, infographics and social tiles for use in communicating the PSUP laws, to reflect the commencement of the stock emergency provisions.

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



#### What this will mean for your council

- Following the proclamation of Section 19 of the PSUP Act, authorised officers may now use section 19 to help manage stock in emergencies.
- Authorised officers should ensure they are familiar with the PSUP laws, regulations and updated *PSUP Guidelines* for authorities.
- Councils in regional and rural areas are urged to work collaboratively with their local NSW Police and other agencies such as the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and Local Land Services (LLS) to establish agreed arrangements for dealing with emergencies involving stock animals in accordance with section 19 of the PSUP Act and Appendix B of the *PSUP Guidelines*.
- Councils are encouraged to develop appropriate policy, in consultation with their local community, and procedures in relation to local enforcement action under the PSUP laws. Additionally, councils should communicate and implement any such policies fairly and consistently to ensure there is a common understanding by the community of how the council will apply the PSUP laws within its local government area.
- Councils should also use the resources available on the PSUP website to educate local communities about the PSUP laws.

#### Key points

- The PSUP Act empowers authorised officers of council to take regulatory action when they reasonably believe property to be unattended, and that the property is causing a safety risk, or access issue, or amenity issue, or has been left in the same place, or substantially the same place, for too long.
- Section 19 of the PSUP Act empowers authorised officers of council to place one or more unattended stock animals on any practicable premises in the vicinity, without taking possession of the animal, in certain emergency situations, if the authorised officer has made a reasonable attempt to obtain the relevant landowner or occupier's consent.
- These provisions recognise that in certain emergency situations involving stock animals it may not be possible for an authorised officer to immediately take an unattended stock animal to a place of care but failure to quickly move the animal poses an unacceptable risk to the health or safety of persons.

#### Where to go for further information

- The *Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021* and *Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Regulation 2022* are available on the Legislation Register at <https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/>
- Further information, including the PSUP Guidelines and resources for councils to use to educate and update local communities, is available at: <https://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/unattendedproperty>.



**Brett Whitworth**  
Deputy Secretary, Local Government

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

## 9.1.2 IMPORTANT DATES – UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

**REPORTING SECTION:** Executive  
**AUTHOR:** Megan Dixon – General Manager  
**FILE NUMBER:** 12/14-03

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### Important Dates for Councillors – Upcoming Meetings & Events

**Recommendation:**

That Council receive and note the list of upcoming meetings and events.

**Moved:****Seconded:****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 workload 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.

**Proposed:**

The following schedule provides for Council Meetings in 2024 to be held on the fourth Tuesday of the month other than in December when it is proposed to be held on the third Tuesday.

All Council meetings will take place in Walgett at the Council Chambers to allow for webcasting of the meetings in accordance with the Council's Code of Meeting practice clause 5.19.

**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 note the information.

**Attachments:**

Upcoming meetings and events schedule.

**IMPORTANT DATES – Upcoming Meetings and Events**

| DATE              | MEETING/FUNCTION             | LOCATION         | NOTES                                         |
|-------------------|------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 28 November 2023  | Council Meeting              | Walgett Chambers | Councillors, GM and Executive Staff to attend |
| 12 December 2023  | Council Meeting              | Walgett Chambers | Councillors, GM and Executive Staff to attend |
| 1 February 2024   | Local Area Traffic Committee | Walgett Chambers | Councillors, GM and Elected Members           |
| 27 February 2024  | Council Meeting              | Walgett Chambers | Councillors, GM and Executive Staff to attend |
| 26 March 2024     | Council Meeting              | Walgett Chambers | Councillors, GM and Executive Staff to attend |
| 4 April 2024      | Local Area Traffic Committee | Walgett Chambers | Councillors, GM and Elected Members           |
| 23 April 2024     | Council Meeting              | Walgett Chambers | Councillors, GM and Executive Staff to attend |
| 6 June 2024       | Local Area Traffic Committee | Walgett Chambers | Councillors, GM and Elected Members           |
| 28 May 2024       | Council Meeting              | Walgett Chambers | Councillors, GM and Executive Staff to attend |
| 25 June 2024      | Council Meeting              | Walgett Chambers | Councillors, GM and Executive Staff to attend |
| 23 July 2024      | Council Meeting              | Walgett Chambers | Councillors, GM and Executive Staff to attend |
| 1 August 2024     | Local Area Traffic Committee | Walgett Chambers | Councillors, GM and Elected Members           |
| 27 August 2024    | Council Meeting              | Walgett Chambers | Councillors, GM and Executive Staff to attend |
| 24 September 2024 | Council Meeting              | Walgett Chambers | Councillors, GM and Executive Staff to attend |
| 3 October 2024    | Local Area Traffic Committee | Walgett Chambers | Councillors, GM and Elected Members           |
| 22 October 2024   | Council Meeting              | Walgett Chambers | Councillors, GM and Executive Staff to attend |
| 26 November 2024  | Council Meeting              | Walgett Chambers | Councillors, GM and Executive Staff to attend |
| 6 December 2024   | Local Area Traffic Committee | Walgett Chambers | Councillors, GM and Elected Members           |
| 17 December 2024  | Council Meeting              | Walgett Chambers | Councillors, GM and Executive Staff to attend |

### 9.1.3 DELEGATES, REPRESENTATIVES AND/OR MEMBERS OF COMMITTEES, REFERENCE GROUPS AND EXTERNAL BODIES

**REPORTING SECTION:** Executive - Governance  
**AUTHOR:** Megan Dixon – General Manager  
**FILE NUMBER:** 23/11/0310

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#### Delegates, Representatives and/or Members of Committees, Reference Groups and External Bodies

**Recommendation:**

That members, representatives and delegates be appointed to the committees, reference groups and external organisations as outlined in the schedule for the period terminating September 2024.

*(To be determined at meeting)*

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

**Attachments:**

**Summary:**

This report identifies those committees, reference groups and external organisations which require the appointment of Councillor Representatives.

**Background:**

The participation on a range of local, specific issues, committees established by Council including Section 355 Committees, peak body/sector associations, and local and regional forums, is an essential part of the representative role Council plays.

Council nominates delegates and representatives to these committees annually.

The role, as the delegate or Council representative on these committees, is to represent the position of Council, and where appropriate, report back to Council at an Ordinary Council Meeting on the issues or progress of the committees, and any recommendations made by the committees.

**Current Position:**

Attached is a schedule identifying Councillors and staff who were currently involved in external bodies on behalf of Council.

It should be noted that Councillors Woodcock and Cooke were elected to the Castlereagh Macquarie County Council for a term of four years and appointments to the County Council are expected to be for the duration of Council.

It is suggested to consider nominating an alternative Council delegate to cover those occasions when the nominated delegate may be unavailable.

**Relevant Reference Documents:**

Code of Conduct

**Stakeholders:**

Councillors and Council Staff

**Financial Implications:**

Nil

**Conclusion:**

Council should proceed to appoint Councillor Representatives to the Council Committees and Reference Groups listed in the attached schedule.

Schedule of representatives and delegates for the period terminating September 2024.

**Representatives and Delegates for the period, terminating September 2024**



# Walgett Council Meeting Agenda 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023

| COMMITTEE                                                                        | OFFICER                                                          | CURRENT                                   | PROPOSED                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Australian Airports Association                                                  | Director Engineering/Technical Services                          | Not required                              | Not required                |
| Bushfire Management Committee                                                    | Director Engineering/Technical Services                          | Clr Ramien                                | Clr *                       |
| Castlereagh Macquarie County Council<br>3 year Term                              | General Manager                                                  | Clr Woodcock & Clr Cooke                  | No Change                   |
| Collarenebri Community Working party                                             | General Manager                                                  | Mayor & Clr Ramien                        | Mayor & Clr *               |
| Community Safety Precinct Committee                                              | General Manager                                                  | Mayor & Deputy Mayor                      | Mayor                       |
| Lightning Ridge & Surrounding Opal Fields Management Crown Reserve 1024168 Trust | General Manager                                                  | Mayor & Deputy Mayor                      | Mayor                       |
| Kamilaroi Highway Group                                                          | General Manager                                                  | Not required                              | Not required                |
| Lightning Ridge Community Working Party                                          | General Manager                                                  | Mayor & Clr Seaton                        | Mayor & Clr *               |
| Local Emergency Management Committee                                             | General Manager as LEMO and Director of Engineering as alternate | Mayor                                     | Not Required                |
| Local Traffic Committee                                                          | Director Engineering/Technical Services and General Manager      | Mayor , Clr Hundy, Clr Rummery, Clr Cooke | Mayor , Clr * , Clr*, Clr * |
| Netwaste                                                                         | Director Environmental Services                                  | Not required                              | Not required                |
| Big Sky Libraries                                                                | Director Chief Financial Officer                                 | Mayor & Clr Currey                        | Mayor & Clr *               |
| Regional Development Australia - Orana                                           | General Manager                                                  | Mayor & Deputy Mayor                      | Mayor                       |
| Outback Arts Incorporated                                                        | General Manager                                                  | Mayor, Clr Currey & Clr Walford           | Mayor, Clr * & Clr *        |
| Plant Committee                                                                  | Director Engineering/Technical Services and General Manager      | Mayor, Clr Cooke & Clr Ramien             | Mayor, Clr * & Clr *        |
| Regional Procurement Initiative                                                  | Director Engineering/Technical Services/ Chief Financial Officer | Not required                              | Not required                |
| Rural Bush Fire Management Group                                                 | Director Engineering/Technical Services/Chief Financial Officer  | Clr Ramien                                | Clr *                       |
| Saleyards Advisory Committee                                                     | Director Engineering/Technical Services                          | Clr Rummery                               | Clr *                       |
| Western Division of the Shire's Association                                      | General Manager                                                  | Mayor & Deputy Mayor                      | Mayor                       |
| Walgett Community Working Party                                                  | General Manager and Manager Community Services                   | Mayor & Clr Walford                       | Mayor & Clr *               |
| Water Utilities Group                                                            | Director Engineering/Technical Services                          | Not Required                              | Not Required                |
| Local Government NSW – Voting Delegate                                           | General Manager                                                  | Mayor                                     | Mayor                       |
| Far North West Joint Organisation                                                | General Manager as advisor                                       | Mayor and Deputy Mayor                    | Mayor                       |
| Hudson Pear Taskforce                                                            | General Manager                                                  | Delegates to CMCC                         | Delegates to CMCC           |
| Far West Academy of Sport                                                        | General Manager                                                  | Mayor                                     | Mayor                       |
| Western Division Councils of NSW                                                 | General Manager                                                  | Mayor                                     | Mayor                       |
| Tourism Advisory committee                                                       | General Manager                                                  | Mayor , Clr Hundy & Clr Seaton            | Mayor , Clr * & Clr *       |
| Economic Development Committee                                                   | General Manager                                                  | Mayor & Clr Hundy                         | Mayor & Clr *               |
| Country Mayors Association                                                       | General Manager                                                  | Mayor                                     | Mayor                       |
| Mining Related Councils                                                          | General Manager                                                  | Mayor & Deputy Mayor                      | Mayor                       |
| Alliance of Western Council                                                      | General Manager                                                  | Mayor & Deputy Mayor                      | Mayor                       |
| Murray-Darling Basin Advisory                                                    | General Manager                                                  | Mayor & Clr Rummery                       | Mayor & Clr *               |
| Border Regional Organisations of Councils                                        | General Manager                                                  | Mayor & Deputy Mayor                      | Mayor                       |
| Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC)                                     | General Manager                                                  | Clr Rummery                               | Clr *                       |

*\* Councillor to be nominated*

### 9.1.4 CLOSEDOWN OF COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION OFFICES OVER THE 2023/2024 FESTIVE SEASON

**REPORTING SECTION:** Executive  
**AUTHOR:** Megan Dixon – General Manager  
**FILE NUMBER:** 12/14-03

#### Closedown of Council Administration Offices over the 2023/2024 Festive Season

##### Recommendation

That Council:

1. operations close from Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023 to Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024, inclusive, and the General Manager make satisfactory arrangements for the maintenance of essential services and provision of emergency call out services.
2. Note Union Picnic Day will be held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> December 2023.
3. The closedown be effectively notified to residents, along with details of essential service and emergency call out arrangements.
4. Note arrangements will be made with all outdoor staff to enable skeleton crews, in accordance with the Award.

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

##### Summary:

It is considered efficient for the majority of Council's operations to close down for the workdays between Christmas and New Year's Day. It also suits the needs of the majority of staff to plan holidays during the Festive Season. During the Christmas Closure and in accordance with the NSW Local Government (State) Award 2020, the Union Picnic Day will fall into this period.

##### Discussion:

This year Christmas Day falls on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December, Boxing Day on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> December and New Year's Day on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024. It is proposed that Council operations close down from Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023 to Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024, inclusive.

For the closedown period, staff are required to utilise accumulated flex-time and/or take the balance using accrued annual leave. During the closedown essential service staff remain on duty in the garbage and water/sewer service areas and emergency service staff are rostered to be on call in other areas of Council operations.

Each year Council staff celebrate Union Picnic Day in accordance with the Local Government State Award.

For Council's information the relevant provisions of the Award are as follows;

**UNION PICNIC DAY**

*(i) Union Picnic Day shall for the purposes of this Award be regarded as a holiday for employees who are financial members of the union(s). The Union Picnic Day shall be on such day as is agreed between the employer and the union(s).*

*(ii) The union(s) shall advise the employer of financial members as at the time of the Union Picnic Day. Such advice must be given at least two weeks prior to the Union Picnic Day.*

*(iii) Employees who are not financial members of the union(s) and who are required to work on Union Picnic Day, shall be paid ordinary pay for their normal working day.*

*(iv) Employees who are not financial members of the union(s) and who are not required to work on Union Picnic Day, may apply to the employer to take annual leave, long service leave, time off in lieu of overtime, leave without pay, such other leave as may be approved by the employer, or may be required by the employer to make up time.*

**Current Position:**

Following a request from the United Services Union (USU), I have agreed that Union Picnic Day should be granted on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and a notice to this effect will be circulated with the next pay advice.

**Relevant Reference Documents:**

NSW Local Government (State) Award 2020

Public Holidays Act 2010

WSC Time-In-Lieu Policy and Procedure

**Stakeholders:**

Walgett Shire Council

Walgett Shire community

Council staff

**Financial Implications:**

As staff will be required to take flex time and/or annual leave, during this time, any rostered staff (working during this period) will be paid at the normal rates of pay and any penalties due, in accordance with the NSW Local Government (State) Award 2020.

**Alternative Solutions/Options:**

NIL

**Conclusion:**

The writer recommends Council approve that Council administration offices be closed down from Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023 to Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024, inclusive, over the festive season.

**Attachments:**

Nil.

## 9.1.5 FAR NORTHWEST JOINT ORGANISATION – DROUGHT PLAN UPDATE

**REPORTING SECTION:** Executive  
**AUTHOR:** Megan Dixon – General Manager  
**FILE NUMBER:** 23/11/0309

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### FNWJO Drought Plan Update

#### Recommendation:

That:

1. The information be received and it be noted and that the Far North West Joint Organisation of Councils has been engaged to develop and implement a Regional Drought Resilience Plan on behalf of Walgett Shire Council;
2. The Mayor be nominated together with the General Manager to participate in the Regional Drought Resilience Plan Program process on behalf of Walgett Shire Council;
3. Council notes that the General Manager's Executive Assistant will be the Council Staff contact as the local information conduit to work with the Far Northwest Joint Organisation of Councils Drought Project Officer, to supply local plans relevant to the Walgett Shire Council to the Drought Project Officer for review and to co-ordinate local media promotion of the Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program process which is expected in January 2024; and
4. Council adopt the Regional Drought Resilience Plan Project Plan for RDRP 004 that is contained within the report for implementation by the Far Northwest Joint Organisation of Councils.

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

#### PURPOSE

To inform Council of the Regional Drought Resilience Plan (RDRP) Program, the inclusion of Walgett Shire Council in a successful consortium (RDRP 016) to create and implement a RDRP that will involve long term strategies to improve baseline resilience to drought, to set up Councillor Representation, Staff Representation and to adopt the RDRP Project Plan.

#### BACKGROUND

At the beginning of 2020, 100% of NSW was in drought. Between 2017 and 2020, many regions faced the lowest rainfall and driest conditions in 120 years – 2019 was the driest and warmest year on record for NSW and rainfall was 55% below average. It also followed in quick succession from the Millennium drought and left little time for primary producers to recover and protect themselves against future crises, exacerbating the social and economic impacts.

But drought is unpredictable, recurring and more importantly a hallmark of the Australian climate. It is slow moving and people are not sure if they are in one until it is well and truly happening. The event, its impacts and the recovery are long and cyclical in nature.

Therefore, we need a long-term view of the cycle of drought and non-drought years and with recent events stark in memory, now is the time to take stock and intensify a coordinated approach across three levels of government to ensure regional areas are better prepared for the next drought.

To mitigate the devastating social and economic impacts of drought, the NSW Government has set in motion a planning program to help communities and economies survive. The NSW Government in partnership with the federal Future Drought Fund, Regional Drought Resilience Plans (RDR Plans) are being prepared across the State, funded by this partnership, as a first step to understanding drought resilience actions for future funding.

The aim of the project is to direct continuous funding for drought resilience initiatives which reflect local need and context of drought.

The RDRP's objective is to help communities develop a holistic, community-wide view of how they become more resilient to future droughts.

This is achieved through improving underlying community strength, economy and environmental aspects of a region.

Communities need long term strategies to improve baseline resilience which transcends the cyclical nature of drought.

Links to other strategies, discovering and enlightening local meanings of resilience and recognising synergies in existing work that can enhance resilience rather than growing the scope of regional projects is a key principle.

### **The Narrative**

Change the "Drought" narrative from "Crisis" to "Proactive Management - We can't stop it, but we can manage it".

Drought management is similar to personal health management; we don't wait for a health crisis that will threaten our being; instead, we manage our health with regular health checks, access to improved information and technologies and implement strategies to reduce risk through planning, reviewing and re-evaluating.

We need to manage drought, like our health and not wait for CRISIS when it's too late.

We need to normalise drought by ensuring there are pre-drought, drought and post drought strategies in place – we can't eliminate drought BUT we can eliminate CRISIS.

### **Far North-West Joint Organisation Project Delivery – Two Drought Plans**

After consultation with Councils in the region, the Far North-West Joint Organisation of Councils lodged 2 applications to the Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program, Round 1

- Consortia RDRP 004 (Bourke, Brewarrina, Cobar and Walgett); and
- Consortia RDRP 016 (Coonamble, Warren and Bogan).

The applications were successful, with funding secured to create two (2) Regional Drought Plans for RDRP 004 and RDRP 016.

Each drought plan will have regional and local actions specific to each region that promote self-reliance and drought resilience of regional communities, improve the natural capital of agricultural landscapes to optimise environmental outcomes & strengthen the wellbeing and social capital of rural, regional & remote community.

Each Drought Plan will have its own budget allocations however economies of scale will be found in consultant recruitment, consultation processes and engagement by applying similar delivery strategies across the development of both RDRP 004 and RDRP 016 Regional Drought Plans.

### **RDRP Objectives**

Consistent with the strategic priorities and objectives of the Future Drought Fund Agreement, the objectives of the RDRP process are to:

- grow self-reliance and performance of the agricultural sector;
- improve the natural capital of agricultural landscapes for better environmental outcomes; and
- strengthen the wellbeing and social capital of rural, regional and remote communities.

Strong community and diverse regional economies are core objectives of the NSW Government, providing both short- and long-term opportunities to strengthen drought resilience.

### **Council Support required to deliver Regional Drought Resilience Plan**

To ensure the success of the Regional Drought Resilience Plan for the Walgett Shire Council LGA;

1. Nominate the Mayor to attend with the General Manager the Far North-West Joint Organisation of Councils launch, meetings and act as a 'Council Representative' together with the General Manager for the Project.
2. Nominate a Council Staff contact for the Project being the Executive Assistant to the General Manager.
3. Provide localised media support for the Regional Drought Resilience Plan by:
  - a) Where possible attending the launch of the Plan.
  - b) Undertake local media promotion of the Regional Drought Resilience Plan Development for the Walgett Shire area through promotion in electronic, print and radio media releases to elevate the importance of the Plan

The Draft Project Timeline (Project Plan) is details as Attachment 1.

### **REPORT**

**Attachment 2** is the Project Narrative which is a supporting guide for Local Governments and consortia.

**Attachment 3** is the Regional Drought Resilience Plan Template.

**Attachment 4** is the CSIRO Regional Drought Resilience Plans Independent Review Guide June 2022.



The **Regional Drought Resilience Plan Project Plan** is expected to be as follows:

**Plan Development and Community Consultation Proposed Timeline**

1. Once the "Regional Skills Based Reference Group" is confirmed, communication with this group will commence immediately:
  - a) Invite members of the Regional Skills Based Reference Group to the launch of the Minister Launch - this identifies them as "Champions" of the plan to help us engage and communicate with our communities.
  - b) Circulation of electronic surveys (Monkey Survey) to identify some of the key issues in each "Drought Pillar" and each LGA.
  - c) Use the group as a conduit into each community for open community consultation; and
  - d) Extract from the group any plans or previous learnings that they may be aware of that will inform the development of the Regional Drought Plan (these will be added to existing desk top review materials for previous learnings).
2. Commence Draft Drought Plans - some information can be extracted, researched and included in the draft prior to or at the same time as (Acknowledgement of Country, Foreword, Introduction, Vision developed in consultation with RSBRG and Councils), Glossary of Key Terms, Drought Resilience at a Glance, Objectives (these will need to be confirmed post consultation), expected benefits, Strategic alignment, About this Regional Drought Resilience Plan (this will need to be confirmed post consultation), Purpose of the Plan, Process, Key inputs, Our partners, Regional Profile, Our History of Drought Impacts, Drought monitoring in NSW, Stages of drought, regional drought context (will need to be confirmed post consultation), Identified Future Drought Projections and Impacts (this will need to be confirmed post consultation), Drought Resilience Journey (this will need to be confirmed post consultation), Monitoring (this will need to be confirmed post consultation), Evaluation and Learning (this will need to be confirmed post consultation), Possible key terms / reference list (this will need to be confirmed post consultation), Action plan guidance (this will need to be confirmed post consultation);
3. Engage Graphic designer for development of publication;
4. Community Consultation "Road Show" will take place 29th January to 9th February 2024 (2 weeks) - Each member of the "Regional Skills Based Reference Group" will be asked to champion these meetings in their LGA's;
5. Organisation of Community Consultation Materials into an issues paper for consideration and review (week of 12th to 16th February 2023);
6. "Regional Skills Based Reference Group - "Think Tank" Meeting to analyse and Identify issues for attention and action in the plan delivery - Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd March 2023 (face-to-face - centralised location to be announced/determined);
7. Draft Plan Development - 4th March to 16th March 2024 - Feedback from Regional Skills Based Reference Group and Councils week commencing 18th March 2023;
8. Draft Plan to CSRIO for feedback 26th March 2024 (non-graphic design draft);

9. Final Report to Department of Regional NSW 29th May 2024 and adoption by Councils June 2024; and

10. Commence Implementation Activities of Drought Plan 1st July 2024.

### **Far North-West Joint Organisation of Councils Drought Plan Contacts**

The contacts are as follows:

- Mr Ross Earl, Executive Officer; and
- Mrs Belinda Colless, Project Officer.

The Executive Officer and Project Officer are responsible for the undertaking and finalisation of the development and implementation of the Plan.

### **Funding / Timeline Summary**

#### **Consortia RDRP 004 (Bourke, Brewarrina, Cobar and Walgett) Details - \$560,000**

|             | Activity                                                                                                                                                | Milestone Payment | Due Date                      |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Milestone 1 | Executed Funding Deed<br>Copies of certificates of currency for insurance policies                                                                      | \$105,000         | June 2023 ✓                   |
| Milestone 2 | Development – Project Plan Developed and Agreed                                                                                                         | \$105,000         | 6 <sup>th</sup> November 2023 |
| Milestone 3 | Draft RDR Plan to the Department for the Department will supply RDR plan to CSIRO for independent review                                                |                   | 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2024   |
| Milestone 4 | Incorporate CSIRO's feedback and provide the final RDR Plan and final report to the Department                                                          |                   | 29 <sup>th</sup> May 2024     |
| Milestone 5 | Implement Plan approved by the Department, containing agreed activities to be delivered and estimated costs, timings other details of those activities. | \$300,000         | 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2024    |
| Milestone 6 | Final Report and acquittal                                                                                                                              | \$50,000          | 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2025   |

**TOTAL \$560,000**

#### **Consortia RDRP 016 (Coonamble, Warren and Bogan) \$450,000**

|             | Activity                                                                                                                                                | Milestone Payment | Due Date                      |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Milestone 1 | Executed Funding Deed<br>Copies of certificates of currency for insurance policies                                                                      | \$100,000         | June 2023                     |
| Milestone 2 | Development – Project Plan Developed and Agreed                                                                                                         | \$100,000         | 6 <sup>th</sup> November 2023 |
| Milestone 3 | Draft RDR Plan to the Department for the Department will supply RDR plan to CSIRO for independent review                                                |                   | 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2024   |
| Milestone 4 | Incorporate CSIRO's feedback and provide the final RDR Plan and final report to the Department                                                          |                   | 29 <sup>th</sup> May 2024     |
| Milestone 5 | Implement Plan approved by the Department, containing agreed activities to be delivered and estimated costs, timings other details of those activities. | \$200,000         | 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2024    |
| Milestone 6 | Final Report and acquittal                                                                                                                              | \$50,000          | 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2025   |

**TOTAL \$450,000**

## **FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

Additional Funding The Far North-West Joint Organisation has applied to undertake develop and deliver drought capacity building activities in the Bourke, Brewarrina and Walgett LGA's. These were the only LGA's eligible, once resources are developed, they can be shared across LGA's

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Works for the RDRP must be in accordance with the Program Guidelines which is supervised by the Department of Regional NSW.

## **RISK IMPLICATIONS**

Nil.

## **STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION**

### **Regional Skills Based Reference Group**

A Regional Skills Based Reference Group will be developed following further consultation with the NSW Department of Regional NSW. This group will be the main focus for stakeholders consultation at both the Local Government area level and regionally.

### **Agriculture**

- Animal production;
- Plant production;

Typically the interest areas for the Reference Group will be: -

- Agricultural industries; and
- Agronomy.
  - Small Business/Economic Development/Tourism;
  - Community Services (Health, Education, Social Services);
  - Community champions (NSW Farmers, CWA etc); - Professional Business Services (accounting, law, banking);
  - Aboriginal Representation; and
  - Environment.

### **The Reference Group Make Up**

This is yet to be finalised in consultation with the Department of Regional NSW.

### **Next Meeting of the Drought Plan Groups**

There will be a meeting of the Drought Plan Groups (Consortia 004 and Consortia 016) at the Alliance of Western Councils Meeting in Dubbo, either Thursday night, 7th December or Friday, 8th December 2023 (time and venue to be confirmed) to:

- Move the detailed project plan (it is loosely the outline detailed previously with actions and dates);
- Provide details of the media launch of the Drought Plan Consultation for the area (this is proposed for the 13th or 14th December 2023 by the Minister for Agriculture at Cobar – to be confirmed);
- Confirmation of members of the “Regional Skills Based Reference Group’ for community consultation there may need to be an investigation on a “stipend” and/or a “travel allowance” to adopt at this meeting for members of the “Regional skills Based Reference Group” to cover any out-of-pocket expenses that may be incurred;
- Acceptance of quotations for supplementary skills to deliver the program (statistic, data collection and analysis/facilitator) (these will be circulated prior to the meeting on the 8th of December, 2023; and
- Any feedback from Councils, local context, next steps forward.

## **OPTIONS**

As Walgett Shire Council is now part of the successful Consortia RDRP 004 to develop and implement a Regional Drought Resilience Plan, the only option is to continue to be involved and to make sure those involved ensure that the Plan is suitable and most advantageous for the residents and businesses of Walgett Shire. To date the Officers responsible have shown clear direction and intent to provide a well-managed process that should be able to produce an appropriate Plan.

## **CONCLUSION**

Walgett Shire Council has been successful as part of a Consortia RDRP 004 for the development and implementation of a Regional Drought Resilience Plan. Consortia RDRP 004 consists of Bourke Shire Council, Brewarrina Shire Council, Cobar Shire Council and Walgett Shire Council.

The Far North-West Joint Organisation of Councils is responsible for the undertaking and implementation of Regional Drought Resilience Plans for both our Consortia RDRP 004 and the other relevant Consortia RDRP 016 (Coonamble Shire Council, Warren Shire Council and Bogan Shire Council).

## **LINK TO POLICY AND / OR COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN**

1.2.1 Maintain ongoing community engagement to instill a strong collaborative environment with the community;

2.1.2 Proactively identify and create new business opportunities and associated investment within the Shire;

2.3.1 Facilitate the growth of local businesses;

4.1.1 Work with appropriate agencies to proactively address the local impacts of climate change;

4.2.1 Sustainably manage the Shire's limited water resources; 5.2.3 Seek new sources of income for Council; and

5.2.4 Explore partnerships with others to share costs.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION /ATTACHMENTS**

1. Project Timelines – Project Plan;

2. Regional Drought Resilience Planning Project Narrative;

3. Regional Drought Resilience Plan Template V3;

4. CSIRO Regional Drought Resilience Plans Independent Review Guide June 2022;

5. Darling Downs Regional Drought Resilience Plan 2022-2030 (Example 1 – provided under separate cover);

6. Wimmera Southern Mallee Drought Resilience Plan (Example 2) – provided under separate cover.

| <b>Establish scope and agreed definitions. (Councils, Rural Resilience Leaders, Reference Group)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>Pre-consultation Activity</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Community Consultation (Target 8 to 10 groups per LGA)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>Draft Plan Development</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>Draft Plan Critique and Review</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>Plan Adoption and Circulation</b>                                                                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>October / November 2023</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>November / December 2023</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>January / February 2024</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>February / March 2024</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>26<sup>th</sup> March 2024</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>Final Report to Dept 29<sup>th</sup> May 2024 / June 2024</b>                                                                               |
| <b>Understanding Types of Drought</b><br>- Meteorological Drought<br>- Hydrological Drought<br>- Agricultural Drought<br>- Socioeconomic Drought<br><br><b>Drought Progression</b><br>- What are the “triggers” for each type of drought<br>- Who records and monitors drought progression<br>Who is responsible to act as the conduit between government & community<br>- Key messages communicated in lay terms<br><br><b>Desk-top Research</b> – existing documents impacts of drought and implications for LGA's pre, during and post drought events. | <b>LGA Awareness Campaign of Plan</b><br>- Ag Minister, Mayors and GM's launch community awareness campaign<br>- Local Media, MP's<br><b>(Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023)</b><br><br><b>Resourcing Project</b><br>- Recruitment of Consultants / staff / Facilitators to undertake consultation and deliver plan ( <a href="http://projence.com.au">projence.com.au</a> )<br>- Revision of Scope of works with facilitators<br><br><b>Creation of Regional, Skills Based Reference Group</b> Interviews including review of existing plans, data, issues and analysis (List in development) | <b>Identify issues / impacts</b> of each “type” of drought and progression, identify essential infrastructure and services – pre, during and post activity.<br><br><b>Stakeholder Engagement.</b><br>NSW Farmers, cotton growers, cereal farmers, cattle, sheep and goat producers, agronomists, stock & station agents; Government / Non-Government Agencies – LLS, RMS, NSW Water, NSW Regional Development, NSW Health, Education, Centrelink, Rural Financial Councillors, Employment Agencies; Aboriginal Community; Tourism, Retail, Service Providers; Mining Industry; Community organisations – Show, Rodeo, Race Clubs, sporting organisations, CWA | <b>Plan Development</b><br><br><b>Preparedness Action Plan</b> – What action can be taken to ensure you're prepared for drought<br><br><b>Drought Action Plan</b> – What action can be taken “during” the drought<br><br><b>Post Drought Evaluation Plan</b> – What can be done better? Evaluate and update Community Drought Plan | <b>Control Group Feedback</b><br>Circulate Draft Plan to Councils, Rural Resilience Leaders,<br><br><b>Consultation Attendees Feedback</b><br>Circulate Draft Plan to all consultation attendees<br><br><b>CSRIO Review</b><br><br><b>Review Draft Plan</b> | Adoption of Plans by Council<br><br>Circulation of Plans to Stakeholders<br><br>Acquit Funding<br><br><b>Commence Stage 2 - Implementation</b> |

**Project Timelines - PROJECT PLAN (Consortia RDRP 004 (Bourke, Brewarrina, Cobar and Walgett) and Consortia RDRP 016 (Coonamble, Warren and Bogan)**

### 9.1.6 EVERYONE CAN PLAY PARK – LIGHTNING RIDGE

**REPORTING SECTION:** Executive  
**AUTHOR:** Sherisse Fensom – Administrative Services Officer  
**FILE NUMBER:** 23/11/0320

#### Everyone Can Play Park – Lightning Ridge

**Recommendation:**

That Council

1. Review and take into consideration submissions received during the public exhibition period
2. Thank the community for their feedback
3. Determine whether Council intends to proceed with construction within the existing precinct

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

**Summary:**

This report is presented for Council's consideration regarding the Everyone Can Play Park on Bill O'Brien Way, Lightning Ridge and the challenges that have emerged in regard to its location and community feedback.

**Background:**

The Everyone Can Play in Lightning Ridge, funded with a grant of \$431,952.50, has faced ongoing location challenges. Originally planned for Pandora Street, it was moved to Kaolin Street due to an Aboriginal Land Claim. Kaolin Street faced strong community opposition due to its encroachment on the sporting fields .

Negotiations for the purchase of the 'Diggers Rest' site on the corner of Opal and Morilla also fell through.

On 27<sup>th</sup> September 2022 Council resolved to approve the construction of the park on the partially closed road on Bill O'Brien Way.

There were recent concerns regarding the overall costs of the parks but Council resolved on in the meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023 to continue with construction of the park.

In terms of community consultation, face to face consultation was conducted in March of 2022. This involved four separate sessions talking with high school, primary and preschool children and a community drop in session at Spider Brown Oval.

The results of this consultation revealed that the desire for a bmx/pump track was high. Following this, a flying fox, climbing tower, water play, slide, and BBQ/party areas were of highest priorities to participants.

The received feedback was analysed with representatives from Walgett Shire Council and the Department of Planning, considering site location, scale, topography, and constraints.



Focused on achieving a "unique" and "memorable" outcome, the DPIE design team crafted a playspace with distinctive entry elements aligned with community priorities, such as a play tower and slide. Despite the demand for a flying fox and pump track, site conditions do not permit their inclusion.

The project stalled due to issues related to land titles and staff turnover. Consequently, the design remained undisclosed to the community until recently.

**Current Position:**

Essential Energy initially provided verbal consent for the designated site beneath high-voltage powerlines, contingent upon the removal of specified metal objects from the plan and a reduction in the height of the towers. DPIE submitted the final design; however, Essential Energy has since rescinded their support which they believe should have not been provided in the first place.

Given the timeframe constraints it has become imperative to identify an alternative location for the park within the vicinity of the current location. DPIE suggested the either an integration with the current play equipment next to the IBC gardens or within the IBC gardens.

The selected location must be situated at a minimum distance of 20 meters from the high-voltage powerlines.

Another important consideration is the park also went out to public exhibition on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October until the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 2023 to engage public feedback on the proposed design.

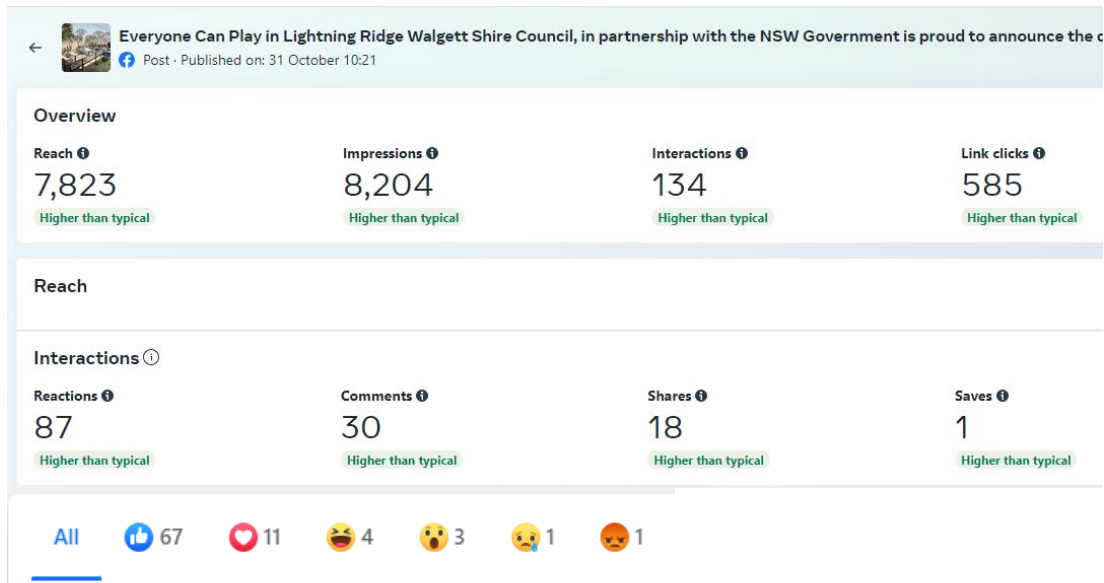
The feedback was mostly negative. Despite community consultation, the communities wants were not taking into consideration due to the location change of the park and the issues related to the road front and powerlines which impeded the design.

It's important to highlight that DPIE cannot make further alterations to the park's design because of time constraints and the substantial amount of money they have already invested.

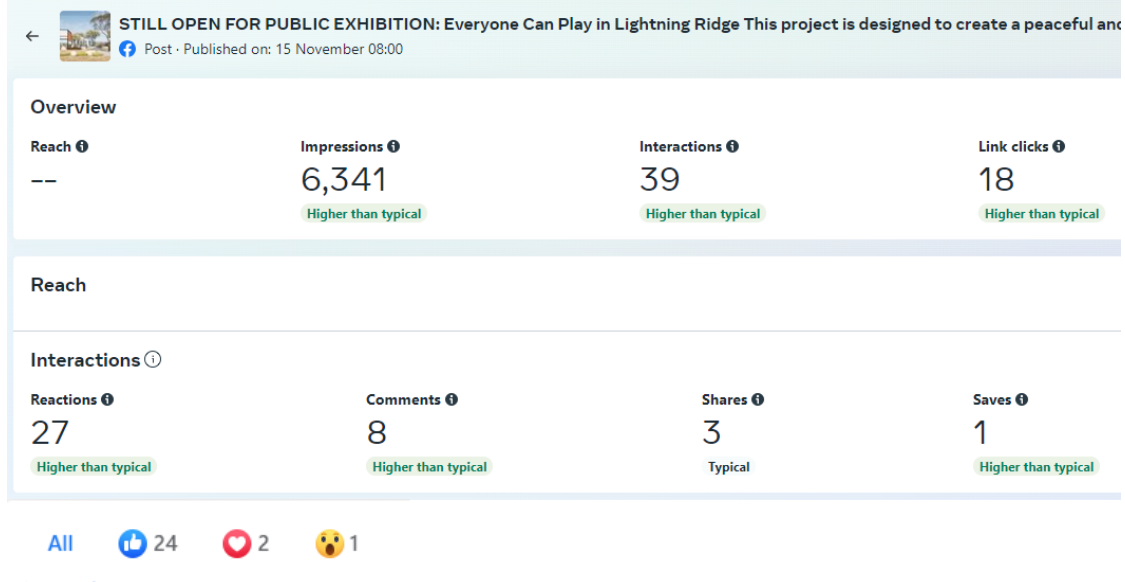
The announcement was promoted on our website, Facebook page, and shared on the Lightning Ridge Notice Board for maximum visibility. Additionally, a hard copy was displayed in the Walgett Office. However, an oversight occurred during the Lightning Ridge relocation process, resulting in the initial hard copy missing from site. This was corrected in the last week of exhibition. Additionally, our Community Development Officer also met with community groups in Lightning Ridge to encourage honest feedback.

Council received five formal submissions and 48 comments on social media within the exhibition period. (comments that only 'tag' others are not considered in analytics).

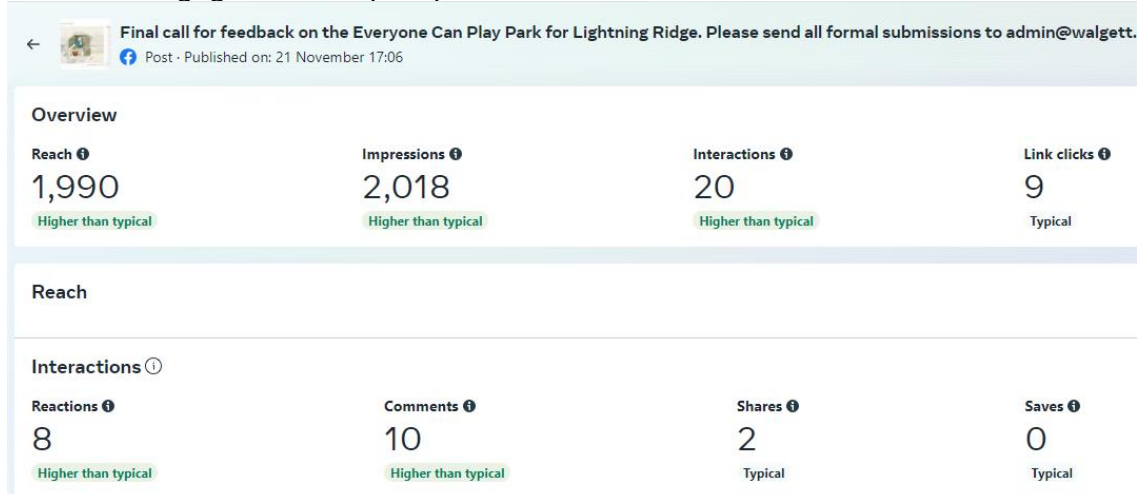
Facebook engagements on post published 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023




Facebook engagements on post published 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023:



Facebook engagements on post published 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023:



**Positive feedback comments on social media included:**

Facebook “Likes”  are often considered a positive reaction, to which Council received 99 over the three posts. With 13 “love” reactions.


The comments are positive towards the park:

- “Looks fantastic”
- “Fabulous”
- “Now this would be an awesome upgrade”

**Feedback encompassing more critical perspectives included:**

There was only 1 “angry” reaction which is determined to be a negative response to the subject.

Comments that are more critical of the park:

- “Very basic for big kids don’t look that fun all ages need more  fun just saying slides, swings, climbing frames, something that you would take your kids to Maccas Playland now that’s fun “This plan looks boring, it looks like a viewing ramp at a zoo”
- “Looks like rubbish, don’t waste the money”
- “Absolute waste of money and boring.”
- “Looks like a million dollars of nothing.”
- “Looks like a very expensive! Simple ! Disabled like a bit of action & fun too. Not very stimulating for either.”
- “Looks like another white elephant like this rediculas waste of money on the toilets in Coonamble. Just spending Grant money so they don't miss the next round.
- “How much is this monstrosity costing us ratepayer”
- “What I have read is there have put in 500,000 in the development of the playground and that playground is definitely not worth that much.”
- “...For me, Tamworth Park is the best Park ever! Park, it should be for everyone, from kids to olders, who could enjoy/play, and I found it at Tamworth Park. Why not look into it, to get some ideas...”
- “I know it seems people are being ungrateful but I agree with most on this thread. It’s not a nice park at all. We’re a big tourist town. It would be unreal to have a park like Gunnadah. With fun equipment, flying fox and a massive fence around to keep your kids in safe. Dubbo has 3 of these! This just looks boring.”
- “Theres no point in spending so much money on this new park when you’re only gonna put one slide...”
- “how about a zip line or some water sprayers for kids. It literally looks like a glorified rest area/lookout.”
- “Peaceful, uncluttered, underwhelmed park...that’s not designed for kids.”
- “Shade sails, swings, large log tunnels, recycled water play like in Dubbo...the hammock is nice but imagine 15-20 children trying to have a turn on it
- “More shade. Does it have a wheelchair swing?”
- “In ground trampolines or something, that looks very plain and boring.”
- “...I just thought that this park was going to have more for the older kids as they were consulted at school. We have a simple playground at the lions park, we have the basic swing and slide for young ones at the oval park but there isn’t much happening here for all age groups as originally proposed. The design does look like a zoo viewing deck that yes a ramp seems accessible and inclusive but there could be so much more done. Tamworth have a fantastic inclusive multi age park even if we got a third of what they have there it would be worth the money invested. it will be a tourist hot spot next to the VIC and markets...”

- "...with what I've seen, I think the majority disagree with what is planned for this park. A common request seems to be, more & bigger play equipment (slides, flying foxes swings, climbing apparatus, etc, such as Tamworth has) ,a water park included & plenty of shade. When the council look thru the feedback, if the majority disagree, is this plan going to be scrapped or just go ahead anyway? What is the cost of everything so far having this plan drawn up? Why wasn't the public consulted for opinions before something was drawn up?"
- "I feel like this park has been planned by people who aren't even parents and they're just trying to tick boxes."
- "what exactly are "everyone" supposed to play with? Even the children in the concept images look disappointed and bored."
- "I think it need a tip water buckets as it's a hot town and a flying fox and some tunnels. So much more needed. We all need to put in formal submissions so we don't get this white elephant hoisted on us. It has nothing to recommend it."
- "Can they keep the little play park that's there? That's even worse than the old one. Where is the swings and climbing frames not to mention the shade over the play equipment. This is so disappointing."
- "Well isn't that disappointing not to mention the lack of shade protection"
- "What's the point of a park that kids can't play on, i dont have kids or anything but being a kid in an uneventful town it would be nice for them to have something to do and have fun at, if they want a calming environment stay home"
- Now this would be more fun for the whole community to play here for hours don't u think and half \$1 million for basic play equipment does not make sense [OBJ] kids need more imagination and more fun specially in a country town with nothing for them to do just saying.
- I was only pointing out that they need more.... Things to do [OBJ]because it's basic and miserable The only reason why people don't use the other part as much is because of the bark flooring. If they had sand or something more people and more kids would actually go and use the park more often.
- Is this the park they had people come out and ask for input from the community? I heard it was being built at the Soccer Fields, opposite the Crocodiles Caravan Park. Is it now going down to the Lion's Park or is this a different project? This plan looks boring, it looks like a viewing ramp at a zoo. I told the planners to look at Livvy's Place inclusive playground at Gunnedah as it's ideal, and they said they had already been advised to look at it and they would take it into account when planning, this looks nothing like it, at all.
- Looks very boring for kids, maybe take a look at Tamworth regional park , also has a water playground.
- This looks like an absolute waste of money! There are so many activities and playgrounds that are inclusive to impaired children that are so much more fun than this! You think a ramp is gonna make impaired kids feel connected and normal? That's what they use to get into class at school, why would they want a chore as a playful activity? There are swings, flying foxes, spinning floors and plenty of other inclusive outdoor activities for impaired kids we could be spending money on! This is ridiculous, we have 2 half assed parks and now we're getting a third park with even less things to do?? WHY?? Why don't we add inclusive activities and equipment to make the current parks better and more inclusive?

\*comments were not changed but information has been retracted to ensure clarity and relevance.

## Written Submissions

### **Submission 1 – Priscilla Martinez (Community Member)**

I am writing in regards to the new park at Lightning Ridge. This is very exciting news for our community, and any additional development is welcomed and appreciated.

However we are feeling a little underwhelmed at the proposed plans.

During the consultation stage I (and many others) did suggest the idea of a playground similar to the one in Gunnedah Wolseley Park. It is dissapointing that the proposed design does not resemble at all that design. The proposed design does not look inviting for kids to play, there are limited equipment - no swings, no equipment, no zip line, no trampoline, no splash park, no flying fox etc.

It resembles more of a viewing platform.

Please consider looking into incorporating more inclusive play equipment similar to that of the Gunnedah Park playground. They have created an amazing inclusive shared playground, accessible for all - yet very fun and creative.

Looking forward to seeing the updated plans.

### **Submission 2 – Angie Brown (Community Member)**

I'm writing this email to give some feedback in the hope that the plans for the new Everyone Can Play Park at Lightning Ridge might be reconsidered.

I realise when the park was being planned, they were planning for it to be a peaceful and uncluttered environment.

I feel the planner could have a created a more fun playground, and still had a peaceful aspect.

When the planners came to the Lightning Ridge Central School and asked for input into this park, I had suggested them take a look at Livvi's Place at Gunnedah.

This is a great park, which isn't cluttered, and has areas where kids and parents can also relax.

The park is inclusive with a seated flying fox, a swing for a wheelchair and in-ground trampolines and a merry-go-round.

My kids have Sensory Processing Disorder, but we can spend hours at this park, without any issues.

When travelling with my sister, who's son has autism, and more severe sensory issues, he can also play very comfortably at this park. In fact, he loves playing at this park.

I'm not asking for the new park to be big and bright in colours, I'm just suggesting that more fun features be included.

There are so many inclusive park activities that can be included, rather than just having what looks like a zoo viewing platform.

This park is for EVERYONE so it should have activities for EVERYONE, not just a peaceful and less stimulating setting for those kids which may experience sensory overload.

I understand that they were a major consideration in the planning, but isn't this park for EVERYONE?

Isn't the purpose of a playground to play with others and burn energy?

There's a beautiful garden nearby if parents/carers and kids want to relax and sit down in quiet.

I have included some photos of features that Livvi's Place has which can be easily incorporated into the Everyone Can Play Park.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. I look forward to seeing the outcome of you seeking feedback from the public and the final plans for this park.

### **Submission 3 – Tammy Mullington (Community Member)**

I think the park should have water sprinklers with play equipment and an extreme climbing apparatus. People need somewhere to cool down that is free. Without a water feature the park would not be used for 6 months of the year. The pool pricing is out of the reach for a lot of people. You can make this awesome! Or not!

### **Submission 4 – Lightning Ridge central school**

Yaama, our MC class... have been looking at the plans for the new park on Bill O'Brien way and we would like to offer the following feedback;\

- We like the misting boulders and the hammock idea because this incorporates natural features
- We think it needs a swing set (including a disabled swing)
- We think the shade feature was boring and that the trees would be enough
- We think a zip line would be a good idea
- We would like to see more water play included because Lightning Ridge is so hot
- We think it would be good to have a BBQ and picnic seating area so we can have parties there

We hope you take our feedback into consideration.

### **Submission 5 – Early Childhood Interagency group**

On behalf Early Childhood Interagency group we offer full support for the proposed new playground - Everyone Can Play Park

- Following our consultations with Council and Park designers it is positive to see that many of the ideas are incorporated into this Play Park.
- It looks relaxing and engaging, this suiting many members of the community including our elders.
- On review of the plans it looks like a place to enjoy nature while relaxing and engaging with family and community members.
- The environmental component such as the nature-based setting- water for cooling- basic welcoming paces / plantings and timbers.
- The value added to with paintings, sculptures, hopefully by local artist would give a special touch to the park.
- The area is disability friendly and is accessibility by all - inclusive for our diverse community... and all ages children, youth adults and elderly.
- This park would provide options for different places to play, once established the park can be added to as the community sees fit.



|                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Full support of this project that can only enhance our community in every way. |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**Relevant Reference Documents/Policies:**

Ordinary Council Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2021  
Ordinary Council Meeting 27<sup>th</sup> of September 2022  
Ordinary Council Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> of October 2023

**Attachments:**

Annexure – Everyone Can Play Concept Design

**Stakeholders:**

Walgett Shire Council  
Walgett Shire Community  
New South Wales State Government

**Financial Implications:**

The current expenditure on this project to date is \$6,711 in project management fees. This amount only includes the external costings of project management and does not reflect the time Council staff have contributed over the years.

All other expenses have been incurred by DPIE.

**Alternative solutions/options:**

1. The Council proceeds with the project by finding an alternative site away from the powerlines on the Visitor Information Centre property.
2. The Council terminate the project and return the allocated funding.

**Conclusion:**

This report requests Council identify an alternate location for the Everyone Can Play Park within the vicinity of the Lightning Ridge Visitor Information Centre block. Council is also asked to consider the input and submissions provided by the Lightning Ridge community during the public exhibition period.

**Attachments:**

Annexure 1 – Everyone Can Play Concept Design

**9.1.7 REQUEST FOR FUNDING/ SPONSORSHIP OR DONATIONS**

**REPORTING SECTION:** Executive  
**AUTHOR:** Sherisse Fensom – Administrative Services Officer  
**FILE NUMBER:** 23/11/321

| Request for Funding/Sponsorship or Donations |
|----------------------------------------------|
|----------------------------------------------|

**Recommendation:**

1. The Council review the donation and sponsorship requests that are unbudgeted and decide whether to grant complete funding, partial funding, or no funding at this time.
2. Council to approve expenditure on Toyota De Oroc and 2WEB as funds are budgeted

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

This report is presented to Council for consideration regarding sponsorship and donation requests from community members and organisations.

**Background:**

Council regularly receives requests for sponsorship and donations from community groups, organisations, and nonprofits. While many are referred to our community assistance program under section 356 of the Local Government Act, some are ineligible or do not apply.

Additionally, there are smaller groups attempting initiatives not aligned with our long-term financial plan or lacking a sufficient track record to demonstrate community impact.

**Current Position:**

| Event                               | Date                   | Organiser               | Location                  | Attendance                 | Amount                                                    |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Let's Dance Cardina                 | Oct. Long Weekend      | Let's Dance Committee   | Carinda                   | 400 locals and tourists    | \$20,000                                                  |
| Parkrun                             | Every Saturday         | Local Community Members | Lightning Ridge           | Undetermined at this stage | Originally \$7,000<br>Now approx. \$3,000                 |
| Bird Watching – Brochures and Hides | N/A                    | Warwick Schofield       | Walgett Shire             | Undetermined – Tourists    | \$150,000                                                 |
| Toyota de Oroc                      | 25th & 26th March 2024 | Andrew Graham           | Walgett & Lightning Ridge | Approx 50                  | Based on 2022 \$1200 (Catering)<br>\$2260 (Accommodation) |
| 2WEB                                | Year Sponsorship       | David Sharp             | Radio                     | N/A                        | \$6600                                                    |

### **Let's Dance Carinda Committee**

Carinda Let's Dance is a two-day festival over the long weekend in October, attracting 400 people. Council contributed over \$20,000 from the Community Events Program (Reconnecting Regional) in 2023. The committee did not apply for Community Assistance in the last financial year and Council has not budgeted for this.

#### **Requests:**

- Advertising in local newspapers, radio advertising and tv (like Impagja)
- Stage, sound and lighting (Costing roughly \$14,000)
- Cultural workshops featuring local artists
- Mural by John Murray

### **Parkrun**

Lightning Ridge are attempting to create a parkrun and requested a sponsorship of \$7000 from Council. Council declined as they had not yet sought funding or grants available first and there was no guarantee the parkrun would establish. The organisers have since fundraised over \$4000 from the local community. Council now has the opportunity to contribute the remaining amount or provide a smaller donation. Council has not budgeted for this.

### **Bird Watching**

An email from the organiser suggested the project was endorsed by Council in 2021 though preliminary investigations were unable to find this. There is \$100,000 in the budget for bird hides.

#### **Requests**

- Installation of two steel bird hides.
- Development of a safe walking track.
- Brochure update for Lightning Ridge bird sites.
- Inclusion of geology and plant sites in the brochure.
- Placement of identification signs at seven sites.

### **Toyota de Oro**

Request for Council to provide accommodation and a meal to 50+ participants. All funds raised during the event go to the Macquarie Homestay in Dubbo. Council has budgeted for this event.

### **2WEB**

This yearly sponsorship allows for the broadcast of all Council announcements on 2web, including interviews with the Mayor and General Manager/ The package also includes all council business notifications, road closures, emergency announcements and changes to Council services be shared with the local community. Council has budgeted for this.

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

#### **Attachments:**

Nil

#### **Stakeholders:**

Walgett Shire Council  
Walgett Shire Community  
Stakeholders Mentioned

#### **Financial Implications:**

Variant depending on how much Council contribution to each event.

**Alternative solutions/options:**

Establish a policy and procedure for donation/sponsorship requests, ensuring they meet set criteria before Council consideration.

**Conclusion:**

Council has the opportunity to review current requests for donation and sponsorship and determine whether or not to provide funding or request further information.

### 9.1.8 ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023

**REPORTING SECTION:** Executive  
**AUTHOR:** Megan Dixon – General Manager  
**FILE NUMBER:** 23/11/0322

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| Annual Report 2022/2023                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Recommendation:</b></p> <p>That Council</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Endorse the Annual Report 2022-2023, appended at Attachment 1, pursuant to section 428 of the Local Government Act 1993.</li><li>2. Note that the Annual Report 2022-2023 will be submitted to the Minister for Local Government and published to Council's website by 30 November 2023, pursuant to section 428(5) of the Local Government Act 1993.</li></ol> <p><b>Moved:</b><br/><b>Seconded:</b></p> |

**Summary:**

The 2022/2023 Annual Report is attached for Council's information.

**Background:**

Council is mandated to produce an Annual Report each year. The Annual Report must be prepared in accordance with the Office of Local Government's ("the OLG") Integrated Planning and Reporting Guidelines ("the Guidelines").

The Annual Report must focus on Council's achievements in implementing its adopted Delivery Program and Operational Plan and include a copy of Council's audited Financial Statements for the year, in addition to a range of other information as specified in the Act and accompanying Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 ("the Regulation") as well as other legislation.

Upon Council's endorsement, the Annual Report must be submitted to the Minister for Local Government and published on Council's website within five (5) months of the end of the financial year, which will be 30th November 2023.

**Current Position:**

The 2022/2023 Annual Report is attached for Council's information.

**Governance issues:**

Local Government Act 1993

Local Government Regulation (2021)

Companion Animals Act 1998 and Companion Animals Regulation 2008;

Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009

Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2018

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994 and Public Interest Disclosures Regulation 2011.

**Environmental issues:**

N/A

**Stakeholders:**

Walgett Shire Council  
Walgett Shire Residents  
OLG New South Wales

**Financial Implications:**

NIL

**Alternative Solutions/Options:**

NIL

**Conclusion:**

Council should note the progress made during the 2022/2023 year.

**Attachments:**

Annexure 2 - Annual Report 2022/2023



### 9.1.9 HUDSON FIRE UPDATE

**REPORTING SECTION:** Executive  
**AUTHOR:** Megan Dixon – General Manager  
**FILE NUMBER:** 23/11/0323

#### Hudson Fire Update

**Recommendation:**

That Council

1. That the information provided be noted by the Council
2. That Council shares its sympathies with those affected by the loss Captain Leo Fransen
3. That Council acknowledge the efforts of the community, NSW Rural Fire Service, the Glengarry, Grawin, Sheepyard Miners Association, Council staff and volunteers who supported the emergency and continue to support recovery efforts
4. That the Council continue to coordinate recovery efforts
5. That the General Manager and Mayor continue to advocate with the NSW to issue a Natural Disaster Declaration for the event

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

**Summary:**

This report provides an overview of the impact of the Hudson Bushfire event that occurred between 13 November, along with an update on recovery actions being undertaken.

**Background:**

- A bushfire occurred in the Narran Lake Nature Reserve area approximately 70km northwest of Walgett and 50km southwest of Lightning Ridge.
- This fire has burnt 22,841ha.
- A Section 44 was declared and has subsequently been revoked. for the Walgett Shire and parts of the Brewarrina area.
- There is an Investigation underway regarding the death of a fire-fighter.
- The Evacuation Centre at the Lightning Ridge Bowling Club is now closed. 17 people were registered.
- The RFS FCC and EOC was co-located in Coonamble. Response & Recovery staff accommodation was supported by Walgett Shire Council.
- RFS Building Impact Assessment complete – 197 buildings assessed
- Council is working with Lightning Ridge Crown Land Reserve Manager to re-assess destroyed outbuilding locations to determine primary place of residence.
- RFS lead Post Impact Community Meetings held x 2
- Minister Jihad Dib, Roy Butler MP, Commissioner RFS Rob Rogers and Deputy Commissioner Peter McKechnie visited fire ground and the EOC.
- Natural Disaster Declaration is now pending.

**Council assistance provided during the emergency included**

1. 2 Grader and 4 team on fire front
2. 2 team at airport with water equipment for air support (water loading)
3. Additional security at the airport for planes and helicopters
4. Companion animal shelter in Lightning Ridge pre LLS activating
5. Drinking water supplied to Club in the Scrub
6. Council facilities for RFS teams – Kookaburra Court and Walgett Showground
7. Liaison with essential services on asset damage
8. Comms support to RFS – sharing and distribution of key messaging
9. Emergency liaison

**Recovery:**

- Recovery Committee established (led by Council)
- Management and disposal of hazardous material will be complex
- Recovery Action Point is being activated in the community 29 November 2023 and 30 November 2023 for face-to-face bushfire recovery support and services that includes accommodation advice, financial assistance, support for businesses and referral services

**Relevant Reference Documents:**

NIL

**Stakeholders:**

NSW Rural Fire Service  
Reconstruction NSW  
Roy Butler, MP  
NSW Police  
State Emergency Services  
Environmental Protection Agency  
NSW Fire & Rescue  
Service agencies supporting the community  
Glengarry, Grawin Sheeppark Miners Association  
Lightning Ridge Crown Reserve Manager  
Grawin, Glengarry, Sheeppark community  
Walgett community

**Financial Implications:**

Council will be able to recovery some costs, due to S44 being declared.  
Recovery implications are unknown until Natural Disaster Declaration status is determined.

**Conclusion:**

The Hudson Bushfire event that occurred between 13 – 21 November 2023 in the Glengarry, Grawin and Sheeppark area, with more than 20000 ha burnt and a number of buildings destroyed or damaged.

The event will have a significant impact on the community, that includes the loss of the life of a rural fire fighter, Captain Leo Fransen.

## 9.2 DIRECTOR CORPORATE & COMMUNITY SERVICES

### 9.2.1 MONTHLY OUTSTANDING RATES AS AT 31 OCTOBER 2023

**REPORTING SECTION:** Corporate Services  
**AUTHOR:** Michael Stenmark – Acting Rates Clerk  
**FILE NUMBER:** 23/11/0311

---

#### Monthly Outstanding Rates Report – October 2023

##### Recommendation

The 31 October 2023 outstanding rates report be received and noted.

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

##### Summary

Council's debt recovery policy is aimed at having outstanding rates and annual charges debts recovered in a timely manner to support Council in its objectives by providing sufficient funding to enable the continued provision of services to the local government area. The aim of this process is to achieve a recovery of rates and annual charges levied in any given financial year of greater than 90%.

##### Background

Council is obliged to report on several Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) as part of its statutory reporting requirements. One of these KPIs is the outstanding percentage of Rates, Annual Charges & Extra Charges. The purpose of this KPI is 'to assess the impact of uncollected rates and annual charges on Council's liquidity and the adequacy of recovery efforts.'

Walgett Shire Council is classified as a Regional and Rural Council and the benchmark used for these councils in the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting is less than 10% outstanding for Rates, Annual Charges, Interest & Extra Charges as at the end of the financial year.

##### Current Position

Collection of the current year's levy and arrears as at 31 October 2023 was 42.04% which is 3.06% better than the previous year's collection of 38.98%. The improvement in collections can be attributed to Council's successful Section 713 Sale of Land for unpaid rates during September 2023 together with recent instalment reminder notices. The rates collections figures will continue to improve as proceeds of the S713 Sale are distributed and finalised over the ensuing months.

##### Relevant Reference Documents/Policies

Outstanding Rates Report.  
Councils Debt Recovery Policy.

##### Governance issues

Council attempts to achieve the benchmark collection rate set by the Office of Local Government (OLG) for rural councils. The OLG's benchmark is 5% for city and coastal councils and less than 10% arrears for rural and regional councils.

**Environmental issues**

Nil

**Stakeholders**

Walgett Shire Council Community

Walgett Shire Ratepayers

Walgett Shire Council

**Financial Implications**

The recovery of rates and charges is a key performance indicator that is analysed by external bodies such as Treasury Corp in conjunction with the Local Government Review Panel. Efforts to improve and lower the levels of outstanding rates and charges strengthen Walgett Shire Council's long term financial position.

**Alternative Solutions/Options**

There are no alternative solutions or options.

**Conclusion**

The report recommends that Council note the outstanding rates and annual charges percentage.

**Monthly Report - Outstanding Rates & Charges as at 31 October 2023**

|                                             | 31 October 2023       | 31 October 2022       |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Arrears of Rates & Charges as at 30-6-2023  | 1,804,132.15          | 1,571,511.85          |
| Adjustments                                 |                       |                       |
| Sub Total                                   | 1,804,132.15          | 1,571,511.85          |
| <b>Current Year Activity</b>                |                       |                       |
| Legal fees (Including Write Offs)           | 0.00                  | 500.00                |
| Levies                                      | 11,151,818.46         | 10,511,917.92         |
| Interest (Including Write Offs)             | 42,544.34             | 33,831.45             |
| Adjustments (Including Write Offs)          | (86,708.12)           | (689.45)              |
| Sub Total                                   | 11,107,654.68         | 10,545,559.92         |
| Total Arrears and Adjusted Levies           | 12,911,786.83         | 12,117,071.77         |
| Payments                                    | (5,249,651.20)        | (4,547,463.87)        |
| Pensioner Rebates - Government              | (98,160.45)           | (96,670.70)           |
| Pensioner Rebates - Council                 | (80,316.47)           | (79,097.67)           |
| Special Rebates Council                     | 0.00                  | 0.00                  |
| Sub Total                                   | (5,428,128.12)        | (4,723,232.24)        |
| <b>Total Remaining Levy</b>                 | <b>\$7,483,658.71</b> | <b>\$7,393,839.53</b> |
| Current                                     | 6,020,421.33          | 5,902,354.33          |
| Arrears                                     | 1,190,624.57          | 1,099,740.73          |
| Interest brought forward from previous year | 149,613.27            | 241,616.40            |
| Current year interest                       | 36,454.06             | 29,207.07             |
| Legals                                      | 86,545.48             | 120,921.00            |
| <b>Total Remaining Levy</b>                 | <b>\$7,483,658.71</b> | <b>\$7,393,839.53</b> |
| <b>Variance</b>                             | <b>\$0.00</b>         | <b>\$0.00</b>         |
| <b>Total YTD Collected</b>                  |                       |                       |
| % of Levy, Arrears, Interest & Legal Fees   | 42.04%                | 38.98%                |
| % of Levy                                   | 47.26%                | 43.12%                |

## 9.2.2 CASH AND INVESTMENT AS AT 31 OCTOBER 2023

**REPORTING SECTION:** Corporate Services  
**AUTHOR:** Hafiz Malik – Director Corporate Services  
**FILE NUMBER:** 23/11/0312

### Cash and Investment Report as of 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023.

**Recommendation:**

That the Investment report be received and noted.

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

This report provides a summary and analysis of Council's cash and investments for the period ending 31<sup>th</sup> October 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 \$39,247,815 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 October 2023)



**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>th</sup> October 2023 Walgett Shire Council's total cash and invested funds totalled \$39,247,815 decreasing the portfolio by \$891,280 from the previous month.

**Attachment:** Annexure 3 - Walgett Shire Council's Portfolio reports from Arlo Advisory (previously known as 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 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW – SEPTEMBER 2023

**REPORTING SECTION:** Corporate Services  
**AUTHOR:** Hafiz Malik – Director Corporate Services  
**FILE NUMBER:** 23/11

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#### Quarterly Budget Review – September 2023

**Recommendation:**

That Council adopt the attached Quarterly Budget Review Statement for 30th September 2023 as tabled.

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

**Summary:**

The Director of Corporate Services is reporting to Council on the status of the September 2023 Quarterly Budget Review (QBR) Statement. The report outlines the first quarter operations against the adopted 2023/2024 budget estimates, with income and expenditure variations made because of actual differences or known trends.

**Background:**

The Quarterly Budget Review document is a statutory requirement under the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005, Part 9, Division 3, Section 203 and is an essential aspect of Council's financial management. A budget review is to be prepared and submitted to Council not later than two months after the end of each quarter.

**Current Position:**

The current position is detailed in the attached Quarter 1 (period ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023) Quarterly Budget Review Statement report.

Generally, the majority of income and expenditure estimates for 2023/2024 are on track, however there are some major variations brought to account in the attached report because of current expenditure trends, new grant projects, rollover projects from 2022/2023 or the availability of known actual figures.

Council's General Fund operations after capital expenditure has recorded a quarterly cash surplus of \$508,416 which brings the forecast end of year result to a cash deficit of \$583,201. The major variations for the September 2023 quarter are attached along with the budget review.

**Waste Services** has recorded a number of variations to recurrent income and expenditure items, including adjustment in the landfill contracts. The September quarter adjustments have resulted in a net deficit of \$8,112 after adjusting user pay charges and offsetting expenditure with operational reserve.

**Water funds** - The consolidated water fund has recorded a deficit of \$14,222 for the first quarter of 23/24 offsetting expenditure with operational reserve. Major variations include projected actuals offset by increased grant income for Walgett weir.

**Sewer Services** - The September quarter adjustments have resulted in removal of budget for work costed under NOW Aboriginal Communities Contract in water funds offset by reduction in projected transfer to reserves by \$46,496.

**Relevant Reference Documents/Policies:**

Local Government Act 1993

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021

**Governance issues:**

The Quarterly Budget Review Statement is a key document for Council in monitoring the progress of the Annual Budget and more broadly its achievement of the objectives within the Community Strategic Plan.

**Financial Implications:**

The Quarterly Budget Review details Council's current financial projections for the 2023/2024 fiscal year as at the quarter ending 30th September 2023.

**Alternative Solutions/Options:**

Not Applicable

**Conclusion:**

The QBRS as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023 provides council with information relating to the status of the budget after three (3) months of operation. The movement of rollover grants and their related expenditure and the requests for revotes of 2022/2023 budgeted capital works this financial year has impacted upon the result, with a revised general fund cash deficit of \$583,201.

**Attachment:**

Annexure 3 - Quarterly Budget Review Statement - September 2023

## 9.2.4 ADDITIONAL SIGNATORIES AS OF 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2023

**REPORTING SECTION:** Corporate Services  
**AUTHOR:** Hafiz Malik – Director Corporate Services  
**FILE NUMBER:** 23/11/0313

### Additional Signatories as of 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023

#### Recommendation:

That Council resolves to add below staff as signatories for the management of Macquarie Bank Cash Management Account 968481408 and Macquarie Bank Cash Management Accelerator Account 940356066:

- |    |                 |                                            |
|----|-----------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 1. | Megan Dixon     | General Manager                            |
| 2. | Hafiz Malik     | Director of Corporate Services             |
| 3. | Kazi Mahmud     | Director of Engineering/Technical Services |
| 4. | Peter Gumbleton | Finance Manager                            |

#### Moved:

#### Seconded:

#### Summary:

This report identifies the need and requirements for adding additional signatories to existing Walgett Shire Council on-call Cash Management Bank accounts and to authorize the management of these accounts.

#### Background:

Due of the high turnover of Council staff, there is currently only one existing signatory on 2 Macquarie Bank Cash Management Accounts, namely the Macquarie CMA Account and the Macquarie Accelerator Account. In order to add further signatories, Macquarie Bank requires 2 existing signatories to authorize the management of these accounts.

#### Current Position:

Council does not have 2 signatories on 2 Macquarie Bank Cash Management accounts. The Macquarie Bank will require a Council resolution to add new signatories for both accounts.

See below information on the Council's 2 Macquarie Bank Cash Management accounts. Furthermore, due to a single existing signatory on both accounts, it is in the Council's interest to assign a further number of signatures as outlined below.

#### Macquarie Bank Cash Management Account

|                          |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Account number           | 968481408      |
| Balance as at 31/10/2023 | \$1,028,236.49 |

#### Macquarie Bank Cash Management Accelerator Account

|                          |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Account number           | 940356066      |
| Balance as at 31/10/2023 | \$1,620,377.83 |

### **Additional Signatories**

- |                    |                                            |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 1. Megan Dixon     | General Manager                            |
| 2. Hafiz Malik     | Director of Corporate Services             |
| 3. Kazi Mahmud     | Director of Engineering/Technical Services |
| 4. Peter Gumbleton | Finance Manager                            |

Attachment 1 displays the existing 2 Macquarie Bank Cash Management accounts statements needing additional signatories to authorise the management of these accounts.

As at 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023, these 2 Macquarie Bank Cash Management accounts held a total of \$2,648,614.32.

### **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 October 2023)

### **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:** Due to a single existing signatory on both Macquarie Bank interest-bearing term deposits, it is in the Council's interest to assign further number of signatures.

## 9.3 DIRECTOR ENGINEERING/TECHNICAL SERVICES

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

**REPORTING SECTION:** Engineering / Technical Services  
**AUTHOR:** Kazi Mahmud – Director of Engineering and Technical Services  
**FILE NUMBER:** 23/11/0314

---

#### Monthly Maintenance Grading Report – October 2023

**Recommendation:**

That Council receive and note the monthly maintenance grading works report for October 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> October 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 Road best practice manual. Details of maintenance grading and flood work locations are detailed in the attached report.

**Current Status:**

Council have spent \$213,783 which is 16.5% of the Annual Budget

**Relevant Reference 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> October, actual spend is **\$213,783**

**Alternative Solutions/Options:**

Nil

**Conclusion:**

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

**Attachments:**

*Maintenance grading locations report.*



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| 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             |                           |                             | \$ 4,391.21                |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ 4,391.21         |
| 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             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Gungahman Road SR31          | 43.7                 | \$ 27,094.00                    | D             |                           | \$ 21,735.00                | \$ 12,179.42               |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ 33,914.42        |
| Gilgarny 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                 | \$ 6,194.26                |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ 12,559.26        |
| Bogewong Road SR114          | 48.7                 | \$ 30,194.00                    | D             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Ginghet Road SR40            | 47.6                 | \$ 29,512.00                    | D             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Busha 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             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Billybinbone Road RR7516     | 18.67                | \$ 11,532.00                    | C             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Merri Merri Road RR202       | 6.57                 | \$ 7,166.00                     | C             |                           |                             |                            | \$ 4,319.28               |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ 4,319.28         |
| <b>Sub total Zone 1</b>      | <b>392.29</b>        | <b>\$ 250,640.00</b>            |               | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ 30,570.00</b>         | <b>\$ 22,764.89</b>        | <b>\$ 4,319.28</b>        | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>                | <b>\$ -</b>                | <b>\$ -</b>              | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ 57,654.17</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             |                           |                             | \$ 2,574.00                |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ 2,574.00         |
| Kumajong Road SR110          | 27.8                 | \$ 17,236.00                    | D             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Wilby Wilby Road SR101       | 28.7                 | \$ 17,794.00                    | D             |                           | \$ 7,480.00                 |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ 7,480.00         |
| Grassie Opal Fields Road     | 0.9                  | \$ 557.00                       | C             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Woodlands Road SR 130        | 2.33                 | \$ 1,445.00                     | D             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Cumbarrah Town Roads         |                      |                                 | E             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| <b>Sub total Zone 2</b>      | <b>181.95</b>        | <b>\$ 116,782.00</b>            |               | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ 19,890.00</b>         | <b>\$ 2,574.00</b>         | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>                | <b>\$ -</b>                | <b>\$ -</b>              | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ 22,464.00</b> |

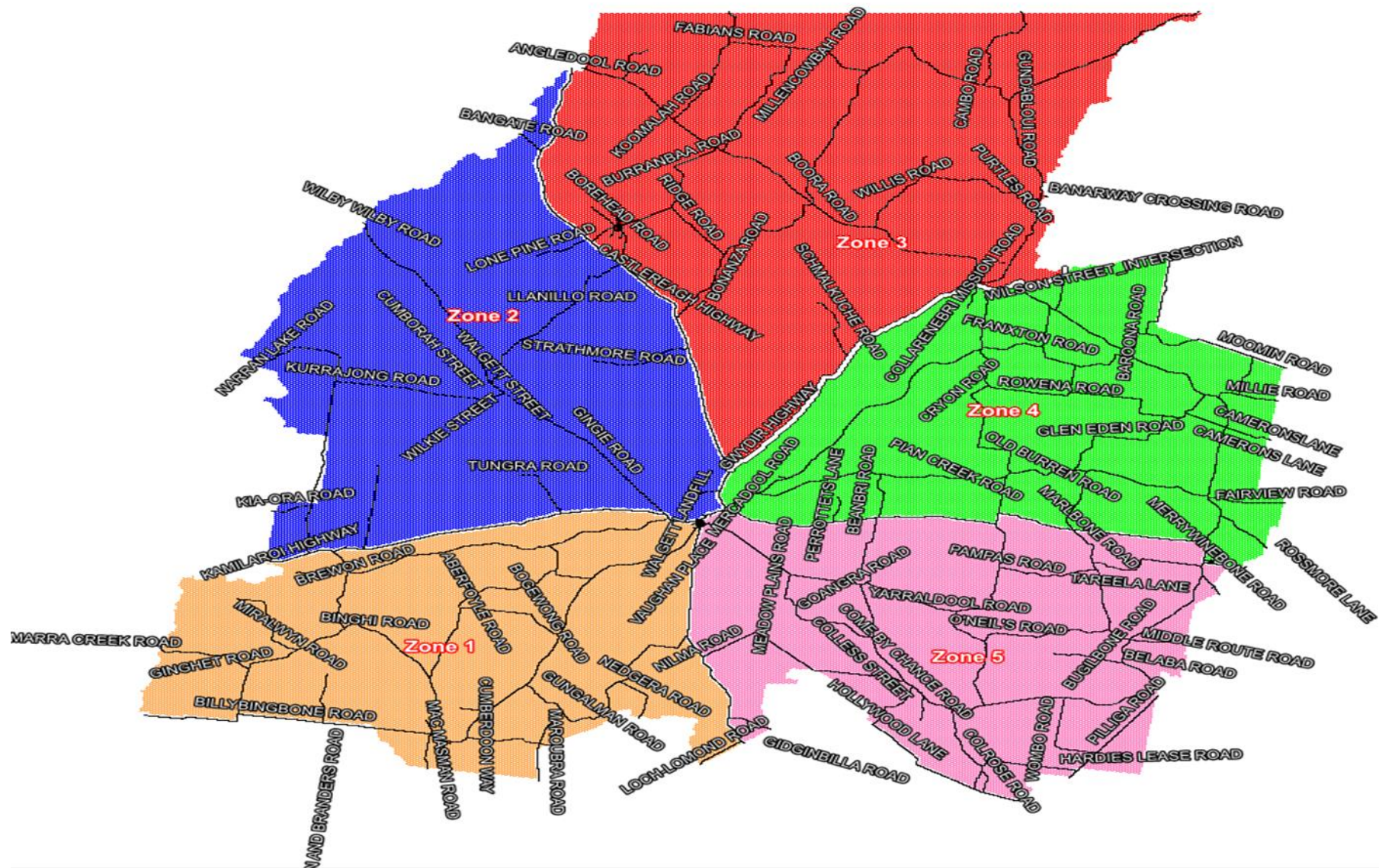
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| Road Name                      | Total Length of Road | Budget Required for Entire Road | Road Category | Expenditure For July 2023 | Expenditure For August 2023 | Expenditure For Sept. 2023 | Expenditure For Oct. 2023 | Expenditure For Nov. 2023 | 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 3</b>                  |                      |                                 |               |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           |                     |
| Springs Road SR19              | 2.7                  | \$ 4,278.00                     | E             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Bonanza Road SR46              | 16.9                 | \$ 10,478.00                    | E             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Schmalke Road SR47             | 14.4                 | \$ 8,928.00                     | E             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Millencowbah Road SR51         | 27.7                 | \$ 17,174.00                    | E             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Willis Road SR52               | 14.5                 | \$ 8,990.00                     | F             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Koomalah Road SR53             | 28.4                 | \$ 17,608.00                    | E             |                           |                             | \$ 8,371.72                |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ 8,371.72         |
| Burranbaa Road SR55            | 18.1                 | \$ 11,222.00                    | E             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Cambo Road SR61                | 21.1                 | \$ 13,082.00                    | E             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Woolaroo Road SR69             | 1                    | \$ 4,278.00                     | E             |                           |                             |                            | \$ 1,391.26               |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ 1,391.26         |
| Kia-Ora Road SR86              | 6.8                  | \$ 4,278.00                     | F             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Fabians Road SR88              | 24.8                 | \$ 15,376.00                    | E             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Bananway Road SR95             | 1.2                  | \$ 4,278.00                     | D             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Purdie Road SR126              | 26.8                 | \$ 16,616.00                    | E             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Boora Road SR127               | 63.8                 | \$ 39,556.00                    | D             |                           |                             |                            | \$ 12,776.50              |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ 12,776.50        |
| Bore Head Road SR45            | 5.1                  | \$ 4,278.00                     | D             |                           | \$ 1,530.00                 |                            | \$ 1,613.34               |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ 3,143.34         |
| Lorne Road SR98                | 6.9                  | \$ 4,278.00                     | D             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Angledool Road SR102           | 49.3                 | \$ 30,566.00                    | C             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Ridge/Sherman Way RR426        | 70.1                 | \$ 68,275.00                    | C             | \$ 510.00                 | \$ 10,200.00                |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ 10,710.00        |
| Gundabloui Road RR457          | 40.9                 | \$ 32,798.00                    | C             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| <b>Sub total Zone 3</b>        | <b>440.5</b>         | <b>\$ 316,337.00</b>            |               | <b>\$ 510.00</b>          | <b>\$ 11,730.00</b>         | <b>\$ 8,371.72</b>         | <b>\$ 15,781.10</b>       | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>                | <b>\$ -</b>                | <b>\$ -</b>              | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ 36,992.82</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 4</b>                  |                      |                                 |               |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           |                     |
| Frankton Road SR1              | 19                   | \$ 11,780.00                    | E             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Bellara Road SR2               | 21.4                 | \$ 13,268.00                    | D             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Clarks Road SR3                | 6                    | \$ 4,278.00                     | E             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Cryon Road SR5                 | 56.75                | \$ 35,185.00                    | C             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Woodvale Road SR13             | 8.96                 | \$ 8,556.00                     | E             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Baroona Road SR14              | 11.1                 | \$ 6,882.00                     | E             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Pokataroo Road SR15            | 8.1                  | \$ 5,022.00                     | E             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Perrottets Road SR66           | 5.9                  | \$ 3,658.00                     | F             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Pagan Creek Road SR79          | 1.3                  | \$ 4,278.00                     | F             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Fairview Road SR90             | 12.6                 | \$ 7,812.00                     | F             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Dundee Road SR124              | 13.9                 | \$ 8,618.00                     | F             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Glen Eden Road SR125           | 24.6                 | \$ 15,252.00                    | E             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Millie Road SR12               | 9.1                  | \$ 5,642.00                     | C             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Rossmore Road SR71             | 10.7                 | \$ 6,634.00                     | C             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Rowena Road SR123              | 34.5                 | \$ 21,390.00                    | E             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Cameron Road SR128             | 15.2                 | \$ 9,424.00                     | D             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Mercadool Road SR16            | 57.7                 | \$ 35,774.00                    | C             | \$ 11,294.82              | \$ 10,951.99                |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ 22,246.81        |
| Moomin Road SR59               | 31                   | \$ 19,220.00                    | D             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Beanbri Road SR117             | 4.9                  | \$ 4,278.00                     | C             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Pian Creek Road SR121          | 41.7                 | \$ 25,854.00                    | C             |                           |                             | \$ 272.73                  |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ 272.73           |
| Old Burran Road SR122          | 33.9                 | \$ 21,018.00                    | D             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Collarenebri Mission Road SR67 | 4.6                  | \$ 4,278.00                     | C             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| Rowena Town Roads              |                      | \$ 4,278.00                     | D             |                           |                             |                            |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                |
| <b>Sub total Zone 4</b>        | <b>432.91</b>        | <b>\$ 282,379.00</b>            |               | <b>\$ 11,294.82</b>       | <b>\$ 10,951.99</b>         | <b>\$ 272.73</b>           | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>                | <b>\$ -</b>                | <b>\$ -</b>              | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ 22,519.54</b> |

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| 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                 | \$ 10,105.00                    | E             |                           |                             |                            |                                 |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                 |
| Wombo Road SR25            | 17.7                 | \$ 10,974.00                    | E             |                           |                             |                            |                                 |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                 |
| Hardys Lease Road SR26     | 16                   | \$ 9,920.00                     | E             |                           |                             |                            | \$ 7,505.00                     |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ 7,505.00          |
| Colrose Road SR27          | 20.6                 | \$ 12,772.00                    | E             |                           |                             |                            |                                 |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                 |
| Wingadee Road SR28         | 11.8                 | \$ 7,316.00                     | E             |                           |                             | \$ 6,474.15                |                                 |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ 6,474.15          |
| 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             |                           |                             |                            |                                 |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                 |
| Drilidool Road SR83        | 5.1                  | \$ 4,278.00                     | F             |                           |                             | \$ 1,045.00                |                                 |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ 1,045.00          |
| Belaba Road SR89           | 11.2                 | \$ 6,944.00                     | F             |                           |                             |                            |                                 |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                 |
| Hollywood Lane SR119       | 29.9                 | \$ 18,538.00                    | E             |                           |                             |                            | \$ 14,793.37                    |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ 14,793.37         |
| O'Niels Road SR131         | 31.1                 | \$ 19,282.00                    | D             |                           |                             |                            |                                 |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                 |
| Tareela Road SR17          | 19.4                 | \$ 12,028.00                    | D             |                           |                             | \$ 2,280.00                |                                 |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ 2,280.00          |
| 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                | \$ 25,175.00               |                                 |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ 42,655.00         |
| Bugilbone Road SR103       | 28.7                 | \$ 32,725.00                    | C             |                           |                             |                            |                                 |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                 |
| Goongra Road SR116         | 16.4                 | \$ 10,168.00                    | D             |                           |                             |                            |                                 |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           | \$ -                 |
| Yarraldool Road SR118      | 41.3                 | \$ 25,605.00                    | 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>\$ 34,974.15</b>        | <b>\$ 22,298.37</b>             | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>                | <b>\$ -</b>                | <b>\$ -</b>              | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ 74,752.52</b>  |
| <b>Total</b>               | <b>1,905.45</b>      | <b>1,295,183.00</b>             |               | <b>\$ 11,804.82</b>       | <b>\$ 90,621.99</b>         | <b>\$ 68,957.49</b>        | <b>\$ 42,398.75</b>             | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ -</b>                | <b>\$ -</b>                | <b>\$ -</b>              | <b>\$ -</b>               | <b>\$ 213,783.05</b> |
| <b>Actual Budget</b>       |                      |                                 |               |                           |                             |                            | <b>Month Total \$ 42,398.75</b> |                           |                           |                           |                           |                            |                            |                          |                           |                      |





### 9.3.2 ENGINEERING TECHNICAL SERVICES PROGRESS REPORT AS AT 31 OCTOBER 2023

**REPORTING SECTION:** Engineering / Technical Services

**AUTHOR:** Tim McLoughlin – Manager Infrastructure Roads

**FILE NUMBER:** 23/11/0315

#### Monthly Progress Report October 2023

**Recommendation:**

That Council receive and note the Engineering Services monthly works progress report for October 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> October 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> Oct 2023 | Percentage (%) |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Engineering Technical Services including RMCC Works | \$43,119,820        | \$22,099,024                                | 51.2           |
| Water - Maintenance                                 | \$2,448,400         | \$488,423                                   | 19.95          |
| Water - Capital                                     | \$1,000,000         | \$215,356                                   | 21.5           |
| Sewer - Maintenance                                 | \$747,461           | \$127,828                                   | 17.1           |
| Sewer - Capital                                     | \$400,000           | \$0                                         | 0              |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                        | <b>\$47,709,376</b> | <b>\$22,930,631</b>                         | <b>48.0</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 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023, \$22,930,631 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 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

**REPORTING SECTION:** Engineering / Technical Services  
**AUTHOR:** Kazi Mahmud – Director of Engineering and Technical Services  
**FILE NUMBER:** 23/11/0316

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

##### Recommendation:

That Council receive and note the Monthly Major Projects Report for September 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> October 2023.

##### Background:

The shire currently has several major projects in progress being:

- **Goangra Bridge** – Bridge is complete. Seal will be installed in the next sealing program
- **Come by Chance Road Reconstruction and seal** – No work on Come by Chance project due to Contractors lack of Resources. Contractor told to complete Burranbaa Road and then switch back to Come by Chance
- **Burranbaa Road Reconstruction and reseal** – Gravel Cartage complete. Gravel conditioning and placement to line and level in progress. Sealing to commence mid November
- **Lorne Road Reconstruction and reseal** – Lorne road is open to traffic. Line marking and some road furniture yet to be installed.
- **Cryon Road** – Preliminary Stage - Geometric Design – Preliminary design complete, community consultation complete. Final design waiting for pavement design. Geotechnical Design - Field work is complete, Laboratory work complete. Initial report received. Final Pavement design based on Mt Brandon materials in progress, Environmental Factors review has been received.

##### 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.

**Attachments: Major Project Report**

**Come by Chance  
@ 31st October 2023**

| Est Project | Task                                 | Units | Contract Quantity | % Complete | Quantity Complete | Off the road | 0     | CH 2000 | CH 4000 | CH 6000 | CH 8000 | CH 10000 | CH 12000 | CH 14000 | CH 16000 | CH 18000 | CH 20000 | CH 22000 | CH 24000 | CH 26000 | CH 28000 | CH 30000 | CH 32000 | CH 34000 | CH 36000 | CH 38000 | CH 40000 | CH 42000 | CH 44000 | CH 46000 | CH 48000 | CH 50000 | CH 52000 | CH 54000 | CH 56000 | CH 58000 | CH 60000 | CH 62000 |  |  |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|-------|-------------------|------------|-------------------|--------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--|--|
| 2.5%        | Road Furniture - Sign Posts          | Item  | 10,000            | 0.0%       | -                 |              |       |         |         |         |         |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |  |  |
| 2.5%        | Road Furniture - Guide Posts         | Item  | 408               | 0.0%       | -                 |              |       |         |         |         |         |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |  |  |
| 20.0%       | Sealing                              | M²    | 10,000            | 0.0%       | -                 |              |       |         |         |         |         |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |  |  |
| 20.0%       | Placement of Gravel                  | tonne | 220,000           | 0.0%       | -                 |              |       |         |         |         |         |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |  |  |
| 20.0%       | Stabilisation                        | M²    | 10,000            | 0.0%       | -                 |              |       |         |         |         |         |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |  |  |
| 10.0%       | Placement of Bulk fill Cut           | M³    | 27,847            | 36.8%      | 10,800            | 0            | 900   | 900     | 900     | 900     | 900     | 900      | 900      | 900      | 900      | 900      | 900      | 900      | 900      |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |  |  |
| 10.0%       | Placement of Bulk fill Fill          | M³    | 33,662            | 35.6%      | 12,000            | 0            | 1000  | 1000    | 1000    | 1000    | 1000    | 1000     | 1000     | 1000     | 1000     | 1000     | 1000     | 1000     | 1000     |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |  |  |
| 5.0%        | Proof roll and removal of Unsuitable | M²    | 787,500           | 36.7%      | 304,800           | 0            | 25400 | 25400   | 25400   | 25400   | 25400   | 25400    | 25400    | 25400    | 25400    | 25400    | 25400    | 25400    | 25400    |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |  |  |
| 4.0%        | Installation of Culverts and pipes   | EA    | 35                | 0.0%       | -                 |              |       |         |         |         |         |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |  |  |
| 4.0%        | Clearing of Vegetation               | M²    | 1,080,820         | 30.0%      | 326,946           | 10217        | 10217 | 10217   | 10217   | 10217   | 10217   | 10217    | 10217    | 10217    | 10217    | 10217    | 10217    | 10217    | 10217    | 10217    | 10217    | 10217    | 10217    | 10217    | 10217    | 10217    | 10217    | 10217    | 10217    | 10217    | 10217    | 10217    | 10217    | 10217    | 10217    | 10217    | 10217    | 10217    |  |  |
| 1.0%        | Transport Gravel to Stockpiles       | tonne | 220,000           | 11.4%      | 25,000            |              | 5000  | 5000    | 5000    | 5000    | 5000    |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |  |  |
| 1.0%        | Winning of Gravel                    | tonne | 220,000           | 18.2%      | 40,000            | 40000        |       |         |         |         |         |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |  |  |
| 100.0%      |                                      |       |                   |            |                   |              |       |         |         |         |         |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |  |  |

Project status 10.87%

No work on Come by Chance road this due to Contractor being short on Resources. Contractor told to complete Burranbaa Road and then switch back to Come by Chance Road.

**Burranbaa Road  
@ 31st October 2023**

| % of project | Task                                 | Units          | Contract Quantity | % Complete | Quantity Complete | 800    | 900    | 940    | 980    | 1020   | 1060   | 1100   | 1140   | 1180   | 1220   | 1260   | 1300   | 1340   | 1380   | 1420  | 1460  | 1500  | 1540  | 1580  | 1620  | 1660  | 1700  | 1740  | 1780  | 1820  |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 2.5%         | Road Furniture - Sign Posts          | item           | 10,000            | 0.0%       | 0                 |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| 2.5%         | Road Furniture - Guide Posts         | item           | 408               | 0.0%       | 0                 |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| 20.0%        | Sealing                              | M <sup>2</sup> | 10,000            | 0.0%       | 0                 |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| 20.0%        | Placement of Gravel                  | m <sup>3</sup> | 20,108            | 76.0%      | 15682             | 804.32 | 804.32 | 804.32 | 804.32 | 804.32 | 804.32 | 804.32 | 804.32 | 804.32 | 804.32 | 804.32 | 804.32 | 804.32 | 804.32 | 402   | 402   | 402   | 402   | 402   | 402   | 402   | 402   | 402   | 402   | 402   |
| 20.0%        | Stabilisation                        | M <sup>2</sup> | 21,610            | 100.0%     | 21610             | 864.4  | 864.4  | 864.4  | 864.4  | 864.4  | 864.4  | 864.4  | 864.4  | 864.4  | 864.4  | 864.4  | 864.4  | 864.4  | 864.4  | 864.4 | 864.4 | 864.4 | 864.4 | 864.4 | 864.4 | 864.4 | 864.4 | 864.4 | 864.4 | 864.4 |
| 10.0%        | Placement of Bulk fill Cut           | M <sup>3</sup> | 27,847            | 100.0%     | 26680             |        | 1160   | 1160   | 1160   | 1160   | 1160   | 1160   | 1160   | 1160   | 1160   | 1160   | 1160   | 1160   | 1160   | 1160  | 1160  | 1160  | 1160  | 1160  | 1160  | 1160  | 1160  | 1160  | 1160  | 1160  |
| 5.0%         | Proof roll and removal of Unsuitable | M <sup>2</sup> | 377,200           | 100.0%     | 377190            | 7921   | 15842  | 15842  | 15842  | 15842  | 15842  | 15842  | 15842  | 15842  | 15842  | 15842  | 15842  | 15842  | 15842  | 15842 | 15842 | 15842 | 15842 | 15842 | 15842 | 15842 | 15842 | 15842 | 12824 | 7921  |
| 5.0%         | Installation of Culverts and pipes   | EA             | 35                | 100.0%     | 33                |        |        |        | 33     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| 5.0%         | Clearing of Vegetation               | M <sup>2</sup> | 377,200           | 105.4%     | 397500            | 15900  | 15900  | 15900  | 15900  | 15900  | 15900  | 15900  | 15900  | 15900  | 15900  | 15900  | 15900  | 15900  | 15900  | 15900 | 15900 | 15900 | 15900 | 15900 | 15900 | 15900 | 15900 | 15900 | 15900 | 15900 |
| 90.0%        |                                      |                |                   |            |                   |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |

Project status      60.87%

PROGRESS

Gravel has been placed. Gravel is being conditioned and placed to final line and level. Sealing expected to commence mid Nov 2023

**Lorne Road  
@ 31st October 2023**

| % of Project | Task                                 | Units          | Contracty Quantity | % Complete | Quantity Complete | CH 0 | CH 500 | CH 1000 | CH 1500 | CH 2000 | CH 2500 | CH 3000 | CH 3500 | CH 4000 | CH 4500 | CH 5000 | CH 5500 | CH 6000 | CH 6500 |  |  |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|------------|-------------------|------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--|--|
| 0.3%         | Road Furniture - Sign Posts          | item           | 10                 | 80.0%      | 8                 | 4    |        |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         | 4       |  |  |
| 0.3%         | Road Furniture - Guide Posts         | item           | 80                 | 49.0%      | 39                | 2.8  | 2.8    | 2.8     | 2.8     | 2.8     | 2.8     | 2.8     | 2.8     | 2.8     | 2.8     | 2.8     | 2.8     | 2.8     | 2.8     |  |  |
| 0.3%         | Road Furniture - Line Marking        | m              | 5,100              | 0.0%       | -                 |      |        |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |  |  |
| 19.0%        | Sealing                              | M <sup>2</sup> | 40,748             | 100.0%     | 40,742            | 1567 | 3134   | 3134    | 3134    | 3134    | 3134    | 3134    | 3134    | 3134    | 3134    | 3134    | 3134    | 3134    | 1567    |  |  |
| 31.0%        | Placement of Gravel                  | M <sup>3</sup> | 11,676             | 100.0%     | 11,676            | 834  | 834    | 834     | 834     | 834     | 834     | 834     | 834     | 834     | 834     | 834     | 834     | 834     | 834     |  |  |
| 21.0%        | Stabilisation                        | M <sup>2</sup> | 51,975             | 100.0%     | 51,975            | 3713 | 3713   | 3713    | 3713    | 3713    | 3713    | 3713    | 3713    | 3713    | 3713    | 3713    | 3713    | 3713    | 3713    |  |  |
| 4.0%         | Placement of Bulk fill Cut           | M <sup>3</sup> | 4,164              | 107.6%     | 4,480             | 320  | 320    | 320     | 320     | 320     | 320     | 320     | 320     | 320     | 320     | 320     | 320     | 320     | 320     |  |  |
| 1.0%         | Proof roll and removal of Unsuitable | M <sup>2</sup> | 56,100             | 100.0%     | 56,100            | 4000 | 4100   | 4000    | 4000    | 4000    | 4000    | 4000    | 4000    | 4000    | 4000    | 4000    | 4000    | 4000    | 4000    |  |  |
| 5.0%         | Clearing of Vegetation               | M <sup>2</sup> | 204,000            | 100.0%     | 204,000           |      | 16000  | 16000   | 16000   | 16000   | 16000   | 16000   | 16000   | 16000   | 16000   | 16000   | 16000   | 16000   | 12000   |  |  |
| 3.5%         | Preliminary - Site oncosts           | item           | 1                  | 100.0%     | 1                 | 0.5  |        |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         | 0.5     |  |  |
| 3.5%         | Preliminary - Traffic control        | item           | 1                  | 100.0%     | 1                 | 0.5  |        |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         | 0.5     |  |  |
| 7.0%         | Preliminary - Site establishment     | item           | 1                  | 100.0%     | 1                 | 0.5  |        |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         | 0.5     |  |  |
| 3.5%         | Project Management                   | item           | 1                  | 100.0%     | 1                 | 0.07 | 0.09   | 0.07    | 0.07    | 0.07    | 0.07    | 0.07    | 0.07    | 0.07    | 0.07    | 0.07    | 0.07    | 0.07    | 0.07    |  |  |

99.4%

**Project status**                      **99.19%**

Lorne road is open to traffic. Line marking and some road furniture yet to be installed

**@ 31st October 2023**

100.0%

|                |        |
|----------------|--------|
| Project Status | 96.18% |
|----------------|--------|

Bridge complete. Sealing to be placed during the next round of sealing works



## Cryon Road @ 31st October 23

| % of Project | Task                            | Units | Contracty Quantity | % Complete | Quantity Complete | 28-Feb-23 | 04-Mar-23 | 11-Apr-23 | 18-Apr-23 | 25-Apr-23 | 02-May-23 | 09-May-23 | 16-May-23 | 23-May-23 | 30-May-23 | 06-Jun-23 | 13-Jun-23 | 20-Jun-23 | 27-Jun-23 | 04-Jul-23 | 11-Jul-23 | 18-Jul-23 | 25-Jul-23 | 01-Aug-23 |
|--------------|---------------------------------|-------|--------------------|------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|              | Preliminary                     |       |                    |            |                   |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| 1            | Geometric Design                | ITEM  | 1                  | 70%        | 0.700             |           |           |           |           | 1         |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| 1            | Geotechnical                    | ITEM  | 1                  | 70%        | 0.700             |           |           |           |           | 1         |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| 1            | Environmental Factors Review    | ITEM  | 1                  | 100%       | 1.000             |           |           |           |           | 1         |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| 1            | Procurement                     | ITEM  | 1                  | 0%         | 0.000             |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
|              | Construction                    |       |                    |            |                   |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| 0%           | Site Preperation                | ITEM  | 1                  | 0%         | 0                 |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| 0%           | Removable of unsuitables        | M3    | 1                  | 0%         | 0                 |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| 0%           | Bulk Earthworks (Cut to Fill)   | M3    | 1                  | 0%         | 0                 |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| 0%           | Stabilisation                   | M2    | 1                  | 0%         | 0                 |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| 0%           | Mass Haul Gravel                | M3    | 1                  | 0%         | 0                 |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| 0%           | 10mm-14mm Spray Seal            | M2    | 1                  | 0%         | 0                 |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| 0%           | Road Furtniture - Traffic Signs | ITEM  | 1                  | 0%         | 0                 |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| 0%           | Road Furtniture - Guide Posts   | ITEM  | 1                  | 0%         | 0                 |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |

### PROJECT STATUS

Project is in Preliminary Phase - Preliminary Geometric Design is complete. Community Consultation took place and comments and suggestiones will be considered in the design. Geotechnical - Field investigation of the road alignment is complete, report recieved and a design using ideal materials has been tabled. Samples of local material have been taken and are being tested. Final pavement design will be done based on locally available materials. Environmental Factors review in complete

## 9.4 DIRECTOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

### 9.4.1 DEVELOPMENT APPROVALS OCTOBER 2023

**REPORTING SECTION:** Planning  
**AUTHOR:** Kimley Talbert - Director Environmental Services  
**FILE NUMBER:** 23/11/0317

#### Development Approvals October 2023

**Recommendation:**

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

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

**Summary:**

This report is to advise the October 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 October –1 November

| 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                     | Assessment<br>Neighbour<br>Notification |
| DA2023/32 | 25 Bugilbone<br>Road Burren<br>Junction | Lot 10 & 11<br>DP 1067218 | Construction<br>30,000 tonnes new<br>bunkers grain<br>storage two<br>weighbridges and<br>sample stand | Application<br>Withdrawn                |

|            |                                                               |                                                             |                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                  |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| DA2023/38  | 2604 Cryon Road<br>Collarenebri                               | Lot 57 DP<br>752265                                         | Manufactured<br>Dwelling double<br>carport and office                                                                              | Approved                                                                                                         |
| AA2023/21  | 2604 Cryon Road<br>Collarenebri                               | Lot 57 DP<br>752265                                         | Manufactured<br>Home                                                                                                               | Approved                                                                                                         |
| DA2023/42  | 225 Woodlands<br>Road Walgett                                 | Lot B DP<br>418888                                          | Construction of<br>inground fibreglass<br>swimming pool and<br>perimeter pool<br>fence                                             | Approved                                                                                                         |
| CC2023/16  | 225 Woodlands<br>Road Walgett                                 | Lot B DP<br>418888                                          | Construction of<br>Inground<br>Fibreglass<br>swimming pool and<br>pool fence                                                       | Approved                                                                                                         |
| DA2023/43  | Lot 574 DP<br>1206881<br><br>Wooloroo Road<br>Lightning Ridge | Lot 574 DP<br>1206881                                       | Construction of<br>Dwelling using<br>geodesic 3 x<br>Domes with raised<br>deck with shade<br>sails on existing<br>opal mining site | Awaiting<br>additional<br>information                                                                            |
| S68/2023/2 | 5 Morilla Street<br>LIGHTNING<br>RIDGE                        | Lots 1 section<br>9, lot 1 DP<br>623130 & Lot<br>2 DP 40628 | Caravan Park<br>License                                                                                                            | Assessment<br>awaiting<br>application<br>covering<br><br>Fire safety<br>Statement<br>covering Fire<br>Hose reels |
| DA2023/44  | 19 Wee Waa<br>corner Namoi<br>Street Walgett                  | Lot 2 DP<br>35671                                           | New single storey<br>Hebel rendered<br>wall panels metal<br>colorbond roof,<br>garage under main<br>roof- dual<br>Occupancy        | Assessment                                                                                                       |
| DA2023/39  | 68 Black Prince<br>Drive Lightning<br>Ridge                   | Lot 119 DP<br>45077                                         | Detached Single<br>storey brick veneer<br>color-bond roof<br>Dwelling                                                              | Approved                                                                                                         |

|           |                                  |                     |                                             |                                       |
|-----------|----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| DA2023/48 | 39 Gem Street<br>Lightning Ridge | Lot 2 DP<br>1271292 | Allotment<br>Consolidation and<br>Re-zoning | Awaiting<br>additional<br>information |
| SC/2023/7 | 3696 Cryon Road<br>Cryon         | Lot 9 DP<br>752238  | Rural Subdivision                           | 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 MATTERS GENERALLY FOR BRIEF MENTION OR INFORMATION FROM DIRECTOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

**REPORTING SECTION:** Environmental Services  
**AUTHOR:** Kimley Talbert - Director Environmental Services  
**FILE NUMBER:** 23/11/0318

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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 October 2023

#### **Outstanding Notice Certificate**

1

#### **Construction Certificate**

2 approved.

#### **Food Shop Inspections**

2

#### **Swimming Pool Compliance Certificates**

2

#### **Activity Approvals**

One Activity Approval applications received for various new projects.

#### **Final Occupation Certificate**

3

#### **Sub-Division Certificate**

1

#### **Fire Safety Schedule**

2

#### **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

126 Belarra Road Rowena two new workers accommodation units

### **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. Have now seconded an Environmentalist to provide a Hygienist Site Specific Plan of Management- covering the contaminated concrete stockpiles, to be presented to the Environment Protection Authority so that they can accept the concrete waste disposal plan and council can then proceed with the work.

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.

The house fire damaged in Walgett has been demolished and removed along with the two Walgett Primary School Buildings. The house at Collarenebri remains standing, now awaiting a contractor to carry out the demolition work.



### **Walgett Waste Depot**

For Council's Information, council is currently accepting abattoir wastes, namely hides and offal within council's waste facility, from the Bourke Abattoir, Thomas Foods International. Council has acquired significant fee covering the service.

The reason behind this is for the following:

- Bourke Shire Council Will not accept the waste material, I believe that it is due to not being an EPA Licensed Waste facility.
- The logistics of taking the wastes outside of the regional area.
- The company does not have a wastes processing plant.
- The Licensed Abattoir can only deposit the wastes at Licensed Waste Facility.

### **Local Heritage**

The Local Heritage Grants letters of offer were issued with local heritage people to facilitate the local heritage grant program.

### **85 Neilly Street Walgett**

Dwelling Demolished and wastes removed along with allotment has had excessive vegetation removed, block now clean.

### **Stones Throw Caf'e**

Have been informed to proceed with the extended operation hours for street dining for the trial period of three (3) months.

### **PLANNING CERTIFICATES:**

October 2023- Nineteen (19) 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.

Environment Protection Authority \$20,000 Grant received covering dumped waste material, as part of Rid online waste management program.

### **October 2023 Animal Impounding Records**

Month of October- 36 dogs, 2 seized and 34 dogs surrendered, the break-up of animals is 34 dogs rehomed, 1 one dog died from Parvo Virus infection and one dog returned to owner.

### **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 track area where the new wheelie bins waste collection point and installation is to be located. Council has now submitted an application to Crown Lands covering the installation of the Bin Bank, now awaiting the issue of the license before we can move towards the purchase of bins and installation of the stands.

### **New Animal Pound Construction**

Has now been placed out for Tender, Tender closed on 16 November 2023.

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

**REPORTING SECTION:** Environmental Services  
**AUTHOR:** Bob Harris – Assistant Director Environmental Services  
**FILE NUMBER:** 23/11/0319

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

|                                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Recommendation:</b><br/>That Council receive and note this report.</p> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                                           |
|-------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Moved:</b><br/><b>Seconded:</b></p> |
|-------------------------------------------|

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**

Crown Lands Advice - Closed Road – Cancellation of enclosure Permit - Part road north of Lot 14, Parish Burren, County Jamison. Road on southern boundary of portion 17, Parish Burren, County Jamison. Road west of portion 5; southern parts of roads west of portions 15 and 16; roads south of portions 4, 15 and 16; roads through portions 4, 5 and 15, Parish Graham, County Jamison.

ECN-051287 Upgradation to 50kVA Substation Koomalah Rd Lightning Ridge  
Remove existing LV overhead network and pole 97157221 and replace existing wood pole 97056786 with new 12.5m/6kN wood pole and upgrade existing Sub 75-340089 from 10kVA 50kVA on this new pole at same location.

NSW Planning – Confirmation of Conversion of WLL to Freehold – 150Ha at 18974 Castlereagh Highway Lightning Ridge – Protogenius P/L – P 13375

Further information is available on request.

#### **Development Applications & Approvals**

PAN-370518 - DA2023/41 – Dual Occupancy – Aboriginal Housing – 19 Wee Waa St Walgett – Consultation with the owner is occurring prior to determination of the application regarding contaminated soil located on the property.

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

Rural Residential subdivision – Documents are being placed on public exhibition and workshop for Councillors is being planned.

“Intensive Agriculture” – Documents are being placed on public exhibition and workshop is being planned for Councillors.

PP 2023/2 - Gingie-Namoi-Walli – LEP lot size amendments – Department of Planning, Industry and Environment in Dubbo have completed gateway determination. The applicant has been required to provide amended documentation and Council will then be responsible for exhibition of the Planning Proposal. A final report will then be submitted to NSW Planning for finalisation.

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

A report is being prepared to consider options for improvements and expansion of the program into the smaller villages.

**Annual Fire Safety Statement**

An additional six properties have been identified as Priority 1 & 2 taking the project to 56 properties, seven properties have provided evidence of compliance.

Discussions with various owners over the last few weeks regarding compliance with fire safety provisions. Correspondence sent to 1 property owner with multiple properties.

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

A fire services contractor is currently undertaking inspections of Council owned buildings.

**Notices and Orders**

Overgrown Vegetation and Fire Hazards – An order has been issued and compliance action commenced in relation to a property in Gem St, Lightning Ridge.

## 10. MOTIONS OF WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

### Notice of Motion –Cr Hundy

1. What is the Status of the 3 Mile Road and can the General Manager provide a full and comprehensive report on this matter which should include what part of the road that Council is actually taking over.

**General Manager's Response:**

The 3 Mile Road will be the subject of a workshop with councillors on a convenient date in December, following which a comprehensive report will be submitted to the Council.

2. Australian Opal Centre Lightning Ridge has the biggest Tourism Project West of the Blue Mountains currently being constructed. What is the current position with developing a Tourism Plan to address the tourism demand this will place on the Shire and is there a plan to develop a plan to encourage new businesses to Lightning Ridge that will complement this facility?

**General Manager's Response:**

Council will need to find and allocate resources to the development of an economic development or tourism strategy and action plan that will provide an agreed pathway forward.

## 11. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

### Questions on Notice – Cr Hundy

1. Everyone Can Play Park (GM's letter 3rd Nov.) Indicates that the park not go ahead taking into consideration that consultation is still active until 22nd Nov.2023 - what is the status of this project?

**General Manager's Response:**

I refer you to agenda item 23/11/0320 Everyone Can Play Park.

Please note that the internal confidential briefing provided to Councillors on 3 November 2023 was to keep Councillors informed and seek further information.



## **AGENDA FOR CLOSED COUNCIL MEETING**

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November 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 **28<sup>th</sup> November 2023** to discuss the items listed in the Agenda.

Megan Dixon  
**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 – 26 October 2023**

### **14. CORRESPONDENCE AND PETITIONS**

**Nil**



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

## **15. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

## **16. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

### **Return to open session**

**Recommendation:**

That Council return to open session.

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

## **17. ADOPTION OF CLOSED SESSION REPORTS**

### **Adoption of closed session reports**

**Recommendation:**

That Council adopt the recommendations of the Closed Committee Reports

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

## **18. CLOSE OF MEETING**

**Time: .....**