



WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL

AGENDA

21 November 2006

Stephen McLean
General Manager



13 November 2006

Administrator
Walgett Shire Council
PO Box 31
WALGETT NSW 2832

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Ordinary Meeting of Walgett Shire Council will be held in the Collarenebri Town Hall, Collarenebri on **Tuesday, 21 November 2006, commencing at 10.00am.**

AGENDA

PUBLIC FORUM PRESENTATIONS

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

WELCOME TO VISITORS

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

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD 19 October 2006

1. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

No Reports Submitted.

2. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

- | | | |
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7. COMMITTEE MINUTES

No Reports Submitted

8. REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

No Reports Submitted

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 19 OCTOBER 2006
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The Draft Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 19 October 2006 were distributed to Council's Administrator.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 21 NOVEMBER 2006

No Reports Submitted.

**GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 21
NOVEMBER 2006**

Item No: 1.

Subject: 2005/2006 Audited Financial Reports & Auditors Report

Author: Stephen McLean – General Manager

File No: 180/01/01/00

Summary:

That Council formally receives the Audited Financial Reports together with the Auditor's Reports for the period 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006.

Comments (including issues and background):

Council's Audit to 30 June 2006 has been completed, and in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, Section 418 (1) (b) public notice was given of the date so fixed for the presentation of the audited financial reports, together with the auditor's report and that under Section 420 of the Local Government Act 1993 any person may make written submissions to Council with respect to these reports.

Copies of Council's Audited Financial Reports and Auditor's Report are tabled.

<i>Financial Report Summary</i>	2006 (\$'000)	2005 (\$'000)
<i>Income Statement</i>		
Total revenues from Ordinary Activities	19,847	16,983
Total Expenses from Ordinary Activities	18,177	16,720
Surplus/(Deficit) from Ordinary Activities	1,670	263
<i>Balance Sheet</i>		
Total Current Assets	15,246	9,438
Total Current Liabilities	3,526	2,370
Total Non Current Assets	61,247	64,847
Total Current Liabilities	509	1,134
	72,458	70,781
<i>Other Financial Information</i>		
Current Ratio	4.32:1	3.98:1
Unrestricted Current Ratio	3.99:1	3.40:1
Debt Service Ratio	3.80%	3.56%
Rate Coverage Ratio	26.68%	30.84%
Rates and Annual Charges Outstanding Percentage	15.94%	15.97%

Relevant Reference Documents:

- Local Government Act 1993
- Financial Reports and Auditors Report to 30 June 2006

Stakeholders:

- Department of Local Government
- Spencer Steer, Chartered Accountants
- Walgett Shire Residents

Recommendation:

That Council formally receives the Audited Financial Reports together with the Auditor's Reports for the period 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 21 NOVEMBER 2006

Item No: 2.

Subject: Sheeppyard Pub

Author: Stephen McLean – General Manager

File No: 105/03/00/00 & Ass 3440

Summary:

Some time ago the proprietors of the Sheeppyard Pub at the Sheeppyard opal fields applied for a Building Certificate. Although a certificate was issued for some structures, action on a recommendation to proceed with a demolition order for one building was deferred. This report provides a summary of actions intended to be taken by the General Manager in the near future.

Background:

An overview of the current status of the Sheeppyard Pub is as follows:

1. The business is predominantly located on Mineral Claim 16688 which was first registered on 10 December 1985 at the Sheeppyard opal fields. The Sheeppyard opal fields are part of the 'preserved' opal fields.
2. A Mineral Claim is a mining title granted under the Mining Act 1992 which allows the title holder to "*prospect for and mine the mineral or minerals in respect of which the claim is granted*" and undertake mining related activities (Section 195).
3. Since about 1987 the Sheeppyard Pub has been used on a continual basis as a public bar. Convenience food, such as pies and hamburgers, has also been sold on a regular basis.
4. Ownership of the Mineral Claim was transferred on 30 May 2003 and this has been associated with the commencement of a range of new activities on the site. Those activities have included the construction of additional buildings, gas cylinder storage and exchange, operation of a dining room and bunk house style accommodation.
5. There are a number of other established businesses on the 'preserved' opal fields in the Grawin/Glengarry/Sheeppyard area. None of these presently have development consent, although some have been operating for up to 30 years.

Prior to about 2001, Walgett Shire Council does not seem to have taken any significant action to prompt these businesses to comply with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. By effectively turning a 'blind eye' for such a long time, it can be argued that Walgett Shire Council and State Government agencies have sanctioned these businesses despite any legislative breaches.

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Walgett Shire Council established a policy regarding long established businesses on the 'preserved' opal fields at meetings held on 14 July 2003 and 10 November 2003. In summary, Council's policy is to support the legitimisation of long established business activities on the opal fields, even though they commenced without development consent.

6. Council staff have spoken with, and written to (1 October 2002, 17 May 2004, 5 August 2004), the operators of the Sheepyard Pub advising them that new business activities commenced without development consent will not be tolerated.
7. The Sheepyard Pub is the only business in the Grawin/Glengarry/Sheepyard area that has commenced a range of new activities without development consent.

Council has an obligation to ensure that the requirements of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 are met. In this case that means ensuring any new activities are either undertaken with the appropriate approvals, or suitable action is taken to follow up any significant legislative breaches.

8. At a Council meeting held on 15 December 2005, Walgett Shire Council issued a Building Certificate for some buildings associated with the premises after considering the advice of a consultant Health and Building Surveyor, Tony Meppem. One building was a Class 6 building used as a bottle shop and general store with entertaining area (the main Sheepyard Pub building), while the other is a Class 6 building used as a commercial kitchen and dining room (converted railway carriage).
9. Also at the 15 December 2005 meeting, Council deferred making a decision on Tony Meppem's recommendation that orders be issued under section 121B of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 requiring the cessation of use and demolition of a third building being used for accommodation. That building is located on nearby Mineral Claim 17379 held by Mark Dwyer. being used for accommodation. That building is located on nearby Mineral Claim 17379 held by Mark Dwyer.
10. At the 16 February 2006 meeting, Council resolved that a decision regarding the On 9th August 2006 Walgett Shire Council's Health and Building Surveyor, Len Smyth, and Assistant Health and Building Surveyor, Kylie Cameron, met with Ted King and Sue Tomlinson and inspected the accommodation building. As a result of the inspection Council's Health and Building Surveyors advised that:
 - a) The building was approximately 12m wide by 12m long, constructed from pine logs, galvanised iron and has an earth floor covered with carpet. It had a single entrance door, eight 'cubicles' (seven of which contained bedding).
 - b) The building does not comply with the provisions of the Building Code of Australia requirements for a Class 3 hostel type building. There are substantial structural integrity, fire safety and health (vermin proofing and general hygiene) issues associated with the building.
 - c) To ensure compliance with the Building Code of Australia it is considered that the building would need to be reconstructed in it's entirety to enable it to comply with the code and Australian Standard 1170.1 1989 – Minimum design Loads on Structures.

SHIRE OF WALGETT –AGENDA

11. The business operators have stated that they regard the accommodation building as legitimate because they obtained approval to construct the building from the Department of Primary Industries under the Camps on Claims 'green book' guidelines.

However, the guidelines explicitly state that they only apply to buildings or structures "*used as a dwelling by a miner*" (Page 2, paragraph 1). They do not apply to buildings used on a commercial or non-commercial basis for a hostel, backpacker style accommodation or the like.

This was reinforced with the proprietors of the Sheepyard Pub in a letter from Walgett Shire Council dated 5 August 2004.

12. In the above context it is appropriate to proceed with notices of intention to issue an order under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to address:

a) The recommendation by consultant Health and Building Surveyor, Tony Meppem, that Walgett Shire Council proceed with an order under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 requiring cessation of use, and demolition of, the accommodation building associated with the Sheepyard Pub.

b) Gas cylinder storage and exchange which is being undertaken on the Sheepyard Pub site without development consent.

13. A Building Certificate has been issued for the train carriage that is being used as a dining area. Given that there have been longstanding convenience food sales on the Sheepyard Pub site, there seems little point in proceeding with an order requiring cessation of the use of the carriage for dining because it does not have development consent. Such an order could be perceived as having marginal merit.

orders should be deferred for another two months and that "*Council Staff liaise with the applicant to enable them to have the opportunity to comply with all relevant codes to enable the issue of a Building Certificate.*"

Relevant Reference Documents:

- Assessment files 3440.
- Business papers and minutes for 14 July 2003 Council meeting.
- Business papers and minutes for 10 November 2003 Council meeting.
- Business papers and minutes for 16 June 2005 Council meeting.
- Business papers and minutes for 15 December 2005 Council meeting.
- Business papers and minutes for 16 February 2006 Council meeting.

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- Interim Development Order No. 1 – Shire of Walgett 1968.
- Camps in the Opal Fields of Lightning Ridge (“Camps Guidelines”) reprinted November 1998.
- The Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, especially Part 6, Division 2A.

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council, community and proprietors of the Sheepyard Pub.

Financial Implications:

None known.

Recommendation:

That Walgett Shire Council resolve to note the General Manager’s intent to proceed to address unauthorised development and construction activities associated with the Sheepyard Pub by:

- 1. Mailing a ‘notice of intention’ to issue Order No 1 under section 121B of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to immediately cease the use of the building for accommodation by unrelated persons. The notice will be issued to Sue Tomlinson and Ted King, as the “occupiers” of the accommodation building constructed on Mineral Claim 17379 without development consent.**
- 2. Mailing a ‘notice of intention’ to issue Order No 2 under section 121B of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 giving 30 days to demolish the accommodation building. The notice will be issued to Mark Dwyer, as owner of the accommodation building located on Mineral Claim 17379.**
- 3. Mailing a ‘notice of intention’ to issue Order No 1 under section 121B of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 requiring the cessation of all activities associated with gas cylinder storage and exchange on the Sheepyard Pub site. The notice will be issued to Blazed Tree Pty Ltd, as the owner of the Sheepyard Pub premises located on Mineral Claim 16688.**
- 4. The General Manager considering any written responses received from the parties involved, or their agents, in accordance with Section 121L and 121J of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. Such consideration will occur prior to making a decision on the whether to issue any orders, and if orders are to be issued, the terms of the orders.**

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 21 NOVEMBER 2006

Item No: 3.

Subject: Staff Recruitment and Retention

Author: Stephen McLean – General Manager

File No: 295/01/15/00

Summary:

A “Labour Market Premium” policy was presented to Council meeting 19 October 2006 and deferred to allow further discussion to be held between the General Manager and Department Managers. This policy has now been reviewed.

Comments (including issues and background):

Skills shortages in local government has been the subject of two recent media releases from the Minister for Local Government and has been identified as a significant problem facing regional and rural councils in New south Wales. Council is developing a policy that will allow the recruitment of quality applicants for vacant positions and the retention of existing specialist staff.

Council has already adopted a flexible working hours’ policy. It is envisaged that this framework of policies will grow to cover such issues as housing, vehicles, wages, continuing education and other benefits that might include child care and access to information technology.

This report puts forward a policy to allow councils senior management a mechanism for adjusting the salary component of a position based on market forces.

A report was presented to Council on 19 October 2006. This policy was deferred to allow further discussion to be held between the General Manager and Department Managers. This policy has now been reviewed.

Relevant Reference Documents:

- Media Release 14 September 2006 The Hon. Kerry Hickey MP
- Media Release 27 September 2006 The Hon. Kerry Hickey MP
- Labour Market Premium policy document

Stakeholders:

- Walgett Shire Council Staff

Financial Implications:

The direct implications of offering an increased salary to any position must be weighed against the opportunity cost of not obtaining or retaining specialised staff and the costs that the employment process includes, for example advertising.

It is not possible to calculate a reliable figure for the financial implications, but this policy, used objectively, should provide Council with decreased overall employment costs.

Recommendations:

That Council endorse the policy document titled “Labour Market Premium” and that it is reviewed in November 2007.

POLICY OBJECTIVE

To establish a mechanism whereby Council's General Manager can adjust salaries for any position that is critical to Council's operations and which is subject to labour market forces that are outside the scope of its standard salary system.

INTRODUCTION

A substantial shortage of professional skills exists in local government. Council has experienced ongoing problems in attracting suitably skilled and experienced applicants for a number of critical positions. This situation is not expected to substantially improve in the foreseeable future.

This causes problems for Council because, amongst other things:

- a) It is difficult to satisfy legislative obligations and community expectations;
- b) Staff recruitment costs are increased;
- c) Opportunities for skills transfer and staff development are reduced;
- d) Any potential for conducting Council operations in line with best practice is reduced;

This policy is intended to provide a mechanism whereby Council can:

- 1. Increase the quality of applicants seeking positions;
- 2. Retain skilled staff already employed by Council;
- 3. Encourage existing staff to develop their skills through further studies and self development;

Council management realises that there are factors other than salary that affect whether an applicant applies to, or continues in the employ of Walgett Shire. This policy is not intended to be the sole mechanism for encouraging the recruitment and retention of quality staff.

SCOPE OF POLICY

This policy applies equally to existing staff and upon the advertisement of new or vacated positions in Councils adopted staff structure.

A labour market premium (allowance) may be considered for a particular position, if in the opinion of the General Manager, there is objective evidence that:

- 1. There is strong demand for staff with the required skills or a likely shortage of suitable applicants for a given position;
- 2. The position is critical to Council's operations, either by virtue of legislative obligations or community expectations.
- 3. The person occupying or applying for the position has relevant professional skills (a minimum qualification of Certificate IV or an Associate Diploma in an appropriate course).

In determining the rate of labour market premium (allowance) that will be applied to an individual, the following matters shall be taken into account:

1. Prevailing labour market conditions for the position. This will be determined by reference to similar position(s) advertised elsewhere at the time of application.
2. The range and quality of skills which will add tangible value to their work for the Council. Such value can be demonstrated by a range of factors, including:
 - i. Any skills that the applicant or incumbent may have that are beyond those which are essential for the position (but will improve their capacity to undertake duties associated with the position).
 - ii. Work history.
 - iii. Work outcomes.
 - iv. Any relevant academic results.
3. The possibility for inequity between positions which involve similar responsibilities and skills.

Any Labour Market Premium applied to a position is for the present occupant only. Subsequent position holders will have their eligibility for the market premium assessed against these criteria and a determination will be made regarding the necessity and value for the 'new' position holder.

MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY

The determination of whether a Labour Market premium shall be applied and its value will be made by the General Manager in agreement with the Department Managers. The decision as to any premium value applied must be supported by objective documentary evidence.

Labour market premiums will only be paid as an allowance on a fortnightly basis.

Award increases shall be applied to the labour market premium.

REVIEW

This policy shall be reviewed annually by senior management

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 21 NOVEMBER 2006

Item No: 4.

Subject: Industrial Relations Commission

Author: Stephen McLean – General Manager

File No: EF 3060

Summary:

Council has received correspondence from the Resolving Matters, the firm appointed to assess the costs of the matter of Walgett Shire Council v WJ Fletcher as Trustee of the Property of John William Burden. The letter sets out the costs of assessment and seeks Councils agreement to proceed.

Comments (including issues and background):

During the course of an unfair contract case brought against Council by Mr Burden a point of legal contention was argued in an appeal. The outcome of the appeal was in the favour of Mr Burden and Council was ordered to pay costs of \$21,000.00. It is the costs presented to Council by Mr Burden's solicitor that was asked to be assessed as they seemed excessive for the nature of the matter and proceedings in which the parties appeared.

Council asked the court for the matter to be referred to an assessor and one has been appointed. The appointed assessor has sent Council a notice of costs of \$192.50 per hour without a total estimate.

Therefore with the unknown total, the cost of the assessment may end up being more than any reduction found by the assessor. For this reason it is recommended that the original amount of \$21,000.00 be paid and the application for assessment be withdrawn.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Letter from Mr G.A. Murphy
Letter from Resolving Matters

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council

Financial Implications:

The known cost to Council is \$21,000.00.

Recommendations:

- 1. That Council not accept the rate for assessment as notified by Resolving Matters**
- 2. That Council agree to the payment of the costs of the appeal (Walgett Shire Council v WJ Fletcher as Trustee of the Property of John William Burden) as awarded in the amount of \$21,000.00.**

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 21 NOVEMBER 2006

Item No: 5.

Subject: Carols by Candlelight

Author: Stephen McLean – General Manager

File No: 245/02/07/00

Summary:

Council is sponsoring the annual Carols by Candlelight events in Collarenebri and Walgett.

Comments (including issues and background):

The annual Carols by Candlelight events are to be held in Collarenebri and Walgett. The Collarenebri event on December 17th in the Town Hall and Walgett in Gray Park on the evening of Monday December 11th. Council supports this event and uses appointed community volunteers to organise and run proceedings on the day.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Letter from St Mary's Parish, Walgett
Letter from Mr R Williams, Collarenebri

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council
Walgett Community
Collarenebri Community

Financial Implications:

No Council funds are required in the staging of this event.

Recommendations:

That Council receive this report and note the support of Collarenebri and Walgett Carols by Candlelight events.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 21 NOVEMBER 2006

Item No: 6.

Subject: Walgett Pre-School and Long Day Care Centre Inc.

Author: Stephen McLean – General Manager

File No: 180/05/00/00

Summary:

The costs to complete the Walgett Pre-School and Long Day Care Centre Inc. (WPLDC) have increased from \$500,000 to \$690,000. The committee have requested that Council increase the loan amount made available to them in October 2005 in order ensure the completion of the current construction program.

Comments (including issues and background):

At its 20 October 2005 meeting Council resolved the following:

**281/05 – Long Day Care Centre – Lot 20, Section 41, DP 759036
File 021/01/01/00**

RESOLUTION:-

It was resolved on the Motion of the Administrator that:-

- 1. The Walgett Shire Council agree to advance to the Walgett CWA Early Childhood Centre Incorporated by way of loan an amount of up to \$250,000.00 to provide matching funds if the Associations application for a Capital Grant is successful.***
- 2. The terms of the loan are that it is interest free for the first two years and that no repayments be required until the third year of the loan.***
- 3. A letter be issued to the Walgett CWA Early Childhood Centre Incorporated setting out the terms of this Resolution and authorising the Association to submit this letter as part of its application for a Capital Funding Grant.***

Carried.

SHIRE OF WALGETT –AGENDA

Once the capital funding grant and loan was approved, the WPLDC initiated the proposal and construction of the new facility. The initial estimated cost of construction at the time loan funds were sought from Council was \$500,000.00. Upon the receipt and awarding of tenders the value to construct the centre was found to be \$690,000.00 plus GST. WPLDC has been able to raise some funds towards the excess but is requesting that Council consider extending the committee another \$100,000.00 loan on the same terms and conditions as the original loan.

WPLDC has continued to seek grant opportunities from both State and Federal Government departments but does not envisage that these grants will be awarded until December 2006 or early in 2007. The application for extra funding is made to Council to ensure the continued construction of this facility and that the deadline for opening in February 2007 is met to guarantee FACS operational funding which has been approved.

The construction of the facility is necessary infrastructure within Walgett. Child care facilities are an essential service to both the community and Walgett Shire Council staff.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Item 3D October 2005 Council meeting

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council
Walgett Community

Financial Implications:

An increase in the Loan amount to the WPLDC of \$100,000.00, from unrestricted cash reserves.

Recommendations:

- 1. That the Walgett Pre-School and Long Day Care Centre Incorporated be encouraged and supported by Walgett Shire Council in seeking funding opportunities.**
- 2. That Council approve an additional loan amount of up to \$100,000.00 (\$350,000 in total) to the Walgett Pre-School and Long Day Care Centre Incorporated in the instance that all funding opportunities are exhausted.**
- 3. The terms of the loan be that it is interest free for the first two years and that no repayments be required until the third year of the loan.**

**MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING
21 NOVEMBER 2006**
Item No: 7.

Subject: Report on Rates and Charges – 31 October 2006

Author: Katie Hook – Rates Clerk

File No: 180/09/00/00

REPORT ON RATES AND CHARGES 31 October 2006

	Oct-06	Oct-05
Arrears as at 30 June	1,618,773.48	1,395,484.94
Adjusted Levy	6,154,677.48	5,513,444.77
Interest	31,792.12	27,305.57
Payments	(3,047,139.90)	(2,543,904.93)
Adjustments	(29,208.39)	(5,321.52)
Discount	(59,249.98)	(52,574.14)
Legal Fees	18,281.90	1,012.22
Total Outstanding	\$ <u>4,687,926.71</u>	<u>4,335,446.91</u>

COMPARISON WITH 2004/2005

	Oct-06	Oct-05
Current	3,416,263.31	3,100,516.41
Arrears	898,215.30	885,562.05
Interest	308,081.12	287,653.97
Legals	65,366.98	61,714.48
Total Outstanding	\$ <u>4,687,926.71</u>	<u>4,335,446.91</u>

Total YTD Collected

	Oct-06	Oct-05
Collected YTD % of Arrears and Levy	40%	37%
Collected YTD % of Levy	51%	46%

Recommendation:
That the Report on Rates as at 31 October 2006 be received.

MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 21 NOVEMBER 2006
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Item No: 8.

Subject: Auction Sale of Land for Overdue Rates

Author: Renee Reynolds – Customer Service Officer – Finance

File No: 025/05/01/77

Summary:

This report details the properties eligible for sale of land for overdue rates and seeks Council's authorisation to submit the land for auction sale for overdue rates in accordance with Section 713 of the Local Government Act, 1993.

Comments (including issues and background):

Section 713 of the Local Government Act, 1993 gives Council the authority to sell, at public auction, any land on which any rate or charge has remained unpaid for more than five (5) years from the date on which it became payable.

In such cases the General Manager must certify in writing the details of the overdue rates and charges and advertise these details in the Government Gazette and in at least one (1) newspaper circulating in the area prior to the auction proceeding.

The General Managers Certificate has now been prepared containing the relevant information and Council's authorisation is now sought to proceed with the sale of the properties listed.

All attempts to recover the overdue rates and charges, for the properties listed, have proved unsuccessful and this is the only remaining option to Council to recover the outstanding rates and charges.

Whilst it is recommended to submit the listed properties for auction, should the rates and charges be paid out, or satisfactory arrangements made, the properties can be withdrawn from the proposed sale at anytime prior to the date of the auction.

Relevant Reference Documents:

- See following table.

Stakeholders:

- Walgett Shire Council

Financial Implications:

Sale of land for overdue rates effectively reduces the amount of rates and charges outstanding to council, with any remaining balance of sale proceeds being returned to the owner.

Recommendations:

- **That the land detailed in the following document be submitted for sale at public auction.**
- **The auction sale be conducted by a licensed auctioneer and should the lots be unsold at the auction that they be listed for sale by private treaty.**
- **The reserve price for the lots be set at the valuation determined by a Registered Valuer.**
- **Council authorises the execution of contracts and transfer documents under its Common Seal.**

SHIRE OF WALGETT –AGENDA

**WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1993 (SECTION
713)
SALE OF LAND FOR UNPAID RATES**

Ass No	Name of Owner/s or persons having an interest in the land	Description of Land	Area sq M	Arrears Owing
1257	Aymold Pty Ltd	Walgett st		
		CUMBORAH	6361	\$ 2,723.89
		Lot 2 and 3 Sec 8 DP 758317		
125	Eugene G LAKE	97 Dewhurst st		
		WALGETT	2023	\$ 7,579.69
		Lot 3 Sec 38 DP 759036		
754	Estate of Late Brian W	Neilly st		
	WRIGHT	WALGETT	675	\$ 10,247.19
		Lot 102 DP 568884		
153	Allan P MOLLOY	6 Duff Street		
		WALGETT	1840	\$ 23,317.28
		Lot 43 DP 847451		
1015	Mr Paul W HARRIS	Earl Street		
	Ms Vanessa L MARTYN	COLLARENEBRI	2023	\$ 22,880.80
		Lot 7 Sec 18 DP 758262		
1016	Ms Carolee HARRIS	Earl Street		
	Mr Benjamin FLICK	COLLARENEBRI	2023	\$ 12,791.94
		Lot 8 Sec 18 DP 758262		
1059	Shane Lindsay MILLSTEAD	George Street		
		COLLARENEBRI	1012	\$ 24,439.67
		Lot 4 Sec 9 DP 758262		
		W L L 9208		

SHIRE OF WALGETT –AGENDA

Ass No	Name of Owner/s or persons having an interest in the land	Description of Land	Area sq M	Arrears Owing
84	Estate of Late Christine MAYER	98 Cedar Street WALGETT	3776	\$ 9,502.14
		Lot 7 Sec 23 DP 759036		
		Lot 22 DP 587336		
		Lot 1 DP 504050		
895	Estate of Late Cyril Victor SCOULLAR	Colin Street CARINDA	1012	\$ 3,087.87
		Lot 2 DP 309612		
427	Ms Georgina Florence SANDS	49 Montkeila Street WALGETT	1012	\$ 3,751.75
		Lot 27 DP 230851		
787	Mr Giustino ZAPPACOSTA	Balaclava Street BURREN JUNCTION	1011	\$ 1,847.40
		Lot 8A DP 434300		
884	Mr Bruce R CRAWFORD	Colin Street CARINDA	2023	\$ 7,066.19
		Lot 7 Sec13 DP 758227		

MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 21 NOVEMBER 2006
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Item No: 9.

Subject: Monthly Management Report to 31 October 2006

Author: Emma Darcy – Acting Manager Corporate Services

File No: 180/08/00/00

Summary:

This report is prepared to report on the operational performance against adopted estimates for the period ending 31st October 2006.

Comments (including issues and background):

Department of Local Government Report, recommendation 31, requires monthly reports to be submitted to Council reporting on significant differences. The report analyses the financial performance of Council for the period ending 31 October 2006 comparing actual expenditure and revenue against the budget. The Council's position at this time is within budgetary expectations with a surplus of \$2,166,832 compared to a budgeted \$147,916.

General Budgetary Position

This review analyses the financial performance of the Council for the period ending 31st October 2006, comparing actual expenditure and revenue against the budget. Council's budgetary position for the period ending 31st October 2006 is financially sound. The Budgeted surplus was \$147,916 and at the end of October the surplus based on accruals was \$2,166,832.

SHIRE OF WALGETT –AGENDA

<u>Management Review as at 31st October 2006</u>							
		Original Budget	Amended Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Actual (Committed)	Budget Available Current Year	
1	Members & Executive Expenditure	(713,329)	(623,829)	(227,893)	(226,278)	(485,436)	32%
2	Corporate Services Revenue	157,000	157,000	1,364	1,364	155,636	1%
3	Corporate Services Expenditure	(871,865)	(871,865)	(383,969)	(399,221)	(487,896)	44%
4	Marketing & Promotions Revenue	20,000	20,000	8,102	8,102	11,898	41%
5	Marketing & Promotions Expenditure	(306,098)	(306,098)	(134,878)	(134,446)	(171,220)	44%
6	Financial Services Revenue	6,626,881	6,661,644	4,878,029	4,878,029	1,748,852	74%
7	Financial Services Expenditure	(1,298,187)	(1,298,187)	(594,389)	(616,592)	(703,798)	46%
8	Governance Revenue	41,500	41,500	21,874	21,874	19,626	53%
9	Governance Expenditure	(429,500)	(429,500)	(158,833)	(158,833)	(270,667)	37%
10	Community Services Revenue	252,100	252,100	15,652	15,652	236,448	6%
11	Community Services Expenditure	(619,442)	(654,442)	(153,612)	(161,246)	(465,830)	25%
12	Planning & Regulation Revenue	178,850	60,850	19,352	19,352	159,498	11%
13	Planning & Regulation Expenditure	(864,110)	(760,610)	(238,258)	(236,974)	(625,852)	28%
14	Engineering Services Revenue	68,000	68,000	32,467	32,467	35,533	48%
15	Engineering Services Expenditure	(492,667)	(492,667)	(199,527)	(199,347)	(293,140)	40%
16	Council Plant & Properties Revenue	2,281,134	2,281,134	656,675	656,675	1,624,459	29%
17	Council Plant & Properties Expenditure	(2,145,000)	(2,145,000)	(836,391)	(979,304)	(1,308,609)	39%
18	Roads & Bridges Revenue	5,895,813	5,914,259	964,381	964,381	4,931,432	16%
19	Roads & Bridges Expenditure	(5,342,813)	(5,342,813)	(2,761,654)	(2,702,218)	(2,581,159)	52%
20	Recreation & Community Assets Revenue	140,000	140,000	155,294	155,294	(15,294)	111%
21	Recreation & Community Assets Expenditure	(2,199,404)	(2,199,404)	(820,980)	(875,134)	(1,378,424)	37%
22	Domestic Waste Revenue	751,687	751,687	707,909	707,909	43,778	94%
23	Domestic Waste Expenditure	(693,950)	(693,950)	(199,841)	(241,682)	(494,109)	29%
24	Public Order & Safety Revenue	46,000	46,000	0	0	46,000	0%
25	Public Order & Safety Expenditure	(213,405)	(213,405)	(38,769)	(39,769)	(174,636)	18%
26	Water Services Revenue	1,119,528	1,119,528	1,163,430	1,163,430	(43,902)	104%
27	Water Services Expenditure	(1,241,574)	(1,241,574)	(188,204)	(189,408)	(1,053,370)	15%
28	Sewerage Services Revenue	576,450	576,450	561,210	561,210	15,240	97%
29	Sewerage Services Expenditure	(668,892)	(668,892)	(81,709)	(81,296)	(587,183)	12%
		54,707	147,916	2,166,832	1,943,991		
	Variance of Income Compared to Expenditure						
				Budget YTD	Actual YTD	% of Budget	
	Income			18,090,152	9,185,739	51%	
	Expenditure			(17,942,236)	(7,018,907)	39%	
	Variance			147,916	2,166,832		

Members and Executive

- Nil variance to report.

Corporate Services

- The full \$15,000 for Legal expenses has been committed due to legal costs incurred during a case relating to the termination of a previous Manager.
- The full contribution of \$100,000 has been committed to Lightning Ridge opal and Fossil Museum.

Marketing & Promotions

- Nil variance to report.

Financial Services

- The full amount of rates revenue has been raised this period.
- All insurance premiums have been finalised for 2006/2007.
- Finance Section Salaries and Wages are significantly lower due to the absence of an Accountant. This function is being performed by the Acting Manager of Corporate Services and Assistant Accountant. These cost savings are being offset by a Consultant currently contracted to assist in the Accounting function.
- Rate Collection/Recovery Costs are now fully expended. These costs are due to Council's current extensive debt recovery.

Community Services

- Youth Development Officer commenced employment during this period.

Planning & Regulations

- Nil Variance to Report.

Engineering Services

- Nil Variance to Report

Council Plant & Properties

- Nil Variance to Report

Roads & Bridges

- Expenditure is within budgetary constraints.

SHIRE OF WALGETT –AGENDA

Recreation & Community Assets

- The Grant for Airport Security of \$141,162 was received.

Domestic Waste Management

- The full amount of Domestic Waste charges has been raised

Public Order and Safety

- Nil variance to report

Water Services

- The full amount of rates revenue has been raised this period.
- Final progress payment of \$53,000 for funding for Rowena water supply has been received.

Sewer Service

- The full amount of rates revenue has been raised this period.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Monthly Management Report for the period ending 31st October 2006.

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council

Financial Implications:

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

Recommendations:

That Council note the Monthly Management Report and for the period ending 31st October 2006.

MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 21 NOVEMBER 2006
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Item No: 10.

Subject: Rowena Hall – Hiring Charges

Author: Emma Darcy – Acting Manager Corporate Services

File No: 180/08/00/00

Summary:

Members of Rowena Precinct Committee have requested that the hiring fees for the meeting room in Rowena Hall be exempt for the Country Women's Association monthly meeting.

Comments (including issues and background):

At a recent Rowena Precinct Committee meeting there were concerns regarding the charges and administrative procedures in hiring the Rowena hall facilities including meeting room, supper room and main hall. The primary concern was the fee for the meeting room to the local Country Women's Association (CWA). The current charge as listed in the Walgett Shire Council Management Plan 2006-2007 is \$8.00 per day for hiring the Main Hall for the purpose of a meeting.

It has been stated that Council had agreed, in the past, that CWA would be allowed to use this facility without charge as they have provided numerous facilities in the meeting room. Some of these facilities include supplying chairs and basic maintenance of the Hall.

Relevant Reference Documents:

E-mail from Manager Engineering 26/10/06

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council
Country Women's Association – Rowena
Rowena Precinct Committee

Financial Implications:

Based on hiring the hall twelve (12) times annually, the total cost to Council would be \$96.00. This cost to be paid out to Members and Executive – Section 356 Donations.

Recommendations:

- 1. That \$96.00 be transferred from Expenditure – Members and Civic Section 356 Donations, to Revenue – Public Halls for the annual hall hire charge for the use of Rowena Hall to Country Women’s Association – Rowena.**
- 2. Further applications to waive charges will be dealt with on their merits.**
- 3. The subsidised hall charges for Country Women’s Association – Rowena is not seen as a precedent for future applications.**

MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 21 NOVEMBER 2006
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Item No: 11.

Subject: Isolated Children & Parent's Association - Annual Conference

Author: Emma Darcy – Acting Manager Corporate Services

File No: 180/08/00/00

Summary:

The Walgett Branch of Isolated Children's and Parents Association (ICPA) will be hosting the State Conference in March 2007. This event is expected to attract over two hundred people to the Shire and the association is seeking sponsorship from Walgett Shire Council though photocopying and paper.

Comments (including issues and background):

The ICPA State Conference is being hosted in Walgett on 13th and 14th March 2007. This conference is anticipated to attract over 200 delegates and observers to the Shire with representatives from Department of Education & Training, Telstra Countrywide, ICPA Australia, The Land Newspaper, CWA NSW, NSW Parent Council, Outback Mobile Resource Unit, P&C Federation, Royal Flying Doctor, Ministry of Transport, NSW Teachers Federation, Charles Sturt University, Country Board of Studies and the Association of Independent Schools.

The ICPA objective is to promote awareness and understanding of the problems and needs of geographically isolated students and their families, and address the issues that influence on educational opportunities for isolated children.

The State Conference will provide promotion and a tourism opportunity through local tours that are anticipated during the conference. Council will be providing Tourism packs for the conference packs. The Walgett branch ICPA were also granted a \$500.00 donation through Council's annual Section 356 donation granted in September 2006.

The ICPA have further requested that Council provide 30 reams of paper and access to a photocopier to enable them to print registration papers.

Relevant Reference Documents:

ICPA Sponsorship letter
Walgett Branch ICPA letter dated 8 September 2006

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council
Isolated Children's Parents Association

Financial Implications:

Based on Fees and Charges 2006/2007, A4 Double Sided (for over 501 copies) at \$0.25 per copy for 30 reams of paper will cost \$3,750.00. This cost to be paid out of Members & Executive – Section 356 Donations and paid to Revenues - Internet Centre - Sales. The overall effect of this transaction will have a nil effect on the overall budget 2006/2007.

Recommendations:

That \$3,750.00 is transferred from Expenditure – Members & Civic Section 356 Donations, to Revenue – Internet Centre Sales for the printing of registration papers for the ICPA State Conference.



The
Isolated Children's Parents Association
OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC
WALGETT BRANCH

Conference Convenors:

Mrs Judy Newton:
 "Malabar"
 Walgett NSW 2832

Mrs Cheryl Wilson
 "Karlno"
 Walgett NSW 2832

Dear

The NSW State Conference of the ICPA will be held in Walgett on 13th & 14th March 2007.

The Conference will create the opportunity for all branches throughout the State to bring forward motions relevant to rural and remote families. This is in order to meet the ICPA's objective, namely, to promote awareness and understanding of the problems and needs of geographically isolated students and their families.

The Association's Portfolios include educational allowances, boarding facilities, school travel, distant education, curriculum, communication, rural schools, early childhood education, tertiary education and equity programs, all of which have an influence on educational opportunities for isolated children in Australia.

ICPA is an Australia wide organisation and represented by State and Federal Council. We are a charitable organisation and do not profit from ventures undertaken. The few functions that are held to raise funds, simply cover the costs of representation at State and Federal Conferences. The Walgett Branch also provides one tertiary grant each year to a local student who is committed to the rural industry.

In order to successfully host the ICPA State Conference in 2007, we are seeking sponsorship from not only our local community, but from beyond as well. Funds raised will cover general running costs (publicity, postage, sound, photocopying etc.), attendance by State and Federal Representatives, engaging guest speakers, and providing registration satchels (provisions for the Conference as well as local tokens) for all attendees.

It is expected that some 200 to 250 delegates and observers will be in attendance, as well as representatives from Department of Education & Training, Telstra Countrywide, Independent Schools, CWA NSW, ICPA Australia, NSW Parent Council, Outback Mobile Resource Unit, P&C Federation, Royal Flying Doctor, The Land Newspaper, Ministry of Transport, NSW Teachers Federation, National Party (local representative), Charles Sturt University, Country Board of Studies and, the Association of Independent Schools.

SHIRE OF WALGETT -AGENDA

30/10/2006 12:15 FAX 02 88293987

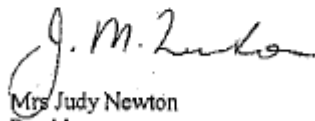
WS JM NEWTON

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It is also hoped that we can showcase the positive aspects of Walgett and the surrounding district. A small isolated town in North-Western NSW, we continue to suffer from the effects of drought and loss of basic services common to many rural areas. Improving education opportunities for all children will benefit not only individuals, but also our communities.

We trust that you will give sponsorship to the NSW ICPA State Conference due consideration and see that it is an extremely worthwhile Association. The education of our children today, insures the future of our communities.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs Judy Newton
President
Walgett Branch ICPA.

MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 21 NOVEMBER 2006
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Item No: 12.

Subject: Reserve 230055 for Public Recreation and Public Baths at Lightning Ridge

Author: John Burke – Finance Officer

File No: 280/05/08/00 & 145/09/03/00

Summary:

Council has been advised by the Department Of Natural Resources that the Lightning Ridge Olympic Pool Association Incorporated has been appointed corporate manager for the Lightning Ridge Public Baths Reserve Trust.

With this change in management Council wishes to cancel the insurance cover on the buildings and contents as from Monday 11 December 2006, and advises they are now to be covered by the Association.

Comments (including issues and background):

Council has previously paid the insurance premium on the buildings of the Olympic Pool, Theme Park, Diving Pool and Tower, and the Multipurpose Centre.

Insurance has been the responsibility of Council in the past; however with the change in management, Council will have no influence in the management of the reserve. There have been issues of liability in the past, where Council should have been covered by the Associations liability but failure to have appropriate cover, resulted in Council being involved in a claim.

Total control by the Association relieves Council of these types of problems in the future.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Correspondence from Department Natural Resources dated 18 August 2006.

Stakeholders:

Lightning Ridge Olympic Pool Association Incorporated.
Department Of Natural Resources
Walgett Shire Council

Financial Implications:

As Council's premium is calculated on the total value of its assets, and the cost to Departments is calculated on an average, the saving to Council would be minimal.

The cost to the Association would be in the vicinity of \$29,000.00, as gained from a quotation received from Council's insurers.

Recommendations:

It is a recommendation of Council that a letter be written to the Lightning Ridge Olympic Pool Association Incorporated advising them of Council's intentions of cancelling the current insurance cover on the buildings and contents of the Lightning Ridge Olympic Pool, Theme Park, Diving Pool and Diving Tower, and that the Association take out the necessary cover, as from Monday 11 December 2006.

Contact: Corinne Shields
Phone: 02) 6883 3014
Our ref: WL89R2



NSW Government

Walgett Shire Council
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
REC'D

21 AUG 2006

The General Manager
Walgett Shire Council
PO Box 31
WALGETT NSW 2832

FILE: 145/09/03/00 18 AUG 2006

LETTER No: 9833

Attention: Kaye Stone

REFER: SSM
PEA NAD

COPY:

Dear Kaye

Reserve 230055 for Public Recreation and Public Baths at Lightning Ridge

Reference is made to our recent discussions concerning the Trust Management of the abovementioned reserve and in particular Council's request to relinquish partial management of the reserve. I wish to advise that the Lightning Ridge Olympic Pool Association Incorporated has been appointed corporate manager for the Lightning Ridge Public Baths Reserve Trust, Reserve 230055 for Public Recreation and Public Baths by notification in the Government Gazette of 11 August 2006. A copy of the Gazettal notice is enclosed for your information.

Please note that, as shown by diagram in the gazette notice, the Lightning Ridge Olympic Pool Association Incorporated is responsible for the care control and management of the water theme park, Olympic pool, indoor heated diving pool and the indoor sports centre. Walgett Shire Council remains responsible, as Trust Manager, of the arts and craft centre and the library.

The Lightning Ridge Olympic Pool Association Incorporated has been notified accordingly.

Should you require any further information please contact me on 02) 6883 3014.

Yours faithfully

Corinne Shields
Acting Transfers and Reserves Coordinator

SCHEDULE 2

COLUMN 1

All Crown Land in the Western Division of the State that is not within a reserve or part of any holding.
File No.: Lands 06/367.

COLUMN 2

Crown Land reserved for future public requirements by notification in the *Government Gazette* of 31 March 2006, as Reserve No. 1011448.

SCHEDULE

COLUMN 1

Lightning Ridge Olympic Pool Association Incorporated.

COLUMN 2

Lightning Ridge Public Baths Reserve Trust.

COLUMN 3

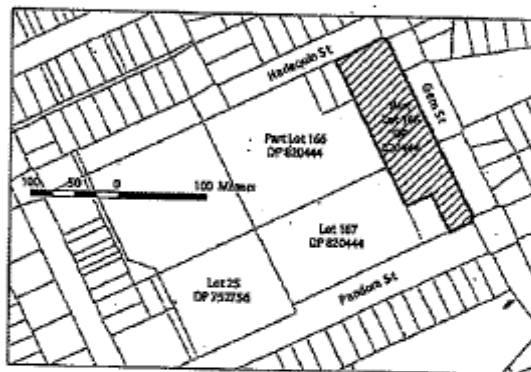
Part Reserve 230055, for the public purpose of public recreation and public baths, notified in the *Government Gazette* of 25 August 1989, being the water theme park, olympic pool, partially complete indoor heated diving complex and indoor spots complex and surrounding enclosed land having an area of about 1 hectare as shown by hatching on diagram hereunder.
File No.: WL89 R2/2.

APPOINTMENT OF CORPORATION TO MANAGE RESERVE TRUST

PURSUANT to section 92(6B) of the Crown Lands Act 1989, the corporation specified in Column 1 of the Schedule hereunder, is appointed to manage the affairs of the reserve trust specified opposite thereto in Column 2 for that part of the reserve referred to in Column 3 of the Schedule.

This appointment acknowledges that the corporation that was appointed in the *Government Gazette* of 25 August 1989, to manage the affairs of the reserve trust specified in Column hereunder will now have the function of managing the balance of Reserve 230055, i.e. excluding the part referred to in Column 3 of the Schedule.

TONY KELLY, M.L.C.,
Minister for Lands



Reserve Trust Management Committee

Appointed Trust Manager
to:-Walgett Shire Council

Kaye Stone
Secretary of the Reserve Trust
Management Committee
Telephone: (02) 6828 6117
Mobile: 0428 961 503

All communication to be addressed

General Manager
Walgett Shire Council
PO Box 31, Walgett NSW 2832
Telephone: (02) 6828 1399
Facsimile: (02) 6828 1608
Email: admin@walgettshire.com

23 June 2006

Andrew Bell
Manager
Land Administration
Department of Natural Resources
Far West Region
PO Box 1840
DUBBO NSW 2830

Dear Mr Bell

Lightning Ridge Public Baths Reserve (R230055)

Walgett Shire Council as the appointed Reserve Trust Manager of the Lightning Ridge Public Baths Reserve would like to advise that they are prepared to relinquish the management of the said reserve, on the condition that the Lightning Ridge Olympic Pool Association accepts the appointment as reserve trust manager of the Lightning Ridge Public Baths Reserve.

Please do not hesitate in contacting me on (02) 68286141 if you have any queries.

Regards

Kaye Stone
Secretary Lightning Ridge Public Baths Reserve
Management Committee

MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 21 NOVEMBER 2006
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Item No: 13.

Subject: Investment Report as at 31 October 2006

Author: John Burke – Finance Officer

File No: 180/02/01/00

Summary:

This report summarises the investments of Walgett Shire Council for the month of October 2006

Comments (including issues and background):

The Investment summary as at 31 October 2006 is as follows:

SHIRE OF WALGETT –AGENDA

INVESTMENTS - CONSOLIDATED							
Council investments have been made in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 No 30, the regulations and council's investment policy							
Investment Institution	Type of Investment	Term (days)	Rate %	Ref	Reset Date	Maturity Date	
IMB Ltd	Term Deposit	363	5.91	372/06		6/03/2007	\$ 500,000.00
Bankwest	Term Deposit	180	6.13	393/06		5/12/2006	\$ 500,000.00
Bank of Qld	Term Deposit	189	6.06	394/06		19/12/2006	\$ 500,000.00
Savings & Loans Credit Union	Term Deposit	195	6.25	398/06		11/01/2007	\$ 250,000.00
Westpac	Term Deposit	335	5.65	357/05		1/11/2006	\$ 500,000.00
CBA	Term Deposit	365	5.65	360/05		10/12/2006	\$ 300,000.00
National	Term Deposit	365	5.63	356/05		30/11/2006	\$ 500,000.00
Local Govt Financial Services	Term Deposit	154	6.05	400/06		12/12/2006	\$ 300,000.00
Westpac	Term Deposit	161	5.88	401/07		16/01/2007	\$ 300,000.00
Bankwest	Term Deposit	167	6.32	402/07		23/01/2007	\$ 300,000.00
Bank of Qld	Term Deposit	168	6.43	403/07		30/01/2007	\$ 250,000.00
Citibank	Term Deposit	169	6.37	404/07		2/02/2007	\$ 500,000.00
Citibank	Term Deposit	187	6.37	405/07		20/02/2007	\$ 300,000.00
National	Term Deposit	138	6.07	406/07		2/01/2007	\$ 300,000.00
Cimminvest (FIIG Securities)	Term Deposit	180	6.20	407/07		13/02/2007	\$ 500,000.00
ACCU (FIIG Securities)	Term Deposit	200	6.53	408/07		6/03/2007	\$ 500,000.00
Savings & Loans Credit Union (FIIG Securities)	Term Deposit	193	6.44	409/07		27/02/2007	\$ 500,000.00
Bankwest	Term Deposit	203	6.40	410/07		13/03/2007	\$ 500,000.00
Bankwest	Term Deposit	203	6.43	411/07		20/03/2007	\$ 300,000.00
Suncorp	Term Deposit	203	6.38	412/07		27/03/2007	\$ 500,000.00
National	Term Deposit	202	6.19	413/07		3/04/2007	\$ 500,000.00
Citibank	Term Deposit	209	6.37	414/07		10/04/2007	\$ 500,000.00
CBA	Term Deposit	91	7.50	415/07		16/12/2006	\$ 500,000.00
Royal Bank Canada	Term Deposit	91	7.70	416/07		16/12/2006	\$ 500,000.00
IMB Ltd	Term Deposit	203	6.36	417/07		17/04/2007	\$ 300,000.00
Savings & Loans Credit Union	Term Deposit	195	6.43	418/07		24/07/2007	\$ 500,000.00
Local Govt Financial Services	Term Deposit	196	6.45	419/07		1/05/2007	\$ 500,000.00
							\$ 11,400,000.00

Recommendation:

That the Investment Summary report as at 31 October 2006 be received and noted.

MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 21 NOVEMBER 2006
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Item No: 14.

Subject: Investments

Author: John Burke – Finance Officer

File No: 180/02/01/00

Summary:

Council has been approached by Investment Banking Services enquiring whether Council would be interested in investing funds with their organisations.

A full report will be submitted at the Council Meeting.

MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 21 NOVEMBER 2006
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Item No: 15.

Subject: Review of Council's Investment Policy

Author: John Burke – Finance Officer

File No: 180/02/01/00

Summary:

Council's Investment Policy is currently under review, and will be presented at the Council Meeting.

MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 21 NOVEMBER 2006
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Item No: 16.

Subject: Walgett Shire Tourism Development Strategy 2007/2010 (**Appendix Attachment**)

Author: Alana Douglas – Tourism Development Officer

File No: 245/02/01/01

Summary:

The Walgett Shire Tourism Development Strategy is essential to indicate actions required to accelerate tourism growth in the region and to assist in developing a coordinated and strategic tourism development approach from the Walgett Shire Council, key stakeholders and the entire Walgett Shire community.

The strategy explains the current environment including market trends and statistics it gives an in-depth exploration of the tourism situation within the Walgett Shire. The strategy then identifies opportunities goals and actions that will benefit Walgett Shire.

The strategy acknowledges the main priorities at this stage are:

- Tourism Industry Development
- Visitor Information Services
- Marketing & Promotion
- Tourism Signage
- Tourism Industry Communication

Comments (including issues and background):

As a three year strategy it must be noted that actions and objectives may change as tourism and the economic environment may, hence the strategy will need to be updated as these changes occur.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Tourism Development Strategy 2007-2010 including the Action Plan (Appendix A)

Stakeholders:

See page 36 of document

Recommendations:

That Council receive the Walgett Shire Tourism Development Strategy with the intent to adopt this strategy after public consultation has taken place and all stakeholders have had the opportunity to make comments regarding the strategy known to Council and changes have been implemented.

MANAGER PLANNING AND REGULATIONS REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 21 NOVEMBER 2006
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Item No: 17.

Subject: Development and Complying Development Certificate Applications

Author: Matthew Goodwin – Manager Planning and Regulations

File No: 315/01/00/00

Summary:

This report provides a summary of the Development and Complying Development Certificate applications recently dealt with by the Manager Planning and Regulation and General Manager under delegated authority.

Comments (including issues and background):

The following tables provide a summary of Development (DA) and Complying Development Certificate (CDC) applications dealt with under delegated authority by the Manager Planning and Regulation and General Manager during October 2006.

DA	DEVELOPMENT	DECISION	DATE	LAND (lot/sec/DP)	LOCATION	ZONING
2006026	Install 12m triad mast & ancillary equipment	Approved	17-Oct-06	2842//764976	Lightning Ridge	1. Non-urban
2006027	Install 9m triad mast & ancillary equipment	Approved	17-Oct-06	6275//769132	Lightning Ridge	1. Non-urban
2006028	Install 9m triad mast - for telephone service	Approved	25-Oct-06	2321//764267	Lightning Ridge	1. Non-urban
2006029	Change temporary accommodation to permanent accommodation	Approved	13-Oct-06	33//837866	Lightning Ridge	2. Village

CDC	DEVELOPMENT	DECISION	DATE	LAND (lot/sec/DP)	LOCATION	ZONING
Nil						

Relevant Reference Documents:

- Respective Development Application and Complying Development Certificate files.

Stakeholders:

Public and applicants.

Financial Implications:

Nil.

Recommendations:

That Walgett Shire Council resolve to note the Development and Complying Development Certificate applications dealt with under delegated authority by the Manager Planning and Regulation and General Manager during October 2006.

MANAGER ENGINEERING REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 21 NOVEMBER 2006

Item No: 18.

Subject: Parks & Sporting Grounds

Author: Alan Nelson – Manager of Engineering

File No: 021/06/01/00

Summary:

This report relates to a management plan requirement to investigate the rationalisation of parks and sporting grounds in Walgett Shire. Outside the Walgett township, there appears to be no justification at the present time to reduce the number of parks and sporting grounds available for public use.

Comments (including issues and background):

The 2006/07 Management Plan includes a requirement to 'rationalise the number of parks and sporting grounds under the control of Council in an effort to ensure that fewer facilities, of a significantly higher standard, are provided'.

Public consultation has been undertaken with very little feedback received. The feedback received, which Council should be aware of prior to making any determination relative to this matter is as follows:

1. Eloura Park (in Euroka Street) should be retained as it was developed by others as a park many years ago. The historic survey marker at the rear of the adjoining property should be incorporated into the park to allow public access to it.
2. Gilbert Park, at the eastern end of Gilbert Street, should be retained as a park and maintained to an improved standard.
3. A park should be considered for the central section of Burren Junction in the general vicinity of the swimming pool.

The thrust of the management plan notation was not necessarily to close down functioning facilities, but rather see undeveloped recreational land sold and the proceeds used to improve existing facilities. Some community concerns that established, and frequently utilised, facilities would be closed down have no foundation.

Having regard to the results of public consultation, the following measures are suggested:

1. Dispose of the land comprising Eloura Park (Lot 33 DP 253488) as land suitable for residential development – a single house block. This land is shown as 'A' on

SHIRE OF WALGETT –AGENDA

the attached map. The park has been allowed to deteriorate to the extent that it is now unrecognisable as a park and the public consultation process indicated little need for the facility. The matter of public access to the historic survey marker at the rear of the adjoining property (8 Euroka Street –owned by Council) can and should be provided by a subdivision of this land with access from the reserve at the rear.

2. Disposal of the land comprising an unnamed park (Lot 31 DP 226373) located at the end of Thomas Street and running between Gilbert and Arthur Streets. This land is shown as 'B' on the attached map. It is suggested that this land be retained by Council as operational land, with a view to constructing some new staff accommodation on it. This land has never been developed and simply resembles an undeveloped urban site.

It is not suggested that any parkland outside Walgett be considered for conversion into operational land with a view towards disposal. It is considered that Burren Junction, at the present time, has sufficient parkland relative to its size, and an additional park would be difficult to justify or afford.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Council Minute 43/06 – February 2006

Map showing locations of the two park areas suggested for changed use.

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council
Residents of Walgett Shire

Financial Implications:

Unknown at this stage.

Recommendation:

1. **After the reclassification of the land to “operational” via the impending gazettal of a land reclassification Local Environmental Plan that Council consider disposal of land know locally as Eloura Park (Lot 33, DP. 253488) as a single housing block and that the proceeds of this sale be reinvested in parks facilities in Walgett.**
2. **That Council retain Lot 31 DP 226373 once classified as operational land for potential use as a site for new staff accommodation.**

SHIRE OF WALGETT –AGENDA

SHIRE OF WALGETT - MINUTES

40/06 – Auslink Strategic Regional Programme

It was resolved on the Motion of the Administrator that Council endorse action to date in preparing submissions for funding under the Auslink Strategic Regional Programme for works on the Walgett to Carinda Road and the Collarenebri to Mungindi Road.

Carried.

41/06 – Tenders – Local Preference

It was resolved on the Motion of the Administrator that tenders for the supply of materials and services, for a two year period from 1 July 2006, be sought on the basis of not allowing any local preference.

Carried.

42/06 – 'Benny Walford's Crossing' – Regional Road No 426

It was resolved on the Motion of the Administrator that Council advise the Geographical Names Board of NSW that it has considered the objection, however it remains supportive of its previous position that the crossing be named 'Benny Walford's Crossing' in view of the solid community support that the proposal has received.

Carried.

43/06 – Eloura Park, Walgett

It was resolved on the Motion of the Administrator that a further report be compiled, relating to the inventory of parks and sporting grounds in Walgett and the capacity of Council, based upon present funding levels, to adequately maintain and develop these. Furthermore, that any decision relating to the future of Eloura Park be deferred pending consideration of this report.

Carried.

44/06 – Walgett Shire Council Consultative Committee Minutes – 13/12/05

It was resolved on the Motion of the Administrator that the Minutes of the Consultative Committee held on 13 December 2005, be received and noted and that the recommendations listed in the Minutes be endorsed.

Carried.

45/06 – Local Area Traffic Committee Meeting – 19/01/06

It was resolved on the Motion of the Administrator that the Minutes of the Local Area Traffic Committee held on 19 January 2006 be received and noted and the recommendations listed in the Minutes be endorsed, with the exception of recommendation seven of the Minutes.

Carried.



MANAGER ENGINEERING REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 21 NOVEMBER 2006

Item No: 19.

Subject: Timber Bridge Replacement Programme

Author: Alan Nelson – Manager of Engineering

File No: 195/04/00/00

Summary:

This report briefs Council on an announcement by the NSW Government, which partially restores the Timber Bridge Replacement Programme.

Comments (including issues and background):

The Premier has announced that the NSW Government will invest \$60 million in a three year partnership with Councils to upgrade timber bridges on regional roads. This announcement effectively matches an earlier promise from the State Opposition. Whilst this is welcome, it falls short of the original programme, which promised a longer programme which would have seen all timber bridges on regional roads replaced over an eight year period.

Further advice is awaited from the RTA and, until this advice is received, it is not possible to indicate to Council which timber bridges in Walgett Shire may be replaced over the three year partnership referred to above. In total 285 bridges have been identified for inclusion in the programme, however at this stage it is not known which bridges in Walgett Shire are contained in this list. A first round of 11 bridges has already been announced, however this area of the state only has one bridge included, this being located in Warren Shire.

A further report will be submitted in due course when this advice is received.

Relevant Reference Documents:

LG&SA Weekly Circular 44/06 – Item 8

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council
Roads and Traffic Authority
NSW Government

Financial Implications:

SHIRE OF WALGETT –AGENDA

Unknown at this stage. As this programme requires a 50% local contribution, some revision of the Five Year Road Plan is likely to be needed.

Recommendation:

That Council note the partial restoration of the Timber Bridge Replacement Programme.

Roads and Transport

Item 8: State Government Timber Bridge Funding Partnership

Contact: Richard Connors, Policy and Research

NSW Premier Morris Iemma has announced the NSW Government will invest \$60 million in a three year Timber Bridge partnership for councils to upgrade their timber bridges.

The Premier made the announcement while addressing delegates at the Country Labor Conference in Queanbeyan on Saturday 28 October.

There are 285 timber bridges on council managed regional roads that will be eligible for upgrading under the new program. The funding will be provided on a 50:50 matching basis with local councils, and will be available this financial year.

A first round of 11 bridges has been identified by the Roads and Traffic Authority as eligible for upgrade:

- Bridge over Turallo Creek on the Tarago Road, Bungendore
- Bridge over Spring Creek on the Sofala to Mudgee Road
- Bridge over Gunderman Creek on the Wisemans Ferry to Kariong Road
- Flood Channel Bridge Number 1 over the Neimer River Flood plain on the Barham to Maude Road in Wakool Shire
- Bridge over Perch Creek, on the Lismore to Murwillumbah Road
- Bridge over the Peel River at Nundle
- Bridge on Glenhaven Road, Baulkham Hills
- Bridge over Meakers Gully on the Bega to Bermagui Road in Bega Valley Shire
- Bridge over Merri Merri Creek on the Warren to Carinda Road, in Warren Shire
- Bean Creek Bridge, Woodenbong Road near Tabulam
- Bridge over Gum Creek on the Parkes to Canowindra Road.

The RTA will contact councils to identify further bridges eligible under the program, and to outline details of the funding arrangements. It is understood that in some cases funding will be made available commencing this financial year.

The LGSA welcomes the government's commitment to this vital funding program, which matches the similar recent State Opposition pledge and addresses the concerns raised by the Associations since the postponement of the previous RTA Regional Road Timber Bridge funding program. We remain concerned, however, that this new announcement is for a three year funding stream only, and will be making representations aimed at extending the program beyond this period to enable all timber bridges on councils' regional road network to benefit from the program.

R90/1270

MANAGER ENGINEERING REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 21 NOVEMBER 2006

Item No: 20.

Subject: Old Council Chambers

Author: Alan Nelson – Manager of Engineering

File No: 005/05/01/00

Summary:

This report recommends that a quotation be accepted to construct a protective concrete slab/cut off wall around the perimeter of the Old Council Chambers to protect the building from further damage because of varying moisture content of the soil in the vicinity of the building's foundations.

Comments (including issues and background):

Council's Heritage Advisor has stressed the importance of undertaking the construction of a protective concrete slab around the perimeter of the Old Council Chambers in Fox Street, Walgett. This work was previously specified in a report undertaken by a structural engineer, following concerns about deterioration of the building. Essentially, the building is suffering because of unstable moisture content in the soil in the vicinity of the building's foundations. The purpose of the concrete slab/cut off wall is to stabilise, as far as possible, the moisture content of the soil in the vicinity of the foundations.

Several quotations were sought, but only one was actually received. The work is not considered suitable for Council's own staff to execute in a cost efficient manner, accordingly the one quote received, in an amount of \$16,500 (inclusive of GST) is recommended for acceptance. No concerns are held as to the capacity of this contractor to adequately complete the work.

There are no funds in the current budget for this work, however the work is capital in nature and would be depreciated over a very long period. Accordingly, the work could proceed at the short term expense of Council's cash flow.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Report from Heritage Advisor (not attached)
Report from Structural Engineer (not attached)

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council
Walgett and District Historical Society

Financial Implications:

This work was not provided for in the 2006/2007 Management Plan. As the construction is of a capital nature, the initial impact on the 2006/2007 Budget will be nil as the work will be capitalised. The payment will however affect the budgeted Cash Flow Statement.

Recommendation:

That Council accept the single quotation received, in an amount of \$16,500 (inclusive of GST), to construct a concrete slab/cut off wall around the perimeter of the Old Council Chambers and that this work be funded from Council's cash reserves.

MANAGER ENGINEERING REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 21 NOVEMBER 2006

Item No: 21.

Subject: Application for Connection to Town Water Supply

Author: Alan Nelson – Manager of Engineering

File No: 255/05/04/00

Summary:

This report recommends that, in response to an application from Mr Hayward Little, to allow a connection to the Lightning Ridge town water supply, Council reaffirms the position it took in September 2006 and refuses the application.

Comments (including issues and background):

In September 2006, Council resolved not to supply reticulated water to the preserved opal fields at Lightning Ridge. As a consequence of this resolution, an application by Mr Hayward Little, to connect to the town water supply, was refused.

Subsequent to this, Mr Little has again written to Council, asking that the previous decision to refuse him permission to connect his residential claim to the town water supply be reconsidered. Council may recall at the September meeting, that Mr Little spoke at the Public Forum and was supported by Mr Ian Woodcock, a former Council Mayor.

Mr Little has indicated that he would connect to the private line supplying Mr and Mrs P Tishler and would connect into his rainwater tank. He adds that his connection would not sterilise the opal fields and any leaks, if they were to occur, would not adversely affect other mining claims. He points out that, this year, an unlawful connection was legitimised and his application should be approved for this reason.

Whilst I can sympathise with Mr Little and accept that this connection, in isolation, would not place an unreasonable demand on the town water supply, Council had sound reasons to establish the position it did in September 2006. If Mr Little's application is approved, it is highly likely that other applications will be received and it will be difficult for Council to act consistently and not approve them. It is considered that past decisions of Council, in supplying water outside the Lightning Ridge town boundary, have largely created the current difficulty and, in my opinion, these difficulties will only be compounded if the application of Mr Little is approved.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Council Minute 251/06 – September 2006
Letter from Mr Hayward Little (not attached)

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Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council
Mr Hayward Little

Financial Implications:

There are no significant financial implications associated with this matter, irrespective of whether Mr Little's application is approved or not.

Recommendation:

That Council reaffirms the position it took in September 2006 and that an application from Mr Hayward Little, to connect his residential claim to the town water supply, be refused.

SHIRE OF WALGETT- MINUTES

251/06 – Water Supply to Preserved Opal Fields – Lightning Ridge

RESOLUTION:-

It was resolved on the Motion of the Administrator:

1. That Council not permit people residing outside the Lightning Ridge Town Boundary within the preserved opal fields, the opportunity to lawfully connect to Council's town water supply.
2. That those residing on Western Lands Leases and Mining Purpose Leases who are already lawfully connected, and have been connected for sometime, as a consequence of decisions of previous administrations, be allowed to retain their connections.

Carried.

252/06 – Road Purchase Application

RESOLUTION:-

It was resolved on the Motion of the Administrator that Council lodge an application to close public roads contained within Enclosure Permit 45838 as well as the crown road located between Lots 5 and 35 DP 752264, subject to the landholder meeting all costs associated with the application to the Department of Lands.

Carried.

253/06 – Mission Road

RESOLUTION:-

It was resolved on the Motion of the Administrator that the recommendation contained in the Council Business Paper be withdrawn and the following amendment is adopted. That this matter be deferred of any action pending further community consultation relating to heavy vehicle passage through Walgett.

Carried.

254/06 – Walgett Levee

RESOLUTION:-

It was resolved on the Motion of the Administrator that Council engage the Department of Commerce, on the basis of a single invited quotation, to undertake pre-construction activities associated with the rehabilitation of the Walgett Flood Levee.

Carried.

MANAGER ENGINEERING REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 21 NOVEMBER 2006

Item No: 22.

Subject: Regulation of Air Transport NSW

Author: Alan Nelson – Manager of Engineering

File No: 255/07/00/00

Summary:

This report recommends that Council makes a submission to a current review of Air Transport Regulation and Licensing in New South Wales, opposing the deregulation of the service between Dubbo and Walgett/Lightning Ridge.

Comments (including issues and background):

The State Government is currently inviting public submissions to a review of Air Transport Regulation and Licensing, with submissions closing on 8 December next. Under current policy, smaller intrastate air services are regulated with a one route, one operator licence agreement. This policy recognises that smaller routes are potentially vulnerable and aims to protect them from competition to improve service reliability and encourage market development. Routes with higher passenger numbers are deregulated.

Services to Walgett and Lightning Ridge are operated by Air Link, which is now part of Regional Express. In the year to June 2006, passenger numbers for the Dubbo-Coonamble-Walgett-Lightning Ridge service totalled about 2,500 or some 46% of available seating capacity. Clearly, if the route was opened to competition, and a second carrier entered the market, the outcome would not be positive.

The options paper, released by the Ministry for Transport, suggests that five main options need to be considered, these being:

1. Deregulate the entire market
2. Adopt 100,000 passengers as the threshold, on the basis that airlines generally do not compete below this level
3. Leave unaltered the list of routes already deregulated by the Minister
4. Continue using the 50,000 passenger per annum threshold
5. Lower the threshold to 35,000 passengers per annum

Only option 1 would have any direct bearing on Walgett Shire and, as foreshadowed in the options paper, is unlikely to gain community support nor could it be seen to be in the public interest. The public interest justification for regulating intrastate air routes is further supported by the competitive tendering process proposed for the allocation of new licences from March 2008.

SHIRE OF WALGETT –AGENDA

As Walgett Shire is unaffected by Options 2 to 5 inclusive, I am reluctant to make a recommendation relating to these options, particularly as I do not possess the degree of knowledge of other markets which would be necessary to justify any recommendation. It is suggested that Walgett Shire make a submission solely pointing out the problems that option 1 could potentially bring to Walgett Shire.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Ministry of Transport Website
Local Government Weekly 43/06 – Item 17

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council
NSW Government
Airline Operators

Financial Implications:

Not Applicable

Recommendation:

That Council make a submission to the New South Wales Government, opposing the deregulation of the air transport service between Dubbo and Lightning Ridge via Coonamble and Walgett.



MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

Related Links

[Air Transport Regulation & Licensing in NSW](#)

[Licensing Information, Application Package and Form](#)

[NSW Rural & Regional Air Operators](#)

[Passenger Statistics](#)

Air Transport Regulation & Licensing in NSW

Public Consultation

Interested parties can make a submission directed to the Manager Aviation, and headed "Air Transport Policy", either by:

- Email: mail@transport.nsw.gov.au
- Fax: (02) 9268 2947, or
- Mail: Ministry of Transport, GPO Box 1620, Sydney NSW 2001

Closing date for submissions: Friday 8 December 2006.

Submissions will be posted on the Ministry of Transport website.

Any part of a submission considered by its author to be confidential should be separated from the body of the submission and clearly marked confidential.

Where confidential information is to be submitted, the matter should first be discussed with the Manager Aviation, Ministry of Transport, to ascertain its confidentiality in the public interest.

Please direct any telephone inquiries to the Manager Aviation, Ministry of Transport, on (02) 9268 2828.

Background

Air Services within NSW linking smaller communities to Sydney Kingsford Smith Airport are regulated by the New South Wales Government, under the [Air Transport Act 1964](#).

New South Wales intrastate air routes (to/from Sydney Kingsford Smith Airport) with an annual passenger volume of less than 50,000 are regulated (currently all are allocated to one operator per route). *See the Special Note below.

Routes with an annual passenger volume above 50,000, which account for some 75% of all intrastate passengers in NSW, are deregulated, as are all other intrastate air routes not linked to Sydney

<http://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/air/>

30/10/2006

Kingsford Smith Airport.

Issues such as aviation security, safety and airworthiness of aircraft, competence of the flight crew, maintenance systems and operations management, are covered by Commonwealth Government regulations. State Government regulation of intrastate air services applies only to route-operator allocation and does not cover issues of safety.

*** Special Note:**

- The 50,000 threshold was adopted in October 2002.
- Five-year licences (March 2003 - March 2008) were committed to concurrently.
- Newcastle Williamtown is deregulated regardless of it trading below threshold.
- Where regulated routes now exceed the 50,000 level, the five-year commitment takes precedence over deregulating the routes.
- Regulated route licence will run their full term, subject to licence conditions.
- Threshold policies and the question of whether or not any regulated routes will be deregulated are being reviewed in the lead up to expiry of licences in March 2008.

Before the threshold policy decision was made in 2002, the Government had considered work undertaken by airline Administrators, following the collapse of Ansett and its regional subsidiaries, on the viability of regional air services. Outcomes of this work can be summarised as follows:

- In terms of providing a commercial return to operators, it was considered that there was scope for two airlines only on routes with a volume in excess of approximately 100,000 passengers per annum.
- In the range 100,000 to 65,000, the analysis considered that these ports would be capable of supporting one carrier with full time aircraft and another with partly committed aircraft.
- Between 65,000 and 35,000 the view was that only one operator using 36 seat aircraft full time would be commercially viable.
- Towns generating passenger volumes between 35,000 and 6,000 could support one carrier using 19 seat aircraft on a full time or part time basis.
- Below 6,000 passengers per annum, it is thought that only small 9-12 seat aircraft would be viable, generally feeding into larger regional centres and having on line booking arrangements with one or more of the principal carriers.
- Current experience in NSW is that airlines compete on routes in excess of about 100,000 passengers per annum, with competition also occurring on the Sydney-Williamtown route, at approximately 50,000 passengers per annum.

There are currently three deregulated routes, operating between approximately 50,000 and 100,000 passengers per annum, without competition.

Passenger statistics can be viewed on this website.

Options & Issues

It would appear that five main options need to be considered:

1. Deregulate the entire market.
2. Adopt 100,000 as the threshold, on the basis that airlines generally do not compete below this level.
3. Leave unaltered the list of routes already deregulated by the Minister (identified below under "Air Transport Amendment Act 2006").
4. Continue using the 50,000 passengers per annum threshold.
5. Lower the threshold to say 35,000 passengers per annum.

These options and the principal issues they raise are discussed below and provide a guide to the Ministry of Transport's thinking at this time.

Option 1 is unlikely to gain community support or be seen to be in the public interest, based on the debate in the NSW Parliament in 2006. (Legislative Assembly Second Reading, 28 February 2006; Resumption of Legislative Assembly Second Reading, 29 March 2006; Legislative Council Second Reading, 11 May 2006.)

The public interest justification for regulating intrastate air routes is further supported by there also being a competitive tendering process proposed for the allocation of new air transport licences to commence 30 March 2008.

Option 2 would double the passenger threshold, while option 3 would effectively raise it from 50,000 to 65,000. In both cases, any change would require justification in relation to how the public interest is served by increasing the level of protection.

If option 4 was adopted, three currently regulated routes (Sydney to Griffith, Lismore and Orange) would be deregulated once the existing licences expired in March 2008. The service provisions for those routes would then be left entirely up to the airline market to determine.

Option 5 would result in only one more route (Sydney to Merimbula) being deregulated. Competition at or below this level would almost certainly be financially unsustainable and hence raises questions regarding the usefulness of encouraging more than one airline onto such routes.

A further issue to be considered is what license term would be most suitable for the new license term commencing 30 March 2008.

Unless persuasive counter arguments are received, a five year term may be favoured. This is on the basis that it presents a balance between giving airlines time to grow the markets and providing communities with the opportunity to test the markets for alternative service proposals.

It should also be noted that the Sydney to Newcastle Williamtown route would continue to be deregulated regardless of threshold levels, due to its particular operating environment.

Air Transport Amendment Act 2006

This legislation came into force on 1 July 2006.

It abolished the previously mandated State licensing and associated fees for both air charter companies operating within NSW and airlines flying the larger intrastate routes.

The legislation allows for airline routes servicing smaller communities to continue to be licensed and regulates air transport on those routes, to encourage stability, route development and continuity of services. Accordingly, existing regulated route licences will continue to have effect until they expire in March 2008.

Although charter operators will no longer be required to hold a State licence, provisions continue to apply to ensure that only airlines provide regular public transport services.

On 23 June 2006, an Order by the Minister for Transport was published in the Government Gazette, to declare deregulated routes as the routes between Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport and Albury, Armidale, Ballina, Coffs Harbour, Dubbo, Port Macquarie, Tamworth, Wagga Wagga and Williamtown, and any routes not linked to Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport.

Also on 23 June 2006, a Regulation by the Governor was published in the Government Gazette, requiring all operators to submit quarterly passenger statistics to the Ministry of Transport, for each route linked to Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport, whether regulated or deregulated. This Regulation is to ensure continued collection and publication of data on intrastate airline activity.

The licensing functions on regulated routes is vested in the Director General. There is now an appeal provision, absent prior to 1 July 2006, making decisions made by the Director General with respect to a licence application reviewable by the Administrative Decisions Tribunal.

The Air Transport Council has been abolished and will be replaced with a more relevant State Aviation Working Group to ensure representation that includes local government and the airline industry. The Working Group is to advise on matters relating to the regulation of services and seek the views of persons with an interest in service provision.

The Working Group will be informed by the responses to the public consultation process.

Ministry of Transport

The Ministry's reception is at Level 21, 227 Elizabeth Street, Sydney NSW 2000. Correspondence and information requests on regional aviation matters should be directed to:

Manager Aviation: John Morandini; Tel: (02) 9268 2828

Administrative Assistant: Shika Raju; Tel: (02) 9268 2884; Fax: (02) 9268 2947; Email: shika.raju@transport.nsw.gov.au

Mailing Address: Ministry of Transport, GPO Box 1620, Sydney NSW 2001

Links

- [Local Government Association of NSW and the Shires Association of NSW](#)
- [Regional Airlines Association of Australia](#)
- [Sydney Airport](#)
- [Civil Aviation Safety Authority](#)
- [Airservices Australia](#)
- [Commonwealth Department of Transport and Regional Services](#)

Updated: Wednesday, 11 October 2006

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Roads and Transport

Item 17: Regulation of Air Transport in NSW – Public Consultation

Contact: Richard Connors, Policy and Research

The NSW Government has announced a public consultation process to seek community input into future policy on the regulation of intrastate air transport services.

Under current policy smaller intrastate air services are regulated, with a one route – one airline license agreement. This policy recognises that smaller routes are potentially vulnerable, and aims to protect them from competition to improve service reliability and encourage market development. Larger routes are deregulated.

The public consultation process will help the State Government decide whether the current policy for determining what routes will be regulated should be maintained or changed when new licence terms commence on 30 March 2008.

The public consultation process will close on Friday 8 December 2008. Further information on the existing NSW Government air licensing policies and the public consultation process can be found at the Ministry of Transport website at www.transport.nsw.gov.au/air/

Councils are encouraged to consider these issues and to provide submissions or feedback to the Ministry of Transport during this consultation process. The Associations will also be making a submission to the review and we therefore would appreciate any views or copies of council submissions as part of this process. These can be forwarded to Richard Connors, Senior Policy Office, Roads and Transport, 9242 4073 or richard.connors@lgsa.org.au.

R90/0846

<p style="text-align: center;">MANAGER ENGINEERING REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 21 NOVEMBER 2006</p>

Item No: 23.

Subject: Lightning Ridge Cemetery

Author: Alan Nelson – Manager of Engineering

File No: 135/02/16/01

This report recommends that Council participates with BEST Employment and the Lightning Ridge Funeral Advisory Committee in the development and implementation of a 'Work for the Dole' project based around the Lightning Ridge Cemetery.

Comments (including issues and background):

BEST Employment in Lightning Ridge has approached Council, seeking the establishment of a partnership between the two parties and the Lightning Ridge Funeral Advisory Committee to undertake a "Work for the Dole" project at Lightning Ridge Cemetery. The project would have the basic objective of improving the basic attractiveness of the facility by undertaking intensive maintenance works, as well as some sustainable improvement works.

Lightning Ridge based Council staff currently carry out maintenance in the Lightning Ridge Cemetery, to the extent of the resources available to them, taking into consideration other town priorities as well. Despite the best efforts of Council staff in Lightning Ridge, there is no doubt that the facility would benefit greatly from a "Work for the Dole" project as suggested above.

A vote of \$60,000 has been made in the current financial year for Cemeteries Maintenance and, with one third of the year gone; expenditure of \$20,000 is in accordance with budget forecasts. However, if the above project partnership is to be entered into, Council may be required to supply an on site supervisor and, over the six month life of the project, this will cost about \$26,000. Obviously, if this were to occur, it would not be possible to undertake routine maintenance at the other cemeteries and not overspend the budget. It may be possible to source a supervisor from within the ranks of the unemployed and, if this were to occur, the cost to Council would be substantially reduced. However, the success of the project is dependant, to a large extent, on the leadership of the supervisor and any temptation, to save money at the expense of sound supervision, should be avoided. A third possibility, which would probably work in well with Council's ongoing commitments in Lightning Ridge, would be to assign overall supervision to a permanent Council employee on the basis that they would not be on site full time and assign site supervision to a project participant. This would reduce Council's costs to about \$10,000.

On the basis of part time supervision by a Council employee, and assuming that additional labour is not engaged to make up for the fact that an employee is taken away from normal duties for a period, the overall impact on Council's budget is minimal.

SHIRE OF WALGETT –AGENDA

Some over expenditure on cemeteries will be balanced by a corresponding under expenditure in another area. In essence, this part time supervisor is being paid, irrespective of whether they are working at the Cemetery or anywhere else. The only difference might be a higher pay rate for an employee engaged in supervision which may not otherwise apply.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Nil – contact to date has been oral

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council
BEST Employment
Lightning Ridge Funeral Advisory Committee

Financial Implications:

On the basis of part time supervision by a Council employee, the overall cost to Council would be minimal. If, for whatever reason, this option is deemed inappropriate, the cost could increase to as much as \$26,000.

Recommendation:

- 1. That Council participate with BEST Employment and the Lightning Ridge Funeral Advisory Committee in the development of a “Work for the Dole” project at Lightning Ridge Cemetery on the basis of providing part time supervision at minimal cost.**
- 2. That, in the event of Council needing to provide full time supervision to the project, at an estimated cost of \$26,000, a further report is submitted to Council before a commitment is made to participate in the project.**

MANAGER ENGINEERING REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 21 NOVEMBER 2006

Item No: 24.

Subject: Motor Vehicles – Leaseback Rates

Author: Alan Nelson – Manager of Engineering

File No: 295/01/16/00

Summary:

This report recommends two relatively minor additions to the leaseback rates which are currently applicable to staff who enjoy the privilege of private use of a Council vehicle.

Comments (including issues and background):

Council currently has a policy which allows nominated staff the private use of a Council vehicle at a leaseback rate which relates to the type and specification of the vehicle being used. In summary, the current situation is as follows:

Mid Range 6 cylinder sedan (Holden Berlina or equivalent) - \$95 per week

Base Model 6 cylinder sedan (Holden Commodore executive or equivalent) - \$75 per week

Four wheel drive (Toyota Prado or equivalent) - \$95 per week

This report does not suggest that any of these rates should be changed. An increase could be argued, on the basis of increasing running costs, particularly increased fuel prices, however an increase would see Walgett Shire become increasingly uncompetitive with other Councils, with which we compete in attracting and retaining staff.

A request has been received from an eligible staff member, seeking the use of a Council vehicle for commuter use only. The vehicle would not normally travel outside Walgett when being used privately and, in such a situation; the above leaseback rates would be unreasonably expensive. A commuter leaseback rate of \$10 per week is suggested as reasonable.

Council has recently taken delivery of two smaller turbo diesel engine vehicles, these being a Holden Astra and a Citroen C4. Both these vehicles offer impressive economy and, on the basis of the distance travelled by the 6 cylinder sedans referred to above, a fuel cost saving of some \$2,500 per annum is indicated. This allows for the fact that diesel fuel is currently in the vicinity of 10% more expensive than unleaded petrol. Resale value on these vehicles is unknown at this stage; however the popularity of smaller fuel efficient vehicles suggests it should be at least as good as the 6 cylinder sedans. Council's most recent experience with a 6 cylinder sedan was not good, with a Holden Commodore Acclaim returning just over 50% of the purchase price at a little

SHIRE OF WALGETT –AGENDA

under 12 months old and 55,000km travelled. To provide an incentive to staff to consider the use of the smaller turbo diesel engine vehicle, it is suggested that a proportion of the fuel savings be returned to the employee in the form of a reduced leaseback rate. If a leaseback rate of \$60 per week were adopted, about 30% of the fuel saving cost would be returned to the employee. Considering most vehicles would be used privately for in excess of 30% of kilometres travelled, this is seen as a fair outcome for both Council and the employee.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Nil

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council
Council staff with private use entitlements of Council vehicles

Financial Implications:

There would be minimal financial implications for Council by expanding the leaseback rates to include an additional vehicle category and a rate for limited commuter use.

Recommendation:

That existing leaseback rates for private use of Council vehicles be confirmed and that two additional categories be included, these being:

- 1. Commuter Use within a five (5) kilometre radius of the Administration Building - \$10 per week**
- 2. 4 cylinder turbo diesel sedan/hatch/wagon (Holden Astra or equivalent) - \$60 per week**

MANAGER ENGINEERING REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 21 NOVEMBER 2006

Item No: 25.

Subject: Bulk Fuel Supply

Author: Alan Nelson – Manager of Engineering

File No: 230/01/00/00

Summary:

This report recommends that Council invites quotes from locally based resellers for the supply of diesel fuel into Council's mobile fuel trailers.

Comments (including issues and background):

In July 2006, the State Government Contract for the supply of bulk fuel was awarded to BP. BP apparently have indicated in their tender that they could not be committed to supplying bulk fuel in all locations, as this was somewhat dependant upon storage capacity and other factors. No other tender for the supply of bulk fuel was received.

BP has indicated that they are unable to supply Council, through the local BP service station, at government contract rates. In any case, they have expressed some concerns relating to the splash filling of Council's fuel trailers at the service station.

Distillate purchases into fuel trailers, over a twelve month period, will exceed the threshold, above which the calling of tenders is required. However, Section 55(3) of the Local Government Act states:

(3) This section does not apply to the following contracts:

- subject to the regulations, a contract for the purchase of goods, materials or services specified by a person prescribed by the regulations made with another person so specified, during a period so specified and at a rate not exceeding the rate so specified
- a contract entered into by a council with the Crown (whether in right of the Commonwealth, New South Wales or any other State or a Territory), a Minister of the Crown or a statutory body representing the Crown
- a contract entered into by a council with another council
- a contract for the purchase or sale by a council of land
- a contract for the leasing or licensing of land by the council, other than the leasing or licensing of community land for a term exceeding 5 years to a body that is not a non-profit organisation (see section 46A)
- a contract for purchase or sale by a council at public auction

SHIRE OF WALGETT –AGENDA

- a contract for the purchase of goods, materials or services specified by the State Contracts Control Board or the Department of Administrative Services of the Commonwealth, made with a person so specified, during a period so specified and at a rate not exceeding the rate so specified
- a contract for the employment of a person as an employee of the council
- **a contract where, because of extenuating circumstances, remoteness of locality or the unavailability of competitive or reliable tenderness, a council decides by resolution (which states the reasons for the decision) that a satisfactory result would not be achieved by inviting tenders**
- contract for which, because of provisions made by or under another Act, a council is exempt from the requirement to invite a tender
- a contract made in a case of emergency

That section of the Act which has been bolded permits Council to resolve not to invite tenders in certain situations. Given the volumes of fuel Council is needing, and the fact that it does not have any depot storage, it is only practical that Council takes the fuel trailers to retail fuel outlets in Walgett Shire, convenient to the location of work at the time (most frequently in Walgett) and refills at this point. Given these circumstances, to advertise a tender in the Sydney press would only waste Council's time and money as well as the time of any supplier who initially responded to the advertisement. Calling of quotations from locally based fuel resellers would be a more practical approach.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Nil

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council
Oil Companies
Locally Based Fuel Resellers

Financial Implications:

Unknown at this stage

Recommendation:

1. **That Council, having regard to the provisions of Section 55(3) of the Local Government Act, resolves not to invite tenders for the supply of bulk fuel to mobile fuel trailers as it would not be practical to solicit tenders from suppliers other than those who are locally based and known to Council.**
2. **That quotations be invited from locally based fuel resellers for the supply of diesel fuel into Council's mobile fuel trailers.**

MANAGER ENGINEERING REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 21 NOVEMBER 2006

Item No: 26.

Subject: RTA Agency

Author: Alan Nelson – Manager of Engineering

File No: 005/10/01/48

Summary:

To provide improved security for the RTA Agency in Walgett, this report recommends the installation of 'crime safe' security screens over the window glass.

Comments (including issues and background):

A broken window was noticed at the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) Agency in Walgett on the morning of Monday, November 6. Unfortunately, this building has become a target of vandals and several broken windows have resulted since the RTA took occupation of the building.

Council rents part of the administration building to the RTA and the tenant has expressed concern at the state of vandalism and the potential for damage to their equipment and injury to the occupants of the office space.

Quotations have been sought from three suppliers, for the supply and installation of 'crime safe' screens over the glassed areas of this building. At the time of writing this report, two quotes have been received and the likely cost to provide this additional security is in the order of \$7,000 including GST.

Council has a budget of \$205,000 for maintenance of the administration building. However, this vote is presently quite heavily committed and, at this stage of the financial year, it would not be possible to incorporate these screens and still assure Council that this vote would not be overspent at 30 June 2007. Nevertheless, it is considered that this work should proceed as Council has a good tenant in this part of the administration building and it would be very unfortunate if the RTA reviewed their presence in Walgett on the basis of a perceived lack of security for their agency.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Quotes from suppliers (not included)

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council
Roads and Traffic Authority

Financial Implications:

It is a distinct possibility that, by authorising this unbudgeted work to precede, a modest cost over-run will occur in the relevant budget item.

Recommendation:

That Council provide improved security to that section of the administration building leased by the RTA by accepting the lowest quote received for the supply and installation of 'crime safe' (or equivalent) security screens over window glass.

MANAGER ENGINEERING REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 21 NOVEMBER 2006

Item No: 27.

Subject: Walgett Levee Rehabilitation

Author: Alan Nelson – Manager of Engineering

File No: 175/03/02/00

Summary:

This report recommends that Council accepts an offer made by the Minister for Natural Resources for works associated with the Walgett Levee Rehabilitation project.

Comments (including issues and background):

Advice has been received from the Minister for Natural Resources that Council has been offered an allocation of \$800,000, under the NSW Government's Floodplain Management Programme and the Commonwealth's Regional Flood Mitigation Programme. The programme funding ratio is 1:1:1 between the three levels of government.

At the suggestion of the Department of Natural Resources, an application was lodged which, if successful, would have seen Council's contribution waived on account of hardship. Regrettably, this application has not been successful. Oral advice from the Department of Natural Resources to this effect has been received and written advice, including reasons for the unsuccessful application will be received in due course. The officer who provided the oral advice strongly advised that a further application be submitted for waiving the local contribution in 2007/08. Costs will increase considerably at this time when civil construction works commence.

In the belief that the application to waive the local contribution would be successful, Council has not budgeted for the \$400,000 that will be required to match the \$800,000 referred to above. \$210,000 is available in funds which have been restricted for flood prevention works. This leaves a further \$190,000 which might need to be found. However, these additional funds would only be required if expenditure in 2006/07 on this project exceeded \$630,000. On the basis of advice Council's appointed Project Manager, expenditure to 30 June 2007 is unlikely to exceed \$630,000. It is considered that, at the time of the quarterly budget review as at March 2007, a better indication of likely expenditure to 30 June 2007 will be available. At that stage, if required, the matter of identifying where the additional funds will come from can be considered.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Letter from Minister for Natural Resources

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Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council
NSW Government
Commonwealth Government

Financial Implications:

Council is required to match the funding provided in this offer. A maximum of \$400,000 may be required. \$210,000 is available in restricted funds and the balance of \$190,000 is presently unfunded.

Recommendation:

- 1. That Council accepts the offer of \$800,000 from the Minister for Natural Resources for the Walgett Levee Rehabilitation project.**
- 2. That \$210,000.00 be made available from restricted funds and that the remaining \$190,000.00 is considered in the 2007/2008 Estimates of Income and Expenditure.**

MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES
MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES
MINISTER FOR MINERAL RESOURCES



Level 33 Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place SYDNEY NSW 2000 AUSTRALIA
Telephone: (02) 9228 3344
Facsimile: (02) 9228 3452
e-mail: macdonald@minerals.minister.nsw.gov.au

Mr Stephen McLean
General Manager
Walgett Shire Council
PO Box 31
WALGETT NSW 2832

23 OCT 2006

Dear Mr McLean

I refer to the Walgett Shire Council's proposed floodplain management program for the 2006/2007 financial year.

I am pleased to advise that I have been able to obtain funding for the following project under the NSW Government's Floodplain Management Program and the Commonwealth's Regional Flood Mitigation Program. Financial assistance is available to the council, subject to the attached conditions.

Project Description	Program Funding Ratio (Commonwealth:State:Council)	Commonwealth & State 2006/2007 allocation
Walgett Levee Rehabilitation	1:1:1	\$800,000

Council's General Manager is asked to write to Mr Brian Dooley, Director, Floodplain Management and Coastal Support, Department of Natural Resources, PO Box 867 Wollongong NSW 2520, within 45 days regarding the acceptance of the offer and related conditions. If further information is required regarding the offer, Mr Dooley may be contacted on (02) 4224 9605.

Mr Dooley will also be responsible for the ongoing management of the grant. He will advise council directly as to the eligibility of individual items for subsidy and arrange for payment of funds as they fall due.

Yours sincerely

IAN MACDONALD MLC

Walgett Shire
Council
RECD

1 NOV 2006

FILE: 175p3/02/00

LETTER No: 12646.

REFER: AEN.

COPY:

MANAGER ENGINEERING REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 21 NOVEMBER 2006

Item No: 28.

Subject: Walgett Waste Depot

Author: Alan Nelson – Manager of Engineering

File No: 240/01/03/00

Summary:

This report briefs Council on the issue of an Environment Protection Licence to operate the Walgett Waste Depot.

Comments (including issues and background):

Walgett Waste Depot has operated on its current site for approximately 50 years. As it is located with a river flood plain, the site is required to be licensed to comply with government legislation. This licence is now in operation, notwithstanding the fact that Council has been tardy in making the application.

It is not expected that the licence will cause operating costs to escalate to any extent in the longer term; however one licence condition will require some additional expenditure which is currently not budgeted for in the short term. Similarly, it is not anticipated that the licence will lead to a renegotiation of the management contract with the depot operator. The licence requires Council to undertake a hydro geological site investigation and report the results to the Department of Environment and Conservation. This investigation has been requested to ascertain what affect, if any, the current operation has on groundwater at the site as well as what measures need to be taken to prevent unwanted environmental impacts as a result of continued operation of the site. Depending on the outcome of this investigation, some additional expenditure may be required; however it is unlikely that it would be required in the current financial year.

Council does not have the resources to undertake this hydro geological investigation in house. Quotations have been sought and CM Jewell and Associates, a highly regarded consultant from Wentworth Falls, has been engaged to undertake this work. The cost of this work is expected to be in the order of \$45,000. This financial commitment will need to be included in the next Management Plan review due for 31 December 2006.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Environment Protection Licence No 12466 (only relevant part included)
Quotes for Hydro geological Investigation (not included)

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Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council
Department of Environment and Conservation

Financial Implications:

The undertaking of a hydro geological investigation has not been specifically allowed for in the current budget. The likely cost, in the order of \$45,000, will need to be incorporated into the next review of the current Management Plan.

Recommendation:

That Council note the issue of Environment Protection Licence No 12466 covering the Walgett Waste Depot operation, as well as the licence condition to carry out a hydro geological investigation of the site.

General conditions

G1 Copy of licence kept at the premises

- G1.1 A copy of this licence must be kept at the premises to which the licence applies.
- G1.2 The licence must be produced to any authorised officer of the EPA who asks to see it.
- G1.3 The licence must be available for inspection by any employee or agent of the licensee working at the premises.

Pollution studies and reduction programs

U1 Hydrogeological Investigation

- U1.1 The licensee must undertake a hydrogeological investigation and assessment of the premises. The outcomes of the hydrogeological investigation and assessment should include, but not necessarily be limited to:

- (a) details of a proposed groundwater monitoring network and groundwater monitoring program;
- (b) an assessment of the nature and extent of groundwater pollution (if any);
- (c) a detailed description of the lithography/ geology of the premises;
- (d) the measured permeability of the underlying soil strata below the premises;
- (e) the depth, thickness and quality of any water bearing zones, be it perched water, local groundwater or regional groundwater – identified below the premises;
- (f) a determination of the directions and flow rates of any groundwater flows identified;
- (g) an assessment as to the potential for the natural lithography/geology to be utilised for a leachate barrier and leachate collection.

Completion Date: 30 November 2006

Special conditions

- E1 Not applicable.

Dictionary

MANAGER ENGINEERING REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 21 NOVEMBER 2006

Item No: 29.

Subject: Water Supply Drought Management

Author: Ian Taylor – Projects Engineer

File No: 195/02/00/00

Summary:

This report briefs Council on the application to the NSW Minister for Water Utilities for emergency capital works financial assistance.

Comments (including issues and background):

In response to the continuing drought conditions being experienced in the Shire, and the poor outlook for average or above average rainfall, the ability for Council's water supplies to endure these circumstances has been reviewed.

The review identified a number of limitations of the available water resources. Two of these limitations relate to the Walgett Water Supply and are the subject of a request to the NSW Minister for Water Utilities for financial assistance for emergency capital works.

Walgett has access to a weir pool in the Barwon and Namoi Rivers that holds around 800 – 900 mega litres. It also has access to an artesian bore which can supply around 0.7 mega litres per day. However there are structural limitations that make access to the full extent of these resources difficult and inefficient. The proposed works seek to resolve these limitations and to the maximum extent possible eliminate the need for extensive temporary and abortive (wasted) works.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Letter of application to 7 November 2006

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council
Residents and Businesses in Walgett

Financial Implications:

It is likely that any offer of financial assistance will involve a contribution from Council's own finances. Council has sufficient funds in its Water and Sewerage Reserve to meet such an obligation.

Recommendation:

That Council note the application to the NSW Minister Water Utilities for emergency capital works financial assistance.

MANAGER ENGINEERING REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 21 NOVEMBER 2006

Item No: 30.

Subject: NSW Local Roads Congress

Author: Ian Taylor – Projects Engineer

File No: 180/07/00/00

Summary:

This report briefs Council on the recent NSW Local Roads Congress and Council's current position in respect of road funding.

Comments (including issues and background):

The NSW Division Roads & Transport Directorate of the Institute of Public Works Engineers Australia (IPWEA) in partnership with the Local Government and Shires Associations (LGSA) hosted the NSW Local Roads Congress on 16-17 October 2006.

The Roads & Transport Directorate was instigated by IPWEA and commenced operation in October 2004. It has a number of objectives, including lobbying for a higher priority to be placed on road infrastructure provision and maintenance, and for a more equitable share of resources and funding.

The conference was attended by some 112 delegates from over 70 councils and other organisations across NSW. Walgett Shire Council was represented by Council's Projects Engineer. Delegates included Councillors, General Managers, and Engineering Professionals. The delegates heard presentations from Department of Local Government (DLG), Roads & Traffic Authority (NSW) (RTA), Department of Transport & Regional Services (DOTARS), IPWEA, LGSA, and various councils.

Key foci of the Congress were the Independent Inquiry into the Financial Sustainability of NSW Local Government, the activities of the LGSA Sustainability Taskforce and DLG Infrastructure Taskforce, and Higher Mass Limits in NSW for heavy vehicles. The Congress Communiqué inter alia called for all councils in NSW to develop long term infrastructure management plans and 10 year financial plans, for increased funding from the NSW and Federal Governments for road maintenance, for all councils and the NSW Government to implement the findings of the *Independent Inquiry into the Financial Sustainability of NSW Local Government* (Sustainability Inquiry), and for consultation and assistance in the implementation of Higher Mass Limits.

A widely held concern highlighted in the Sustainability Inquiry is that most council do not have sufficient funding sources to maintain their *existing* infrastructure assets. In respect of Council's road infrastructure, the Shire has 264 km of sealed rural or regional roads, 45 concrete bridges, and 16 timber bridges.

SHIRE OF WALGETT –AGENDA

Due to the limited availability of suitable materials and resources, the existing practice with timber bridges is to carry out routine maintenance only, and replace the structure with a concrete or steel bridge as funding permits. If funding is not made available, or the bridge suffers significant damage, it is decommissioned. The Congress called for the reinstatement of the Regional Roads Timber Bridge program to its previous level in real terms.

There are two key *periodic* maintenance activities that need to be undertaken to maintain a sealed road in a serviceable condition indefinitely, namely bitumen resealing and (pavement) reconstruction. If these are not carried out in a timely fashion the road will lose its surfacing and the pavement will become significantly deformed due to the oxidation of the bitumen and the loss of strength of the pavement – at this point it will unavoidably revert to an unsealed road.

Resealing should be carried out every 10 – 15 years (10 years is widely recommended), and reconstruction will be necessary every 30 – 50 years subject to the original pavement design and environmental factors. Using this information as a guide (and making allowances for the unsealed road network), a preliminary assessment of the required *periodic* maintenance funding for Council's sealed rural and regional roads is as follows:

Quantity	Periodic Treatment / Renewal	Required Expenditure (Annualised)	Budget Expenditure (2006/2007)
Regional Sealed:			
220 km	Reseals & Reconstruction	\$ 1,094,000	\$ 100,000
Rural Sealed:			
45 km	Reseals & Reconstruction	\$ 229,000	\$ 20,000
Sub Total – Sealed Roads:		\$ 1,323,000	\$ 120,000
Regional Unsealed:			
80 km	Reheating	\$ 352,000	\$ 300,000
265 km	Reshape Formation (every 10 years)	\$ 429,000	\$ 100,000
Rural Unsealed:			
100 km	Reheating	\$ 453,000	\$ 280,000
1,625 km	Reshape Formation (every 10 years)	\$ 2,635,000	\$ 338,813
Sub Total – Unsealed Roads:		\$ 3,869,000	\$ 618,813
Regional Bridges:			
8	Timber Bridge Replacement	\$ 48,000	-
15	Concrete Bridge Replacement	\$ 45,000	-
Rural Bridges:			
8	Timber Bridge Replacement	\$ 48,000	-
32	Concrete Bridge Replacement	\$ 96,000	-
Sub Total – Bridges:		\$ 237,000	-
Depreciation (all purposes):			
	Regional Roads & Bridges	N/A	\$ 17,000
	Rural Roads & Bridges	N/A	\$ 430,000
Sub Total – Depreciation:		N/A	\$ 447,000
Total Expenditure:		\$ 5,429,000	\$ 1,185,813
Under – Expenditure on Road Asset Renewal:			\$ 4,243,187

SHIRE OF WALGETT –AGENDA

From the table it is clear that Council's current rural and regional sealed road network cannot be sustained at current funding levels. Indeed, if all depreciation was spent on sealed roads; bridge replacement, and all re-sheeting and reshaping unsealed roads was abandoned, the roads budget would be around \$140,000 below the required funding level for sealed roads alone.

If resources are not reallocated to maintain our current sealed road network, the network will have to be scaled back. Conversely, Council has allocated \$800,000 in 2006/2007 for the extension of this network and has a five year plan to continue expanding this network by 4 – 6 km per year. If these roads are to be retained, an additional allowance of approximately \$30,000 – \$45,000 p.a. in periodic maintenance will have to be allocated from other sources. At this rate it will be some 70 years before the strategic network of regional roads are constructed, and in today's dollars, a sealed road network of this magnitude will require an *additional* \$1.16M p.a. in periodic maintenance.

Relevant Reference Documents:

2006 NSW Local Roads Conference Communiqué, IPWEA & LGSA

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council
Residents and Businesses in Walgett Shire

Financial Implications:

From the above analysis, the funding required undertaking the recommended periodic maintenance and reconstruction (not including routine maintenance such as inspections, bitumen patching, reactive maintenance, etc) of Council's *existing sealed* rural and regional roads is of the order of \$1.323M p.a. This exceeds Council's current allocation for this purpose. The reconstruction of a sealed rural or regional road due to an unplanned catastrophic failure would require the reallocation of \$millions or the decommissioning of the road from sealed to unsealed status.

The NSW Premier recently announced that \$60M in funding would be provided on a 50:50 basis over three years for the replacement of timber bridges; however bridges in Walgett Shire are yet to be funded.

Recommendation:

That Council:

- 1) Endorse the 2006 NSW Local Roads Conference Communiqué and;**
- 2) Note that Council is currently under funding regional and rural roads periodic maintenance by around \$4.2M p.a.**

**2006 NSW Local Roads Congress
16-17 October 2006
Congress Communiqué**

The NSW Roads & Transport Directorate, a partnership of the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia (IPWEA) and Local Government and Shires Association of NSW, in holding the 2006 NSW Local Roads Congress resolved to announce the following communiqué.

This Congress requests all NSW political parties to commit to reinstate the Regional Roads Timber Bridge Program to its previous level in real terms and to recognise the importance of the State Government's Regional Road Block Grant funding arrangements, and commit to a real increase in funding through recognition of the Road Construction and Maintenance Index rather than indexation by CPI

The Congress seeks that the State Government ensures the outcomes of the Regional Road Classification Review are cost neutral to Local Government, and that the result of the panel's review be released immediately.

This Congress supports the initiatives taken by the Department of Local Government Infrastructure Taskforce in developing an asset management framework for NSW, and continued dialogue with councils and professional organisations to ensure a satisfactory transfer of expertise to the industry.

The Congress congratulates the Local Government Association of NSW and the Shires Association of NSW for its initiative in establishing the *Strengthening Local Government Taskforce*. The Congress calls on all Councils and the NSW Government to join the Associations in the assessment of the findings of the *Independent Inquiry into the Financial Sustainability of NSW Local Government* and that a partnership approach be adopted to implement the changes required to address the range of issues identified in the Inquiry's findings that are before the local government sector.

This Congress calls upon the NSW Government to implement recommendation No.9 of the Independent Inquiry and assume responsibility for all regional roads in rural shires.

The Congress calls on all Councils in NSW to develop long term infrastructure management plans and 10 year financial plans. The Congress also seeks the State and Federal Governments to commit financial assistance towards the resources necessary for the development of strategic asset management plans for each Council.

This Congress requests that any changes to heavy vehicle access arrangements such as those covered by Higher Mass Limits and Performance Based Standards are introduced:

- (i) only after appropriate consultation with local government,
- (ii) following the development of comprehensive route assessment guidelines, and
- (iii) the Federal Government establishing a revenue stream to Councils that provides adequate compensation for the road pavement deterioration attributed to higher mass limits.

The congress calls on the Commonwealth (DOTARS) to urgently review the quantum of road funding provided to NSW Councils as Financial Assistance Grants in order to address the funding gap of \$718 million p.a. as established by the Roads and Transport Directorate Road Asset Benchmarking Project.

The congress supports the concept / proposal for a North/South inland rail corridor from Melbourne to Brisbane and urges the federal government to commit to the proposal.

MANAGER ENGINEERING REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 21 NOVEMBER 2006

Item No: 31.

Subject: 24 Euroka Street - Walgett

Author: Kaye Stone – Asset Officer

File No: 145/09/03/00

Summary:

This report recommends 24 Euroka Street be demolished at the cost of Council and new residential premises to be erected for Council staff housing.

Comments (including issues and background):

On the 4 September 2006 a Council premise at 24 Euroka Street, Walgett was damaged by fire. The property was not occupied at the time of the fire as it was currently being set a side for use by the State Emergency Services.

On notification of the fire, Council's insures Jardine Lloyd Thompson was contacted and the premise assessed. A letter was received on the 12 October 2006 from Jardine Lloyd Thompson, Chartered Loss Adjusters, GAB Robins Australia Pty Ltd.

'The existing premises is listed on Council's asset register as item 64, residence with a building asset value of \$130,900.00. The asset sum insured identified is the maximum of funds available for the demolition, removal of debris and construction of a replacement structure.'

Walgett State Emergency Services no longer requires the use of the building as they have fenced off the back portion of the lot and have built a new premise.

Currently there is a shortage of Council staff accommodation with no house or flats available for rent in Walgett.

Over the last number of months Council has received numerous enquiries from the public regarding the availability of housing giving an indication that there is shortage of accommodation in Walgett.

Relevant Reference Documents:

- Letter from GAB Robins Australia Pty Ltd

SHIRE OF WALGETT –AGENDA

Stakeholders:

- Walgett Shire Council
- GAB Robins Australia Pty Ltd
- Jardine Lloyd Thompson

Financial Implications:

Council will be required to make up the difference if the cost of the new premises exceeds the identified asset value of \$130,900.00. Council's Building Surveyor estimates the cost of the new structure is \$200,000.00. That part of the cost is not covered by insurance though can be funded from Council's restricted funds for housing.

Recommendations:

1. **That Council demolish the fire damaged building themselves allowing for all of the asset value of \$130,900.00 to be used for the completion of a replacement structure.**
2. **That the new premises be designed and allocated for Council staff accommodation.**
3. **That on the completion of the new premises that an independent rent assessment is completed to ascertain the market rent of the premises for Councils rent schedules.**

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION TO COUNCIL MEETING 21 NOVEMBER 2006
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Item No: 32.

Subject: Certificate of Appreciation

Author: NSW Sport and Recreation

File No: 295/01/14/00

Summary:

Certificate of Appreciation from the NSW Sport and Recreation acknowledging Council's on going support.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Certificate of Appreciation from NSW Sport and Recreation.

Recommendation:

That the Certificate of Appreciation be received and noted.

NSW Sport and Recreation

Certificate of appreciation

Presented to

Walgett Shire Council

In appreciation of

your on going support.

Presented by

N.S.W. Sport and Recreation.

Date

25 October 2006.



