



WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL

AGENDA

16 FEBRUARY 2006

***Stephen McLean
General Manager***



10 February 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 Walgett Shire Council Chambers on **Thursday, 16 February 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)

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Note:-

10.00 am	Citizenship Ceremony Australia Day Award Presentation to Patrick O'Brien and Harvey Duncan
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CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 15 DECEMBER 2005

The Draft Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 15 December 2005 were distributed to Council's Administrator.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 16 FEBRUARY 2006

Item No: 1

Subject: Notice of Recision Motion
Walgett Swimming Pool Subsidy Agreement

Author: Hugh Percy - Administrator

File No: 280/06/01/00

NOTICE OF RECISION

WALGETT SWIMMING POOL SUBSIDY AGREEMENT

At the meeting of the Council to be held on Thursday, 16 February 2006, I intend to move the following Recision Motion: -

“That Minute Number 325/05 passed at the Meeting of Council held on Thursday, 15 December 2005 be rescinded”

Hugh Percy
Administrator

NOTICE OF MOTION

WALGETT SWIMMING POOL SUBSIDY AGREEMENT

If the Recision Motion detailed above is passed, I intend to move the following Motion: -

1. That the Pool Reserve Trust be requested to draft a Plan of Management for the Pool Reserve, such plan to be prepared in accordance with Department of Lands Guidelines and with due public consultation.
2. That the Pool Reserve Trust be requested to bring all collection of revenue on the Trust Land into compliance with Departmental requirements.
3. That the Council endorse the Policy of the Pool Reserve Trust and that the Walgett Memorial Pool remain open on Friday evenings provided that the Walgett Swimming Club have exclusive use of the 50 metre pool between 6.00 pm and 8.00 pm and that Council arrange and pay for additional supervisory staff during the two hour period of use by the Walgett Swimming Club.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 16 FEBRUARY 2006

Item No: 2

Subject: Nomination for Executive of Outback Arts Incorporated

Author: Hugh Percy - Administrator

File No: 135/02/07/02

Summary:

The Outback Arts Annual General Meeting is to be held on Wednesday, 15 March 2006 in Warren and an invitation has been extended to Council to nominate an individual for the Executive of the Outback Arts Board.

Comments (including issues and background):

Members of the Board are encouraged to participate in the planning and direction that Outback Arts takes in our region.

Board members play a vital part in arts and cultural planning and development, as well as providing advice and support to the staff within the organisation.

Council's representative on the Executive of the Outback Arts Board for the previous twelve months has been Mrs Marilyn Collins, who has advised Council that she is pleased to continue to represent Walgett Shire on this Board for the ensuing twelve months.

Relevant Reference Documents:

- Correspondence from Outback Arts Incorporated – File 135/02/07/02

Stakeholders:

- Walgett Shire Council
- Walgett Shire Community

Financial Implications:

Nil

Recommendation:

That Mrs Marilyn Collins be nominated as Council's representative to the position of Executive for the Outback Arts Incorporated Board for a period of twelve months.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 16 FEBRUARY 2006

Item No: 3

Subject: Membership of Lightning Ridge Mining Board

Author: Stephen McLean - General Manager

File No: 245/02/17/00

Summary:

The Department of Primary Industries is currently updating membership details for the Lightning Ridge Mining Board.

Comments (including issues and background):

Members to the Board are appointed by the Minister for Mineral Resources as provided in the Boards constitution. Council are invited to nominate one person and a deputy as provided under Sections 3.2 and 3.3 of the boards constitution. Under Section 3.2 the person nominated "shall be Councillor of one of the local government bodies and the position shall become vacant if the person so nominated ceases to hold the office of Councillor."

However as the Council is under Administration and there are no elected Councillors the Minister will accept nominations for a Board Member and Deputy from non-elected persons.

The existing nominated persons to the Lightning Ridge Mining Board are Lyn Carney and David Lane as Deputy. Both these community members have been contacted by Council staff and are willing to accept nomination again.

Relevant Reference Documents:

- Correspondence from Department of Primary Industries

Stakeholders:

- Walgett Shire Council
- Department of Primary Industries
- Lightning Ridge Mining Board
- Nominees

Financial Implications:

Nil

Recommendation:

That Council nominate to the Department of Primary Industries, Ms Lyn Carney as member and Mr David Lane as Deputy, to the Lightning Ridge Mining Board.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 16 FEBRUARY 2006

Item No: 4

Subject: Walgett Baths Reserve Meeting

Author: Stephen McLean – General Manager

File No: 280/06/01/00

Summary:

The Walgett Swimming Pool is Crown Land reserved for the purpose of Public Baths, with Walgett Shire Council appointed as manager of the Walgett Baths (R82251) Reserve Trust.

A meeting was held on the 30 January 2006 to discuss issues relating to use of the Walgett Baths (R82251) Reserve. The following Stakeholders were in attendance at the meeting;

- Walgett Shire Council
- Walgett Baths (R82251) Reserve Trust
- Department of Lands
- Walgett/Bourke School of Distance Education
- Walgett Swimming Pool Lessee
- Walgett Swimming Club
- NSW Police (Walgett)
- Member for Barwon, Mr Ian Slack-Smith

Comments (including issues and background):

The Department of Lands has recommended that two major strategies should be initiated by Council to address issues of use of this reserve.

Firstly, it was recommended that Council prepare a draft plan of management of the Baths reserve, in accordance with the provisions of the Crown Lands Act 1989 and Local Government Act 1993. The plan of management would set direction and provide a framework for the strategic and operational use and management of the subject reserve.

The consultation involved in the preparation of the plan, as well as the opportunity to review the draft plan in accordance with the guidelines, would ensure that the public to have substantial input and hopefully, address many of the issues of concern.

The second strategy would be to review the relationship between Council and the facility manager. At the meeting it was discussed that the current lease arrangement, was not satisfactory to the Department of Lands for a variety of aspects.

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It is recommended that consideration be given to the development of a contractual arrangement in lieu of a lease agreement to maintain an appropriate relationship and overall management control by the Trust.

Relevant Reference Documents:

- Letter received from the Department of Lands
- Minutes of the 30 January meeting (attached)
- Crown Lands Act 1989
- Department of Lands -Managing Reserved and Dedicated Crown Land 'A
- Handbook for Trusts'

Financial Implications:

- Subsidy Agreement
- Lease Agreement

Stakeholders:

- Walgett Shire Council
- Walgett Baths (R82251) Reserve Trust
- Department of Lands
- Walgett/Bourke School of Distance Education
- Walgett swimming pool Lessee
- Walgett Swimming Club
- NSW Police (Walgett)

Recommendations:

That Council:-

1. **Prepare a draft plan of management of the Baths reserve in accordance with the provisions of the Crown Lands Act 1989 and Local Government Act 1993.**
2. **Review the relationship with the pool manager and that a contractual arrangement in lieu of a lease agreement be considered.**
3. **That exclusive use of the main pool only be given to the Walgett Swimming Club between the hours of 6.00pm to 8.00pm on Friday for the rest of the 2005-2006 Swimming Season.**
4. **The public have access to the Walgett Baths (R82251) Reserve during normal opening hours, excluding the main pool area on Fridays between the hours of 6.00pm to 8.00pm.**

WALGETT MEMORIAL POOL MEETING

Report of the meeting of the meeting convened by the Administrator regarding the Walgett Memorial Pool, held on Monday, 30 January 2006 at 10.00 am in the Walgett District Sporting Club.

1. PRESENT

Ian Slack-Smith	Local State Member (Chairperson)
Hugh Percy	Trust Chairman, Walgett Pool Reserve Trust
Stephen McLean	Walgett Shire Council General Manager
Stan Single	Local Area Commander, NSW Police Department
Rick Small	Lessee of Walgett Pool
John Wheaton	Walgett Swimming Club
Wendy Hay	Walgett Distance Education
Ross Harris	Department of Lands
Cedelia Duke	Department of Lands
Natalie Dunstan	Minute Secretary, Walgett Shire Council

2. APOLOGIES

New South Wales Premier's Department

3. BUSINESS OF MEETING – WALGETT MEMORIAL POOL

3.1 Introduction

Mr Ian Slacksmith, member for Barwon advised those in attendance that he would be chairing the meeting and that following comments from representatives, a final decision would be made by Council's Administrator, Mr Hugh Percy.

3.2 Presentations

Members of Walgett Swimming Club were given one (1) hour in which to make presentations. A number of members made presentations.

At the conclusion of the presentations the respective representatives retired to the Boardroom to discuss the issues.

3.3 Meeting

After presentation by the Pool Lessee and general discussions, the Local Member, Administrator, Land's Department Representative and Local Area Commander Police retired to discuss options.

During those discussions the Walgett Swimming Club President and Distance Education Representative met with the Group, as did the Pool Lessee.

3.4 Recommendations

- 1. That the Reserve Trust prepare a Draft Plan of Management for consultation with the community on the future use(s) of the Pool Reserve.**
- 2. That the Reserve Trust brings all collection of revenues on the Trust land into compliance with Departmental requirements.**
- 3. That the Walgett Memorial Pool remain open on Friday evenings, provided that the Walgett Swimming Club have exclusive use of the 50 metre pool between 6.00 pm and 8.00 pm and that the Shire Council be requested to arrange and pay for additional supervisory staff during the two hour period of use by the Swimming Club.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2.05 pm

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 16 FEBRUARY 2006

Item No: 5

Subject: LGMA Good Practice Toolkit

Author: Stephen McLean – General Manager

File No: 230/01/00/00

Summary:

The Local Government Managers Australia (LGMA), NSW, is proposing to establish a program in 2006 entitled the LGMA Good Practice Toolkits. The LGMA, NSW has written to Council seeking its support and financial commitment to support the LGMA in this initiative.

Comments (including issues and background):

The proposed Local Government Good Practice Toolkit will be based on the successful New Zealand product, which is in its 6th year and being used by all 86 NZ local authorities. The toolkit is a web based good practice tool which is made up of a number of modules. The kit will consist of good practice and legal compliance materials, case studies, information, templates, examples and reference aids. Each module will consist of a linked set of flow diagrams. Behind each diagram sits additional text material providing a definition and analysis of each box. Additional links identify the specific legal compliance requirements that are relevant and an additional set of 'best practice' tips.

The purpose of the program is to build the capacity of local government, identify good practice, develop and enhance professional practice, minimise risks and legal costs associated with non-compliance and protect local government.

The benefits of using such a toolkit to Walgett Shire Council would include ensuring that legally correct processes are in place, avoidance of 'reinventing the wheel' and consistency in developing processes, procedures and work practices, improvement of customer service. Walgett Shire Council has and will continue to have trouble in attracting suitably qualified and experience staff to the region and a system such as this would assist continuity in practices and producers and allow any staff transitions to occur more readily and smoothly. Therefore the costs associated in involvement by Council in the proposed Local Government Good Practice Toolkit would most probably be offset in productivity gains.

Relevant Reference Documents:

- Correspondence from Local Government Managers Australia (LGMA), NSW

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Stakeholders:

- Local Government Managers Australia, NSW
- Walgett Shire Council

Financial Implications:

The cost associated with the project is projected as 74 Councils contributing \$3,000.00 per annum to be self-sustaining. The proposal asks for a two year commitment from Council.

Recommendation:

That Council support the proposed LGMA, NSW Good Practice Toolkit project and agree to contribute \$3,000.00 per annum for the next two years.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 16 FEBRUARY 2006

Item No: 6

Subject: Staff Housing Rental

Author: Stephen McLean – General Manager

File No: 295/01/16/00

Summary:

This report recommends that Council reassess its position, in respect of the rental subsidy paid to staff occupying Council owned housing.

Comments (including issues and background):

Subsidised staff housing is one of a range of measures that Councils, and many other employers, use to attract and retain key staff in remote areas. Valid concerns have been raised in relation to the relative competitiveness of Walgett in this regard.

Walgett is a remote Council (in the context of NSW Councils) and probably should only be compared with other remote Councils in terms of remuneration and conditions. To compare Walgett to more attractively located Councils, or to compare Council to other employers in remote areas engaged in other industries is probably somewhat erroneous.

A direct comparison with Bourke is made to highlight the concerns that have been expressed. Walgett is categorised by the Grants Commission as a Group 10 Council (Rural Agricultural Large). By comparison, Bourke is categorised as a Group 9 Council (Rural Agricultural Medium). Accordingly, on face value, one would expect that senior supervisory staff at Walgett would need to be more highly remunerated than Bourke. It could be argued that this is somewhat offset by the fact that Bourke, despite being a larger town than Walgett, is further away from a regional centre. Without doubt, Walgett is a more complex organisation, with a larger population, a larger budget and a more diverse range of activities and responsibilities for Council staff.

A comparison of salary and benefits at the two Councils reveals that Walgett is well short of being competitive. The three components chosen to compare are salary, housing and motor vehicle. In each instance, Walgett lags behind and an urgent review of this needs to be undertaken.

For instance ;

Bourke General Manager - \$145,000
Bourke Directors - \$112,500

Walgett General Manager - \$110,000
Walgett Directors - \$102,500

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Bourke Accommodation – 50% of market rental

Walgett Accommodation – 60% of market rental

Private Use of Bourke Car – weekly nil, private use fuel outside shire

Private Use of Walgett Car - \$75-\$105 per week includes fuel.

State Government Agencies in Walgett recognise the need to offer substantial incentives to bring staff to Walgett to perform their obligations. For instance, a two bedroom Council flat, in fairly run down condition in Arthur Street, attracts a subsidised rental of \$54 per week. In the same street is some near new brick teacher housing for which a rental of \$13 per week is charged. Council does not need to compete with this, as it is another industry, nevertheless it clearly highlights the fact that the State Government recognises the need for incentives to satisfactorily staff locations such as Walgett.

Recent previous history does suggest that Council is constantly struggling to attract and retain staff. This situation will not improve if employment conditions lag behind our competitors. Notwithstanding that they lag behind Bourke and probably others, it is not suggested that Council take action at the present time to boost remuneration or reduce charges for private vehicle use.

Where Council should act is in the area of subsidised accommodation. The run down condition of much of Council's staff accommodation is not something Council can respond to quickly. However, the cost of accommodation should be reduced to at least 50% market, nevertheless given the significant advantages that Bourke offers in other areas, it is suggested that it be reduced further to 30% of market rental for unfurnished houses. It is considered that this reduction should apply to all staff who occupy Council accommodation for staff incentive purposes, as evidence does clearly suggest that staffing difficulties are not restricted to senior staff only.

Relevant Reference Documents:

- Council Housing Policy – adopted June 2005

Stakeholders:

- Walgett Shire Council
- Staff occupying Council owned accommodation

Financial Implications:

Any reduction in rental charged to staff will result in a loss of income to Council. If a figure of 30% market for unfurnished houses is chosen, this loss of income is estimated to be \$15,000. On the other hand, Council has been spending significant amounts on staff recruitment in recent times, often without much success. It is suggested that one might balance the other.

Recommendation:

That the rental charged to Council staff occupying Council owned accommodation be reduced from 60% market to 30% market for unfurnished houses, in an effort to improve Council's competitiveness in the market place.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 16 FEBRUARY 2006

Item No: 7

Subject: Staff Structure

Author: Stephen McLean - General Manager

File No: 004/06/02/47

Summary:

This report is to seek Councils concurrence with the proposed amendments to Councils current staff structure.

Comments (including issues and background):

The proposed amendments are within the engineering department so that section only is included in this report for clarity. See attachment.

The Consultative Committee has viewed this proposed structure and has recommended the Council consider the following suggestions prior to endorsement of the Organisational Chart:

- The position of Lands Officer is attached to the Manager Engineering position
- The positions of Handyman & P/T Cleaner be attached to the Engineer Works Position
- Suggested name change Engineer Projects to be changed to Projects Engineer
- Suggested name change Technical Officer to be changed to Projects Officer

Relevant Reference Documents:

- Consultative Meeting Minutes 1 February 2006

Stakeholders:

- Walgett Shire Council

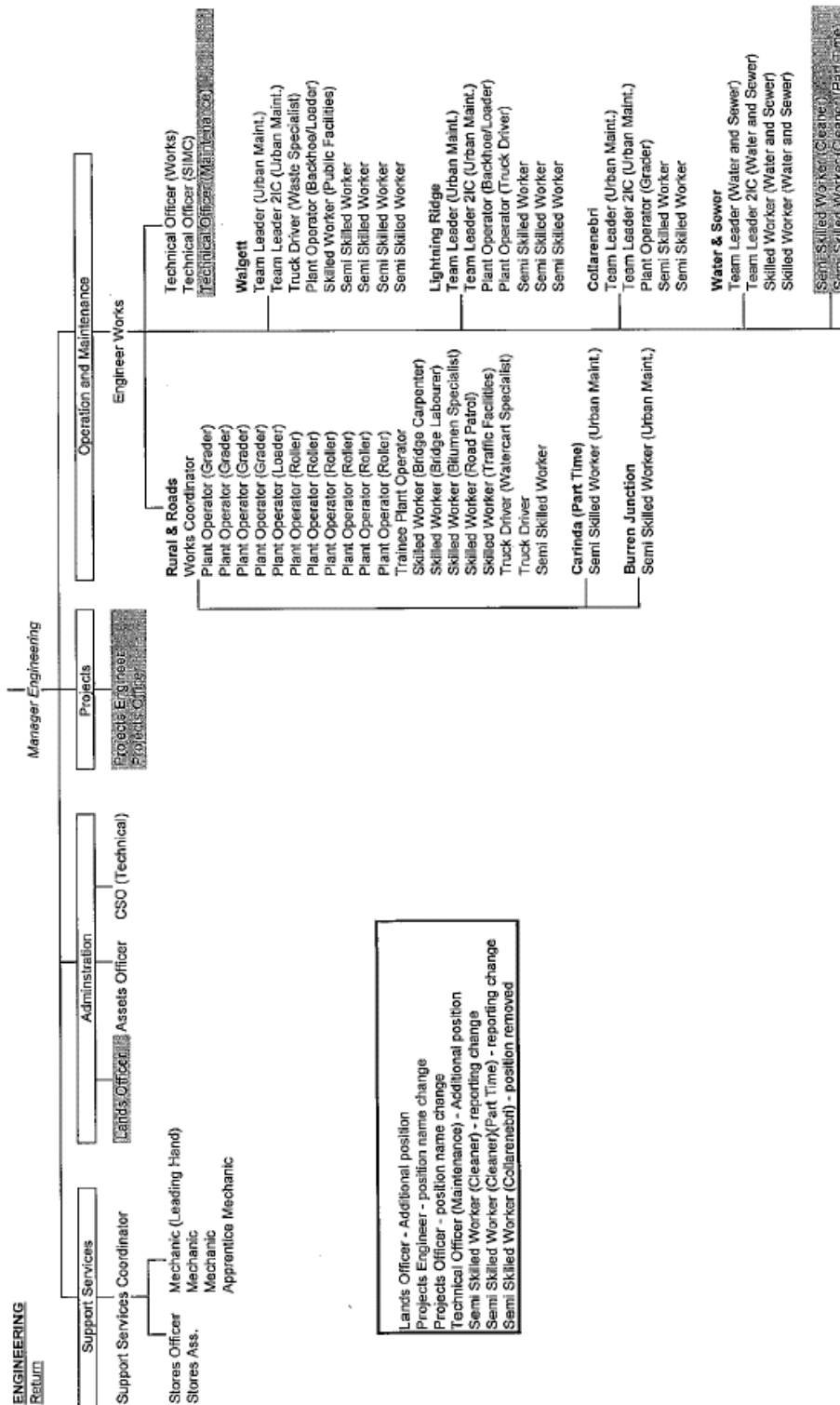
Financial Implications:

The changes to the structure, in additional positions, removed position and changes in title and reporting structure are to better resource ongoing operations.

Costs for the remainder of 2005/06 financial year will be funded through savings gained through other positions currently or previously vacant and the removal of the position at Collarenebri.

Recommendation:

That Council endorse the staff structure and changes submitted within this report and the attached table.



GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 16 FEBRUARY 2006

Item No: 8

Subject: Application for Building Certificate – Sheeppyard Inn

Author: Stephen McLean – General Manager

File No: Ass 3440

Summary:

At its 15 December 2005 meeting Council considered a report for Application for Building Certificates for various structure at the Sheeppyard Inn.

Comments (including issues and background):

The following resolutions were referred to the 16 February 2006 Meeting for further consideration.

326/05– Application for Building Certificate – Sheeppyard Inn

RESOLUTION:-

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

1. Council advise the applicant that it is prepared to issue a building certificate under section 149D of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act for the General store/bottle shop building subject to payment of the additional fee of \$27.16 and the door latches to both doors in the entertaining area being made to fully comply with Clause D2.21 of Volume 1 of the Building Code of Australia 2005.
2. Council issue a building certificate in relation to the former railway carriage currently used as a kitchen and dining room under Section 149D of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 upon payment of the additional fee of \$27.16.

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3. Council refuse to issue a building certificate for the 12m x 10m hostel building currently used for accommodation due to the following reasons:
 - (a) The building is likely to be a danger to the public due to insufficient framing to resist wind loads and insufficient fixing of iron wall and roof cladding.
 - (b) The building contains insufficient fire safety measures to adequately protect the occupants of the building in the event of fire.
 - (c) The building was erected without the prior consent of Council and its use is not permissible under current planning instruments applicable to the land.
4. The applicant be advised of their right of appeal against Council's decision to not issue the building certificate under Section 149F of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.
5. The owners of the Sheeppark Inn be advised that the Council at its Meeting to be held on 16 February 2006 will give consideration to the following draft resolutions: -

That Council issue the owner of the Sheeppark Inn premises being the Hostel, with 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 due to previous consent for the erection or use of the building not being granted and the use being contrary to Council's current IDO.

That Council issue the owner of the Sheeppark Inn Hostel with Order No 2 under section 121B of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 giving 30 days to demolish the building due to the danger posed to the public by the buildings lack of suitable wall and roof framing to resist wind loads and lack of appropriate fixings of the wall and roof sheeting.
6. The owners of the Sheeppark Inn be afforded Natural Justice and be invited to make a written submission on the draft resolutions or to attend the Council Meeting on 16 February 2006 to make an oral presentation on these resolutions.

Carried.

With reference to items 1 and 2 the additional charges have been paid to Council and notice given to Council that the necessary door latches have been fitted.

With reference to items 3 and 4 the applicants have been notified accordingly in a letter dated 5 January.

Item 5 is now due to be considered.

With reference to item 6 at the time of writing no written submission had been received from the proprietors.

Relevant Reference Documents:

- Minutes of 15 December Council meeting

Stakeholders:

- Walgett Shire Council
- Proprietors of the Sheepyard Inn

Financial Implications:

- Not applicable at this stage

Recommendations:

That as per the 15 December council meeting the following be considered.

That Council issue the owner of the Sheepyard Inn premises being the Hostel, with 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 due to previous consent for the erection or use of the building not being granted and the use being contrary to Council's current IDO.

That Council issue the owner of the Sheepyard Inn Hostel with Order No 2 under section 121B of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 giving 30 days to demolish the building due to the danger posed to the public by the buildings lack of suitable wall and roof framing to resist wind loads and lack of appropriate fixings of the wall and roof sheeting.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 16 FEBRUARY 2006

Item No: 9

Subject: Report on Management Plan 2005/2006 Progress

Author: Stephen McLean – General Manager

File No: 145/11/07/00

Summary:

This report summarises Council's progress towards its objectives established in its 2005/2006 Management Plan.

Comments (including issues and background):

Under Section 407 of the Local Government Act 1993 the General Manager is required to report progress against the Management Plan to council within six weeks of the end of each quarter.

Relevant Reference Documents:

- Local Government Act 1993.
- Walgett Shire Council Strategic / Management Plan 2005/2006

Stakeholders:

- Residents and Council of Walgett Shire

Financial Implications:

Nil

MANAGEMENT REVIEW – 31 DECEMBER 2005

OBJECTIVE A - PLANNING FOR A BETTER FUTURE

No.	Comments
A 1	Draft Land Use Strategy public release impending 1 st half 2006.
A 2	<p>Council actively participates in local community activities.</p> <p>Council has provided for annual Section 356 Donations to Community Organisations in the 2005/2006 Budget.</p> <p>Asset Reserves (restricted funds) have been set aside to ensure that assets can be maintained. Maintenance on Council assets is performed on a needs basis.</p>
A 3	<p>Period of consultation for the Strategic Road Plan currently in hand. Meetings have been held with all Precinct Committees to discuss the Plan. Draft 5 year plan report to February 2006 meeting.</p>
A 4	All staff appraised annually and training forecast developed. An on-going training calendar will be an ongoing project.

OBJECTIVE B - PROVIDING STRONG LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY

No.	Comments
B 1	112 surveys returned by clients for average score of 3.478 across categories. Slight Improvement in the last quarter.
B 2	<p>(a) 18 CDC's approved since 1 July 2005. Average processing time 7.18 days</p> <p>(b) 22 DA's approved since 1 July 2005. Average processing time 27.7 days</p>
B3	Community consulted in developing the Social/Community and Tourism Plans. Also continuing development of Precinct Committees and Working Parties
B4	Community consulted in developing the Social/Community and Tourism Plans. Council successful as an applicant in 'Principles of Multiculturalism' pilot project. Council endeavours to identify available funding initiatives and track applications.
B5	<p>Initiative being reviewed following extensive staff restructures. Staff appraisals are held on an annual basis.</p> <p>Staff Monthly Newsletter and Employee of the Month Awards have been implemented since July 2005.</p>
B6	Zero breaches reported.

OBJECTIVE C - DELIVERING COMMUNITY FOCUSED SERVICES

No.	Comments
C 1	Customer Action Requests outstanding days is monitored. Outstanding Customer Action Requests are provided regularly to employees and managers for maintenance.
C 2	Council representatives have contributed as appropriate.
C 3	Monthly updates being performed with further works scheduled. Council will advise through press releases and information passed onto Precinct Committees and Working Parties. Website redesign has commenced and Community Working Party's and Precinct Committees notified. Locations have been identified for information displays throughout the Shire.
C 4	Council is complying with the Local Government Act 1993 for advertising of meetings. Opportunities are provided to the public to address agenda items at monthly Council Meetings.
C 5	No progress on this matter to date, currently seeking additional staffing resources to assist. However, community consultation on assessed future requirements by Council
C 6	(a) Targets being met (b) Targets being met
C 7	Community Liaison Officer is assisting with the development of a Shire Youth Plan. As at January 2006, there are currently four Carers in place. Support for the development of Community Based Long Day Care Centre in conjunction with Walgett Country Women's Association.
C 8	Now Engineering Staff has full compliment a five year strategy plan should be achieved by March 2006.
C 9	All policies are currently under review. Policies and Procedures will be presented to Council upon finalisation. All operational Policies will be adopted by the General Manager.

OBJECTIVE D - WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE OUR ENVIRONMENT

No.	Comments
D 1	New hardware implemented to further reduce Councils printing and paper requirements through improved technology.
D 2	Targets are being met.
D 3	(a) Target met (b) Target met (c) Targets being met
D 4	Activities proceeding in due course.
D 5	This is done as new projects are commenced. There have been no recorded breaches and operational methods are reviewed as part of a more comprehensive overall review.
D 6	Initial data matching complete. Minimal progress possible until data validation of rating land titles details has occurred.

OBJECTIVE E - MANAGING OUR RESOURCES AND ASSETS

No.	Comments
E 1	Authority System to be monitored externally by qualified and trained staff from March 2006. Audit of Records System has been completed and is currently under review.
E 2	Target being met
E 3	Target being met
E 4	Review completed and meetings conducted quarterly. Funding for ERM process unsuccessful and resubmitted.
E 5	Council successful as an applicant in 'Principles of Multiculturalism' pilot project. Timeframe governed by DLG and CRC
E 6	The audit has not been undertaken. Not yet undertaken due to staff limitations.
E 7	Funding submissions have been prepared for the following:- 1. Burren Junction Bore Baths 2. Spider Brown Oval, Lightning Ridge 3. Carinda Road 4. Walgett Weir

OBJECTIVE F - PROMOTING OUR PLANS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

No.	Comments
F 1	Tourism marketing plan incorporated into Tourism strategy. Strategy currently under development.

Recommendation:

That the Management Plan 2005/2006 progress report for December 2005 be received.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 16 FEBRUARY 2006

Item No: 10

Subject: Pesticide and Environment Liaison Committee

Author: Stephen McLean – General Manager

File No: 245/02/17/00

Summary:

A member of the public has requested that Council consider reinstating the Pesticide and Environment Liaison Committee that once operated under Council. This report recommends that this committee is not re-formed.

Comments (including issues and background):

The suggested pesticide committee was formed primarily in response to community concerns about aerial pesticide spraying operations and issues with the pesticide residue pit constructed at Walgett aerodrome. The Committee operated on an informal basis and met every three months to provide advice to Walgett Shire Council on pesticide and environmental matters within the Shire, it was 'chaired' by a Councillor. The primary function of this committee was discussions about drum muster dates environmental and pesticide application issues.

Meeting minutes and invitations were issued to representatives of the Castlereagh Macquarie County Council, Department of Agriculture, Department Natural Resources, Environment Protection Authority, local ground rig spray operators, NSW Farmers–Central Division (East), NSW Farmers–Western Division (West), NSW Health - Population Health, Queensland Cotton, Walgett Rural Lands Protection Board, Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service, Walgett Agronomy Group, Walgett Cotton Growers, the CWA and community representatives.

Many organisations that received minutes and invitations did not send representatives to each meeting. The Committee provided an opportunity for community representatives community organisations and government authorities to discuss local environmental and pesticide issues and make recommendations to Walgett Shire Council.

It is noted that such matters within the Shire would be better and similarly capably dealt with by the established precinct committees, and that the precinct committees are representative of the entire Shire and not Walgett centred as the make up of the previous committee would suggest.

SHIRE OF WALGETT - AGENDA

Relevant Reference Documents:

- Council records on the Pesticide and Environment Liaison Committee

Stakeholders:

- Walgett Shire Council and residents

Financial Implications:

Nil

Recommendation:

That the Pesticide and Environment Liaison Committee not be re-formed due to Councils established Precinct Committee system.

MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 16 FEBRUARY 2006
--

Item No: 11

Subject: Walgett Youth Centre Upgrade

Author: Gai Richardson – Community Liaison Officer

File No: 130/04/00/00

Summary:

Walgett Youth Centre is currently closed due to the poor condition of the facilities and therefore the lack of ability to attract suitable staff to provide youth programs in Walgett.

Discussions have been held between Council and the Government Departments to transfer funding received for a Rage Cage Project to upgrade the Youth Centre.

The Rage Cage Project did not go ahead due to community perception that a facility with that name would not be suitable for the youth of Walgett.

Comments (including issues and background):

Original Grants and funding available for the Rage Cage Project were:-

• DOTAR Regional Partnerships through the Barwon Darling Alliance	\$ 70,000
• Premier's Department	\$ 45,000
• Walgett Shire Council – equipment and labour	<u>\$ 14,000</u>
	<u>\$129,000</u>

Quotes received:-

To up-grade the Youth Centre	-	\$ 74,150
To build an external amenities and small storage block		<u>\$ 30,000</u>
		<u>\$104,150</u>

DOTAR requested Barwon Darling Alliance return their grant to DOTAR as it had not been used. DOTAR have advised that a new application will now need to be submitted to go through the correct channels. It is understood that the funding will be forthcoming when the new application is received.

The Premier's Department Grant is being held in reserves at Council.

SHIRE OF WALGETT - AGENDA

Issues of the Youth Centre being closed, especially over the Christmas holidays, have been raised by the Community Working Party, Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service and Interagency Group. A letter of complaint was also received from the Dharriwaa Elders Group.

These organisations, along with the Police Department, Sport and Recreation Department and Premier's Department strongly support the up-grading and re-opening of the Youth Centre as soon as possible.

The proposed up-grading will maximise the use of the facility by local and visiting organisations working with the youth in Walgett.

Examples of visiting groups include:-

Youth off the Streets, BigArt (Beyond Empathy), StormCo, Kezang.

Council has also had requests from organisations such as the Wilcannia Youth Club and church youth groups to use the facility as an overnight camping venue when they are visiting or passing through Walgett on excursions.

Local organisations include: Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service's Vacation Care and Youth Health Related Programs, Sport and Recreation Department Activities, Uniting Church Youth Support, Police Department Youth Programs

Increased use by the Youth in Walgett will also support the concept of a PCYC coming to Walgett

Relevant Reference Documents:

- Quotations for Upgrading of Youth Centre

Stakeholders:

- Walgett Shire Council
- Walgett Community

Financial Implications:

- Council has previously agreed to provide \$14,000 in kind for a youth project

Recommendations:

That Council support and implement the up-grading and re-opening of the Walgett Youth Centre as soon as practicably possible. Estimate of costs are \$105,000 – with funding to be transferred from the Rage Cage funding which consisted of the Premier's Department Grant of \$45,000 being held in reserves by Council, a grant to the value of \$70,000 from DOTAR and \$14,000 in kind from Council.

**MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING
16 FEBRUARY 2006**

Item No: 12

Subject: Report on Rates – 31 January 2006

Author: Fiona McKenzie – Revenue Officer

File No: 180/09/00/00

	Jan-05	Jan-06
Arrears as at 30 June	1,339,457.28	1,395,484.94
Adjusted Levy	5,339,190.57	5,511,422.57
Interest	44,354.83	48,916.14
Payments	(3,436,027.99)	(3,424,464.35)
Adjustments	(1,699.55)	(94,077.97)
Discount	(49,219.95)	(53,661.41)
Legal Fees	15,223.72	1,192.02
Total Outstanding	\$ <u><u>3,251,278.91</u></u>	<u><u>3,384,811.94</u></u>

COMPARISON WITH 2004/2005

	Jan-05	Jan-06
Current	2,145,119.25	2,182,754.31
Arrears	775,379.27	839,182.28
Interest	265,760.89	302,158.57
Legals	65,019.50	60,716.78
Total Outstanding	\$ <u><u>3,251,278.91</u></u>	<u><u>3,384,811.94</u></u>

Total YTD Collected

	Jan-05	Jan-06
Collected YTD % of Arrears and Levy	51%	52%
Collected YTD % of Levy	64%	65%

Recommendation:

That the Report on Rates as at 31 January 2006 be received.

MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 15 DECEMBER 2005
--

Item No: 13

Subject: Statement of Bank Account Balances – 31 January 2006

Author: Fiona McKenzie – Revenue Officer

File No: 180/02/00/00

Summary:

This submission summarises the cash position of Walgett Shire Council and reports a healthy cash flow.

Comments (including issues and background):

The current bank account total is \$9,994,256.55. This includes total investments of \$8,550,425.75. Walgett Shire Council has the ability to service its debt on a timely basis and has the capacity to respond to opportunities or unforeseen commitments that may arise.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Nil

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council

SHIRE OF WALGETT - AGENDA

STATEMENT OF BANK ACCOUNT BALANCES

The following is a summary of Council's Bank Accounts as at 31 January 2006

FUND	BALANCE	RECEIPTS	PAYMENTS	BALANCE
	31/12/2005			31/01/2006
Consolidated Fund	5,520,734.39	1,682,368.23	1,054,880.12	6,148,222.50
Walgett Shire Sewer	1,505,768.66	5,631.62	(12,241.75)	1,523,642.03
Walgett Shire Water	2,568,592.44	13,046.24	26,427.41	2,555,211.27
Domestic Waste Management	(181,382.85)	7,862.71	59,299.11	(232,819.25)
	\$ 9,413,712.64	1,708,908.80	1,128,364.89	9,994,256.55
The balance of Council's investments as at 31 January 2006 (as per Bank Statements)				8,550,425.75
Cash Management Accounts				1,458,508.33
PLUS: Outstanding Deposits				28,719.22
LESS: Outstanding Cheques				(43,396.75)
				9,994,256.55

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

<u>Investment Institution</u>	<u>Type of Investment</u>	<u>Term (days)</u>	<u>Rate %</u>	<u>Ref</u>	<u>Reset Date</u>	<u>Maturity Date</u>		
Citibank	Term Deposit	14	5.55	366/06		14-Feb-06	\$	200,425.75
Bank of Qld	Term Deposit	365	6.03	307/05		14-Feb-06	\$	250,000.00
Investec Bank (Aust) Ltd	2 year rolling NCD	92	6.0250	353/05	14-Feb-06	14-Aug-06	\$	500,000.00
IMB Ltd	Term Deposit	184	5.84	345/05		16-Feb-06	\$	200,000.00
IMB Ltd	Term Deposit	126	5.80	352/05		21-Feb-06	\$	500,000.00
NM Rothchild & Sons (Aust) Ltd	Term Deposit	365	6.05	312.05		22-Feb-06	\$	500,000.00
Westpac	Callable Range Accrual	90	9.00	359/05	7-Mar-06	07-Mar-10	\$	500,000.00
IMB Ltd	Term Deposit	365	6.17	316/05		08-Mar-06	\$	500,000.00
Commonwealth	Callable Range Accrual	90	7.50	362/05	16-Mar-06	16-Dec-10	\$	500,000.00
Suncorp Metway Ltd	Term Deposit	182	5.72	349/05		21-Mar-06	\$	250,000.00
IMB Ltd	Term Deposit	120	5.76	355/05		28-Mar-06	\$	500,000.00
Citibank	Term Deposit	90	5.66	363.06		10-Apr-06	\$	250,000.00
Savings & Loans Credit Union	Term Deposit	182	5.91	351/05		11-Apr-06	\$	500,000.00
Bankwest	Term Deposit	154	5.76	358/05		09-May-06	\$	500,000.00
Bank of Qld	Term Deposit	182	5.79	361.05		13-Jun-06	\$	500,000.00
Westpac	Term Deposit	307	5.50	350/05		08-Aug-06	\$	300,000.00
Bankwest	Term Deposit	365	5.85	341/05		09-Aug-06	\$	300,000.00
Local Govt Financial Services	Fixed Deposit	125	5.70	364/06		16-Aug-06	\$	500,000.00
Westpac	Term Deposit	335	5.65	357/05		01-Nov-06	\$	500,000.00
National	Term Deposit	365	5.63	356/05		30-Nov-06	\$	500,000.00
Commonwealth	Term Deposit	365	5.65	360/05		10-Dec-06	\$	300,000.00
								\$ 8,550,425.75

SHIRE OF WALGETT - AGENDA

Total Payments for Month

I wish to advise that the following payments were made from Council's Accounts for the month of January 2006 using cheques 16805 - 16870 and EFT's 771 - 777 & 779

EFT's	712,303.53
Cheques	141,972.27
Manual Cheques	0.00
Cancelled Cheques	(6,807.79)
Direct Debits	54,792.81
Payroll	225,549.57
Bank Charges	554.50
	<hr/>
	\$1,128,364.89

Year to Date Totals

	Receipts	Payments
Jul 05 - Dec 05	9,662,105.65	10,655,619.42
Jan-06	1,708,908.80	1,128,364.89
Total 2005/2006	11,371,014.45	11,783,984.31

Recommendation:

That the Statement of Bank Account Balances as at 31 January 2006 be received.

MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 16 FEBRUARY 2006
--

Item No: 14

Subject: Monthly Management Report to 31 December 2005

Author: John Burke – Acting Manager Corporate Services

File No: 145/04/27/00

Summary:

This report presents to Council the quarterly financial review for the period ending 31 December 2005.

Comments (including issues and background):

The quarterly review is a statutory requirement under the Local Government Financial Management Regulation 1999, Part 2 Clause 7 and is an essential aspect of Council's financial management.

At the Council meeting held on 23 June 2005, Council adopted the 2005 – 2008 Management Plan, which incorporated the annual budget for Council for 2005/2006.

General Budgetary Position:

This review analyses the financial performance of the Council for the second quarter ending 31 December 2005, comparing actual expenditure and revenue against the budget. Council's budgetary position for the quarter ended 31 December 2005 is financially sound. The Budgeted surplus was (\$36,731) after allowing for adjustments as approved at the October meeting of Council, and at the end of December 2005, the surplus based on actuals was (\$776,122).

Under Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, Section 203 (2) and having regard to the original estimate of income and expenditure, I believe that the financial position of the Council is satisfactory.

SHIRE OF WALGETT - AGENDA

The total Variance is summarised as follows:

<u>Management Review as at 31st December 2005</u>					
	2005/2006 Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Actual (Committed)	Budget Available Current Year	
Executive Revenue	(41,000)	(22,184)	(22,184)	(18,816)	54%
Executive Expenditure	847,500	461,540	478,299	369,201	56%
Corporate Services Revenue	(119,000)	0	0	(119,000)	0%
Corporate Services Expenditure	873,375	381,214	389,812	483,563	45%
Marketing & Promotions Revenue	(20,000)	(10,699)	(12,585)	(7,415)	63%
Marketing & Promotions Expenditure	223,750	129,208	129,208	94,542	58%
Financial Services Revenue	(7,716,237)	(5,511,804)	(5,555,193)	(2,161,044)	72%
Financial Services Expenditure	2,710,550	1,674,005	1,702,802	1,007,748	63%
Community Services Revenue	(255,500)	(46,229)	(46,229)	(209,271)	18%
Community Services Expenditure	649,827	267,738	224,663	425,164	35%
Planning and Regulation Revenue	(57,600)	(46,987)	(47,099)	(10,501)	82%
Planning and Regulation Expenditure	558,279	357,000	356,808	201,471	64%
Engineering Services Revenue	(58,000)	(17,294)	(17,658)	(40,342)	30%
Engineering Services Expenditure	96,525	91,850	95,900	625	99%
Engineer Works Revenue	(10,198,208)	(4,118,684)	(3,782,827)	(6,415,381)	37%
Engineer Works Expenditure	12,512,808	6,509,105	7,395,414	5,117,394	59%
Domestic Waste Revenue	(639,430)	(579,076)	(579,076)	(60,354)	91%
Domestic Waste Expenditure	712,919	273,047	273,334	439,585	38%
Public Order & Safety Revenue	(70,798)	0	0	(70,798)	0%
Public Order & Safety Expenditure	210,870	100,140	101,641	109,229	48%
Water Services Revenue	(1,111,185)	(992,006)	(992,006)	(119,179)	89%
Water Services Expenditure	965,296	697,283	788,467	176,829	82%
Sewerage Services Revenue	(491,618)	(495,848)	(495,848)	4,230	101%
Sewerage Services Expenditure	380,146	122,559	124,882	255,264	33%
	(36,731)	(776,122)	510,525		

Variance of Income Compared to Expenditure			
	Budget YTD	Actual YTD	% of Budget
Income	(20,778,576)	(11,840,811)	57%
Expenditure	20,741,845	11,064,689	53%
Variance	(36,731)	(776,122)	

SHIRE OF WALGETT - AGENDA

The operations breakdown is as follows:

<u>Walgett Shire Council</u>					
<u>Operating Statement</u>					
<u>For the Period Ending 31st December 2005</u>					
Income	Sep-05	Dec-05	Mar-06	Jun-06	Total
General Rates & Levies	- 5,556,639.02	- 971,488.90	-	-	- 6,528,127.92
Sales of Goods & services	- 498,659.43	- 606,043.56	-	-	- 1,104,702.99
Interest	- 149,403.48	- 57,644.52	-	-	- 207,048.00
Grants & Subsidies	- 954,081.00	- 1,033,686.59	-	-	- 1,987,767.59
Other revenue	- 562,435.44	- 1,264,028.43	-	-	- 1,826,463.87
Total Revenue	- 7,721,218.37	- 3,932,892.00	-	-	- 11,654,110.37
Expenditure					
Superannuation	86,259.48	76,048.42	-	-	162,307.90
Salaries & wages	1,259,561.58	1,363,272.43	-	-	2,622,834.01
Other employee Expenses	44,520.96	85,445.74	-	-	129,966.70
Materials & Services	2,877,473.18	3,167,490.08	-	-	6,044,963.26
Interest Expenses	5,224.42	10,179.20	-	-	15,403.62
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
Other Expenses	956,371.83	946,141.36	-	-	1,902,513.19
Total Expenditure	5,229,411.45	5,648,577.23	-	-	10,877,988.68
	- 2,491,806.92	1,715,685.23	-	-	- 776,121.69

Significant Budget Variances:-

Executive

- There are no significant variations to report from this quarter.

Corporate Services

- River Towns Project is still not operating due to the absence of a Facilitator. It has been advised that the position is to be advertised in February, by the Premiers Department.
- Journals to recognise internal charges to other functions have not been posted at the time of this report.

Marketing and Promotions

- There are no significant variations to report from this quarter.

Financial Services

- Redundancy payment for staff of \$28,000 to be funded from the contingency account.
- The increase in Council's workers compensation premium has been funded from an increase in the on cost rate applied, and with the view to this additional cost being met within the existing budgets.

Community Services

- Expenditure incurred on M.A.D. Project (Safer Community Compact) to be funded from externally restricted funds of \$40,000.
- Funding for the Youth worker, Community development Officer and Vacation Care Programs not received as yet. Acquittals have been submitted.

Planning and Regulation

- Proceeds from three (3) motor vehicles sold, not received.
- Contribution to CMCC paid in total.
- There are no significant variations to report from this quarter.

Engineering Services

- Journals to recognise internal charges to other functions have not been posted at the time of this report.
- There are no significant variations to report from this quarter.

Engineer Works

- Purchase of new garbage compactor, \$236,000, to be funded from unexpended loans (DWM) in restricted reserves.
- Construction of concrete bridges on shire roads. This expenditure to be funded from restricted reserves, under roads to recovery (\$552,979).
- Programs, along with funded amounts, from the RTA, have been confirmed.
- Council has not received any roads to recovery funding as at the date of this report.
- Journals to recognise internal charges to other functions have not been posted at the time of this report.
- 2005/06 Financial Assistant Grants – local roads component, \$1,410,000 was reported in the Management Plan and the Minister for Local Government has notified Council that the grant to Walgett Shire Council is \$1,414,769.
- Expenditure – Utilities and Recreation - contribution to Lightning Ridge Olympic Pool Committee for pool, theme park and multi-purpose centre paid in full.

Domestic Waste Management

- There are no significant variations to report from this quarter.
- Non-Rateable charges have now been sent out for this year.

Public Order and Safety

- Council received the contribution from RFS in January.
- There are no significant variations to report from this quarter.

Water Services

- Extra expenditure, maintenance on filtration plant, will be funded from reserve water funds, if not from the current budget. The March 06 quarter should indicate this.

Sewer Services

- The full amount of rates revenue has been raised this period.
- There are no significant variations to report from this quarter.

Relevant Reference Documents:

- Monthly Management Report for the period ending 31 December 2005.

Stakeholders:

- Walgett Shire Council

Financial Implications:

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

Adjustments recommended to the original budget are as follows:

- Increase Road Component of Federal Assistance Grant by \$4,769 to \$1,414,769
- Increase Regional Roads Block Grant by \$544,000 to \$1,670,000.00
- Decrease Street Lighting Subsidy by \$25,000.00 to \$20,000.00
- Decrease MR402 Repair Program by \$249,000.00 to Nil
- Decrease RR383 Reconstruction by \$250,000.00 to \$250,000.00
- Decrease Regional and Local Roads Flood Damage by \$232,313.00 to \$2,515,182.00
- Increase Workers Compensation Premium by \$509,000.00 to \$698,000.00
- Increase oncost income from \$1,436,000.00 to \$1,945,000.00

Recommendation:

That Council note the Monthly Management Report and approve the following adjustments to the budget for the quarter ending 31 December 2005:-

- **Increase Road Component of Federal Assistance Grant by \$4,769 to \$1,414,769**
- **Increase Regional Roads Block Grant by \$544,000 to \$1,670,000.00**
- **Decrease Street Lighting Subsidy by \$25,000.00 to \$20,000.00**
- **Decrease MR402 Repair Program by \$249,000.00 to Nil**
- **Decrease RR383 Reconstruction by \$250,000.00 to \$250,000.00**
- **Decrease Regional and Local Roads Flood Damage by \$232,313.00 to \$2,515,182.00**
- **Increase Workers Compensation Premium by \$509,000.00 to \$698,000.00**
- **Increase oncost income from \$1,436,000.00 to \$1,945,000.00**

MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 16 FEBRUARY 2006
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Item No: 15

Subject: Monthly Management Report to 31 January 2006

Author: John Burke – Acting Manager Corporate Services

File No: 145/04/27/00

Summary:

This report is prepared to report on the operational performance against adopted estimates for the year ended 31 January 2006.

Comments (including issues and background):

Department of Local Government Report, Recommendation 31, requires monthly reports be submitted to Council reporting on significant differences. This report analyses the financial performance of the Council for the period ending 31 January 2006 comparing actual expenditure and revenue against the budget.

However, it must be acknowledged that this report is based on actual figures for income and expenditure, and does reflect the expenditure incurred, for which Council has not received income.

Significant income that is yet to be received by Council where expenditure had been incurred is as follows:

- The total premium for Workers Compensation has been paid, where on-costs have only been raised for seven months.
- Purchase of garbage compactor of \$236,000.00, being funded from garbage loan.
- Concrete bridge construction of which \$553,000.00 to be funded from reserve funds under Roads to Recovery.
- SIMC expenditure of approximately \$600,000.00, income not realised.

If these income amounts were included in the review, the result would be a surplus of \$1,007,910.

SHIRE OF WALGETT - AGENDA

Management Review as at 31st January 2006

	2005/2006 Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Actual (Committed)	Budget Available Current Year	
Executive Revenue	(41,000)	(25,884)	(25,884)	(15,116)	63%
Executive Expenditure	847,500	522,929	543,029	304,471	64%
Corporate Services Revenue	(119,000)	0	0	(119,000)	0%
Corporate Services Expenditure	873,375	415,593	430,975	442,400	49%
Marketing & Promotions Revenue	(20,000)	(13,744)	(13,744)	(6,256)	69%
Marketing & Promotions Expenditure	223,750	142,820	142,820	80,930	64%
Financial Services Revenue	(7,716,237)	(5,701,161)	(5,701,161)	(2,015,076)	74%
Financial Services Expenditure	2,710,550	1,974,893	1,974,773	735,777	73%
Community Services Revenue	(255,500)	(50,422)	(50,422)	(205,078)	20%
Community Services Expenditure	649,827	255,476	260,780	389,047	40%
Planning and Regulation Revenue	(57,600)	(51,589)	(51,589)	(6,011)	90%
Planning and Regulation Expenditure	558,279	341,155	341,260	217,019	61%
Engineering Services Revenue	(58,000)	(24,044)	(24,044)	(33,956)	41%
Engineering Services Expenditure	96,525	106,027	105,486	(8,961)	109%
Engineer Works Revenue	(10,198,208)	(4,072,554)	(4,072,554)	(6,125,654)	40%
Engineer Works Expenditure	12,512,808	7,701,242	8,701,428	3,811,380	70%
Domestic Waste Revenue	(639,430)	(601,487)	(601,487)	(37,943)	94%
Domestic Waste Expenditure	712,919	332,347	382,881	330,038	54%
Public Order & Safety Revenue	(70,798)	(34,398)	(34,398)	(36,400)	49%
Public Order & Safety Expenditure	210,870	115,465	116,950	93,920	55%
Water Services Revenue	(1,111,185)	(1,029,032)	(1,029,032)	(82,153)	93%
Water Services Expenditure	965,296	758,189	860,853	104,443	89%
Sewerage Services Revenue	(491,618)	(515,060)	(515,060)	23,442	105%
Sewerage Services Expenditure	380,146	134,329	136,684	243,462	36%
	(36,731)	681,090	1,878,544		

Variance of Income Compared to Expenditure			
	Budget YTD	Actual YTD	% of Budget
Income	(20,778,576)	(12,119,375)	58%
Expenditure	20,741,845	12,800,465	62%
Variance	(36,731)	681,090	

SHIRE OF WALGETT - AGENDA

Relevant Reference Documents:

- Monthly Management Report for the period ending 31 January 2006

Stakeholders:

- Walgett Shire Council

Financial Implications:

- Operations are still considered within Budget constraints.

Recommendations:

That Council note the Monthly Management Report for the period ending 31 January 2006.

MANAGER PLANNING AND REGULATIONS REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 16 FEBRUARY 2006
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Item No: 16

Subject: Proposed sale of Crown Land at Lightning Ridge

Author: Matthew Goodwin - Manager Planning and Regulation

File No: 025/05/01/77

Summary:

The Department of Natural Resources is seeking Walgett Shire Council's comments on a proposal to sell two parcels of Crown Land in Lightning Ridge. It is recommended that Walgett Shire Council respond by indicating that it has no objections to the proposed sale.

Comments (including issues and background):

In a letter dated 19 Dec 2005 the Sales and Lease Coordinator for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) wrote to Walgett Shire Council as follows:

"The Department has identified additional parcels of land that may also be suitable for disposal by way of auction", and "Could you advise if Council has any comment on the additional parcels".

The term additional parcels is used because previously the Department asked for Council's comments on the proposed sale of four other parcels of land in Lightning Ridge (See Council Minutes for 30 August 2004).

The two additional lots are shown on the map below. Both have an area of about 1000m² each, are vacant and located in areas that are predominantly residential in character.

It is noted that Lot 20 on the corner of Onyx and Harlequin Streets is located very close to the Newtown Opal Field, and that a number of backfilled mine shafts periodically reopen within nearby parts of the Lightning Ridge urban area, especially following periods of wet weather. Prior to being included within the urban area, it appears possible that at least part of Lot 20 may have been mined for opal by underground methods.

SHIRE OF WALGETT - AGENDA



Relevant Reference Documents:

- Letter dated 18 Dec 2005 from Sales and Leases Coordinator, Department of Natural Resources (on file 025-05-01-77).

Stakeholders:

- Department of Natural Resources, the community and Walgett Shire Council.

Financial Implications:

- None known

Recommendations:

Walgett Shire Council resolve to write to the Department of Natural Resources and state:

- It has no objection to the proposed sale of Lot 20 Section 16 DP 758612 at the corner of Onyx and Harlequin Street or Lot 2 Section 12 DP 758612 in Brilliant St, Lightning Ridge.**
- Walgett Shire Council suggests that potential purchasers of Lot 20 Section 16 DP 758612 at the corner of Onyx and Harlequin Street should be informed that it might be affected by historic underground opal mining activity.**

MANAGER PLANNING AND REGULATIONS REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 16 FEBRUARY 2006
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Item No: 17

Subject: Development Application 2005051 – Gemtec Pty. Ltd

Author: Matthew Goodwin - Manager Planning and Regulation

File No: DA 2005051

Summary:

A Development Application has been lodged by Gemtec Pty Ltd to subdivide two lots in Morilla St in Lightning Ridge. It is recommended that development consent be issued subject to certain conditions.

Background:

Gemtec Pty Ltd has lodged a Development Application to subdivide lots 20 & 23 in DP758612 into two lots, one about 720m² and the other about 800m², as shown in the figures below. The proposal involves:

- Lot 20 has an area of about 1014m² while Lot 23 has an area of about 506m².
- The land is located on the corner of Morilla and Opal Streets, Lightning Ridge. Commercial land uses are dominant on nearby lots.
- It is proposed to create two new lots, one about 720m² and the other about 800m².
- The 800m² lot will initially be vacant land. It is well located for future commercial development.
- The 720m² lot will be the site of the existing Gemtec opal buying premises and a shed.

Diagrams of the existing and proposed lots are included below.

In summary the proposal is effectively a boundary alteration.

SHIRE OF WALGETT - AGENDA

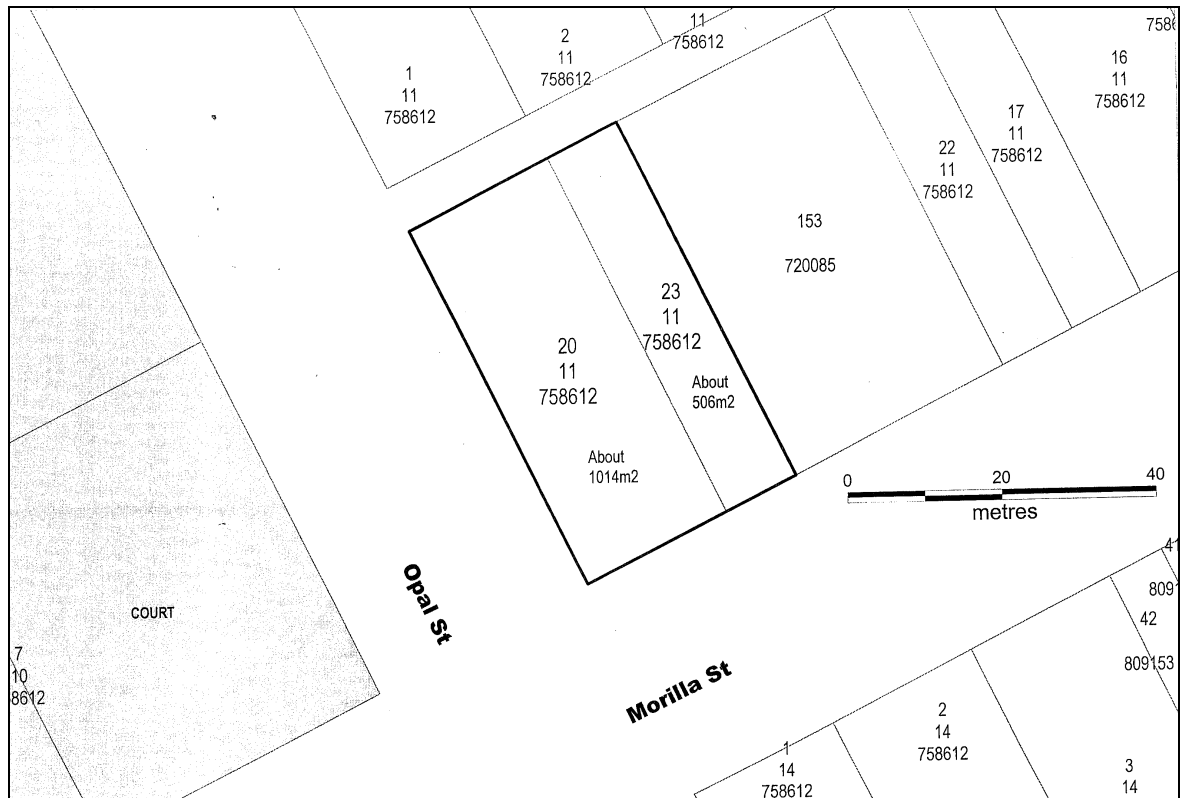


Figure – Existing lots.

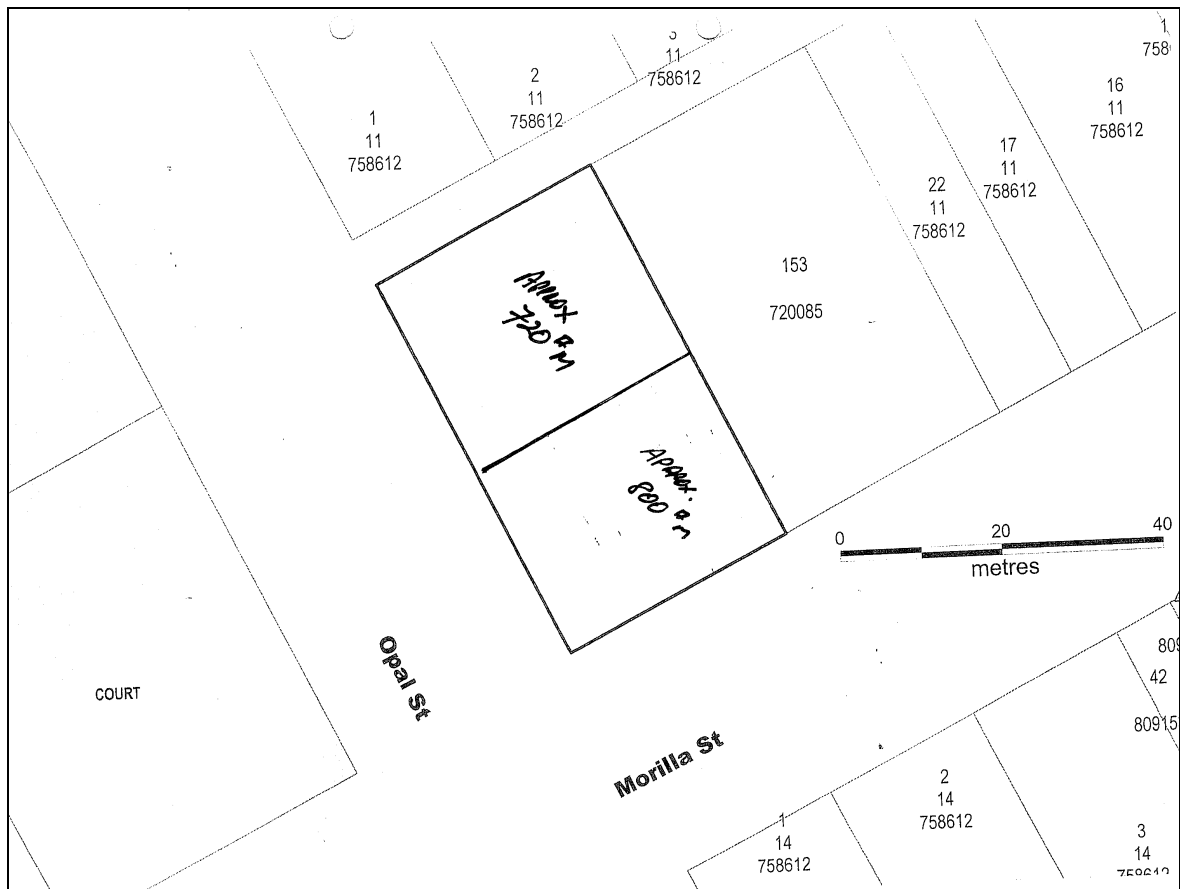


Figure – Proposed lots.

Statutory matters for consideration:

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

The only relevant environmental planning instrument is the Interim Development Order No. 1 – Shire Of Walgett 1968 (IDO). Under that order the land is located within a “2.Village or Township” zone.

In accordance with Column III of the IDO Zoning Table, (titled “Development which may be carried out only with the consent of Council”), *Development other than that prohibited by Column V*, development consent is required to permit the subdivision.

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

Not applicable.

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

No relevant DCPs. However the Walgett Shire Council Land Subdivision Code – Urban Areas was used as a guide. While obsolete, this code is expected to form the basis for subdivision standards that will be adopted under a future DCP. For commercial land the code specifies a minimum lot size of 20m² and the street frontage of 6.0m. This proposal satisfies both criteria.

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

Not applicable.

79C(1)(a)(iv) The regulations.

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

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

The current land use on surrounding lots is predominantly commercial. The applicant has indicated that the proposed lots will be used for commercial purpose.

The lot on the corner of Opal and Morilla Streets will be isolated from the Council effluent main unless the main is extended to service that lot. This can be addressed by a condition of development consent requiring the developer to pay the cost of extending the main.

In general the subdivision will not have a significant detrimental impact on the natural or built environments.

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

Both new lots will have adequate access to public streets.

There are no known environmental or other factors that make the site unsuitable for the proposed subdivision.

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

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

SHIRE OF WALGETT - AGENDA

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

No objections from adjoining owners have been received.

Given the proposed development is permissible with development consent in a "2. Village or Township" zone and essentially involves commercial development in a predominantly commercial area, approval appears to be in the public interest..

The following matters must also be considered by Council in accordance with Sections 92 and 92A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000 when making a decision on any Development Application.

92 (1) (a) Coastal areas.

Not Applicable.

92 (1) (b) Demolition.

Not Applicable, no demolition work is proposed at this time.

92A Preliminary planning.

Not applicable.

Relevant Reference Documents:

- Development Application file 2005051
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.
- Interim Development Order No. 1 – Shire Of Walgett 1968.
- Walgett Shire Council Land Subdivision Code – Urban Areas 1991

Stakeholders:

- Gemtec Pty Ltd, as the applicant and owner. .

Recommendation:

That Development Application 2005051 be approved subject to the following conditions of consent:

PRESCRIBED CONDITIONS OF DEVELOPMENT CONSENT

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

SPECIAL CONDITIONS SET BY COUNCIL

GENERAL

Gen 010.

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

Reason: To avoid breaching the requirements of any covenant.

SHIRE OF WALGETT - AGENDA

Gen 020.

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

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

SUBDIVISION

Sub 010.

That two lots are created by the subdivision of Lot 20 and Lot 23 in DP 758612, one of about 720 square metres and the other about 800 square metres.

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

Sub 020.

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

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

Sub 060.

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

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

Sub 081.

The developer is to arrange for the extension of Council's sewer main to service the proposed new 800m² Lot, at full cost to the developer and to the satisfaction of Council.

Once established to the satisfaction of Council the new sewer main shall become the property of Council.

REASON: To ensure that costs associated with establishing the subdivision are borne by the developer.

APPROVED PLANS

Pln 010.

The development shall be implemented in accordance with:

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

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

except as amended by the conditions of this development consent.

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

SHIRE OF WALGETT - AGENDA

OPAL MINING DISTURBANCE

Min 010.

Opal mining and prospecting operations may have been previously carried out on, or below, the land, which is the subject of this consent, or on adjoining lands. The developer should make their own enquiries to determine whether the land being developed might be adversely affected by such activities, prior to proceeding with the development.

Reason: There are no official records of the extent of opal mining workings within the Lightning Ridge area. It is in the interest of the developer to ensure that there is no evidence that the land is detrimentally affected by mining activity.

END.

MANAGER PLANNING AND REGULATIONS REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 16 FEBRUARY 2006
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Item No: 18

Subject: Development and Complying Development Certificate Applications

Author: Matthew Goodwin - Manager Planning and Regulation

File No: 315/01/00/00

Summary:

This report provides a summary of the Development and Complying Development Certificate applications recently dealt with by the Manager Planning and Regulations 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 Regulations and General Manager between 1 December 2005 and 31 January 2006.

CDC	DATE	STREET NAME	TOWN	DESCRIPTION	ZONING	LAND	DECISION
2006001	18-Jan-06	Gem Street	Lightning Ridge	Construct new dwelling	2. Village	5/24/862620	Approved
2006002	18-Jan-06	Gem Street	Lightning Ridge	Construct new dwelling	2. Village	5/24/862620	Approved
2006003	13-Jan-06	Euroka Street	Walgett	Construct verandah	2. Village	7//218709	Approved
2006004	13-Jan-06	Cardinal Road	Lightning Ridge	Construct shed	2. Village	48//803512	Approved
2006005	31-Jan-06	Gem Street	Lightning Ridge	Construct front fence	2. Village	12/12/758612	Approved
2006006	31-Jan-06	Euroka Street	Walgett	Construct swimming pool	2. Village	8/27/759036	Approved

SHIRE OF WALGETT - AGENDA

DA	DEVELOPMENT	LAND	LOCATION	ZONING	DECISION	DATE
2005045	Construct a new home	52//581514	Walgett	1. Non Urban	Approved	6-Dec-2005
2005047	Build a block extension attached to an existing bedroom	Mineral claim 15099	Lightning Ridge	1. Non Urban	Approved	19-Dec-2005
2005049	Entry porch to Villa Number 4	53//837866	Lightning Ridge	2. Village	Approved	16-Dec-2005
2005050	Construction of community centre and car parking	167//820444	Lightning Ridge	2. Village	Approved	19-Dec-2005
2005052	Use area of Walgett Airport adjacent to runway 05 for carrying out aerial spraying operations	11//851116	Walgett	2. Village	Withdrawn	12-Jan-2006

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 between 30 November 2005 and 31 January 2006.

MANAGER ENGINEERING'S REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 16 FEBRUARY 2006

Item No: 19

Subject: Lightning Ridge Sporting Fields Irrigation System and Sports Field Rehabilitation

Author: Melanie O'Sullivan – Technical Officer

File No: 021/03/01/00 Parks and Reserves Design and Construction

Summary:

Spider Brown Oval and the adjacent playing fields at Lightning Ridge are currently irrigated by Council staff using manually placed and controlled sprinklers. This system is inefficient, unsafe, and contributes to the poor quality of the grass surface. To rectify this situation it is proposed to install an automated irrigation system and improve turf management at a budget cost of \$130,000. Of this amount, the cost of the irrigation component is approximately \$90,000.00.

It is recommended that Council allocate \$60,000 to commence this project from currently unallocated funds held for miscellaneous purposes.

Comments (including issues and background):

Spider Brown Oval and the adjacent playing fields at Lightning Ridge are on Crown Reserve R84117, of which Walgett Shire Council is the Reserve Trust Manager. The ovals are currently irrigated using manually placed and controlled sprinklers. This system is inefficient, unsafe, and contributes to the poor quality of the grass surface.

To rectify this problem it is proposed that:

- 1) Council install an automated irrigation system subject to the concurrence of the Reserve Trust; and
- 2) Council augment its current turf management program with advice from specialist consultants.

Stakeholders:

- Lightning Ridge R84117 Reserve Trust
- Walgett Shire Council
- Various Sporting Clubs

Financial Implications:

The budget cost of the project is \$130,000. \$60,000 can be funded from unallocated funds and can commence immediately to cover the irrigation of Spider Brown Oval, while the remainder of the irrigation works (approximately \$30,000) should await the outcome of current grant applications. In the event that those applications are unsuccessful, completion of the work can be funded from either restricted funds held for Stormwater Management or otherwise referred to the 2006/2007 budget for consideration.

Improvements to the turf management program may be implemented from Council's operational budget for this Reserve, subject to available remaining funds, or referred for consideration in Council's 2006-2007 Management Plan.

The works would be constructed on Crown Reserve R84117, and on completion ownership would be vested in the Crown.

Recommendations:

1. **That Council resolve to allocate \$60,000 for the irrigation of Spider Brown Oval and Adjacent Fields at Lightning Ridge from unallocated funds currently held for miscellaneous purposes.**
2. **That consideration be given, at a future meeting, as to the funding source for the balance of the work.**

MANAGER ENGINEERING'S REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 16 FEBRUARY 2006

Item No: 20

Subject: Residence – Walgett Swimming Pool

Author: Alan Nelson – Manager Engineering

File No: 005/03/02/00

Summary:

This report recommends that work to convert the carport, at the Walgett Swimming Pool Residence, to a double garage be considered in the context of the 2006/07 budget.

Comments (including issues and background):

A request has been received from the Pool Manager, Walgett Swimming Pool, to enclose the carport at the pool residence. This request has been made for two principal reasons, these being ;

1. To protect his vehicle from the occasional stray golf ball that comes across the fence and hits it.
2. To screen the car away from public view – Mr Small believes that children, when they see the car is missing, realise he is away and tend to gain unlawful entry into the pool at these times.

Quotes were sought from three (3) local builders to convert the existing carport into an enclosed garage. Only one builder has responded and has indicated that the cost of the job will be in the order of \$8,000. Having gone through his workings with the builder, initial concerns that the quote seemed very high have been dispelled. The carport cannot be used in the construction, which essentially is the building of a double garage from scratch.

Funds in the current budget for dwellings maintenance are fully committed, nevertheless this work is seen as worthy and should be afforded a high priority in the 2006/07 budget. In this case, it should be possible to have the work completed in advance of the 2006/07 swimming season.

Relevant Reference Documents:

- File No 005/03/02/00

Stakeholders:

- Walgett Shire Council
- Walgett Pool Manager

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Financial Implications:

- None in terms of current budget

Recommendation:

That consideration be given to funding work to convert the carport, at the Walgett Swimming Pool Residence, to a double garage at an estimated cost of \$8,000, in the 2006/07 budget.

MANAGER ENGINEERING'S REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 16 FEBRUARY 2006

Item No: 21

Subject: Shire Roads – Yarraldool Area

Author: Alan Nelson – Manager Engineering

File No: 145/09/00/00

Summary:

This report recommends that Council take action to preserve the integrity of its roads network in the Yarraldool area by seeking the transfer of several small parcels of land, formerly held by Mr RV Pike under Enclosure Permit 57900, to Council.

Comments (including issues and background):

An enquiry has been received from Mr R Pike of "Yarraldool", indicating that sections of what are commonly known as Shire Roads Nos 22, 23 and 63, within his property are actually included in the former Enclosure Permit 57900. The Department of Lands has been corresponding with property owners, offering the sale of unconstructed crown roads within their properties.

Mr Pike wishes to purchase those unconstructed crown roads included in the enclosure permit, but has drawn Council's attention to the fact that also included are sections of Shire Road Nos 22 (Goangra-Yarraldool Road), 23 (Yarraldool-Cryon Road) and 63 (Yarraldool Pit Road). These roads are unfenced but are available for use by the general public. It is clearly in the public interest that Council takes over this section of Enclosure Permit 57900, to protect the integrity of Council's public roads network in this area.

Relevant Reference Documents:

- Correspondence from Mr RV Pike
- Council File No 145/09/00/00

Stakeholders:

- Mr RV Pike
- Walgett Shire Council
- NSW Department of Lands

Financial Implications:

An application fee of \$219.20 will need to be paid to facilitate this land transfer.

Recommendation:

That Council formerly apply to have that section of Enclosure Permit 57900, which includes sections of Shire Roads Nos 22, 23 and 63, transferred to Council's control.

MANAGER ENGINEERING'S REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 16 FEBRUARY 2006

Item No: 22

Subject: Transfer of Closed Road

Author: Alan Nelson – Manager Engineering

File No: 175/07/01/00

Summary:

This report seeks a resolution of Council to affix the Common Seal to facilitate the transfer of a section of closed road to GrainCorp Operations Limited.

Comments (including issues and background):

Some time ago, as part of an overall development by GrainCorp Operations Limited, south of the railway line at Burren Junction, it was agreed that a section of public road would be closed and a new road opened in its place.

The lawyers acting for GrainCorp have presented the Transfer to Council for execution, something which is in order to proceed with.

Relevant Reference Documents:

- Council File No 175/07/01/00
- Council Resolutions August 2002, July 2003

Stakeholders:

- Walgett Shire Council
- GrainCorp Operations Limited

Financial Implications:

- Nil – costs are being borne by GrainCorp Operations Limited

Recommendation:

That Council execute the Transfer and affix the Common Seal to this document to complete the transfer of a section of closed road at Burren Junction to GrainCorp Operations Limited.

MANAGER ENGINEERING'S REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 16 FEBRUARY 2006

Item No: 23

Subject: Shire Road Number 75

Author: Alan Nelson – Manager Engineering

File No: 145/09/00/00

Summary:

This report recommends that Council take action to preserve the integrity of Shire Road No 75 (Warrington East Road) by seeking the transfer of several small parcels of land to Council, which is presently held by landholders along this road under enclosure permits.

Comments (including issues and background):

Council was initially contacted by Mrs M Church of 'Gidginbilla' to indicate that they held a section of Shire Road No 75 under Enclosure Permit 25406. Following contact with the Department of Lands, it seems that other sections of this road are also held under Enclosure Permits 25215 (C Stevenson) and 74702 (Harris).

It is clearly in the public interest to transfer those sections of Shire Road No 75, held under these three enclosure permits, to Council. This can be achieved by making application to the Department of Lands and paying the appropriate application fee of \$219.20.

Relevant Reference Documents:

- Correspondence from Department of Lands
- Documents held by R&M Church
- Council File No 145/09/00/00

Stakeholders:

- R&M Church
- C Stevenson
- S Harris
- Walgett Shire Council
- NSW Department of Lands

Financial Implications:

An application fee of \$219.20 will need to be paid to facilitate this land transfer.

Recommendation:

That Council formerly apply to have those sections of Enclosure Permits 25406, 25215 and 74702, which include sections of Shire Road No 75, transferred to Council's control.

MANAGER ENGINEERING'S REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 16 FEBRUARY 2006

Item No: 24

Subject: North West Weight of Loads Committee

Author: Alan Nelson – Manager Engineering

File No: 145/01/02/00

Summary:

This report recommends that the Common Seal, together with the signatures of Council's Administrator and General Manager, be affixed to authorities given to the five inspectors and two administration staff members employed by the North West Weight of Loads Committee.

Comments (including issues and background):

In December 2005, in response to a request from the North West Weight of Loads Committee, Council resolved to affix the Common Seal to authorities to allow the Support Officers for the North West Weight of Loads Committee, Ms Renee Lobsey and Mrs Louise Girard, to operate within the boundaries of Walgett Shire.

Subsequent to this, Council has been requested to affix its Common Seal to another document authorising Inspectors David Carter, Leonard Hattenfels, Geoffrey Girard, Greg May and Daryl Brady, as well as Administration Staff Renee Lobsey and Louise Girard to operate within the area of Walgett Shire under the provisions of Section 251 of the Roads Act 1993 as amended, Section 44 of the Interstate Road Transport Act as amended and Section 121 of the NSW Road Transport (General) Act 2005.

Relevant Reference Documents:

- Correspondence from North West Weight of Loads Committee
- Roads Transport (General) Act 2005
- Roads Act 1993
- Interstate Transport Act 1985
- Council File No 145/01/02/00

Stakeholders:

- Walgett Shire Council
- North West Weight of Loads Committee
- Roads and Traffic Authority

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Financial Implications:

Not Applicable

Recommendation:

That Council affix the Common Seal to an authority to allow Inspectors David Carter, Leonard Hattenfels, Geoffrey Girard, Greg May and Daryl Brady, as well as Administration Staff Renee Lobsey and Louise Girard of the North West Weight of Loads Committee, to operate within the boundaries of Walgett Shire.

MANAGER ENGINEERING'S REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 16 FEBRUARY 2006

Item No: 25

Subject: Street Trees – Arthur Street, Walgett and Gray Park, Walgett

Author: Alan Nelson – Manager Engineering

File No: 011/07/01/48

Summary:

This report advises Council that these matters, which were to be the subject of reports to this meeting of Council, have been deferred for one month.

Comments (including issues and background):

It was originally intended to advertise proposals to remove street trees growing in Arthur Street, fronting the Walgett High School as well as a proposal to remove three Athel Pine trees growing in Gray Park in the vicinity of the Countrylink bus shelter.

However, a delay in having these proposals advertised for public comment, makes it inappropriate to report back to this meeting of Council. A report on both proposals will be submitted to the March 2006 meeting of Council.

Relevant Reference Documents:

- Council File No 011/07/01/48
- Street Trees – Council Policy and Procedures (September 2005)
- Council Minute 357/05

Stakeholders:

- Walgett Shire Council
- Country Energy
- Residents of Walgett

Financial Implications:

Not Applicable at this stage

Recommendation:

That Council note the deferral on the report concerning street trees located in Arthur Street, Walgett and Gray Park Walgett to the March 2006 meeting of Council.

MANAGER ENGINEERING'S REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 16 FEBRUARY 2006

Item No: 26

Subject: Roadside Rest Area – Dangar Bridge

Author: Alan Nelson – Manager Engineering

File No: 028/05/04/34

Summary:

This report seeks Council's endorsement of a commitment given to the Roads and Traffic Authority, to service and maintain a roadside rest area adjacent to the site of the recently demolished Dangar Bridge over the Barwon River near Walgett.

Comments (including issues and background):

As part of the project which saw the replacement of the Dangar Bridge on an improved alignment, the Roads and Traffic Authority constructed two cages near the former Dangar Bridge, in which have been placed scarred trees. In between these two cages is a picnic table and benches, accordingly the area, despite having no formal access from the road nor any litter bins, has the appearance of a roadside rest area.

On several occasions, Council has been called upon to remove small quantities of rubbish left at the site by travellers. Accordingly, the RTA has been contacted and requested to either remove the picnic table and benches or undertake further construction to 'formalise' the rest area. As it is located on the realigned Brewon Road, rather than the Kamilaroi Highway, the rest area is unlikely to be used by many highway travellers, accordingly a commitment has been given to the RTA that, if the rest area was 'formalised', Council would service and maintain the area at its cost. This could be done at minimal cost and would provide an attractive amenity by the banks of the Barwon River for local people.

The RTA has indicated a preference to complete the rest area, rather than remove it, and will provide funding to Council to allow Council to undertake the work, which comprises construction of access from the Brewon Road and provision of litter facilities.

Relevant Reference Documents:

- Council File No SH29
- Council File No 028/05/04/34

Stakeholders:

- Roads and Traffic Authority
- Walgett Shire Council

Financial Implications:

- The cost of servicing and maintaining the rest area is estimated at \$400 per annum.

Recommendation:

That Council endorse action in committing to the servicing and maintenance of a roadside rest area, at Council's cost, adjacent to the Brewon Road near the site of the former Dangar Bridge.

MANAGER ENGINEERING'S REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 16 FEBRUARY 2006

Item No: 27

Subject: Cumborah Water Supply – Stage Two

Author: Alan Nelson – Manager Engineering

File No: 032/11/01/49

Summary:

This report advises Council that a conceptual design for Cumborah Water Supply – Stage Two has been completed and the estimated cost of the project is \$450,000. The report recommends that Council defer a decision on implementation of Stage Two, pending advice from the State Government regarding the likely position of subsidy for the work.

Comments (including issues and background):

In December 2005 Council received a report on this subject and resolved 'that Council proceed with the conceptual design for Stage Two of the Cumborah Water Supply project and that a further report be submitted to Council with preliminary costings when this design is complete.'

A conceptual design has been undertaken and this has been forwarded to the Minister for Utilities seeking Stage One Ministerial Approval for the project. This is necessary before the project can be ranked for state government subsidy. The estimated cost of the project is \$450,000 which, if Council were successful in gaining priority funding for the project, would see Council's contribution set at \$225,000. However, if the project is not ranked at a sufficiently high priority, then Council would need to consider whether or not it was prepared to move forward with the project with the ratepayer meeting the total cost or whether it was willing to see the project deferred for a significant period.

The Prioritisation Committee meet shortly, accordingly it is anticipated that Council will be made aware of the subsidy position regarding Stage 2 Cumborah Water Supply within the next few months.

Relevant Reference Documents:

- Council File No 255/05/09/00
- Council File No 032/11/01/49
- Council Minute 348/05

Stakeholders:

- Walgett Shire Council
- Residents of Cumborah
- Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability

Financial Implications:

- The cost of Cumborah Stage 2 is estimated at \$450,000, of which Council would need to fund either 50% with subsidy, or 100% without subsidy.

Recommendation:

That Council note this report and defer any decision on implementation of Stage 2 of the Cumborah Water Supply, pending advice from the Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability as to the likely position regarding State Government subsidy for the project.

MANAGER ENGINEERING'S REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 16 FEBRUARY 2006

Item No: 28

Subject: Five Year Road Plan

Author: Alan Nelson – Manager Engineering

File No: 250/12/00/00

Summary:

This report recommends that Council adopt the advertised draft of the Five Year Road Plan, as a dynamic document subject to annual review.

Comments (including issues and background):

A draft Five Year Road Plan was presented to Council's December 2005 meeting, at which stage Council resolved 'that the draft Five Year Road Plan presented to Council be placed upon public exhibition until 30 January 2006 and that it be resubmitted, with any comments received, to Council for final consideration'.

The plan has been placed upon public exhibition and submissions have been received as follows ;

1. Carinda Precinct Committee – requests that a number of projects be deleted from the plan, with these funds being directed to the Walgett-Carinda Road. The projects to be deleted are three projects on RR329 (Collarenebri-Burren Junction) totalling \$900,000, two projects on RR457 (Collarenebri-Mungindi) totalling \$600,000, one project on SR103 (Burren Junction-Pilliga) totalling \$300,000, one project in Burren Junction totalling \$200,000 and one project in Cumborah totalling \$200,000. It should be noted that this submission does not exclude a project on the Carinda-Brewarrina Road totalling \$200,000.
2. Mrs L Robinson – essentially seeking the same outcome as the Carinda Precinct Committee.

At the time of closing submissions, no other submissions had been received, however it is understood that others may come in after this report has been completed, or in the form of an oral presentation to Council through the Public Forum. The abovementioned submissions have not been attached to this report but are available for reference if required.

The draft plan, as advertised for public comment, saw approximately four times the expenditure proposed for RR333 (Walgett-Carinda) as any other road. If the amendments to the plan, proposed by the Carinda Precinct Committee were adopted, this would mean that practically all network development funding was directed to this one road for the full five years.

SHIRE OF WALGETT - AGENDA

The Carinda Precinct Committee suggest the upgrading of this road is essential to allow children to attend school. Surely this same argument could be advanced by those living along the Collarenebri-Mungindi Road or the Rowena-Burren Junction leg of RR329.

Funding in the draft plan is heavily directed towards RR333, but not at the total expense of other roads in the Shire. It is considered that this is fair and does reflect that this road enjoys Council's Number One priority. Despite comments to the contrary, construction work on the road between Cumborah and Lightning Ridge did not occur at the total expense of other roads in the Shire.

This plan, in whatever form it is adopted, should be subject to annual review and should be treated as a rolling programme, with another year added to its effective life as each year is passed.

Relevant Reference Documents:

- Draft Five Year Road Plan
- Submissions from Precinct Committees and Others
- Council Minute 346/05

Stakeholders:

- Walgett Shire Council
- Residents and Ratepayers of Walgett Shire
- Commonwealth Government
- New South Wales Government
- Roads and Traffic Authority

Financial Implications:

The plan has been prepared on the understanding that current levels of road funding will not be eroded, nor will they escalate, within the life of the plan. It also presumes that Council will continue current practice of not directing any locally generated revenue (rates) directly into roadworks.

Recommendation:

That Council adopt the draft Five Year Road Plan in unamended form and this be subject to annual review on a rolling basis.

MANAGER ENGINEERING'S REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 16 FEBRUARY 2006

Item No: 29

Subject: Waste Management Options

Author: Alan Nelson – Manager Engineering

File No: 185/02/00/00

Summary:

This report recommends that Council endorses action in engaging a consultant to look into options for the future receipt of waste in Lightning Ridge and that a loan, taken out by Council for Domestic Waste Management purposes, be used to fund this consultancy.

Comments (including issues and background):

The Lightning Ridge Waste Depot is approaching the stage where it will no longer be able to receive additional waste. Given the reasonably long lead time to establish another site, it is imperative that Council commence the process of identifying and assessing the suitability of alternate sites as soon as possible.

Accordingly, a suitably experienced consultant has been engaged, at a cost of approximately \$37,000, to assess two alternate sites in the Lightning Ridge area, as well as comparing the feasibility of establishing a transfer station in Lightning Ridge and bringing the waste to Walgett. It is envisaged that the results of this study will be presented to Council's March meeting.

Waste Management loan funds are available to meet the cost of this consultancy. A loan of \$560,000 was obtained several years ago to fund a waste strategy and \$236,000 of this has been used to purchase the new domestic waste collection vehicle which is now in service. It would be in order to fund this consultancy from the unexpended balance of this loan.

Relevant Reference Documents:

- Proposal from Hyder Consulting
- Council File No 230/01/00/00
- Council File No 185/02/00/00

Stakeholders:

- Walgett Shire Council
- Department of Environment and Conservation

Financial Implications:

The cost of this consultancy (\$37,000) can be recouped from loan funds.

Recommendation:

That Council endorse action to date and that the cost of this consultancy be recouped from loan funds held for Domestic Waste Management purposes.

MANAGER ENGINEERING'S REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 16 FEBRUARY 2006

Item No: 30

Subject: Walgett Waste Depot - Licensing

Author: Alan Nelson – Manager Engineering

File No: 280/02/01/00

Summary:

This report recommends that the Common Seal of Council be affixed to an application from Council to the Department of Environment and Conservation to have the Walgett Waste Depot licenced.

Comments (including issues and background):

Council is technically in breach of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997, in that the Walgett Waste Depot is presently operating without a licence. It is understood that Council was approached some six (6) years to correct this situation, but it would appear to have been neglected by Council's administration at the time.

A licence is required because the facility is located in an environmentally sensitive area, this being a flood plain. An annual licence fee is payable to the Department of Environment and Conservation, this fee currently being \$3,040. This fee is payable when the application form is lodged.

If the quantity of waste deposited at the facility grows to in excess of 5,000 tonnes per annum, a larger licence fee would result. This would only be expected if Walgett receives significant quantities of waste from other centres in the Shire. It is anticipated that closure of the village tips and introduction of transfer stations will occur in the short term, however transfer of waste from both Lightning Ridge and Collarenebri should not be ruled out.

The Common Seal of Council needs to be affixed to the application form.

Relevant Reference Documents:

- Environment Protection Licence Application Form
- Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
- Council File No 280/02/01/00

Stakeholders:

- Walgett Shire Council
- Department of Environment and Conservation

Financial Implications:

An annual licence fee of \$3,040 will be involved. Some additional ongoing administrative costs will be involved in reporting functions, however these costs should result in better management of the facility.

Recommendation:

That the Common Seal of Council be affixed to an application from Council to the Department of Environment and Conservation to have the Walgett Waste Depot licenced and that this application be submitted.

MANAGER ENGINEERING'S REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 16 FEBRUARY 2006

Item No: 31

Subject: Street Tree – Fox Street, near Wee Waa Street, Walgett

Author: Alan Nelson – Manager Engineering

File No: 011/07/01/48

Summary:

This report recommends that the public be consulted, on a proposal to remove a street tree, located on the eastern footpath of Fox Street, immediately south of Wee Waa Street.

Comments (including issues and background):

BEST Employment have requested Council to remove a limb from a street tree located outside the property they occupy at the corner of Fox and Wee Waa Streets, Walgett. Whilst this request can be accommodated, there are sound grounds to remove the entire tree.

The Street Trees procedural document, which Council endorsed last year, would give Council's Manager Engineering, in this situation, the authority to remove the tree on the grounds that it is considered dangerous. However, given past events concerning this particular tree, which has been supported by a pole to avoid it collapsing onto the roadway, it is considered prudent to firstly give the public the opportunity to comment on a proposal to remove it before actually proceeding with the removal.

A qualified arborist has quoted \$780 to remove the tree limb overhanging the building or \$2,500 to remove the entire tree.

Relevant Reference Documents:

- Council File No 011/07/01/48
- Street Trees – Council Policy and Procedures (September 2005)

Stakeholders:

- Walgett Shire Council
- Roads and Traffic Authority
- Residents of Walgett

Financial Implications:

A quote, in an amount of \$2,500, has been received for the removal of this tree and the grinding of the tree stump.

Recommendation:

That the public be consulted, on a proposal to remove a street tree, located on the eastern footpath of Fox Street, immediately south of Wee Waa Street and that the results of this consultation be brought back to the March meeting of Council.

MANAGER ENGINEERING'S REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 16 FEBRUARY 2006

Item No: 32

Subject: Auslink Strategic Regional Programme

Author: Alan Nelson – Manager Engineering

File No: 195/04/00/00

Summary:

This report seeks Council endorsement of action taken to date with respect to the preparation of submissions for funding under the Auslink Strategic Regional Programme for works on the Walgett to Carinda Road and the Collarenebri to Mungindi Road.

Comments (including issues and background):

The Auslink website indicates that applications will be called from Councils in late February for the Auslink Strategic Regional Programme. \$100 million will be available in the programme and guidelines and administrative arrangements will be advised at the time applications are invited. \$100 million spread across Australia will not go far and competition for this funding is anticipated to be strong. It is not known whether the guidelines will favour significant allocations to a small number of projects or smaller allocations to more projects, something which the political process would normally see.

In December 2005, Council was represented at a meeting in Narrabri with Narrabri, Coonamble, Gwydir and Uralla Councils. This meeting engaged a consultant to prepare a submission which would be used to seek funding under this programme for the upgrading and sealing of the route from Coonamble through Pilliga, Narrabri and Bingara through to Uralla. As the Walgett section of this route does not pass through any towns and will be completed in 2005/06 anyway, no financial commitment to the cost of the consultancy was given.

Two projects within Walgett Shire are considered worthy for the Auslink Strategic Regional Programme, these being the Walgett to Carinda Road and the Collarenebri to Mungindi Road. A commitment has already been given to residents of Carinda that an application for funding would be submitted when this programme was announced. The Collarenebri to Mungindi Road is also considered to be a worthy candidate for this programme, given the fact that it links into Queensland from where there appears to be significant support for its upgrading. Letters of support for this road are anticipated from Moree Plains Shire Council, as well as Balonne and Waggamba Shires in Queensland.

Relevant Reference Documents:

- Council File No 195/04/00/00
- Consultant's Report – Carinda Road Development

Stakeholders:

- Commonwealth Government
- Walgett Shire Council
- Carinda Road Action Group
- Collarenebri to Mungindi Road Action Group

Financial Implications:

- Unknown at this stage, pending release of programme guidelines. However, it is presumed that any funding made available will not be contingent on Council matching these funds.

Recommendation:

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.

MANAGER ENGINEERING'S REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 16 FEBRUARY 2006

Item No: 33

Subject: Tenders – Local Preference

Author: Alan Nelson – Manager Engineering

File No: 004/12/03/00

Summary:

This report recommends that Council, when calling tenders for the supply of various materials and services later this year, does not allow for a local preference. This represents a continuation of current practice.

Comments (including issues and background):

Tenders were accepted in mid 2004, for the hire of various plant items, the undertaking of bitumen sealing works, the supply of sealing aggregate and the loading and haulage of roadmaking materials. These tenders were for the period 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2006, accordingly fresh tenders need to be called for the period beyond 30 June this year. It is envisaged that tenders would be called for these services in April 2006. It is also envisaged that tenders would again be called for a two year period, to avoid the need to undertake this significant administrative task annually. Cost adjustment would again be included to allow for fluctuations in the Consumer Price Index.

Prior to the advertising of tenders in 2004, the Council of the time debated whether or not to allow a local preference. The Council was not unanimous but chose, at the time, not to allow a local preference. The Department of Local Government has recently put out a consultation draft on procurement procedures and the matter of local preference is mentioned in this document.

The message is essentially the same as that delivered to the former Council. A local preference is not unlawful but it is also not recommended, not only by the Department of Local Government, but also by the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC). If a local preference is to be allowed for, it must be done in a completely transparent manner. This in itself can create difficulties, particularly in the interpretation of what constitutes a local tender.

Relevant Reference Documents:

- Various Documentation – Independent Commission Against Corruption
- Various Documentation – Department of Local Government
- Council Minutes – May 2004

SHIRE OF WALGETT - AGENDA

Stakeholders:

- Walgett Shire Council
- Prospective Tenderers

Financial Implications:

Nil, unless a local preference is provided for. The financial implication of such a preference would obviously depend on the amount of the preference.

Recommendation:

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.

MANAGER ENGINEERING'S REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 16 FEBRUARY 2006

Item No: 34

Subject: 'Benny Walford's Crossing' – Regional Road No 426

Author: Alan Nelson – Manager Engineering

File No: 270/06/00/00

Summary:

This report recommends that Council indicates to the Geographical Names Board of NSW continued support of the name 'Benny Walford's Crossing' in the light of one objection received following notification in the local press and the Government Gazette.

Comments (including issues and background):

In early 2005 a Lightning Ridge teenager, Benjamin Walford, lost his life when the motor bike he was riding across the Bill O' Brien Way, from one mining road to another, collided with a four wheel drive travelling along the sealed road.

On behalf of several families associated with the late teenager, Council was approached requesting that the fatal accident location be named 'The Benjamin Walford Crossing' in his memory. This request was subsequently changed to 'Benny Walford's Crossing'.

The Geographical Names Board of NSW agreed in principle to the proposed name and arranged for advertising of the proposal in the Lightning Ridge News on 8 December 2005 and the Government Gazette on 2 December 2005. One objection was received and Council has been asked to reconsider its position in the light of this objection.

The objector suggests it is inappropriate to name a location on account of the death of a single individual. They suggest that, with some 600 people killed annually in traffic accidents, the available supply of landmarks would quickly be expired. The objector suggests that it may be better to initiate an annual road safety programme in Benjamin Walford's name. It is noted that the objector is not a Lightning Ridge resident, from where very widespread community support for the name seems to be present.

Relevant Reference Documents:

- Council Minutes 157/05 and 237/05
- Council File No 270/06/00/00

SHIRE OF WALGETT - AGENDA

Stakeholders:

- Walgett Shire Council
- Family of the late Benjamin Walford
- One Objector
- Residents of Lightning Ridge

Financial Implications:

- Minimal – administrative and provision of signage

Recommendation:

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.

MANAGER ENGINEERING'S REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING 16 FEBRUARY 2006

Item No: 35

Subject: Eloura Park

Author: Alan Nelson – Manager Engineering

File No: 021/06/01/00

Summary:

This report recommends 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.

Comments (including issues and background):

A member of the public has made the suggestion that the area to be the rear of No 8 Euroka Street, which contains the historic geographical marker, be incorporated into the adjacent Eloura Park. The reason behind the suggestion is to provide for the marker to be contained within public space to allow the public access to it. This same person has previously been critical of Council staff, for allowing a builder to stockpile building materials in this park and, by virtue of neglect, allowing the park to fall into a state of disrepair.

It is understood that, when Eloura Park was first established, some basic playground equipment was installed by a community organisation. As such, a strong case probably exists to reinstate the park to that level of service which has existed in the past. However, notwithstanding this, it is suggested that a review of parks and sporting grounds in Walgett be undertaken, as there seems little doubt that present funding, and probably present needs, do not justify the retention of all. For instance, within a few hundred metres of Eloura Park, there are two other areas of parkland in Gilbert Street. Regrettably, all three now bear a strong resemblance to vacant urban land.

Relevant Reference Documents:

- File No 021/06/01/00

Stakeholders:

- Walgett Shire Council
- Residents of Walgett

Financial Implications:

- None at this stage

Recommendation:

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.

COMMITTEE MINUTES TO COUNCIL MEETING 16 FEBRUARY 2006

Item No: 36

Subject: Walgett Shire Council Consultative Committee Minutes – 13/12/05

Author: Walgett Shire Council Consultative Committee

File No: 145/04/07/00

MINUTES OF THE MEETING WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

FILE: 145/04/07

The following are minutes of the Walgett Shire Council Consultative Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 13 December 2005 in the Walgett Council Chambers, commencing at 3.30 pm.

1. PRESENT

Peter McHutchinson	Chairperson
Bronwyn Newton	Secretary
Janet Babic	Management Representative
Michael Woodham	Committee Member
John Radman	Committee Member

3.55pm Stephen McLean Management Representative

2. APOLOGIES

Fiona McKenzie	Deputy Chairperson
Maria Jackson	DEPA Representative

Observer: Terry Dray – United Services Union

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Consultative Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 8 November 2005 and Thursday 17 November were confirmed, with no amendments required.

4. BUSINESS ARISING

Customer Service Officer (Engineering)

Acting Coordinator Human Resources, Bronwyn Newton notified the committee that the position of Customer Service Officer (Engineering) evaluation documents are still to be processed through the oo-soft program and will advise the grading once process is completed. Bronwyn advised having some problems processing evaluations on the Oo-Soft system have phoned technical support for advise on how to proceed.

Consultative Committee Nominations

Acting Coordinator Human Resources, Bronwyn Newton advised that the Consultative Committee had received an interest from Ian Taylor to become a member of the Consultative Committee as a LGEA representative. Ian advised that he is the only LGEA member in the Council therefore was unable to be nominated by two other members.

RECOMMENDATION-

It was recommended that the Consultative Committee endorse that Ian Taylor become a member of the Consultative Committee as an LGEA representative.

Ian Taylor to be notified of the Committees decision.

First Aid Allowance

Chairperson, Peter McHuthinson brought to the committee's attention the first aid allowance. Discussion followed on who would be entitled to the first aid allowance Peter suggest that at least one employee in each workgroup should be entitled to the allowance. Acting Coordinator Human Resources, Bronwyn Newton was requested to research the first aid allowance and who would be entitled to the allowance.

NOTE: -

General Manager, Stephen McLean arrived at 3.55pm and was present for the following matters: -

Industrial Relations Reform

Chairperson, Peter McHutchinson recently attended a United Services Union meeting in Dubbo and offered the following information that the Industrial Relations reform may not apply to Walgett Shire Council if we are not a Trading or Financial Corporation. Chairperson, Peter McHuthinson requested permission from General Manager, Stephen McLean to notify all staff of this information however Stephen advised that it would be more beneficial to wait until the information is clarified and further advice is received.

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

5.1 Consultative Committee Elections – Chairperson & Secretary

As discussed last meeting it was decided that this would be on the Agenda to nominate and elect our new Chairperson and Secretary. It was agreed considering that the Consultative Committee currently has nominations for new members that this item be transfer to the next meeting's agenda.

5.2 Consultative Committee Constitution

The Consultative Committee Constitution was submitted to be endorsed by the Committee.

RECOMMENDATION-

It was recommended that the Consultative Committee endorse the Consultative Committee Constitution.

5.3 Assets Officer

The position description of Assets Officer was submitted for endorsement by the committee and no changes were required.

RECOMMENDATION:

It was recommended that the Consultative Committee endorse the position description of Assets Officer.

5.4 Lands Officer

The new position of Lands Officer was submitted to be endorsed onto the Organisational Structure. The accompanying position description was also submitted for endorsement.

RECOMMENDATION:

It was recommended that the Consultative Committee endorse the new position of Lands Officer pending adoption of the proposed organisational structure by Council.

It was also recommended that the Consultative Committee endorse the position description.

Notification to be sent to Mr Noel Martin, Industrial Relations Officer United Services Union and Mr Terry Dray – United Services Union

5.5 IT System Administrator

The position description of IT Systems Administrator was submitted for endorsement by the committee. The position title needed to be update from IT Officer to read IT Systems Administrator.

RECOMMENDATION:

It was recommended that the Consultative Committee endorse the position description of IT Systems Administrator.

5.6 Technical Officer Maintenance

The new position of Technical Officer Maintenance was submitted to be endorsed onto the Organisational Structure. The accompanying position description was also submitted for endorsement.

RECOMMENDATION:

It was recommended that the Consultative Committee endorse the new position of Technical Officer Maintenance pending adoption of the proposed organisational structure by Council.

It was also recommended that the Consultative Committee endorse the position description.

Notification to be sent to Mr Noel Martin, Industrial Relations Officer United Services Union and Mr Terry Dray – United Services Union

5.7 Organisational Structure

A proposed Organisational Structure was made available to the Committee for information purposes and to allow discussion and recommendations before being presented to Council for adoption. Changes that have occurred from the current Organisational Chart compared to the proposed Organisation Structure are predominately in the Engineering section.

Michael Woodham enquired about the reduction in the number of Mechanic positions. It was agreed that this may have been an oversight and that the Acting Coordinator Human Resources, Bronwyn Newton will clarify with the Engineer Works, Barry Maher prior to this being submitted to Council.

Michael Woodham also enquired if the position of Leading Hand Mechanic would need to have a revised Position Description created. General Manager, Stephen McLean advised that this position description would be revised as the Leading Hand Mechanic's duties will include being in charge of the workshop and it's daily running.

5.8 Walgett Shire Council – Internet and E-mail Use Policy

General Manager, Stephen McLean requested that the Walgett Shire Council – Internet and E-Mail Use Policy be distributed to the Committee members for information purposes only. It was requested that members read the policy and advise any recommendations at the next meeting.

5.9 Meeting Day

Chairperson, Peter McHutchinson advised the committee that he would like the meeting day changed so that the Consultative Committee can process information to be available for the following Council meeting. At present the Council meeting agenda is closed before the Consultative Committee meeting is held therefore information to be processed at Council meeting must wait 1 ½ months to be placed on the next Council Meeting agenda.

RECOMMENDATION:

It was recommended that the Consultative Committee endorse the Meeting Day be changed to the First Wednesday of every month commencing at 3pm.

It was noted that the adopted Consultative Committee Constitution would need to be amended to reflect this change.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.30 pm

It was advised that no meeting would be held in January 2006

Next Meeting of the Consultative Committee Meeting will be held on
1st February 2006 at 3pm at the Council Chambers.

COMMITTEE MINUTES TO COUNCIL MEETING 16 FEBRUARY 2006

Item No: 37

Subject: Local Area Traffic Committee Meeting – 19/01/06

Author: Local Area Traffic Committee

File No: 145/04/00/00

Walgett Shire Council

**MINUTES OF THE LOCAL AREA TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD THURSDAY 19th JANUARY 2006 AT 3.00PM IN THE
WALGETT SHIRE MEETING ROOM FILE:145/04/00/00**

PRESENT:

Alan Nelson, Chair	Manager Engineering, Walgett Shire Council
Mal Files	Roads & Traffic Authority
Phillip O'Reilly	Walgett Police
Mary Casey-Marshall	Representative of Local Member

1. APOLOGIES:

David Simmons (Walgett Police), Wayde Hazelton (RTA)

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES

Moved Alan Nelson, Seconded Mal Files that the minutes of the November 2005 meeting held in the Walgett Shire Council Administration Building be accepted as a true and accurate record of proceedings. CARRIED

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Incorporated into various agenda items.

4. INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE

All incoming correspondence has been included in the various agenda items.

5. ADDITIONAL DISABLED PARKING - WALGETT

Alan Nelson advised that letters were written to those business operators in Wee Waa and Fox Street who would be affected by any decision to expand the number of disabled parking spaces as requested. All business operators who responded indicated opposition to an expansion of disabled parking spaces, especially in front of their businesses. They suggested this would, if implemented, harm their business as the parking space would remain unoccupied at most times, depriving another person of a parking space.

Moved Mal Files, Seconded Phillip O'Reilly that present disabled parking provisions be maintained. CARRIED

6. LIGHTNING RIDGE CENTRAL SCHOOL – DROP OFF ZONE

Alan Nelson indicated that it was originally intended that Wayde Hazelton and he would jointly review present signage and traffic facilities in front of Lightning Ridge Central School prior to this meeting. However, this did not occur. Council looked at the signage and found it to be unsatisfactory for several reasons.

Moved Alan Nelson Seconded Mal Files that a signage and traffic facilities layout be produced for Kaolin Street, Lightning Ridge in front of the Central School and this be referred back to the next meeting of the Traffic Committee.

CARRIED

7. MORILLA STREET – REQUEST FOR ANGLE PARKING

Alan Nelson advised that letters were sent to all property owners on the southern side of Morilla Street between Agate and Onyx Streets, seeking their views on the possible introduction of angle parking in front of their properties. No replies were received. On this basis it was assumed that no significant opposition existed and it was mentioned that angle parking would be beneficial at times when funerals were held in this vicinity.

Moved Phillip O'Reilly Seconded Mal Files that angle parking be introduced on the southern side of Morilla Street, between Onyx and Agate Streets.

CARRIED

8. REQUEST FOR DIRECTIONAL SIGNPOSTING

Alan Nelson tabled a letter from the proprietor of Sonja's Bed and Breakfast in Lightning Ridge, seeking approval to erect directional signposting to her business at two locations in Lightning Ridge. The first location was the intersection of Opal and Morilla Streets, which is not allowable as it is located on a regional road and RTA policy is not to allow advertising, or B&B directional signposting. The second location was the corner of Opal Street and Butterfly Avenue, which is a local road under Council's control. The Committee has no concerns with the provision of directional signposting at this location, provided it is general in nature and not advertising a specific business.

Moved Mary Casey-Marshall Seconded Mal Files that approval be denied to erect signage at the intersection of Opal and Morilla Streets but that approval be given to erect a fingerboard at the intersection of Opal Street and Butterfly Avenue providing it does not advertise a specific business.

CARRIED

9. REQUEST FOR PEDESTRIAN CROSSING – FOX STREET

Alan Nelson indicated that a request from the Walgett Aged Accommodation Association Inc had been received, seeking the provision of a marked pedestrian crossing in front of their property, Kookaburra Court, across Fox Street to the Walgett Hospital opposite. Alan Nelson pointed out that a warrant to instal a marked crossing would not exist, nevertheless the hazard for aged and disabled people to cross the highway at this point was evident. Mal Files stressed that RTA research clearly indicates that, where crossings are installed with low pedestrian numbers, the pedestrians are actually exposed to an increased risk. He suggested that a pedestrian refuge was a far better, and safer, option. He also pointed out that, at present, both Kookaburra Court and the Hospital have an access which is shared by vehicles and pedestrians. Both properties would need to provide separate pedestrian entrances before the RTA could consider the installation of a pedestrian refuge at this location.

**Moved Mal Files Seconded Mary Casey-Marshall that consideration be given to the provision of a pedestrian refuge including approach signage indicating the presence of aged and disabled persons crossing at this point.
CARRIED**

**Moved Mal Files Seconded Alan Nelson that the Walgett Hospital and Kookaburra Court be required to install separate pedestrian entrances prior to consideration of a pedestrian refuge in Fox Street at this location.
CARRIED**

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 16th March 2006 to start at 3pm in Council's Meeting Room.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3.40PM.

PRECINCT COMMITTEE REPORTS TO COUNCIL MEETING 16 FEBRUARY 2006

Item No:

Subject:

Author:

File No:

No Reports Submitted

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS TO COUNCIL MEETING 16 FEBRUARY 2006

Item No: 38

Subject: Camps on Claims Working Group Minutes

Author: Lyn Carney – Council's Representative

File No: 265/03/05/00

**Camps on Claims Working Group
Minutes of meeting 24 November 2005**

Present

DPI Tony Galligan	WSC Lyn Carney	DNR Peter Walker
John Leeks	Bob Hewlett	Andrew Bell
Jeff Inman		DoP Peter Downes

Apologies

DNR Maurice Cenzato
Amanda Beetson

1. Welcome, Attendance, Apologies and Agenda

Peter D welcomed members, especially Peter Walker who was attending after some time.

Members agreed with the agenda.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the 17 August meeting were accepted.

3.1 Granting leases on the Per Occ

Andrew tabled a report from Maurice on invitations sent, applications lodged, and leases granted. This showed take up (ie applications lodged) ranging from 49% for the first area offered, to 7% for the most recent.

The report is attached to these minutes.

Members discussed why the take up was so slow.

Lyn thought that some people lack confidence in the future of mining, Jeff that there is a lack of money or will, and Bob that many people with five year leases were waiting until 2009. The current trickle of applications does mean that Maurice can process them easily.

Various strategies to encourage take up were suggested: publicity to annual claim holders saying that there was no guarantee of their claim being renewed if they had been offered a WLL. Bob warned that we could have squatters again, but Tony emphasised that the difference now, compared to the past, is that there is an alternative tenure, one argued for by camp dwellers. Tony also foreshadowed that DPI could also refuse to transfer claims where they had been offered WLLs.

The group agreed to publicise the situation next year when people returned to town after summer, and DPI will notify people on annual claims that those may not be renewed. ACTION Jeff and Peter D.

Maurice's report showed no increase in applications resulting from the flyer in Serbian. He also listed the known mapping anomalies, claims of Arthur Bowyer and Bruno Tosoni. These will be re-surveyed as part of a larger surveying trip. ACTION Jeff.

Andrew will refer non-residential WLL applications to the Mining Board. Four or five are known and one or two new ones are expected, for example the Opal and Fossil Centre. Peter W emphasised that this policy would need to be reflected in the Council's LEP.

3.2 Funds, Purchases and Trusts

Jeff reported that the amount in the Camps on Claims fund is just under \$400 000. He will have a more accurate figure after visiting DPI's accountants.

The group considered the VG's report and decided –

- Crutchfield's is the priority, move on that ASAP.
- Offer him what he has asked for, because we know he will accept nothing less.
- The fund will pay to re-survey the land, excise his house, and for stamp duty; each party will pay its own legal expenses.
- We will make an offer and if he is not serious about it, we will move to compulsory acquisition.
- Andrew offered to draft the letter to Mr Crutchfield.

This will cost about \$200 000, so the fund can afford to buy one other property. The group agreed to approach the GGSMA because its land is smaller, cheaper, has fewer camps, and has Council support to buying it. The group authorised Andrew to offer \$150 000 to finalise the sale quickly, and to negotiate to \$175 000.

Bob emphasised the importance of building on any purchase to gain publicity.

Managing the Per Occ. Andrew wrote to Hugh Percy outlining his proposed trust to manage the Per Occ, which Hugh supported. However, the LRMA does not agree and Andrew will talk to them after this meeting. The attitude of a future elected council may make it problematic if the council is the only trustee.

3.3 Planning Issues

There is no change with progress towards the Council's LEP.

3.4 Electricity

Andrew wrote to Crown Lands seeking agreement to allow electricity across the Per Occ without easements. This failed, but that department suggested that easements could be granted without compensation to the Crown, or with an indemnification between the parties. We will need to draft an agreement. ACTION Andrew and working group.

ACTIONS

Jeff & Peter D – to organise publicity to encourage take up of WLLs.

Andrew – to consider prescribed uses for a Per Occ Trust

- to draft a letter to send to Mr Crutchfield
- to approach GGSMA to purchase their lease

SHIRE OF WALGETT - AGENDA

- (with Working Group) to draft an agreement on electricity easements.
- Jeff - to notify claimholders that annual leases may not be renewed where WLL offers have been made
- to organise re-surveying of mapping anomalies when sufficient survey work exists to justify it.

Next meeting – 15 February 2006.