

**13. "C" DIVISION CONFERENCE HELD IN LIGHTNING RIDGE IN
FEBRUARY 2009**

REPORTING SECTION: General Manager
AUTHOR: Ray Kent - General Manager
FILE NUMBER: 135/02/01/03

Summary:

Information presented at the Conference, which was hosted by Walgett Shire Council at the Lightning Ridge Bowling Club on Wednesday 4th February 2009, is provided for the information of Councillors.

Discussion (including issues and background):

Over 50 persons attended the Conference dinner held on Tuesday 3rd February and approximately 70 delegates attended the proceedings on Wednesday 4th February.

Council was represented by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, Councillors Smith and Walford and the General Manager.

Council's motion, requesting a review of the number and constituency of Shire Divisions, was adopted by the Conference.

Attached for the information of Councillors are comprehensive notes, from the Shires Association, which cover all current issues facing the industry.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Nil

Stakeholders:

Councillors

Financial Implications:

Nil

Recommendation:

That the report be received.

Attachments: Shires Association of NSW - Divisional Tour Notes February/ March 2009

Shires Association of NSW - Divisional Tour Notes February/ March 2009

Shires Association of NSW



Divisional Tour

February/March 2009

Notes

Date	Division	Venue
04/02/09	C Division	Walgett
06/02/09	E Division	Blayney
11/02/09	B Division	Inverell
12/02/09	A Division	Tweed
17/02/09	D Division	Singleton
25/02/09	F Division	Jerilderie
26/02/09	G Division	Tumut
27/02/09	H Division	Queanbeyan
02/03/09	Western Division	Balranald

Table of contents

Policy	5
Economic - Advocacy issues	5
Finance.....	5
IPART Review of Local Government Revenue Raising Framework.....	5
IPART Review of State Taxation	5
NSW Mini Budget November 2008	6
Rate Pegging – submission to Premier	6
Roads Issues	6
Rail Issues	7
Aviation	7
Local Water Utilities (LWU) Inquiry.....	8
Aboriginal Communities Water Supply and Sewerage Program.....	9
Country Town Water Supply and Sewerage Program – mini-budget delays.....	10
Commonwealth water buyback program and socio economic study.....	10
National Drought Policy Review.....	11
Rural Fire Service.....	12
Rural Lands Protection Boards (RLPB).....	12
Economic - Development and capacity building.....	13
2009 LGSA Water Management Conference.....	13
LGSA Tourism Conference 2009	13
Policy Officer Rural Affairs and Emergency Services.....	13
Building the Country Fund.....	14
Local Government Operations and Reform - Advocacy issues	15
Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) reforms	15
Constitutional Recognition	16
Natural and Built Environment - Advocacy issues	17
Housing Code	17
Development Contributions	17
Certification – Accreditation of Council Officers	18
Waste Management, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) & Recycling	18
Natural and Built Environment - Development and capacity building	19
LGSA Environmental Projects.....	19
Sustainability Support for rural councils	20
Natural Resource Management	21
Caring for our Country.....	22
Social Policy - Advocacy issues	23
Potential changes to aged and disability services with central governments	23
Review of the Children’s Services Regulation 2004	23
Public Libraries	24
Access to Premises Standards.....	25
Social Policy - Development and capacity building	25
Cultural Awards	25
Population Ageing – Resource for Ageing Population Planning.....	26
Cost of ageing study.....	26

Job Compacts – Aboriginal Employment	27
Public Health	28
Healthy Local Government Grants Program	28
Water Loss Management Program.....	28
Workplace Solutions	30
Industrial Relations Unit	30
<i>Local Government Amendment (Legal Status) 2008</i>	<i>30</i>
What does Decorporatisation mean for NSW Councils?.....	30
What applies now?	30
Does the <i>Workplace Relations Act 1996 (WRA)</i> still apply to NSW councils?	31
Award Negotiations	31
<i>Workplace Relations Amendment (Transition to Forward with Fairness) Act 2008</i>	31
The National Employment Standards	31
Modern Awards.....	32
Local Government Remuneration Tribunal	32
DLG's Guidelines for the Payment of expenses and the Provision of facilities for Mayors and Councillors in NSW	32
Local Government Learning Solutions	32
Councillor Professional Development Program 2009.....	32
Local Government Employment Solutions	33
Industry Skills Shortages	33
Legal Advice.....	34

Policy

Economic - Advocacy issues

Finance

IPART Review of Local Government Revenue Raising Framework

The LGSA made a comprehensive submission to the IPART Review. The submission presents the Associations case for the removal or relaxation of rate pegging in the context of the existing financial condition of Local Government and the overall revenue framework.

LGSA have also participated in several IPART workshops and roundtables.

The LGSA advocated the qualified removal of rate pegging. Removal being conditional on councils adopting a long term strategic service and resource planning framework based on objectives agreed upon with the community. The framework should include comprehensive long term financial planning, asset management, and monitoring of financial sustainability.

The LGSA submission is available from the following link:

http://www.lgsa.org.au/resources/documents/lgsa-submission-to-ipart-review-of-revenue-framework-for-local-government_0908.pdf

The IPART Draft report is to be released in May and the final report is to be delivered in September 2009

IPART Review of State Taxation

On 12 June 2008, the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of NSW (IPART) released a draft report on its Review of State Taxation recommending changes to the NSW tax system including the removal of the payroll tax exemption for councils and the increase in contributions by councils to fund fire services to replace statutory contributions by insurance companies.

LGSA submission:

The LGSA made a submission to IPART's draft report. The submission strongly opposed the proposed removal of the payroll tax exemption as this would go against the long established principle that general government activities are exempt from the taxes of other levels of government. The submission also rejected IPART's proposal with regard to fire service funding because of the lack of transparency and accountability inherent in the scheme as proposed in the draft report.

The LGSA submission also identified the financial impact of both recommendations which would require dramatic increases in council rates. The combined impact of implementing recommendations 2 and 7 would amount to approximately \$700 million per annum (\$187m payroll tax; \$531m current contribution to fire service funding by insurance companies) to be recovered through council rates.

LGSA submission: http://www.lgsa.org.au/resources/documents/lgsa-submission-to-ipart-review-of-state-taxation_0708.pdf

Current status:

On 17 October 2008, IPART released its final report on the review. The final report is available on IPART's website at www.ipart.nsw.gov.au.

Despite strong objections by the LGSA and councils, IPART continues to recommend the abolition of the payroll tax exemption for Local Government, to be phased in over two years by a corresponding increase in municipal rate-pegging limits (recommendation 2).

In relation to the funding of fire services, IPART incompletely took on board LGSA's proposal to replace contributions by Local Government and insurance companies with a broad based property levy (tax) that is collected by Local Government but is fully transparent and

separately identified as a State Government tax. Pursuant to the wording of IPART's recommendation, only the current contributions by insurance companies, but not Local Government contributions, would be replaced by such a levy (recommendation 10). The recommendation can not be supported in its current form.

The Government is yet to respond to the IPART report.

NSW Mini Budget November 2008

The NSW Mini Budget was delivered on 11 November 2008. The LGSA had made a submission prior to the mini budget urging the government to maintain funding to key Local Government programs (e.g. CTWSS, Public Libraries, Timber Bridges, Roads etc).

- The mini budget spared the majority of Local Government expenditure programs, although there are deferrals under the CTWSS.
- The Waste and Environmental Levy was extended to include all coastal councils north of the Hunter, resulting in increased costs to councils of \$80+ million by 2011-12.
- A new Building the Country program was announced, providing \$85m over 5 years to projects in rural NSW (see separate item under Rural Affairs).
- The Fire Services levy was extended to include funding for the SES. The financial impact on Local Government has been offset by a reduction in Local Government FSL contributions from the existing 12.3% and 13.3% (RFS) to a standard 11.7%.

The mini-budget did not take the opportunity to remove the payroll tax exemption from councils or to introduce an alternative emergency services funding mechanism. The unpopular decision to eliminate free school bus travel has subsequently been reversed.

Rate Pegging – submission to Premier

At the 2008 Local Government Association Annual Conference and on subsequent occasions the Premier, the Hon Nathan Rees MP, indicated that he was open to debate on the issue of rate pegging and invited the Associations to make a submission. The LGSA have now made a submission and are seeking to discuss our proposals with the Premier.

Primary Contact: Shaun McBride 9242 4072

Date: January 2009

Roads Issues

(a) Roads to Recovery

In August last year, the Federal Government confirmed its election commitment to increase funding for the Roads to Recovery Program from \$307.5 million per year to \$350 million per year (nationally) for each of the five years from 2009-10.

The renewed program represents about \$390 million for NSW over the five year life of the new program or \$97 million per year. The Roads to Recovery funds will continue to be distributed directly to councils according to formulas set by the local government grants commissions in each state (ILR distribution).

(b) State Government Block Grant/Timber Bridge Funding

Funding for Local Government via Block Grants and Repair programs totals about \$146m. In addition, as \$60m is being made available to Local Government over 3 years on a 50:50 basis to assist councils upgrade timber bridges on their regional road networks. There were no changes to existing funding for Local Government via Regional Road Block Grants and Repair programs, or the timber bridge upgrade program, although the government has extended the timing of the timber bridge program to 2009-10.

(c) Road Classification Review

Outcomes of the 2005 Road Classification Review are expected to be released in 2009. The release will include new guideline/protocols for the transfer of roads between RTA and councils, arising from the findings of the Gosford/Piles Creek coronial inquiry. These guidelines are currently being negotiated between RTA, LGSA and IPWEA.

(d) Heavy Vehicle Issues

The RTA are seeking opportunities to further engage local government in the rollout of heavy vehicle reforms such as Higher Mass Limits and Performance Based Standards. Workshops are being planned by RTA and Austroads for early 2009 to guide councils in assessing applications for access by heavy and restricted access vehicles to local roads.

Primary Contact: Richard Connors, 9242 4073

Date: January 2009

Rail Issues

(a) NSW Grain Freight Taskforce

A high-level review looking for ways to rebuild an efficient grain transport network in NSW will begin this month, following the appointment of the review taskforce. The review is headed by former deputy chair of the National Transport Commission, Des Powell and is expected to report by May 2009.

The review is examining grain freight supply chains and identify the most sustainable, long-term solution for moving grain efficiently from farmer to customer, and will look at: Cropping patterns, densities, innovations and the likely impact of climate change; market demand for grain and the impact of regulatory reform; and the capacity of supply chain infrastructure and the various transport options in the short, medium and long term.

It will draw on the previous work undertaken by the NSW Grain Infrastructure Advisory Committee. LGSA are represented on the Committee.

Some of the key issues for Local Government, which have been communicated to the committee, are:

- The impact and cost of the shift of grain traffic from rural branch lines to council's local road network. There is strong feeling within local government that the 2003 GIAC report underestimated the cost to councils of these impacts.
- In the event that lines are closed or services suspended, appropriate financial compensation be made available to Councils affected to cover the extra cost of road maintenance which will be incurred by the additional heavy vehicle traffic.
- There is a need for councils to balance our role as asset manager with direct financial responsibility for maintenance of the local road network, with the need to encourage and support local businesses, farmers, transport companies;
- Councils are unable to fund the additional cost of road maintenance which may be incurred by the additional heavy vehicle traffic, and there is absence of a mechanism for councils to share in the efficiency benefits of higher productivity vehicles (i.e. councils gain no direct financial income from allowing an expansion of heavy vehicle operations on their local road network);
- There are concerns from many council engineers that the impact of heavy vehicles has understated the impact on road pavements especially on lighter local road networks.

(b) Road Rail Interface Agreements (Level crossings and bridges)

The Independent Transport Safety and Reliability Regulator (ITSRR) are in the final stages of selecting a contractor to provide information sessions on the new road/rail interface requirements across NSW. They are aiming to carry out these sessions February/March. The localities are expected to be Ballina, Port Macquarie, Newcastle, Dubbo, Tamworth, Bathurst, Wollongong and Wagga Wagga.

Primary Contact: Richard Connors, 9242 4073

Date: January 2009

Aviation

The Minister of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP has launched the National Aviation Green Paper, "Flight Path to the Future"

This Aviation Green Paper describes the initiatives and policy settings the Government is proposing to enable a vibrant and prosperous aviation industry; one that delivers the highest standards of safety and security, competitive aviation markets and services, investment in infrastructure and environmental responsibility. It is available on the Department's website at <http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/aviation/nap/>

Submissions to the Green Paper close on 28 February 2009.

Key issues for the Local Government include costs of regional airport operations, sustainability of air services to regional destinations, and the impact of expanding aviation and non-aviation related activities at Sydney Airport.

Primary Contact: Richard Connors, 9242 4073

Date: January 2009

Local Water Utilities (LWU) Inquiry

Background:

On 14 January 2009, the Minister for Water, the Hon Phillip Costa MP, released the final report of independent panel of the *Inquiry into Secure and Sustainable Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Services for Non-Metropolitan NSW* (Local Water Utilities Inquiry - LWU Inquiry).

The report recommends an aggregation of local water utilities into 32 regional groups, including as groups a number of existing stand alone utilities, with options for organisational structures that allow councils to maintain responsibility for the operation of water supply and sewerage services and ownership of water supply and sewerage infrastructure. To a significant degree, the proposed groupings are based on councils' suggestions in their submissions. However, the report notes that the majority of groups nominated by councils have not been agreed to by all the councils proposed for the groups.

The recommendations include:

1. Good governance

The current 104 local water utilities be aggregated into 32 regional groups that are broadly based on groupings suggested in submissions provided by councils and other stakeholders.

2. Improving organisational structures

Three organisational structure options be considered for the regional groups of local water utilities. The models are:

- binding alliance;
- council-owned regional water corporation; and
- current structural arrangements for some large general purpose councils and county councils (status quo) where utilities can demonstrate a strong and commercially viable business unit, good performance in best practice, and the ability to meet future challenges.

3. Improving regulation

The regulation of local water utilities be strengthened to require utilities to implement all relevant plans, guidelines and standards. This must be complemented by an adequate reporting and monitoring framework and the designation of a regulator with adequate enforcement powers.

4. Improving pricing

The regulation of local water utilities' pricing be strengthened to require utilities to establish prices in accordance with approved business plans and financial plans. Local water utility prices must be approved by an independent body. This body could be a government agency such as DWE.

5. Cutting Red Tape

The reporting and regulatory roles undertaken by State Government agencies be reviewed with a view to streamlining these requirements and to ensure a consistent approach across these agencies.

The report suggests that the two proposals for alliances agreed upon in principle by all members (18 councils of the Riverina and Murray Regional Organisation of Councils (RAMROC) and 6 councils in the Lower Macquarie Valley) could be progressed quickly following agreement between the proponents and the Minister for Water on the structure of the alliances. The model should, after a period of two years, be evaluated in terms of efficiency and effectiveness in achieving the required outcomes, including consistent compliance with water quality and environmental standards, higher incidence of integrated water cycle management planning amongst local water utilities, and improved financial position to fund future capital works. A third aggregation involving three councils (Port-Macquarie Hastings, Kempsey and Nambucca)

seeking to form a council-owned regional water corporation on the north coast could also be progressed early.

The report and further information are available at the Department of Water and Energy's website at www.dwe.nsw.gov.au/water/utilities/local.shtml and on the LGSA website at www.lgsa.org.au/LWU-Inquiry.

The inquiry now invites submissions addressing any issues within the report. Submissions are due on Friday, 20 March 2009. Furthermore, the Minister is expected to hold a number of consultation sessions from January through February 2009.

Comment:

The recommendations made in the independent panel's final report are principally positive for Local Government. The report acknowledges the potential negative impact of a removal of water supply and sewerage services from councils on their ability to provide other general purpose functions (economies of scope) and on local employment. The report's explicitly rejects privatisation or state government ownership and its recommendations provide for organisational structures that allow councils to maintain responsibility for the operation of water supply and sewerage services and ownership of water supply and sewerage infrastructure.

The alliance model proposed in the report is meant to be truly binding. The report suggests that legislation would be needed to make membership of an alliance compulsory and to compel member councils of the alliance to implement the strategic directions of the alliance entity. The alliance would be responsible for, among other things, developing and implementing the water supply and sewerage strategic business plan, financial plan, and strategic asset management plan; determining the levels of service; and setting water supply and sewerage charges for each member council. The alliance would be responsible for complying with relevant regulation and for performance reporting to the regulator. Operational management, ownership of assets, and generated revenue would remain with member councils.

In terms of the regulatory framework, the report suggests that the current system of self-regulation against the best practice management guidelines, while having resulted in significant improvements in the performance of local water utilities, is no longer as effective in driving local water utilities to meet the criteria and performance indicators as it should be. The report concludes that an effective regulatory framework is needed to protect public health, the environment and to deliver a cost-effective sustainable service to meet the needs of its customers. In terms of pricing, the regulatory framework should include the regulatory power to direct utilities to set prices in accordance with strategic business plans and financial plans as approved by the regulator.

Current position:

The LGSA have welcomed the report and commend the independent panel for addressing the issues raised by councils. The LGSA will continue to take part in the inquiry and contribute to the ongoing consultation process. The LGSA encourage councils to thoroughly and constructively analyse regional groupings proposed in their area and organisational structure options available to them.

Primary Contact: Sascha Moege, 9242 4045 **Date:** January 2009

Aboriginal Communities Water Supply and Sewerage Program

Background:

In June 2008, the NSW Government and the NSW Aboriginal Land Council announced the \$205 million Aboriginal Communities Water Supply and Sewerage Program to improve water supply and sewerage services in selected NSW Aboriginal communities.

The program aims to obtain support from councils/local water utilities to provide operational, maintenance and monitoring services in these communities. The Department of Water and Energy is the project manager for the program.

Department of Water and Energy has commenced negotiations with 14 Aboriginal communities and councils.

- Toomelah Aboriginal community - Moree Plains Shire Council.
- Malabugilmah community- Clarence Valley Shire Council.
- Baryulgil Square Aboriginal community- Clarence Valley Shire Council.
- Bowraville Aboriginal community- Kempsey Shire Council.
- La Perouse Aboriginal community- Sydney Water
- Gingie Reserve and Namoi Village – Walgett Shire Council.
- Bellbrook Aboriginal community- Kempsey Shire Council
- Cummeragunja community- Murray Shire Council
- Mehi Crescent – Moree Shire Council
- Moonahcullah community- Murray Shire Council
- Namoi Reserve- Walgett Shire Council
- Stanley Village- Moree Shire Council
- Wallhallow Reserve – Liverpool Plains Shire Council
- The Walli (Collarenebri) - Walgett Shire Council

Current position:

The LGSA fully support the program objectives. The LGSA and relevant councils now need to ensure that the program delivery arrangements between councils, Aboriginal land councils and the Department of Water and Energy are effective in delivering the desired outcomes and provide for adequate and appropriately indexed funding for councils.

To ensure the program is successful, the LGSA encourage councils to participate in the program and to openly raise their concerns about the implementation of the program with the Department of Water and Energy.

Primary Contact: Sascha Moege 9242 4045/Connie Chatfield 9242 4085 **Date:** January 2009

Country Town Water Supply and Sewerage Program – mini-budget delays

Background:

Under the NSW Government's mini-budget, announced on 11 November 2008, projects funded by the Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program are to be deferred by up to two years with the deferrals taking place in 2010-2011 (estimated saving \$22.3 million) and 2011-12 (estimated savings of \$13.2 million).

Comment:

The LGSA as well as councils in regional areas are concerned that, as a results of the deferrals, benefits to the community from improved water supply and sewerage infrastructure will not occur as planned and announced by councils. This is of particular concern where such infrastructure is urgently needed and where the community has already provided its contribution to funding of the infrastructure.

Current position:

The Shires Association of NSW has written to the Minister for Water, the Hon Phillip Costa MP expressing the abovementioned concerns. The Shires Association requested that the NSW Government ensure community needs are met and expectations can be adequately managed and urged the government to make sure that projects, funding of which has already been committed, proceed as scheduled.

Primary Contact: Sascha Moege 9242 4045 **Date:** January 2009

Commonwealth water buyback program and socio economic study

Background:

Under the *Restoring the Murray-Darling Basin Program* the Australian Government committed \$3.1 billion over the next ten years to purchase water entitlements and return the associated water to the environment in order to achieve sustainable water diversion levels in the Murray-Darling Basin.

The program recently concluded a review, undertaken by Hyder Consulting, of the first phase of the program (purchases during February to May 2008). The review found that the program was run effectively and efficiently and that there was only minimal impact on water markets and regional economies. However, the report concluded that, in the long term, it would be crucial to the impacts on affected communities what was done with the proceeds of the sales; whether they were re-invested into more intensive agriculture on-farm, invested off-farm, or completely taken out of the community as part of a broader farm sale.

Hyder Consulting's report is available at
www.environment.gov.au/water/mdb/entitlement-purchasing/2007-08.html#review.

Comment and current position:

The LGSA have made a submission to the review. The submission recognises the need for sustainable levels of water diversion to protect the health, resilience, and productive base of the river system in the Murray-Darling Basin. However, the submission expresses Local Government's concerns about potential socio-economic impacts of water buybacks on regional/local communities and the need for those impacts to be identified and appropriately managed and for structural adjustment programs to be put in place where required. The submission calls for an improved consultative process with councils in NSW, and the LGSA as their peak representative body to ensure Local Government's concerns are addressed adequately.

LGSA' submission is on the LGSA website, www.lgsa.org.au, under Policy and Research, Water, Submissions.

Primary Contact: Sascha Moege, 9242 4045 **Date:** January 2009

National Drought Policy Review

There are three components of the National Review of Drought Policy: an economic assessment by the Productivity Commission, an assessment of social impacts of drought by an Expert Panel, and a climatic assessment by the Bureau of Meteorology & CSIRO.

Social

The Expert Panel's report *It's about people: Changing perspectives on dryness* was publicly released on 23 October 2008. The report presented 37 recommendations.

The Associations submission to the Expert Panels Inquire addressed the following challenges:

- Differential impacts for ageing people
- Differential impacts for women
- Unique impacts for Aboriginal peoples
- Cultural degradation
- Unemployment
- Mental Health.

Climatic

In July 2008 the report produced by the CSIRO and Bureau of Meteorology was released. The report provides an assessment of the impact of climate change on the nature and frequency of exceptional climatic events. The report presented the analysis that the *frequency of exceptional hot years have been increasing rapidly over the recent decades and this trend is expected to continue*. That on Average, *exceptionally high temperatures are likely to occur every 1-2 years*.

Economic

The economic impact of drought report by the Productivity Commission was released on 30 September in its draft form. The Associations responded to the draft report by providing a written submission, participating in the roundtable discussion in Dubbo on 12 December 2009, and presenting at the public hearing held in Sydney on 16 December.

The key points of the Associations were:

- The drought impacts on a Councils financial capacity.
- The priorities identified at the Drought Summit
- That drought policy needs to be focused on grants for a "Farming Future".
- That the funding programs are flexible to respond to circumstances that constantly change.
- The \$400,000 cap for Farm Management Deposits should be allow to increase to reflect the current and future increases of farm inputs and the CPI.
- A commitment from the Federal Government not to reduce the extent and range of services provided by Rural Financial Councillors.
- Advocated for long term low interest rate loans drought affected businesses.
- That any new policy for drought support needs to allow time for recovery and mitigation of the current drought before its implementation.

Once the final economic report is publicly released the Associations intends to meet with Minister Burke to further advocate the Associations positions.

Primary Contact: Liz Gemes, 9242 4063 **Date:** January 2009

Rural Fire Service

The Associations continue to represent Local Government on the Rural Fire Service Advisory Council, Bush Fire Coordinating Committee, and Local Government & RFS Liaison Committee.

- In the 2008/2009 allocations included an additional \$10.6M for mobile radio infrastructure, the NSW Government will refund the 13.3% Local Government contribution.
- The Bush Fire Risk Management policy #1/2008 was issued in September 2008. The bush fire risk management policy describes the method and standards for preparing a bush fire risk management plan; it also provides a range of supporting resources to assist Bush Fire Management Committees as annex's to the policy including the following:
 - Model Risk Management Plan
 - Bush Fire Management Planning Guidelines
 - Bush Fire Risk management Plan Exhibition and Approval Process.
- The APZ Guideline review will be discussed within the Local Government & RFS Liaison Committee in 2009.
- The RFS has responding to the 2008 Shire's conference motions concerning RFS. The conference motions were first considered by the Local Government and RFS Liaison Committee.
- An Asset Management Working Group consisting of representatives from RFS and LGSA was formed to examine and report upon the issues and options associated with the management of RFS resources, including but not limited to budget cycles, capital works programs, maintenance, and insurance. The Working group presented a draft report to the Liaison committee in November 2008.

Primary Contact: Liz Gemes, 9242 4063 **Date:** January 2009

Rural Lands Protection Boards (RLPB)

On 1 January 2009 Rural Lands Protection Boards was renamed to Livestock Health and Pest Authorities (LHPA) and the 47 RLPB's were amalgamated to form 14 LHPA's.

The Association has made numerous representations in relation to previous Shires conference resolutions referring to the abolishment of RLPB's, we have been advised that it is unlikely the State Government will move towards removing the new LHPA's.

The Associations are in the process of arranging a meeting between Shires President and State President LHPA to address the concerns of Local Government.

Primary Contact: Liz Gemes, 9242 4063

Date: January 2009

Economic - Development and capacity building

2009 LGSA Water Management Conference

The LGSA 2009 Water Management Conference will be hosted by Deniliquin Council and held in Deniliquin on 9-11 September 2009. The LGSA is inviting councils to provide suggestions for the conference program.

One focus of this year's conference will be on balancing urban water, water for irrigation and environmental water, the impacts of water policy on regional/rural economies, and the transition of water dependent industries in times of reduced water availability.

It will also be an appropriate place to discuss outcomes of the Australian Government's approach to the integrated management of the Murray-Darling Basin, including addressing the issue of over-allocation of water and the impacts of water buybacks for the environment on local economies and communities.

The ongoing review of regulatory and institutional arrangement for local water utilities in NSW will continue to be discussed at the conference.

The conference program is currently being developed and will include high profile key-note speakers, government representation, a Water Managers' Forum, workshops on current issues and industry trade displays.

For information about the conference and how to submit papers and/or suggestions for the conference program please visit the conference website at:
www.waterconference.lgsa.org.au.

Primary Contact: Sascha Moege, 9242 4045 **Date:** January 2009

LGSA Tourism Conference 2009

Creating a Strong Foundation in Tourism 10 to 12 March 2009, Kiama

The fifth annual local government tourism conference is about building the foundations for tourism development in your local area, and consequently NSW as a whole. Tourism relies upon many facets of infrastructure and related services to create a competitive product. This involves the successful integration of private and public sector investment in areas such as transport, restaurants, accommodation, cultural and recreational facilities, attractions and community facilities.

This conference creates a framework to help you strengthen your tourism strategy with sessions exploring:

- How NSW and other states have integrated tourism and infrastructure strategies;
- How councils have supported tourism development and benefitted the community with infrastructure initiatives;
- Transport infrastructure and service needs, covering aviation, road and rail based tourism; and
- The role of precinct redevelopment and investment in community infrastructure, which can have major positive spin-offs for tourism development.

For information about the conference and to register, please visit the conference website at:
<http://www.lgsa-plus.net.au/www/html/2542-lgsa-tourism-conference-2009.asp>

Primary Contact: Karen Rolls 9242 4050 **Date:** January 2009

Policy Officer Rural Affairs and Emergency Services

In September 2008 the Associations created a new position to attend to the issues impacting on rural and regional communities and represent Local Government to emergency service organisations.

The Policy Officer Rural Affairs and Emergency Services primary focuses will be on:

- Rural and regional economy and economic development;
- Drought issues (drought relief measures and mitigation);
- Rural Fire Services and other emergency services;
- Rural and regional infrastructure and services; and
- Provide rural and regional advice and support to the other LGSA policy portfolios

The Officer is positioned in the Finance Infrastructure and Planning Team within the Policy & Communications Division. Issues handled by the Officer largely fall under the scope of the Economic Policy Committee.

Primary Contact: Liz Gemes, 9242 4063

Date: January 2009

Building the Country Fund

The NSW Government announced an \$85 million (over 5 years) Building the Country Fund. The Fund is split into seven funding programs. The Associations have been assured that this is new funding.

The seven funding programs (and managing agencies) are:

- \$52 million - Local infrastructure support fund will finance infrastructure projects linked to economic development and increased employment (Department of State and Regional Development DSRD);
- \$11.6 million - Community broadband development program is for the 2 percent of country towns and areas not covered by the National Broadband Network (DSRD);
- \$9 million - Country libraries fund is to assist with new books, digital media and other services (Department of Arts, Sport and Recreation);
- \$9 million - Water innovation fund for country areas currently undergoing water reform (DSRD);
- \$450,000 - Small chambers of commerce fund provides grants between \$2,000-\$5,000 (DSRD);
- \$2.5 million - Country halls renewal package to assist with refurbishing and upgrading (Office of Rural Affairs ORA);
- \$450,000 - Small community awareness fund is to assist smaller and isolated communities develop their website to promote tourism and attract business (ORA);

Currently the Country Halls Renewal, Community Broadband Development, and Small Communities Awareness programs are open for applications; the remaining programs will be progressively rolled out over 2009.

Primary Contact: Liz Gemes, 9242 4063

Date: January 2009

Local Government Operations and Reform - Advocacy issues

Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) reforms

The Associations have continued to be closely involved in the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) reforms providing confidential input to the Department of Local Government (DLG) on the emerging detail of the planned Bill, regulations and guidance documentation.

In summary, the IPR reforms have the following features:

- A centerpiece 10 year Community Strategic Plan (CSP) which is whole of community;
- The requirement that the CSP 'as a minimum, must adequately address the four key considerations of social, environmental, economic and civic leadership' (i.e. QBL focus);
- The requirements that the CSP must i) address levels of service, ii) give regard to State & Regional Plans and iii) contain long term strategies and ways to assess achievements;
- The CSP is informed & supported by 3 Resourcing strategies: i.e. i) Assets (min. 10yrs, ii) Finances (min. 10yrs) and iii) Workforce (min. 4 yrs);
- The CSP flows into the 4 year Delivery Program (DP);
- The DP must i) address CSP strategies and identify specific actions that council will undertake on the strategies, ii) address the all council operations and allocate responsibilities for each action and iii) inform/be informed by the Resourcing Strategies;
- The DP flows into annual Operational Plan; and
- The Annual Report becomes a Report to the community by November each year.

The Associations' input has gained traction in important areas where the Bill and the guidance were becoming unnecessarily complicated. However, we need to be vigilant when the draft legislation is released as there can always be unintended errors in drafting.

The latest advice from DLG on the IPR reform timetable is as follows:

- subject to Cabinet approval, early 2009 DLG releases the Draft Bill & Regulation and Guidance to councils for consultation;
- DLG asks councils to consider the Drafts at a council meeting and give feedback;
- DLG analyses feedback and provides advice to Government promptly; and
- The legislation goes to Parliament in autumn 2009.

DLG still plans to introduce the new system in three groups of councils over a three year period. When the legislation has passed, councils will be asked to nominate the which of the following groups they would like to be in:

- Group 1: CSP adopted by 31 March 2010 and DP adopted by 30 June 2010;
- Group 2: CSP adopted by 31 March 2011 and DP adopted by 30 June 2011; or
- Group 3: CSP adopted by 31 March 2012 and DP adopted by 30 June 2012.

It is expected that councils that already have, or are substantially progressed towards having, a strategic plan would be in Group 1. It is planned that all councils will be operating under the new system from the beginning of the 2012 Local Government electoral term.

Whilst it is proposed to discontinue State of Environment (SoE) reports & Social/Community Plans in their present form and alter the Annual Report, DLG has stressed councils should continue with all current statutory planning and reporting requirements during 2009.

Councils are encouraged to take the opportunity to use the work that is done to meet the current requirements to assist the transition to the new system. Under the present legislative requirements most councils are next required to submit a current Social/Community Plan to DLG by 30 November 2009. Similarly, a comprehensive SoE report will be required to be prepared by all councils for 2008-09 and be submitted by 30 November 2009. These two can be used to identify social and environmental issues that are important to the community and that are within council's area of influence, so that the findings from them can be used to inform the proposed CSP and ensuing DP.

Primary Contact: Noel Baum, 9242 4014

Date: January 2009

Constitutional Recognition

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) recently held a 3 day summit in Melbourne at which the following was resolved by delegates.

To ensure the quality of planning and delivery of services and infrastructure provided to all Australians, and the ongoing sustainability of Local Government, any constitutional amendment put to the people in a referendum by the Australian Parliament (which could include the insertion of a preamble, an amendment to the current provisions or the insertion of a new chapter) should reflect the following principles:

- The Australian people should be represented in the community by democratically elected and accountable Local Government representatives;
- The power of the Commonwealth to provide direct funding to Local Government should be explicitly recognized; and
- If a new preamble is proposed, it should ensure that Local Government is recognized as one of the components making up the modern Australian Federation.

Further, the summit also adopted a charter, which can be found on ALGA's website: www.alga.asn.au/constitutionalrecognition/declaration

The ALGA will develop the proposals in consultation with councils, state Associations and other spheres of government in the coming months.

It is expected that a framework for action will be delivered at the National General Assembly in June 2009.

Primary contact: Date: January 2009

Natural and Built Environment - Advocacy issues

Housing Code

Background

The first of the NSW Housing Codes was released by the Minister for Planning on 12 December 2008. The Code will come into effect on and from 27 February 2009 and covers one and two storey houses on lots over 450 sq m and alterations and additions to existing houses.

The Minister and Department refused to trial or exhibit the revised code prior to its gazettal and commencement. Late revisions to the Code addressed some of Local Government's concerns, however there are a number of practical issues related to local variations, exclusions and the certificate of information that the LGSA believe should have been tested 'on the ground' by councils and certifiers prior to the commencement of the Code.

LGSA Response

- The LGSA support measures to widen exempt and complying provisions for appropriate development types but not at the expense of good planning outcomes.
- Revisions to the Code have addressed some of Local Government's concerns, however there are a number of practical issues related to local variations, exclusions and the certificate of information that need to be tested 'on the ground' by councils and certifiers.
- In order to better understand the impacts of the new Housing Code on councils and their communities the LGSA is looking to collect information from Local Government on issues as they arise in the implementation of the Code.
- The information gained from councils' comments and feedback will be used to prepare a submission to the Minister for Planning which outlines any key problems and provides recommendations for change in relation to the current NSW Housing Code.
- The feedback will also enable the LGSA to provide meaningful and constructive input into the next round of Codes being developed by the Department of Planning in 2009.

See Presidents media release on revised code at www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/2225-media-releases.asp

LGSA submission on first draft code (May 2008) at www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/2475-planning-changes.asp

Primary Contact: Judy Birrell, 9242 4073 **Date:** January 2009

Development Contributions

On 17 December 2008 the NSW Government announced the outcome of its review of development contributions including:

- A cap on development contributions payable to councils at \$20,000 per lot – with all contributions exceeding \$20,000 requiring approval from the Minister for Planning. Councils seeking approval to exceed the \$20,000 threshold need to notify the Department by 1 February and submit a formal request by 2 March 2009.
- Abolition of development contributions payable to Sydney Water and Hunter Water (worth an average \$15,000 per lot).
- Reduction of state infrastructure charges in the South-West and North-West growth centres from \$23,000 to \$11,000 per lot to June 2011.

The Premier's media release is available at <http://www.premier.nsw.gov.au/default.html>

The LGSA and council officials met with the NSW Treasury made a submission to the review, arguing that it was highly unlikely that changes to the existing system of development contributions would have any impact on housing affordability and development activity. While reducing the levies will save the developers a small amount of money, there is no way the government can guarantee that those savings will be passed on to home buyers.

The LGSA also contended that cuts in development contributions would impact on councils' capacity to provide their communities with local roads and footpaths, parks, playgrounds,

libraries and sporting facilities. Without this funding the alternative could be significantly less and lower quality facilities.

The LGSA were successful in having proposed changes moderated.

LGSA submission: www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/2266-development-contributions.asp

Presidents' media release: www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/2225-media-releases.asp

Current Actions

The LGSA is seeking feedback from affected councils and plan to convene a meeting once this is received.

Primary Contact: Judy Birrell, 9242 4073 **Date:** January 2009

Certification – Accreditation of Council Officers

In November 2008 the Building Professionals Board placed on exhibition proposed changes to the Building Professionals Regulation 2007 and the accreditation scheme made under the Building Professionals Act 2005.

Among other things, the regulation and scheme amendments propose:

- Categories of accreditation for council building surveyors.
- The requirements for accreditation for these officers (qualifications and experience).
- A process for the accreditation of council officers.

See Building Professionals Board website at www.bpb.nsw.gov.au

The Associations support a model of corporate accreditation of councils instead of individual accreditation of council officers. Councils/General Managers should be provided with corporate accreditation at no or substantially reduced cost if they can demonstrate adequate systems and processes are in place to provide certification services.

Councils are a level of Government and staff are accountable through a wide range of political processes, administrative procedures and legislative provisions that do not apply to private certifiers or individual companies.

Primary Contact: Judy Birrell, 9242 4073 **Date:** January 2009

Waste Management, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) & Recycling

Background:

Local Government continues to seek a more assertive, regulatory approach to industry to bring about genuine EPR, towards waste reduction and resource conservation. Individual Local Councils are aware of the problem and the fact that they are effectively "filling the gap" in the absence of genuine EPR. Community pressure to maintain levels of service is a powerful impediment to councils scaling down or rationalising their kerbside services.

Current Position:

The Associations continue to be frustrated by the slow progress on EPR at the NSW level. It has been noted that progress at the state level is difficult in a scenario where the Australian Government is reluctant to take assertive regulatory action against producers and they are more inclined to support a voluntary approach, as evidenced by the National Packaging Covenant. The relevant legislation (*Waste avoidance and resource Recovery Act 2001*) is now some seven years old and there is not a great deal to show for it, apart from a list of "wastes of concern".

The NSW Government continues to support voluntary approaches such as the National Packaging Covenant, even though these voluntary agreements are an impediment to assertive regulatory action.

The Manufacturing Industry continues to extol the virtues of a voluntary system of industry stewardship based on "shared responsibility", which effectively diffuses their direct responsibility for take-back or improvement in end of life management of commodities.

Environment groups are very supportive of a stronger directive approach on EPR, which will require industry to take a physical and economic responsibility for their products. The Associations are members of a national consortium of environment/community groups, the Boomerang Alliance, which includes Clean Up Australia, Total Environment Centre, which has continued to pursue this issue in 2008.

The Presidents continue to advise councils that they should consider carefully the merits and costs of providing additional services such as away from home (public place) recycling services, and "E-waste" (computers etc) collection services. While councils continue to increase their service provision, industry continues to be let off the hook rather than providing a genuine extended producer responsibility service.

A dramatic collapse in recycling prices in November / December 2008 saw prices for steel, paper, plastic and glass plummet. While most councils are protected from exposure by virtue of their "fee for service" contracts with recyclers, the negotiation of new contracts once these expire might be a much tougher negotiation. It may also, however, cause councils to think long and hard about the commodities they should collect, and those they should not collect due to the high net cost.

2008 was a pivotal year, because the National Packaging Covenant was subjected to its mid-term review at the end of 2008. Previous Ministers have committed that they will explore regulatory options (including container deposits) if the Covenant has not substantially reached its targets. The result of the review was that Ministers called for an investigation of the continuation of the Covenant, modified if necessary, and that regulatory instruments also be investigated. A special task force has been established to investigate the practicality of introducing CDL, and the Associations are representing ALGA on that group, which will present its report to the Ministers in mid 2009.

Comment:

This issue continues to be problematic, however the linkages between environment groups and Local Government on this issue are as strong as they have ever been, and in the scenario where State governments are more seriously considering directive EPR policies, and there may be some real leadership at the national level, the Associations will continue to apply pressure.

Primary Contact: Robert Verhey, Robert.verhey@lgsa.org.au **Date:** January 2009

Natural and Built Environment - Development and capacity building

LGSA Environmental Projects

Background:

The Associations continue to be approached by a variety of Australian and NSW Government Agencies to undertake environmental projects relevant to Local Government. This is a testament to the Associations' image and profile as a peak body for Local Government in NSW. These projects are as follows:

1. Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Project:

Funded by the NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change for two years from August 2006-2008, and extended by the NSW Environmental Trust. This project assists councils to adapt to the impacts of climate change and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions which contribute to climate change. Achievements include a summit (completed November 2006), NSW Mayors Agreement on Climate Change (19 Councils signed on, 21 in the process), the Climate Change Action Pack (available at www.lgsa.org.au/ClimateChange, a series of 8 regional forums (completed in April and August 2008) and a technical LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) workshop in August 2008. In 2009 a training package will be delivered to assist councils in developing their local climate change plans. Contact amy.lovesey@lgsa.org.au

2. Sustainable Choice:

Sustainable procurement for Local Government. Funded by NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) this program provides a range of tools and resources to help councils achieve triple bottom line outcomes from procurement. Already 47 councils have formally joined the program which is achieving impressive results. Membership is free and open to all NSW councils. Contact: Seb Crawford, email seb.crawford@lgsa.org.au

3. Excellence in Environment Awards:

The Associations' annual Excellence in Environment Awards have been running since 1998. Sponsors include DECC, National Parks and Wildlife Service, NSW Health, Landcom, Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority, WSN Environmental Solutions, "Our Environment - It's a Living Thing" Country Energy. These awards continue to reward and acknowledge the many initiatives in councils towards environmental improvement. This year's winner of the overall Sustainability Award was the City of Canada Bay. Contact: Robert Verhey: robert.verhey@lgsa.org.au

Sustainability Support for rural councils

Background:

Since August 2007 the LGSA has been coordinating a partnership project designed to support all NSW councils in progressing towards sustainability. Despite its deceptive title, this Urban Sustainability Support Alliance (USSA) project has a strong focus on regional and rural councils, and many have already taken up some of the opportunities on offer. The project is funded by the NSW Environmental Trust under its Urban Sustainability Program until December 2010 to the value of \$1,592,000.

The Alliance is made up of the following organisations: Department of Environment and Climate Change, Eurobodalla Shire Council, Institute for Sustainable Futures, UTS, Local Government & Shires Associations of NSW, Local Government Managers Australia, NSW, Manly Council and Sydney Coastal Councils Group.

The Alliance has recently accelerated its support to councils and celebrated a number of significant achievements including:

- delivering regional Sustainability Planning workshops outlining potential responses to the proposed Integrated Planning Reforms. Workshops were held in Ballina, Dubbo, Albury, Shellharbour and Sydney attended by 65 councils;
- delivering regional Project Evaluation workshops in Lismore, Goulburn-Mulwaree, Newcastle, Liverpool, Parramatta and North Sydney attended by 53 councils;
- supporting to councils implementing the Sustainability Health Check; and
- launching the project website (www.lgsa.org.au/ussa) which includes local sustainability case studies, a resource database and newsletters.

Current Position:

A. New "Understanding Sustainability for Councillors" workshop

The USSA is delivering a Councillor specific workshop at a special subsidised rate on Friday 6 March 2009. The training is being offered as part of the LGSA Learning "Councillor Professional Development Program". The workshop is designed to provide councillors and senior staff with skills and knowledge to clarify the legislative and ethical requirements relating to Ecologically Sustainable Development. Participants will work interactively to identify how councils can improve their current level of activity in this area and understand the costs and benefits of sustainability, using the triple bottom line of social, economic and environmental sustainability. The workshop will be participatory with case studies used to illustrate examples of good sustainability practice occurring in Local Government.

To register call Learning Solutions on 02 9242 4181/3 or email learning@lgsa.org.au

B. 29 Councils to benefit from USSA Intensive Sustainability Training

Throughout 2009 a customised in-house intensive sustainability training course is being delivered to 29 councils from across the state over the coming year at no cost to these councils through the USSA program.

9 councils, including 7 rural councils, and 2 Regional Organisations of Councils (ROCs), which represent a further 20 rural councils, will receive Intensive Sustainability Training. This follows an Expression of Interest process which was open to all NSW councils. Each successful council or ROC will receive a minimum of 2 full days of customised in-house training. The intention of the Intensive Sustainability Training is to support organisational change occurring within councils as they progress towards sustainability, and to spark action-within council.

All NSW councils can access support from the USSA by visiting www.lgsa.org.au/USSA or contacting USSA@lgsa.org.au

Primary Contact: Niki Carey, niki.carey@lgsa.org.au, 9242 4159 **Date:** January 2009

Natural Resource Management

Background:

The Associations continue to work across the broad spectrum of natural resource management (NRM) policy issues, including noxious and environmental weeds, biodiversity, native vegetation, salinity, stormwater, and water quality. In addition to the general policy work, two significant, current NRM projects underway include:

1. Integrating NRM into Local Government Land Use Planning

This 12 month project aims to investigate and provide guidance on local planning for NRM, to ensure decision-making at both regional and local level strategic planning and development control take account of key issues in managing natural resources.

Major project outputs and activities include:

- Project Officer appointed (Jeffrey Bell – jeff.bell@lgsa.org.au)
- Review of the integration of the Landuse Planning system and regional NRM model (CMAs) in NSW
- Planning Report: the Landscape Management Benefits of Lot Averaging and Clustering Incentives in Rural Areas
- Guidelines for the integration of NRM into Local Government Operations
- Consultation and promotion of the issues via presentations, meetings and conferences throughout the state
- Investigation of an interactive web-based 'Community of Practice' for planning and NRM professionals
- Assisting Southern Rivers CMA with sub-regional planning to interpret their Catchment Action Plan for local scale council planning

The project is funded by the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust (through Sydney Metro CMA) to the value of \$400 000.

Primary Contact: Jeffrey Bell: 9242 4171

2. NRM Skills, Knowledge & Engagement for local councils in rural NSW

This 12 month project (based in Dubbo) aims to build the capacity of local councils in NRM across NSW with a particular focus on rural and regional areas. The key objectives of the project include:

- To identify the NRM issues relevant to Local Government.
- To identify the current capacity and future needs of councils in regard to NRM.
- To build the capacity of councils in NRM and improve partnerships with CMAs.
- To develop a suite of products aimed at achieving greater capacity and engagement of local councils in regional NRM.

Six months into the project the following has been achieved:

- **Project officer appointed-** Catriona McKenzie appointed and hosted by Dubbo City Council. Contact Catriona.mckenzie@lgsa.org.au
- **NRM Survey of Councils** - Conducted in May 2008, the survey identifies the current capacity local government has to undertake NRM activities and areas where the LGSA could invest resources to support councils. Results are available at: <http://www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/2489-nrm-survey.asp?intSiteID=1>
- **Awareness raising program** - 18 presentations made on the project to inland NSW Catchment Management Authorities and Regional Organisation of Councils (ROC), involving over 166 stakeholders. Information has also been distributed through stalls at the LGA and Shires Conferences and other regional forums.
- **NRM Training module for councillors** - An NRM training module for councillors has been developed and consists of either a short (1 hour) and long (2.5 hour) training session covering the basics of what NRM is and the role of councillors in NRM. Five training sessions have been held to date, in areas including Inverell, Deniliquin, and Tamworth. Opportunities exist for sessions in other LGAs until 30 March 2009. Please contact the LGSA to express an interest in holding a session.
- **Guidelines (including workshops and advisory panel)** - A Guideline on integrating NRM into council corporate planning is being developed as part of a suite of products aimed at achieving greater capacity and engagement of local councils in regional NRM. Consultants (University of Technology Sydney – Centre for Local Government) are currently working on this and will pilot the guidelines with councils in March 2009.
- **Rural Forum on NRM issues** - A rural forum is being planned for May 2009 to discuss key issues in relation to local government and NRM delivery. The Forum will provide an opportunity for NSW councils to discuss their experiences with the Catchment Management Act and the Native Vegetation Act, both to be reviewed in 2009.

This project is funded by the Australian Government's National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality (NAP) Program (via Sydney Metro CMA) to the value of \$250 000.

Primary Contact: Catriona McKenzie, 6801 4672

Caring for our Country

Late last year the Australian Government released its Business Plan 2009-10 for the Caring for our Country program. Caring for our Country is the Australian Government's new natural resource management initiative which replaces the previous Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) and National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality (NAP) programs.

The program clearly articulates outcomes and priorities for investment and while Local Government is eligible to apply for funding, projects must fit into the Government's identified national priorities. Projects are more likely to succeed if they are developed in collaboration with partners. Applications close 6 March 2009. For more information visit: <http://www.nrm.gov.au/funding/index.html>

Primary Contacts: Geoff Hudson, 9242 4095 & Kirsty McIntyre, 9242 4055

Date: January 2009

Social Policy - Advocacy issues

Potential changes to aged and disability services with central governments

In September 2008 there was considerable media coverage suggesting aged care could become solely the Australian Government's responsibility and disability services could become solely the State Governments' responsibility in a revamp of roles. The proposal, which involved dividing up the Home and Community Care (HACC) Program, was being considered as part of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) reform agenda.

Any such changes will be of interest to Shire councils that manage HACC and related services. Done sensitively such changes could deliver benefits to all clients and their carers and families.

Therefore, the Associations took the issue up through ALGA as a COAG member and with the NSW Minister for Ageing and Disability seeking the guarantee of the Australian and NSW Governments

- that the effects of any redistribution of the funding and program responsibilities for ageing and disability programs be carefully considered in conjunction with major service providers including Local Government;
- that any changes result in improvements to the provision of services and supports for older people, people with disabilities and carers in NSW;
- that any new funding conditions for ageing programs maintain strong in-home and in-community outcomes alongside residential and institutional outcomes; and
- that any redistribution of the funding and program responsibilities for the delivery of ageing and disability programs and services not result in any reduction in per capita expenditure and that funding distribution methods take into account of regional and local needs and cost factors.

On 29 November 2008 COAG agreed to consider in 2009 an ambitious program of reforms to roles and responsibilities for funding and delivery of services to the community. The goals of such reforms will be to deliver more integrated and responsive services for individuals and families, to clarify accountabilities between governments and to improve performance of service systems. COAG requested officials to bring back specific proposals in relation to community mental health, disability services and aged care in the first half of 2009 as part of this program.

The NSW Minister for Ageing and Disability has advised that "while the development of options and decision making is ultimately a COAG responsibility, the NSW Government's key consideration for evaluating any change proposal is that it delivers the best possible outcomes for frail older people, people with a disability, their families and carers. If there are changes to the current arrangements, the NSW Government's position is that they will need to provide seamless service provision, clear pathways through the service system for clients, minimal disruption to services for clients and minimal duplication of reporting for service providers".

LGSA expects to be involved in further discussions about these planned reforms in the immediate future and welcomes any feedback from Shire councils with a stake in aged and community care.

Primary contact: Margaret Kay 9242 4082 **Date:** January 2009

(See also two projects in *Social Policy - Development and Capacity building* section)

Review of the Children's Services Regulation 2004

In late 2008 the Department of Community Services (DoCS) commenced a major statutory review of the Children's Services Regulation 2004. It is anticipated that a new Regulation will take effect in 2010.

The Children's Services Regulation 2004 sets the standards and operating requirements for all children's services that are required to be licensed in NSW. This includes long day care,

preschools, mobile services, family day care, home based services and occasional care. This is important to Shire councils that run, or provide premises etc for these services.

DoCS established an Industry Reference Group (IRG) to provide specialist insights on the conduct of the review and to help form a blueprint for a new Regulation. LGSA along with a member council are represented on the IRG.

DoCS has already sought input from the children's services sector, parents and the wider community on which aspects of the Regulation should be retained, and which should be changed or improved. The Discussion Paper on the Review Children's Services Regulation 2004 was available on DoCS website. There were Regional briefing sessions. DoCS arranged for focus groups with families who use children's services to gain their input. DoCS ran an on-line survey from mid-November to December 2008. There is an e-mail address for the review: CSRegRev@community.nsw.gov.au

Based on feedback from the consultations DoCS will now prepare a new draft Regulation and an accompanying Regulatory Impact Statement. These will be released for public comment in mid-2009.

The LGSA encourage councils to continue to participate DoCS processes and also give LGSA feedback on any issues of concern.

Primary Contact: Noel Baum ph: 9242 4014 **Date:** January 2009

Public Libraries

NSW Public Library Network comprises 383 local public libraries, including the State Library. The Network is a cohesive, state-wide network based on cooperation between council public libraries and the State Library of NSW.

The NSW Government has in place a range of supports to the NSW Public Library Network ranging from legislative support in the *Library Act 1939* & regulation, through Public Libraries Grants & Subsidies of \$23.5m per year to logistical support from the State Library. Local Government meets 90% of the costs of the Network.

Despite a period of commendable growth in the Carr Government years, the overall level of NSW Government funding is not keeping pace with demand.

Rural public libraries can expect some insulation from this increasing burden through i) the \$9 million over 5 years for country libraries from the *Building the Country Fund* and ii) the possibility of positive redistributive impacts of the Parry Review of Public Library Funding recommendations in future years. Nonetheless, whilst welcoming these rural initiatives, Local Government collectively must concentrate on the big picture for the long term benefit of all the Network.

Experts and commentators agree public libraries are under increasing pressure to re-vitalise facilities, collections, electronic infrastructure and programs. These pressures include changing demographics (including population ageing, new child and youth trends); community demand for a wider variety of library services and programming; increasing collection formats and technologies; and e-government.

To maximise the effectiveness of the Network a significantly enhanced level of NSW Government funding is required. Only with improved funding will the Network deliver programs that meet NSW Government and community expectations. In 2007 LGSA has developed a new position paper to further this.

LGSA's submission entitled *Public Libraries: Too Valuable to Lose* (and related approaches we have made to Government throughout 2008), seeks that the NSW Government commit to:

- significantly increasing the State's share of the total funding to local public library services to ensure it matches international and national benchmarks and meets unmet community demand for services, by enhancing the budget item *Grants and subsidies - Library services by Councils* by just over \$5m per year for five years to reach a new recurrent target of approximately \$52m per year.

Primary Contact: Noel Baum 9242 4014/Chris Hudson 9242 4047 **Date:** January 2009

Access to Premises Standards

Background

The House of Representatives Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee is conducting a review of the appropriateness and effectiveness of the Australian Government's draft *Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards* (standards).

The draft standards were developed by the Australian Building Codes Board and the Australian Human Rights Commission to make public buildings more accessible for people with mobility, vision and hearing impairments. The new standards aim to provide a platform for systemic improvements in disability access by clarifying building requirements for owners, managers and developers.

The proposed Premises Standards provide specific guidance on design and construction of buildings so that they will be accessible for all Australians, including people with a disability. They address access issues such as signage, circulation space in lifts and accessible toilets, the number of wheelchair spaces in theatres and the use of tactile warning indicators on stairways and ramps.

The Premises Standards have been developed in consultation with people with disability, the building industry and government. When the Premises Standards are completed, the intention is to make corresponding changes to the Building Code of Australia (BCA). Therefore, meeting the requirements of the BCA, means that the requirements of the Premises Standards will also be met.

Current position

The proposed Premises Standards have been referred to Parliamentary Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs for consideration and consultation in early 2009. LGSA officers are currently seeking comment from councils regarding the anticipated impact of the proposed changes and will provide comment for a submission by ALGA, if considered appropriate.

Comment

Local Government in NSW is involved in the link between building regulation and disability discrimination from the perspectives of regulation and planning, providing public facilities and representing local government's views to other spheres of government. The financial impact on local government needs to be carefully considered.

Primary contact: Margaret Kay 9242 4082 **Date:** January 2009

Social Policy - Development and capacity building

Cultural Awards

The Annual Local Government Cultural Awards sponsored by Country Energy recognise exemplary cultural development by NSW councils. All NSW councils or groups of councils providing innovative cultural development are encouraged to apply.

Entries close at 5.30pm on 27 February 2009.

Continuing the innovations from last year, there is a site where councils can submit Cultural Award applications on-line, and see other projects:
<http://culturalawards2009.lgsa.org.au/>

There is a simple online application process – councils can start their application in a matter of minutes, and return to work on it at their convenience.

The website will also be open for people's choice voting. The People's Choice Award is given to the project which gets the most votes – as a percentage of the hosting council's population. People may vote once for any project and may vote for more than one project. Only one People's Choice Award is given each year. Voting for the People's Choice awards closes on in March – well after applications close, giving everyone time to assess the projects on offer.

Councils are encouraged to submit to the 2009 Local Government Cultural Awards and to promote their projects to potential voters in the People's Choice Award.

Primary Contact: Chris Hudson 9242 4047 **Date:** January 2009

Population Ageing - Resource for Ageing Population Planning Background

A new tool that will help NSW councils plan for their ageing populations was launched on the Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW website in December 2008. The computer based *Resource for Ageing Population Planning* (RAPP) shows the change in a community's characteristics from 1996 until today, as well as the projected populations from 2006 to 2021 by age and sex. This will allow councils to better plan for their populations as they age.

The LGSA engaged Jeromey Temple of Demographic Insight to develop the Resource for Ageing Population Planning (RAPP). The RAPP also provides comparisons between local government areas and broader regions, and data from the site can be exported into other programs which will be helpful for other applications such as mapping.

RAPP has been successfully trialled by several councils throughout NSW and is now available for councils and other agencies, such as community aged service providers, to download and utilise in planning for the ageing of their populations.

Current position

Around 200 users have registered to date on the LGSA website. RAPP has led to increased contact from Council Ageing and Disability officers seeking advice on developing ageing strategies.

Presidents and the Acting Assistant Secretary General, supported by Senior Policy Officer Ageing and Disability, advised the Minister for Ageing and Disability Services, Paul Lynch about RAPP when they met in November 2008. The Minister provided support in the media release when RAPP was launched.

Comment

Understanding a community's demographic is a key factor in planning for their future. The projected populations available through the RAPP will help local councils strategically plan and budget for future services and infrastructure and have a better understanding of the make up of their population. RAPP will be useful for many smaller councils, especially in rural and regional areas which do not have enough resources to develop ageing strategies.

RAPP will inform discussions with other spheres of government on the impact of ageing populations on Local Government services and specifically with the implementation of the NSW government's Ageing 2030 Strategy.

Primary contact: Margaret Kay 9242 4082 **Date:** January 2009

Cost of ageing study Background

The RAPP estimates that the proportion of the NSW population aged 70 years and over will increase to an estimated 0.9 million in 2021. It is widely acknowledged that Local Government

will face cost pressures related to the cost of population ageing. The Productivity Commission's *Economic Implications of an Ageing Australia* (2005) showed that the delivery of human services represented around 50% of total Local Government expenditure. Demand for these services will increase as the population ages.

Councils will be facing increasing demands for health and aged care services, home support, community transport and cultural and recreational services. Councils will also be facing increased costs for infrastructure modifications, such as for footpaths, public parks and access to shops and services. During late 2008, the LGSA in conjunction with Professor Peter Phibbs of the Urban Research Centre at the University of Western Sydney undertook a "scoping study" to identify these costs. One metropolitan council – Fairfield and one rural council – Richmond Valley, agreed to participate in the scoping study.

The purpose of the study was to identify the magnitude (size of any financial impact) and range (number of council services affected) of the costs incurred by councils from an ageing population. Impacts on council's revenue raising capacity that may occur as a result of population ageing were also considered. In summary, the study found that increased costs for Councils arise through three main areas, these are:

- Provision of additional Council services to cater for needs of ageing population, e.g.
 - Physical facilities - senior citizens centres
 - Care services – Home and Community Care, healthy ageing programs
 - Leisure activities
 - Housing
- Increased demands on Council resources:
 - Staff – older people require more assistance and interaction with council staff
 - Infrastructure - need to modify the built environment to cater for the physical needs of ageing population
- Increased financial pressure due to concessions (rates, dog licenses)

Current position

The findings from the scoping study are currently being collated and will be the subject of a brief research paper which will be available to all councils. The scoping study demonstrated that the impact of ageing on council resources is extensive. The possibility of broadening the study to a larger number of councils in NSW (say 10), is currently being investigated. From this a detailed costing model could be developed which would be useful for all councils in planning for their future populations.

Comment

By identifying the costs associated with an ageing population, councils will be better informed in their future planning and budgeting. The information gathered in the study will provide councils with information that will enable them to:

- quantify the potential impacts of an ageing population
- plan financially for ageing
- have an evidence based/factual discussion with other spheres of government on cost shifting

Primary contact: Margaret Kay 9242 4082 **Date:** January 2009

Job Compacts – Aboriginal Employment

The Shires Association signed the overarching Job Compacts Memorandum (MOU) of understanding with the Department of Aboriginal Affairs in November 2007; the MOU participants support the establishment of Job Compacts in regional and urban centres with high Aboriginal populations and industries with good job prospects to facilitate greater employment of Aboriginal people in those areas and industries. The Shires Association has an ongoing commitment to Aboriginal Affairs and through the LGSA Social Policy Committee High Priority to promote Aboriginal Employment Programs and Job Compacts. The LGSA representatives are active on the Job Compacts Steering Committee.

Job Compacts is an initiative which explores innovative and creative measures to combat the high level of unemployment experienced by Aboriginal people. Job Compacts are two year agreements developed on a location or industry basis to generate local employment opportunities for Aboriginal people. They are an important tool in developing strong partnerships with industry groups, businesses, and Aboriginal job seekers. Interested stakeholders can join Job Compacts at any time during the life of the agreement.

At 1 January 2009, 12 Job Compacts have been established. These included the State wide Job Compacts Memorandum of Understanding and the Job Compacts at Tamworth, Wagga Wagga, Blacktown/Mt Druitt, Campbelltown/Macarthur, Eastern Sydney, Tweed Heads, Illawarra, Dubbo, Newcastle/Hunter, Cobar, and Redfern/Waterloo. These are major regional and urban areas with large Aboriginal populations and (until the global financial downturn) good employment opportunities. It is anticipated that in the near future four more rural councils will sign onto Job Compacts.

Primary Contact: Constance Chatfield, 9242 4085 **Date:** January 2009

Public Health

A new Senior Policy Officer Public Health joined the Social Policy Team in January 2009. This position is funded by NSW Health - Centre for Health Advancement as part of the ongoing partnership to help councils adapt their health protection and health promotion strategies to the challenges of the modern era.

Senior Policy Officer's job involves:

- further developing LGSA capacity to focus on health promotion and health protection;
- facilitating development of strategies within Local Government to promote public health;
- developing strategies to enhance partnerships between health sector and Local Government;
- administering Healthy Local Government grants program; and
- performing general policy and advocacy work on related issues.

Primary Contact: Helen Johnson, 9242 4028 **Date:** January 2009

Healthy Local Government Grants Program

The Associations have been successful in gaining \$800,000 in 2009/10 to implement a Healthy Local Government grants program. Funding comes through NSW Health - Centre for Health Advancement

The basic idea of the grants program is enable projects to take place between councils and health agencies that:

- Plan for Healthy Lifestyles: Introduce health considerations into policy and/or planning processes in local councils or at a regional level; and/or
- Deliver Healthy Lifestyles Initiatives: Implement community-focused initiatives that promote long-term lifestyle change in the following areas: i) healthy weight; ii) tobacco; iii) safe communities; and iv) alcohol.

This program is under development and councils can expect to see advice in the Local Government Weekly and on the website in autumn 2009.

Primary Contact: Helen Johnson, 9242 4028 **Date:** January 2009

Water Loss Management Program

Background:

The Water Loss Management Program for regional NSW Water Utilities is a joint initiative of the LGSA and Water Directorate which received \$7.387 million in funding under the Australian Government's Water Smart Australia program.

This four year program started in July 2006 and will involve:

- The development of program processes and documentation to provide financial and non financial assistance to council-owned water utilities to help them understand, investigate and implement projects to provide water savings in their drinking water distribution systems
- The development of Water Loss Management Education and Awareness Guidelines by the NSW Water Directorate
- Building capacity in council-owned water utilities to manage their water losses through education and supporting them through investigation and implementation of water saving projects
- The purchase of equipment that would be used to investigate and measure water loss issues at no cost to councils
- Providing financial assistance of up to 33% of total project costs for water saving projects directly related to leakage reduction.

The total cost of the Water Loss Management Program is over \$22 million, including projected council input.

Current Position:

- 55 Councils are currently signed up to the program;
- 21 councils have successfully applied for funding totalling approximately \$1.3 million;
- 3 smaller projects are already completed with water savings of over 210 Million litres per year.

The program is gaining momentum with a significant number of projects due to be completed in the first half of 2009.

Comment:

Details on educational workshops, forms and further updates on the Water Loss Management Program can be found at www.waterloss.lgsa.org.au.

Primary Contact: Ian Maggs 02 9242 4127

Date: January 2009

Workplace Solutions

The Workplace Solutions Division is made of four units providing members with specialist industrial relations services, training and development, recruitment, advice in managing employment related matters and high level legal policy advice.

Industrial Relations Unit

The Shires Association of NSW is one of the two employer parties to the major industry award covering Local Government employees in NSW. Primary functions of the Industrial Relations Unit include representing employer interests when lobbying other spheres of government, making submissions, appearing before courts and tribunals and in the negotiation and making of awards affecting councils and their employees.

The Unit also handles a high volume of advice on employment and industrial issues and represents councils in industrial disputes and anti-discrimination matters.

Local Government Amendment (Legal Status) 2008

On 22 October 2008 the Minister for Local Government the Hon. Barbara Perry MP introduced the Local Government Amendment (Legal Status) Bill 2008 into the Legislative Assembly. The object of the Bill is to amend the *Local Government Act 1993*:

- (a) to convert the status of local and county councils from their existing status as bodies corporate to the status of bodies politic of the State with the legal capacity and powers of an individual;
- (b) to provide that a person who is appointed to an employment position at a council on a temporary basis while the holder of the position is on parental leave may continue in that position for a period of up to 24 months, and
- (c) to include a regulation making power to specify the matters to be taken into account by the minister in granting consent to a council forming or acquiring a controlling interest in a corporation or other entity, and the conditions of such a consent.

The Bill passed through the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council without amendment and was assented to on 20 November 2008.

What does Decorporatisation mean for NSW Councils?

Councils were advised that the Association had sought counsels' advice on the potential impact of de corporatisation of NSW councils and a summary of that advice can be found in the *Local Government Weekly 45/08* (14 November 2008). In short counsels' advice confirmed that:

- The proposed model is substantially better than the QLD model in that it does not increase the liability of councillors for the acts and/or omissions of a council;
- Councils will cease to be "bodies corporate" and become "bodies politic of the State" with the legal capacity and power of an individual. However, a NSW State law will apply to a council in the same way as it applies to and in respect of a body corporate. In other words, for the purposes of NSW State law, councils will be treated as "corporations", and for all other laws (including federal, international and intra-State laws) councils will be treated as "individuals".

In relation to potential tax implications, the Association also obtained advice from PriceWaterhouseCoopers. Overall, the advice is that from both tax application and reporting perspectives the *Local Government (Legal Status) Act 2008* did not bring significant change for councils. The advice identifies a number of employment tax reporting issues that may potentially create additional administrative burdens for councils. The Associations will consult with the ATO to assist councils in alleviating any adverse effects.

What applies now?

NAPSA's continue to exist until 31 December 2009.

However, as councils are no longer constitutional corporations they have been returned to coverage by the terms of the *Local Government (State) Award 2007* and the *Local Government (Electricians) State Award*.

Councils that were formerly covered by the provisions of a NAPSA are reminded that a NAPSA largely contained the provisions of the *Local Government (State) Award 2004*. During the period that councils were covered by a NAPSA, the award parties negotiated and consented to a new *Local Government (State) Award 2007* and the significant provisions that differ between the 2004 and 2007 awards are listed below:

- Rates of pay and allowances increasing in annual instalments;
- Annual assessments ;
- On call and overtime work;
- Casual loading not payable on overtime;
- Reasons in writing to unsuccessful internal applicants;
- Consultative committees;
- Civil liability allowance effective 15 December 2006;
- Traineeship wage rates effective 1 January 2007; and
- Tool allowances effective 8 July 2008.

Councils are advised to review their contracts of employment, letters of offer and other procedures ensure that they reflect the current State award provisions and no longer refer to the NAPSA. Given NSW Local Government has been returned to the NSW industrial jurisdiction, councils that have entered into referral agreements are encouraged to seek advice over their agreements' future application and relevance.

Does the *Workplace Relations Act 1996 (WRA)* still apply to NSW councils?

The WRA includes provisions that apply to employers and employees with their ordinary meaning and therefore it is the Association's view that certain Commonwealth laws will still apply viz:

- Parental leave [Pt 7, Div 6 WRA] (external affairs power)
- Equal remuneration [Pt 12, Div 3 WRA] (external affairs power)
- Racial discrimination [RDA] (people of any race power)

Further, the following Commonwealth laws may apply:

- Right of entry [Pt 15 WRA] (external affairs/incidental power)
- Freedom of Association [Pt 16 WRA] (external affairs)

Award Negotiations

The *Local Government (State) Award 2007* expires in November 2010 and it is expected that the respective unions will provide their logs of claims in late 2009. Issues that can be expected to be raised include an increase in paid maternity leave entitlements and naturally, rates of pay and allowances.

Workplace Relations Amendment (Transition to Forward with Fairness) Act 2008

The *Workplace Relations Amendment (Transition to Forward with Fairness) Act 2008* commenced operation on 28 March 2008. The Act includes amendments to the Workplace Relations Act 1996 to make a number of changes to the framework for workplace agreements and to enable the process of award modernisation to commence. The proposed amendments give effect to key Government election commitments and begin the transition to a new workplace relations system.

An important feature of the Act includes the establishment of a safety net comprising two parts: the National Employment Standards and new modern awards. The safety net will apply to all employees in the federal system from 1 January 2010.

The National Employment Standards

- Maximum weekly hours of work
- The right to request flexible working arrangements
- Parental leave and related entitlements
- Annual leave
- Personal/Carer's leave and compassionate leave

- Community service leave
- Long service leave
- Public holidays
- Notice of termination and redundancy pay
- Provision of a Fair Work Information Statement, which will detail the rights and entitlements of employees under the new system and how to seek advice and assistance.

Modern Awards

The second element of the safety net is the creation of modern awards by the Australian Industrial Relations Commission. Modern awards will be industry or occupation-based and will streamline and simplify thousands of awards. Modern awards build on the National Employment Standards and may include an additional 10 minimum conditions of employment, tailored to the needs of the particular industry or occupation. These include minimum wages, types of employment, arrangements for when work is performed, overtime and penalty rates, annualised wage or salary arrangements, allowances, leave related matters, superannuation and procedures for consultation, representation and dispute settlement.

Together with other state Associations, the Shires Association of NSW has been active in making submissions in this process to inform the development of federal industrial instruments that may either cover or influence coverage of Local Government conditions of employment.

Local Government Remuneration Tribunal

Each year the Association makes a submission to the Remuneration Tribunal, seeking fairer and more equitable fees for all NSW councillors as well as changes to council categories where appropriate. After considering the submissions, the Tribunal makes a determination giving reasons for any increases provided. The Tribunal also outlines the issues it seeks the Association to address in future submissions. The Tribunal is required to make a determination by no later than 1 May each year. This year's submission is due 13 February 2009 and the Association's submission will be posted on the website in due course.

DLG's Guidelines for the Payment of expenses and the Provision of facilities for Mayors and Councillors in NSW

The DLG is revising these Guidelines with input from the Association and is expected to issue the revised version with an extension to the due date, shortly. The new Guidelines will contain:

- Discussion of principles and clarification of relevant issues in regard to the scope and extent of expenses and facilities that may be reasonably and appropriately provided for in councils' policies ([Part One](#)) and forms the Guideline's mandatory provisions.
- Notes and/or model clauses on specific expenses and facilities to assist councils to prepare their policies ([Part Two](#))
- Details of the relevant legislative and policy requirements ([Appendix I](#))
- Suggested outline structure or format for a policy, which councils may use or adapt as necessary to suit their needs ([Appendix II](#)).

Local Government Learning Solutions

Local Government Learning Solutions provides public and in house training, seminar and Executive/manager coaching services to councils. The Unit also coordinates the Councillor Professional Development Program.

Councillor Professional Development Program 2009

The Associations have developed a comprehensive development program to assist councillors to understand their role and enhance their skills. The workshops are delivered in large regional centres, as well as in metropolitan areas, for Regional Organisations of Councils (ROCs) or at the council's own premises.

The workshops' facilitators are experts in their fields and have had proven experience in the local government industry. The workshops are also based on good practice adult learning

principles and practice with opportunities for the councillors to be active learners and to be able to reflect on their experiences.

The Association's Councillor Professional Development Program includes the following twenty modules:

- Induction for NSW Local Government Councillors
- Conflict of Interest and Model Code of Conduct
- Financial Skills
- Good Governance
- Planning Legislation Skills and Knowledge
- Effective Meeting Skills
- Strategic Management
- The Effective Chair in Local Government
- Councillors as Change Initiators
- Understanding Sustainability for Councillors
- Media Skills
- Advanced Media Skills
- Dynamic Presentation Skills
- Performance Management of Senior Staff
- Connecting with the Community
- Lobbying for Success
- Community Leadership
- Preventing Bullying and Harassment Training for Councillors
- Handling Difficult People for Councillors
- Speed Reading Skills for Councillors.

The Public Workshops Calendar October 2008 to June 2009 features 57 workshops. Local Government Learning Solutions coordinates the workshops for councillors and has scheduled some of the workshops in the evenings and on Saturdays.

Local Government Employment Solutions

Since its establishment in 1992, Local Government Employment Solutions prides itself on providing a professional and cost effective service to the industry. The Unit's procedures have been designed with the needs and concerns of the Local Government industry in mind. Employment Solutions' services include:

- Executive recruitment using the latest technology and online recruitment system to notify job vacancies and to receive applications;
- Performance management to ensure that councils observe their annual senior management performance management obligations and maintain an effective relationship with their general managers and senior staff;
- Organisation reviews, a timely and new service which will support councils reviewing organisation structures by September 2009. The service includes consultancy advice on organisation reviews, climate surveys and salary levels;
- Annual remuneration survey and tailored comparison report for NSW councils comparing the remuneration for general managers, directors and managers; and
- Counselling and other support services such as exit interviews, relationship management, executive and elective member team building.

Employment Solutions also runs performance management workshops through the Learning Solutions which are well received.

Industry Skills Shortages

The Association continues to direct attention and resources to addressing the ongoing challenge of attracting and retaining skilled and professional employees and school leavers to the Local Government industry.

The Association has again sponsored a stall and promotional materials at the 2009 Sydney Careers Expo. Councils are encouraged to consider the range of new traineeship opportunities, especially school based traineeships to attract employees into the industry early in their careers. In this regard case studies promoting successes in recruiting trainees at Gwydir, Moree and Narrandera Shire Councils will shortly be available. Employment Solutions is also investigating the potential for recruiting professionals from overseas following a strong and positive response to its survey gauging council demand.

Legal Advice

The Association's Legal Officer provides high level legal policy advice to Mayors and General Managers on a wide range of issues affecting local government including:

- Council meetings and procedural issues;
- Administration of the Associations' Legal Assistance Scheme for Councils;
- Local Government Act and Regulations;
- Codes of Conduct;
- Freedom of Information;
- Ombudsman; and
- Privacy.

The Legal Officer is also responsible for managing applications from councils by way of the Association's Legal Assistance Policy and Guidelines.

CONTACTING THE WORKPLACE SOLUTIONS DIVISION

For advice, more information on any of the Units' services or individually tailored proposals, councils are encouraged to contact Debra Law, Office Coordinator on ph: (02) 92424142 or email: wps@lgsa.org.au

14. COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE AT LGSA TOURISM CONFERENCE 2009

REPORTING SECTION: General Manager
AUTHOR: Ray Kent - General Manager
FILE NUMBER: 145/02/00/00

Summary:

Council Policy "Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities for Councillors" provides that:

1. "The approval for discretionary trips and attendance at conferences, seminars and training, should be approved by a full meeting of Council".
2. "Apart from the forementioned (Annual Conference of the NSW Shires Association, Annual "C" Division Conference, Annual Australian Local Government Women's Association Conference), Councillors will generally be limited to attendance at a maximum of three additional conferences or seminars in any Financial Year".

This Report seeks Council approval for the attendance of the Mayor and two Councillors at the LGSA Tourism Conference 2009.

Discussion (including issues and background):

The Conference is to be held in Kiama on Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th March 2009. The Program is attached, along with the fee schedule (Registration Fee is \$599 per attendee). With the world wide recession deepening, it is expected that the significance of domestic tourism will markedly increase over the coming year or two.

Councillors Lane and Martinez have an ongoing involvement in tourism promotion within the Shire. The President of the Shires Association also made a special call, at the "C" Division Conference, for Mayors to attend the Conference.

Provision is made in the Budget for the costs of Conference attendance.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Nil

Stakeholders:

Councillors and Shire tourist organisations.

Financial Implications:

Cost of approximately \$2,800

Recommendation:

That the attendance of the Mayor and Councillors Lane and Martinez at the LGSA Tourism Conference 2009 be approved.

WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL AGENDA

Attachments: Conference Program and Fee Schedule

Draft LGSA Tourism Conference 2009 - Program as of 12 January 2009 Creating a Strong Foundation in Tourism 10 - 12 March 2009, Kiama Showground Community Events and Exhibition Centre

Conference MC: Bruce Elder, Features Writer Travel and Tourism

Tuesday 10 March

1.00pm – 5.00pm	Managing Local Tourism - Master Class Highlights Professional development program sampler - Optional session Presented by The School of Tourism and Hospitality Management at Southern Cross University
12.00pm – 2.00pm	Registration opens at Kiama Showground
6pm – 7.30pm	Welcome Reception Cocktail Party at The Sebel Harbourside Kiama Sponsored by Kiama Council. Delegate registration will be available at this event

Wednesday 11 March

9.00am	Statement of Recognition / Welcome to Country	Elder from Kiama Council
9.10am	Welcome to Kiama Municipal Council	Cr Sandra McCarthy, Mayor, Kiama Municipal Council
9.15am	Presidents' Welcome	Cr Bruce Miller, President Shires Association of NSW
9.30am	Tourism Keynote Address	Lyndel Gray, Executive Director, Tourism NSW
10.00am	Tourism Address	Bill Healey, CEO, The Australian Hotel Association (invited)
10.30am	Morning Tea	
11.00am	NSW Innovation Strategy	Jason Scattolin, Senior Manager, Innovation Strategies, DSRD
Transport Infrastructure and Services		
11.30am	Aviation – regional access	Ian Baker, Airport Agencies Pty Ltd (invited)
12.00pm	Self-drive market, roads, and touring, Princess Hwy upgrade, rural road safety grants, Ozlink Roads	Michael Leary, Head of Travel and Tourism, NRMA
12.30pm 12.45pm	Rail Infrastructure: packaging and marketing tourism products; regular services and special services, Elvis Train, CityLink and Countrylink	Scott McGregor, Off the Rails Productions Pty Ltd and Nadine Clench, Sales and Distribution Mgr, CountryLink
1.00pm	Lunch sponsored by the Department of Lands	
Building foundations		
2.00pm	Precinct redevelopment and community infrastructure/public private partnerships	Chris Quigley, Director Strategic and Commercial Services, Kiama Municipal Council
2.30pm	Converting Assets Into Tourism Product	Todd Wright, Three Sides Marketing: marketing, online, training
Council Case Studies		
3.00pm	Molong's Gelato Ingredients Manufacturers of Australia Pty Ltd	Giovanni Di Francesca
3.20pm	Tullamore Irish Festival	Robert Edwards
3.40pm	Working Together: case study in council collaboration Northern Rivers Local Tourism Management Master Class	Dr Dianne Dredge, Associate Professor, Tourism Policy and Planning, Southern Cross University and Liz Shepherd, Tourism & Development Manager, Ballina Shire Council
4.00pm	SITE INSPECTION: development of an iconic tourism product at Jamberoo Action Park	James Eddy, Owner, Jamberoo Action Park
6.00pm	Conference finishes day one	

WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL AGENDA

7.30pm	Conference Dinner On the Boardwalk - Barefoot and Black Tie Sponsored by Southern Cross University
10.30pm	Bus transfers back to accommodation

DAY 2 Thursday 12 March

7.30am - 8.30am Guided Walk and Breakfast		
9.00am	Keynote Address	Hon Jodi McKay MP, Minister for Tourism
Marketing your Assets and Building your Brand		
9.30am		Stuart O'Brien, CEO, Australia and New Zealand, Ogilvy and Mather
10.00am		Gregg Currie, Owner, Bellachara Boutique Hotel
10.30am Morning Tea		
11.00am	Tapping the Trends (Demographics)	Simon Pomfret, Executive Director, Illawarra Regional Information Service (IRIS)
11.30am	Taskforce on Tourism and National Parks in NSW	Richard Davies, Manager Visitor Programs Unit, Parks and Wildlife Group, DECC
12.00pm - 1.30pm	Workshop Breakout sessions Matching Tourism Products with Markets and Building Your Foundations Scenario 1: Inland remote council with non-direct transport links and relatively small visitation	Facilitator: Jenny Calkin, Managing Director, Jenny Calkin and Associates
12.00pm - 1.30pm	Scenario 2: Coastal council with high visitation and good transport (surf strategy)	Facilitator: Debra Howe, Manager Tourism and Events, Toowoomba Regional Council
12.00pm - 1.30pm	Scenario 3: Metropolitan council, large and popular tourism destination with attractions	Facilitator: John Allen, Director, Australian Centre for Event Management
1.30pm Lunch sponsored by the Department of Lands		
Touring Tourism		
2.30pm - 2.50pm	Motorhomes / Caravan Parks / Councils Industry Operators, Council Communities and Consumers: boom or bust?	Diana Womer, Chairman, Campervan & Motorhome Club of Australia
2.50pm - 3.10pm		Graham Harding, General Manager, Crown Lands Division, Department of Lands
3.10pm - 3.30pm		Bob Browne, Legal Council, Caravan and Camping Industry Association
3.30pm	Wrap up by MC and close	Cr Bruce Miller, President, Shires Association of NSW and Bruce Elder, MC
4.00pm Happy Hour Drinks		
5.00pm Close		

[Home](#) | [LGSA Tourism Conference](#) | **Registration**



Registration

Early Bird Registration deadline: 27 January 2009
Registration deadline: 23 February 2009

Register Online Now

This is a secure site which accepts Credit Card (Visa or Mastercard) payments. On completing registration, a tax invoice confirmation will be automatically emailed to you. Your credit card statement will show a debit for this registration from "Acuvent". Payment by cheque and electronic transfer is also available. Cheque payments are to be made out to "LGSA" and please send to GPO Box 7003 Sydney NSW 2001 with a copy of your Tax Invoice. If you have any problems with registration, please contact Karen Rolls at the LGSA on events@lgsa.org.au or (02) 9242 4050. To register, please visit the [online registration page](#).

Registration Fees	Fee (Including GST)
Early Bird Registration (by 27 January 2009)	\$544.50
Conference Registration (by 23 February 2009)	\$599.00
Single Day Registration	\$299.50
Master Class Highlights Session	\$77.00
Welcome Reception - extra tickets	\$55.00
Conference Dinner - extra tickets	\$110.00
Guided Walk and Breakfast	\$15.00

Conference Registration includes: attendance at President's Welcome Reception, full attendance at the two day conference including site visit, morning teas, lunches and afternoon teas for both days, conference

**15. REQUEST FOR RENT ASSISTANCE - LIGHTNING RIDGE
NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE**

REPORTING SECTION: General Manager
AUTHOR: Ray Kent - General Manager
FILE NUMBER: 145/11/11/00

Summary:

The Co-ordinator of the Neighbourhood Centre has written requesting a commitment from Council to provide an ongoing annual rent subsidy of up to \$10,000 to enable the body to upgrade to new premises.

Discussion (including issues and background):

The letter from the Centre is attached. It provides a comprehensive description of the services provided and the shortcomings of existing premises.

Council will receive numerous requests for funding of works and projects as it moves into the deliberation stage of 2009/10 budget formulation. Some requests will be unsolicited and others will be received in response to a public call by Council for submissions. All requests and proposals should be considered at the same time.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Nil

Stakeholders:

Residents

Financial Implications:

Nil

Recommendation:

That the Lightning Ridge Neighbourhood Centre be advised that their request for rent assistance will be considered at the time of formulation of the 2009/10 Budget.

Attachments: Letter from Lightning Ridge Neighbourhood Centre

LIGHTNING RIDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

1/28 Morilla St

Lightning Ridge 2834

Ph 026829 2333 – fax 0268 0847

lmc@bigpond.net.au

5/02/09

SUBMISSION TO COUNCIL RE RENT ASSISTANCE FOR
THE LIGHTNING RIDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE
(including the Lightning Ridge and Opal Fields CTC)

Dear Walgett Council – I write to ask for ongoing rent assistance Of \$10,000- pa for the Neighbourhood Centre to be considered for inclusion in your next budget allowance.

The current directive from DoCS for the Neighbourhood Centre is that we confirm with their new mission of ensuring that "Children, young people, families, and disadvantage communities are safe and resilient." To this end we need to have more interaction with children, youth and community. As we have an extremely diverse multicultural population we have a unique set of needs. We have the staff and volunteers to organize and run workshops that will help to place volunteers and trainees back into the work force. We work with Best Employment and Probation and Parole to assist with work experience and training – there is a big need for this here and so much more we could develop if we had suitable premises to develop our potential for service to the community.

The Neighbourhood centre is an interactive hub for the community.

The services we provide include

- CTC - Community computer Access
 - We are also setting up outreach computers at Grawin, Glengarry and Sheepyards.
- Printing, photocopying, scanning, fax, and laminating
- Community information
- Australia wide phone books
- Service information and referrals
- Client consultations
- Business services- including letter and resume typing
- Library Books, Videos and music CDs
- Drop in Centre + cuppa and cold water
- Emergency relief and EAPA (electricity) vouchers
- Rent start assistance to complete and fax the forms
- Front desk for Safe house Women's refuge
- Training for "work for dole" and "probation" participants

- Workshops – varying subjects

ONGOING RESULT:

- **Job Creation;** Once we establish the income and efficiency of the CTC we would need a full time computer literate supervisor to assist clients with the computer access and to supervise the overall physical operation of the centre. Once we have suitable premises we will be able to have more volunteers and work trainees.
- **LR and Opal fields CTC :** There are a number of workshops and other projects available through the CTCA that can be income earners. I will be registering Lightning Ridge as a domain site and establishing our town as an easy to reach site through which we can integrate all our other sites and businesses. We have already put 4 computers at the Grawin pub in the scrub – one computer each into Sheepyards and the Glengarry Hilton.
- **Youth off streets:** The centre is open to all ages and all cultures. Youth could use the facilities – Youth are able to access the computers at a very reasonable rate.
- **Seniors** – needing a rest – a meeting place to feel connected to their community.
- **Eventual workshops;** these could include sewing and small craft projects – budget training -
- **A further result** - of a multi cultural (that is ALL of us – Australian, Aboriginal and CALD) community working and relaxing together is mutual respect and understanding that in turn lessens the crime rate.

HISTORY: Our centre provides vital services to this NSW north western town set in an area that is experiencing unprecedented hardship - Operating within the Neighbourhood Centre are The Yawarra Meamei Women's Group Inc who administer the Safe House refuge. The Transcultural Community Council Inc (with 56 nationalities living in the district, many of whom have minimal English) they have a large work load. We run a small version of the community technology centre (5 computers in storage due to lack of space). Emergency relief and EAPA electricity vouchers are also administered by our centre. Between us we inject \$350000 of funding into the district economy each year. There are two full time employees, 10 part time employees and 8 volunteers.

We have outgrown our current premises. Which means we are not OH&S compliant. We have too many persons in cramped spaces, not enough power or power points. The toilets are outside with no hand-basin and are unhygienic with the septic holding tanks within a metre of the back door. We repaired the weathered toilet doors with glue! We don't have enough room for our books or computers. We do not have hot water or a hand basin. **The shop has three steps at the front which combined with the cramped premises make**

wheelchair access impossible. This is discriminating against people who need our services. At times we have to sit in the cars of our clients and process their needs. This could leave our staff and volunteers exposed to dangers. We acknowledge that there is to be a multicultural Community Centre to be built at Lightning Ridge in the future but in the shorter term the Neighbourhood Centre and the CTC computers with Library books need to find another home that has sufficient space and refrigerated air-conditioning before the heat destroys the computers and printers. We also need insect screening for the comfort of customers and the protection of the computers.

We are asking for rent assistance up \$10,000 pa to move to suitable premises.

We have furniture and equipment and therefore we only need to find suitable premises – although it would be hard for us as we are used to being part of the three way interaction between the services we must do what gives the best result for service to our community. If you cannot assist us with rent then it is the citizens of this community who will suffer. The Yawarra Meamei Womens Group Inc and the TCC Inc also need extra space for meetings, training and volunteers. Ideally we would like to keep the three Integrated services together but it is a matter of finding suitable premises. We have just had a strategic planning meeting with Brian Smith of the LCSA (Local council of services association). As part of the planning Brian also focussed on our needs to facilitate development and comply with OH&S for our staff and clients:

* **Short term** – it is urgent that we solve the lack

- o of privacy
- o of disability access
- o OH &S

* **Medium term** – we try to keep the 3 integrated services together and find suitable premises to rent until we can achieve our long term goal.

* **Long Term** – that we still work with the Lightning Ridge Community Centre Inc – to build the iconic multicultural community centre that is in the planning.

The premises we need to find must have

Wheel chair access
Air-conditioning
Suitable space
Separate rooms for offices
Kitchen and hot water service

I would like to ask what is happening with the old ambulance station and attached three bedroom house. I assume that this is government owned and therefore there may be a chance of a government lease being available.

I await your reply

Karin Thurston
Co – ordinator – Lightning Ridge Neighbourhood Centre

**16. REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE AND PROJECT SUGGESTIONS -
LIGHTNING RIDGE IMPROVEMENT AND BEAUTIFICATION
COMMITTEE**

REPORTING SECTION: General Manager
AUTHOR: Ray Kent - General Manager
FILE NUMBER: 145/11/11/00

Summary:

Requests for assistance and suggestions for projects have been received from the Committee.

Discussion (including issues and background):

The attached correspondence contains a number of requests and suggestions as follows:

1. Level and gravel the car park area next to the Gem Gardens - Council has resolved to provide a grant to the Gem Gardens in the amount of \$4,500 from the \$492,000 the Council will be receiving from the Federal Government's Community Infrastructure Fund. Portion of the funds can be utilised for upgrading the parking area.
2. Require a small shipping container to store tools - a portion of the abovementioned grant can be used for this purpose.
3. Seating in Town Centre - Council should consider this suggestion , along with other expenditure proposals, when formulating the 2009/10 Budget.
4. Public Toilets in Town Centre - funds for a toilet block have been provided in the 2008/09 Budget and the toilets are due for completion prior to July 2009.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Nil

Stakeholders:

Lightning Ridge residents and visitors

Financial Implications:

Nil

Recommendations:

That Council provide the Lightning Ridge Improvement and Beautification Committee with a copy of this report and advise as follows:

- 1. a grant of \$4,500 from the Federal Government's Community Infrastructure Fund is likely to be available prior to the end of March 2009 and these funds can be utilised for improving the parking area and purchasing a tool storage facility.**
- 2. expenditure on public seating will be considered at the time of formulation of the 2009/10 Budget.**
- 3. a public toilet block is to be constructed in the Town Centre prior to July 2009.**

Attachments: Letter from Lightning Ridge Improvement and Beautification Committee

LIGHTNING RIDGE IMPROVEMENT & Beautification committee
ABN 41 847 762 474
PO Box 781 – LIGHTNING RIDGE – 2834
PH 6829 1081 - 6829 4949

10/2/09
To Ray Kent
Walgett Shire Council
70 Fox St
WALGETT 2832

Dear Mr Kent

At our meeting to-night I was asked to write and submit the following needs as a submission to council for the next budget from the IBC committee.
We will be having an opening of the Indigenous Bush Tucker garden that is now part of the Gem Gardens thanks to a generous grant by the Western CMA, on the 16th of May 09. You will receive an official invitation but I am letting you know now so that you may give consideration to some work that is needed.

- 1) – Levelling and gravelling of the car park area next to the gardens. It needs draining – as it becomes a quagmire if it rains and it is a pot hole mess that detracts from the considerable effort done by this committee to create a park of beauty. The gem garden is an oasis in a dry climate and attracts comments by all the visitors. We are prepared to talk to you and assist in what ever way we can
- 2) – We desperately need a small shipping container to store our tools in. We have community service parole participants working with us in the gardens and it is a very good training cause for them. We need handy access to our tools instead of having to lug them in from home due to lack of secure storage. The container would be placed at the rear of the garden and would have a mural painted on it to suit the garden area.
- 3) – The town also needs more public seating in the main streets. This subject has been broached many times before and in our hot climate we need seats with shade the same as Walgett has placed in their street. We are aware that some business owners do not want seating but the alternative is that people now sit on steps or in the gutters. This is not a good impression for visitors. Elderly people and mothers with children need somewhere to rest between the doctors surgery and the chemist. Also from the IGA down to Centrelink. The town desperately needs to plan to make it a user-friendly main street.
- 4) Public toilets – this is an urgent need. You have a designated car-park at the rear of the BP Auto village. Please give consideration to a set of public toilets in this area.

Yours Sincerely
Karin Thurston – Treasurer IBC
Margaret Mansfield – Secretary IBC

17. *PRECINCT COMMITTEES*

REPORTING SECTION: General Manager
AUTHOR: Ray Kent - General Manager
FILE NUMBER: 004/09/09/92

Summary:

At its November 2008 Meeting, Council adopted guidelines for the operation of Precinct Committees and resolved to offer annual grants of \$500 to the existing Committees in Carinda, Burren Junction, Collarenebri and Rowena if they agreed to abide by the guidelines. A similar offer was to be made to the Walgett District Ratepayers Association. Additionally, Council resolved to make a public call for persons to register their interest in establishing a Precinct Committee for the Lightning Ridge area.

This report updates Council on the implementation of the November resolutions and proposes further action.

Discussion (including issues and background):

The report to the November Council meeting is attached. Pursuant to Council's resolutions the following actions took place:

1. Letters were written to the existing Precinct Committees and the Walgett District Ratepayers Association advising of Council's resolutions, providing a copy of the Council report and requesting advice as to whether they wished to convene Annual General Meetings at which adoption of the guidelines would be considered. A copy of the standard letter is attached. Formal responses were received from the Carinda and Rowena Committees indicating they would convene Annual General Meetings with a view to complying with the Guidelines. A letter of response to Carinda and Rowena, including a prescription of financial management requirements, is attached. No formal response had been received, at the time of writing, from Walgett Ratepayers though verbal advice was received from the President of the Burren Junction Committee and the Secretary of the Collarenebri Committee advising their Committees would not be accepting Council's offer of financial support.
2. Advertisements were placed in the Ridge News (see attached) inviting persons to request copies of the Council's report on Precinct Committees and inviting residents to register their interest in becoming members of a Lightning Ridge Precinct Committee. In total, twelve persons from different families registered their interest and these persons are identified in the attached schedule.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Nil

Stakeholders:

Residents of the Shire

Financial Implications:

Annual grants to three Precinct Committees totalling \$1,500.

Recommendations:

That:

- 1. The Rowena and Carinda Precinct Committees be provided with a grant in 2008/09 of \$250 each, upon provision of a tax invoice.**
- 2. The Mayor and General Manager convene a meeting of those residents of the Lightning Ridge area, who have registered their interest in becoming members of a Committee, with a view to formally establishing Committee membership and, if appropriate, assisting with the election of a President and a Secretary.**

Attachments:

- * Report on Precinct Committees to the November 2008 Council Meeting
- * Letter forwarded to current Precinct Committees and Walgett District Ratepayers Association;
- * Letter forwarded to Carinda and Rowena Precinct Committees following their agreement to conduct Annual General Meetings
- * Advertisement placed in Ridge News
- * Schedule of persons registering an interest in becoming members of a Lightning Ridge Precinct Committee.

5. PRECINCT COMMITTEES

REPORTING SECTION: General Manager
AUTHOR: Ray Kent – General Manager
FILE NUMBER: 004/09/09/92

Summary:

At the October Council Meeting it was resolved as follows:

"Council continue to recognise the Precinct Committees at Carinda, Burren Junction and Rowena for the purpose of advising Council of the needs of those areas and that a report on any practical issues associated with the support of the Committees and their operations be presented to the November Council Meeting. This report also to address the establishment of Precinct Committees in other villages and towns".

Discussion (including issues and background):

Precinct Committees were introduced by the Council's first Administrator. Initially there were six – Burren Junction, Carinda, Collarenebri, Lightning Ridge, Rowena and Walgett. The role of the Committees was to "provide information on the physical, social and environmental characteristics of the area and assist council in the formulation and development of programs and policies". The Precinct Committees were intended to help fill the local knowledge gap created as a consequence of there being no Councillors.

At the present time four Committees are still active – Collarenebri, Burren Junction, Rowena and Carinda. Lightning Ridge and Walgett Committees ceased to operate some time ago, though the Walgett Committee was replaced by a Ratepayers Association.

Nominated persons from the Precinct Committees receive Council Agendas, Minutes and other publicly exhibited documents and the Committees forward minutes of meetings, advice and requests to Council.

Most Councils with Precinct Committees tend to be large in population terms. Rules and procedures applied to Precinct Committees, generally cover the following matters:

- Only established if a specified minimum number of community members from different family groups within the area covered by the Precinct indicate an interest in establishing and becoming a member of a Committee. In Walgett Shire's case it might be eight persons. In terms of defining boundaries for Committees, in Walgett Shire it would be difficult. The only constraint would be that if you are a resident of a town or village with a Precinct Committee you would not be entitled to be a member of the Committee of another town or village
- Committees must elect a Chairperson and a Secretary annually
- Councillors may or may not be members of Committees. In Walgett's case it is suggested that Councillors should not be members of Committees though, as for other residents of the area concerned, they would be entitled to attend any Committee meeting
- Must be an Annual General Meeting where all residents within the area invited to attend
- Any resident of the area can attend any Precinct Committee meeting

WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL AGENDA

WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL AGENDA

- Must meet six times a year, generally with each meeting in a different month
- Committees responsible for advising residents of meetings
- A quorum for any meeting is half the number of Committee members plus one
- There must be an Agenda for each meeting and the Minutes of each meeting must be forwarded to Council
- Council commits to providing the Committees with: Agendas and Minutes of Meetings; publicly exhibited documents; press releases
- Council provides each Committee with an annual grant to cover the costs associated with convening meetings, advising residents of meetings, photocopying, postage etc. An appropriate grant in Walgett for each Committee would be \$500

Relevant Reference Documents:

Nil

Stakeholders:

Councillors and residents

Financial Implications:

Possible annual grants totalling \$3,000 per annum

Recommendations:

That:

1. General guidelines relating to Precinct Committees be as follows:
 - (i) Committees only to be established if eight or more members of the community from different family groups within the area of the Committee express an interest in establishing, and becoming members of, the Committee
 - (ii) Committees must elect a Chairperson and Secretary annually
 - (iii) Councillors should not be members of Committees
 - (iv) Must be an Annual General Meeting of the Committee when all residents within the area invited to attend
 - (v) Any resident of an area is entitled to attend any meeting of the Committee for the area
 - (vi) Committees should meet a minimum six times a year and generally each meeting should be held in a different month
 - (vii) Committees are responsible for advising residents of meetings
 - (viii) A quorum for any meeting of the Committee is half the number of members plus one
 - (ix) There must be an Agenda for each meeting and the Minutes for each meeting must be forwarded to Council
 - (x) Council will provide Committees with: Agendas and Minutes of all Council Meetings; publicly exhibited documents; press releases
 - (xi) Council will provide each Committee with an annual grant of \$500 to cover the cost of convening and conducting meetings, photocopying, postage, telephone and related
2. The Secretaries of the existing Precinct Committees at Carinda, Burren Junction, Collarenebri and Rowena be advised of Councils resolutions in respect of this subject and further advised that Council will provide an initial grant of \$250 to each Committee to assist them to conduct an Annual General Meeting prior to May 2009 at which, among other things, a Committee would be established that satisfied the general guidelines
3. The Secretary of the Walgett District Ratepayers Association be advised of Council's resolutions and further advised that if they satisfy the general guidelines they will receive an annual grant of \$500
4. A public call be made for persons to register an interest in establishing and becoming a member of a Precinct Committee for the Lightning Ridge area
5. A further report on the implementation of Councils resolutions in respect of this subject be placed before the February 2009 Council Meeting



Shire of Walgett

ABN 88 769 076 385

Rn: 2990.

Reference: RK:JG: 004/09/09/92

Your Reference:

Contact:

Mr Raymond Kent

2 December 2008

Ms Berrill Ley
Burren Junction Precinct Committee
PO Box 30
BURREN JUNCTION NSW 2386

Dear Berrill

Re: Council Support for Precinct Committees

The attached report and recommendations were considered by Council at its November Meeting. The recommendations were adopted without amendment.

Council is keen to see the currently operating Precinct Committees continue their work and has committed to providing financial support to the Committees provided that they satisfy the guidelines which are outlined in the report. The financial support would take the form of an annual grant of \$500 to cover costs associated with publicizing, convening and conducting meetings, including costs such as photocopying, postage, telephone and related.

If your Committee indicates that it will schedule an Annual General Meeting before May 2009 at which, among other things, the Committee's acceptance of the guidelines would be addressed, then Council would provide a grant of \$250 for this Financial Year to assist with the costs of promoting and conducting that Annual General Meeting. The \$250 grant would be paid as soon as possible after your Committee indicates in writing that it will conduct the Annual General Meeting.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of the Council's proposal please feel free to ring me on 6828 1608.

Yours Sincerely

Ray Kent
General Manager



Shire of Walgett

ABN 88 769 076 385

Rn: 3090

Reference: RK:JG: 004/09/09/92

Your Reference:

Contact:

Mr Raymond Kent

17th December 2008

Ms Margaret Johnstone
Co-ordinator, Carinda Precinct Committee
"Wirroona"
Carinda NSW 2831

Dear Margaret

RE: Carinda Precinct Committee

Thank you for the advice that it is the intention of the Committee to schedule an AGM before May 2009.

A grant of \$250 will be provided by Council to cover costs for the remainder of this Financial Year with a commitment to provide \$500 in subsequent years.

As far as the grant is concerned, the Committee will need to:

1. open a Bank Account and keep separate financial records
2. supply the Council with a tax invoice for the grant (no need to register for ABN or GST)
3. provide an annual reconciliation of expenditure along with a declaration signed by Chairperson and Secretary that funds expended for the purpose of facilitating and conducting meetings of the Precinct Committee

If you need to discuss any of the above matters could you speak to Council's Accountant, Myrene Lovegrove, on 6828 6146.

Yours Sincerely

Raymond Kent
General Manager

Street Walgett

ation whilst Council has been asphalt re-
aa and Monkeila Streets in Walgett.
than desirable.

the Roads and Traffic Authority of NSW
ays in Walgett Shire. This type of repair
for it to be successful. The RTA did not
ificant deterioration of the pavement.

would have been unlikely to have been
red unacceptable.

ed \$5 million this financial year. Most of
via wages and subcontractor payments.
ent years. Such a volume of this type of
t works to be suspended during harvest.

m of works extending Council's regional
million the majority of which also flows into
aly funded by State and Commonwealth

n in place in Walgett during this operation.
nature. For this I especially thank all the
aff involved in its implementation.

week for transport through Walgett. I trust
ate the benefits much earlier than would

ces

8

PO Box 31 WALGETT NSW 2832

meeting for 08 was

take this opportunity to

Officer



A PRECINCT COMMITTEE FOR THE LIGHTNING RIDGE AREA

At its November Meeting, Council resolved to invite persons to register
an interest in becoming a member of a Precinct Committee for the
Lightning Ridge area.

Precinct Committees already exist in Collarenebri, Rowena, Burren
Junction and Carinda.

The role of the Committees is to provide information on the physical,
social and environmental characteristics and needs of an area and assist
Council in the formulation and development of programs and policies.

Council has adopted comprehensive guidelines for committees and will
only support the establishment of a committee in an area if eight or
more community members, from different family groups, express an
interest in becoming members of a Committee.

A report is available which describes the guidelines for the
establishment and operations of Committees along with the financial
and other support that Council will provide Committees. a copy of the
report can be gained by ringing Ms Jodie Gates on 6828 6116. The
report can also be accessed on Council's website
www.walgett.nsw.gov.au

Persons should register their interest in becoming a member of a
Lightning Ridge committee by forwarding contact details to Ms Jodie
Gates at PO Box 31 Walgett 2832 or by email
admin@walgett.nsw.gov.au or by fax 6828 1608.

Registrations of interest should reach Ms Gates by close of business on
Friday 23rd January 2009.

Ray Kent
General Manager

2365293

Lightning Ridge Precinct Committee – Families interested in joining

Name	Address
Geoff Naismith	PO Box 170 LIGHTNING RIDGE NSW 2834
Maria Sorokoput	PO Box 1774 LIGHTNING RIDGE NSW 2834
George McCormick	PO Box 879 LIGHTNING RIDGE NSW 2834
Danielle Osbourne	PO Box 467 LIGHTNING RIDGE NSW 2834
Michael Taylor	PO Box 1431 LIGHTNING RIDGE NSW 2834
Robert Jelbart	PO Box 1841 LIGHTNING RIDGE NSW 2834
Katrina Clein	PO Box 441 LIGHTNING RIDGE NSW 2834
Karin Thurston	PO Box 941 LIGHTNING RIDGE NSW 2834
Christina Johansson	PO Box 1821 LIGHTNING RIDGE NSW 2834
Kym Briscoe	PO Box 1551 LIGHTNIGN RIDGE NSW 2834
Petrina Brown	PO Box 1233 LIGHTNING RIDGE NSW 2834
Kerry McBride	PO Box 1233 LIGHTNING RIDGE NSW 2834

18. *REPORT ON MANAGEMENT PLAN 2008/2009 – 2012/2013*

REPORTING SECTION: General Manager
AUTHOR: Ray Kent – General Manager
FILE NUMBER: 145/11/11/00

Summary:

This report summarises the extent to which performance targets set by Management Plan 2008/2009 – 2012/2013 have been achieved during the quarter October 2008 – December 2008.

Discussion (including issues and background):

Under Section 407 of the Local Government Act 1993 the General Manager is required to report periodically on the implementation of the Management Plan. A report must be presented to Council within 2 months after the end of each quarter. This report is presented to Council to demonstrate achievements for the quarter October 2008 – December 2008.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Local Government Act 1993
Walgett Shire Council Management Plan 2008/2009 – 2012/2013

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council

Financial Implications:

Nil

Recommendations:

That the Report on the Management Plan 2008/2009 – 2012/2013 for the period October 2008 – December 2008 be received.

Report to be tabled at the meeting

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT - GENERAL MANAGER

No	Mission Aim	2008/2009 Activity	Measurement, Method and Target	Responsible Manager	Status
1.	To promote better practice and encourage improvement in the way Council conducts its activities and ensure good governance	Completion of the Local Governments Self Assessment Checklist.	Checklist requirements completed by June 2009.	General Manager	On target
		Review Organisation Structure	Implement Organisational changes prior to September 2008.		New structure adopted and operational. Structure to be reviewed by Council in April 2009
2.	To develop and improve the aesthetic physical characteristics of the Shire.	Upgrade Town Centre's of Walgett and Collarenebri.	Walgett CBD upgrade complete by September 2009.	General Manager	Target remains
			Collarenebri CBD upgrade complete by December 2009.		Target remains
3.	To be a good employer and provide leadership through a safe and productive workplace.	Staff appraisals to include reference to actions required to achieve training and multi skill objectives.	All staff appraised annually.	General Manager	Ongoing
		Develop an organisational culture, which acknowledges dedication and innovation.	Employee of the Month to be recognised for dedication and innovation. Employee of the year to be judged in December each year.		Ongoing
		Provide a contemporary Council depot in Walgett	Plans, specifications and approvals in place for a new Walgett Depot by September 2009. Construct new Walgett Depot by December 2010.		Funds allocated. Project has been scheduled Dependent on Council decision

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT - GENERAL MANAGER

No	Mission Aim	2008/2009 Activity	Measurement, Method and Target	Responsible Manager	Status
4.	To Provide training for newly elected Councillors.	Ensure that all newly elected Councillors are provided with the necessary training as required by the Department of Local Government.	Information sessions for prospective Council election candidates to be undertaken in July 2008. Training and briefing sessions for members of new Council to be conducted in September and October 2008.	General Manager	Complete Complete
5.	To provide strong local and regional leadership.	Council will encourage greater involvement and participation in regional and state activities by its senior staff and Council representatives.	Mayor and Councillors involved in the activities of the Shires Association, C Division and Western Division of the Association, where relevant. Senior staff active members of relevant professional groups.	General Manager	Ongoing Limited involvement only

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT - GENERAL MANAGER

No	Mission Aim	2008/2009 Activity	Measurement, Method and Target	Responsible Manager	Status
6.	To ensure that Council's corporate planning needs and policy decisions meet the requirements and expectations of the community and comply with the legislative requirements.	Council will consult widely and communicate decisions effectively.	<p>Council's website will be updated regularly and contain relevant and current information.</p> <p>General Manager will be available for regular interviews with media.</p> <p>General Manager will attend meetings with community groups and organisations.</p> <p>Council will inform community through press releases and information passed onto Precinct Committees and Community Working Parties.</p> <p>General Manager will ensure Council news column placed in local newspapers at least fortnightly.</p> <p>An operational plan scheduling budgeting projects over 18 months to be completed March 2009</p> <p>A strategic Community Plan for Council covering 10 years to be completed by April 2009</p>	General Manager	<p>Website amendment training has been arranged for key staff.</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>On target</p>
7.	To ensure responsible and good governance.	All ordinary meetings and special meetings of Council are appropriately advertised to the public.	<p>All meetings are advertised to comply with the Local Government Act 1993.</p> <p>Opportunities are provided to the public, to address agenda items at every meeting.</p>	General Manager	Ongoing
		Walgett Shire Management Plan 2008/2009-2012/2013 is prepared and adopted.	By 30 June 2008		Plan adopted

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT – DIRECTOR URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

No	Mission Aim	2008/2009 Activity	Measurement, Method and Target	Responsible Manager	Status
1.	To provide, operate, & maintain an efficient reticulated Water Supply to designated town and village areas	To maintain potable water supplies within NHMRC microbiological guideline limits	No. tests - 98% compliance	Director, Infrastructure and Engineering Services	On going (close monitoring)
		Timely repair main breaks and service connections	No unplanned interruptions - less than 10% exceed 5 hours duration		On going
		All hydrants maintained in a serviceable condition	No failures; nil failures reported by Fire authorities		On going
		To promote water conservation through Council's Savewater! website	On-going		Not yet started
		Water Service metering completed & new tariff structure adopted	Completion, October 2009		Water meter not yet installed
		Water Mains Replacement – trunk raw water main Walgett, & Carinda AC mains	Metres replaced, Walgett - June 2009, Carinda - June 2011		Writing contract specification in progress
		Feasibility Study for the Replacement of Walgett Filtration Plant	Completion, June 2009		Not yet started
		Complete replacement of Potable Metered Standpipes in Walgett & Lightning Ridge	Completion, March 2009		Not yet started

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT – DIRECTOR URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

No	Mission Aim	2008/2009 Activity	Measurement, Method and Target	Responsible Manager	Status
2.	To provide, operate, & maintain a common Waster Water (sewage) disposal system for designated town and village areas	To discharge effluent within License conditions and Environmental Legislation	Nil pollution incidents nil Prosecutions.	Director, Infrastructure and Engineering Services	License (to operate) preparation in progress
		Timely repair main chokes/blockages	Nil unplanned interruptions - less than 10% exceed 5 hours duration		On going (constant monitoring)
		Reline all AC sewer mains in Walgett	Completion, June 2010, CCTV required		Writing of contract specifications in progress
		Fence the effluent ponds at Collarenebri, to maintain public safety	Completion, June 2009		Not yet started
		Replace the effluent pump station at Collarenebri, to provide continuity of service	Completion, June 2009		Preparation of specifications not started
3.	To provide kerb-side Domestic Waste collection services in designated town and village areas	To provide a weekly service to all customers	No services - < 5% bin services are missed	Director, Infrastructure and Engineering Services	On going (constant monitoring)

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT – DIRECTOR URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

No	Mission Aim	2008/2009 Activity	Measurement, Method and Target	Responsible Manager	Status
4.	To provide bulk / Commercial Waste disposal facilities within Walgett Shire	To provide landfills for commercial and bulk waste at Walgett & Lightning Ridge	No services -< 5% bin services are missed	Director, Infrastructure and Engineering Services	Monitoring in progress
		To construct a hardstand area at Walgett Landfill for wet weather operations	Completion, March 2009		Site investigation to start
		To complete the Solid Waste Asset Management Plan including defining future of bulky waste facilities at Villages and recycling facilities	Completion of Plan, August 2009		Collation of data started
		To undertake Environmental Assessment and Approvals for a replacement Landfill at Lightning Ridge	September 2009		Not yet started
5.	To encourage recycling of waste within Walgett Shire	To incorporate recycling as part of the Solid Waste Asset Management Plan	Completion of Plan, August 2009	Director, Infrastructure and Engineering Services	Collation of data not yet started
		To promote waste education through Netwaste "Waste to Art" and other opportunities	On-going		Closed coordination ion progress

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT – DIRECTOR URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

No	Mission Aim	2008/2009 Activity	Measurement, Method and Target	Responsible Manager	Status
6.	To manage & mitigate the impacts of Stormwater and Flood flows within designated town and village areas	To maintain serviceability of Council's stormwater systems to prevent urban flooding during minor storm events	Nil flooding incidents due to stormwater surcharge during minor storms, 95% minor storms are flood free	Director, Infrastructure and Engineering Services	On going (constant monitoring)
		To maintain pollution control structures on stormwater systems	Nil pollution incidents due to control structure failure - control structures fail in < 5% of minor storms		On going (constant monitoring)
		To maintain Walgett Levee and Flood systems in a state of readiness to combat flood threats up to 1% AEP flood	Audit Inspection - serviceable assessment at a randomly called audit of all structures		Audit yet to commence
		To complete design and documentation of Walgett Flood Levee refurbishment	Project reached call tender stage, September 2008		Waiting for final plan resolution
		To refurbish Walgett Flood Levee	Complete June 2013		Plan ok, document not yet started
		Safety Upgrade of Open Stormwater Channels at Lightning Ridge	complete June 2013		Analysis not yet started
		To replace failed kerb & gutter	Complete 2017		Walgett – priority Lightning Ridge – to complete

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT – DIRECTOR URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

No	Mission Aim	2008/2009 Activity	Measurement, Method and Target	Responsible Manager	Status
7.	To improve & maintain Urban Street Infrastructure such that they contribute to a safe and attractive environment for business and recreation	To provide regular pavement sweeping, litter removal, and vegetation maintenance to urban streets and car parks	meters maintained -on-going	Director, Infrastructure and Engineering Services	Intermittent monitoring on going
		To clean & maintain public toilets in road related areas	Audit inspection, annual overall audit score > 80% pass rate		On going
		To replace hazardous footpaths to minimise Council's public liability risk	meters maintained - on-going		Setting/auditing assessment primitive not yet started
		Upgrade Walgett CBD pedestrian lighting	Completion June 2009		No plan available yet
		Replace Street Trees	No replaced -ongoing		In progress
		Upgrade pedestrian traffic facilities, Burren Junction	Completion May 2009		Analysis yet to completed
		Resealing of pavements every 8-15 years	meters of seal, all of the sealed network has a seal < 20 years old by June 2013		On going
		To construct a new public toilet in Lightning Ridge	Completion June 2009		Site location not fixed yet

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT – DIRECTOR URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

No	Mission Aim	2008/2009 Activity	Measurement, Method and Target	Responsible Manager	Status
8.	To improve & maintain Urban Parklands such that they contribute to a safe and attractive community environment	To provide regular litter removal, and vegetation maintenance to urban parklands	meters maintained - on-going	Director, Infrastructure and Engineering Services	On going (constant monitoring)
		To clean & maintain public toilets in parklands	Audit inspection, annual overall audit score > 80% pass rate		On going (constant monitoring)
		To install/replace automatic watering systems in Gray Park, Len Cram Park, and Lions Park Lightning Ridge	Completion September 2009		Analysis not yet completed in progress
		Install Playground equipment in selected parks	Units Installed - 6 units by June 2011		Feasibility studies in progress
		Upgrade amenities Trevallion Park	Completion March 2009		In progress (alternate solution introduced)

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT – DIRECTOR URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

No	Mission Aim	2008/2009 Activity	Measurement, Method and Target	Responsible Manager	Status
9.	To improve & maintain Recreational & Sporting Facilities such that they contribute to a safe and attractive environment for the social development of the community	To provide regular litter removal, and vegetation maintenance to recreational & sporting facilities	meters maintained - on-going	Director, Infrastructure and Engineering Services	On going (constant monitoring)
		To clean & maintain public toilets in recreational & sporting facilities operated by Council	Audit inspection, annual overall audit score > 80% pass rate		On going (constant monitoring)
		Install an automatic watering system Walgett No. 1 Oval	Completion October 2009		Writing specifications in progress
		Install a shade structure over main Collarenebri Pool	Completion October 2009		Selection of material in progress
		Facilities Upgrade Lightning Ridge Bore Baths	Completion April 2009		Due to start early Nov 08
		Improvements Burren Junction Bore Baths	Completion April 2009		Due to start Feb 09
		Construct Skate Park in Walgett	Completion June 2009		Site selection and environmental analysis in progress
10.	To improve & maintain public Cemeteries within Walgett Shire	To provide regular litter removal, and vegetation maintenance to public cemeteries	meters maintained - on-going	Director, Infrastructure and Engineering Services	On going
		Construct memorial wall Walgett cemetery	Completion, June 2009		Specifications yet to finalise

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT – DIRECTOR URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

No	Mission Aim	2008/2009 Activity	Measurement, Method and Target	Responsible Manager	Status
11.	To improve & maintain Walgett Cattle Saleyards	To maintain walgett cattle saleyards in safe and serviceable condition	Audit inspection -annual overall audit score > 90% pass rate	Director, Infrastructure and Engineering Services	Ongoing
12.	To improve & maintain public Airfields within Walgett Shire to support regular passenger services to Walgett & Lightning Ridge, aero-medical access to Collarenebri, and emergency access during floods at other sites	To conduct regular inspections and maintenance to meet registration and security requirements	No inspections - 98% inspections completed, 98% defects completed on time	Director, Infrastructure and Engineering Services	On going (Constant monitoring)
		To provide 'roo-run' services for night aero-medical operations	No runs - 98% availability to conduct requested 'roo runs'		On going
		To maintain Collarenebri airport serviceability for night aero-medical operations	No night aero-medical calls - < 5% of calls diverted		On going
		Maintain & reseal pavements to ensure serviceability for aircraft operations	Audit inspection, annual overall audit score > 98% pass rate		On going
		Upgrade Collarenebri Airport to mains power lighting	Completion June 2009		To start end of October 2008
		Seal the Collarenebri main runway	Completion November 2009		Yet to prepare specifications

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT – DIRECTOR URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

No	Mission Aim	2008/2009 Activity	Measurement, Method and Target	Responsible Manager	Status
13.	To implement and maintain Asset Management Systems that meet legislated and government guidelines, provide an effective resource for strategic planning of asset replacement, identify future capital expenditure liabilities, and provide a systematic defence against public liability risks	To implement electronic systems and procedures that efficiently record complaints, inspections, defects, and works/rectification instructions linked directly to the affected asset	complete June 2010	Director, Infrastructure and Engineering Services	Analysis in progress
		To record the details and valuation of each Council asset in an auditable system as required	As per Dept Local Govt. Schedule: Land, Buildings, Other Assets – August 2008 Roads & Drainage – August 2009		Collation analysis in progress
		To document long-term plans for the operation, maintenance and renewal of Council's assets to maintain a sustainable level of service to the community	Water – December 2009 Transport – March 2010 Community Infrastructure – December 2010		Yet to finalise the strategy

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT – DIRECTOR RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE & SUPPORT SERVICES

No	Mission Aim	2008/2009 Activity	Measurement, Method and Target	Responsible Manager	Status
1.	To improve & maintain Regional Roads & Bridges to provide safe, efficient, all-weather access on key transport routes within Walgett Shire	Heavy Patching on sealed roads to repair major pavement defects	meters of defects repaired, less than 10% of the sealed network has a major defect by June 2013	Director, Infrastructure and Engineering Services	Funds proposed to be reallocated
		Resealing of geotextile pavements with only a single seal and other pavements every 8-13 years	meters of seal, all of the sealed geotextile network has a minimum of a double seal by June 2010		Approx 110,000m ² Reseal areas for 08/09 identified
		RR329: reconstruction & sealing of remaining unsealed section	meters of seal - all of RR329 is sealed by December 2009		Delayed start Feb 09
		RR329 Pian Cr Bridge: completion of replacement	Completion, new concrete structure is open to traffic by September 2008		Open 3/10/08
		RR333: completion of reconstruction & sealing of remaining unsealed section	meters of seal, all of RR333 is sealed by December 2009		Penultimate stage commenced Aug 08
		RR333 Castlereagh River Bridge: replacement	Completion, new concrete structure is open to traffic by June 2008		No Design in progress
		RR457: reconstruction & sealing to 25km south of Qld border	meters of seal, open to traffic by September 2008		Complete Feb 09
		RR333: Cumberdoon Bridge Replacement	Completion, new concrete structure, open to traffic by Nov 09		Design in progress; funding offer proposed to be accepted
		RR:402 Sparkes Warrumbool Bridge replacement	Completion, new concrete structure, open to traffic by Nov 09		Design in progress; funding offer proposed to be accepted
		RR402 26 mile Warrumbool Bridge replacement	Completion, new concrete structure, open to traffic by Nov 09		Design in progress; funding offer proposed to be accepted

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT – DIRECTOR RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE & SUPPORT SERVICES

No	Mission Aim	2008/2009 Activity	Measurement, Method and Target	Responsible Manager	Status
2.	To improve & maintain Shire Roads & Bridges to provide safe access to most rural properties within Walgett Shire and efficient, all-weather access to key population centres	Resealing pavements every 8-13 years	meters of seal, all of the sealed network has a seal < 13 years old by June 2013	Director, Infrastructure and Engineering Services	Approx 5,000 m ² Reseal areas identified for 08/09
		Gravel Resheeting of unsealed pavements to maintain trafficability	meters of resheet, all of the gravel sheeted network is in wet weather trafficable condition by June 2013		Nil to date
		Reshape Formation of formed roads to maintain drainage and safety	km of road reshaped, 95% of the formed road network is trafficable within 5 days of rain by June 2013		SR64
		SR 120: Epping Bridge and 1 st Epping Bridge: replacement	Completion - new concrete structure is open to traffic by June 2009		Design in progress
3.	To improve & maintain Traffic Facilities (Road Linemarking, Traffic Signs, and Medians) to facilitate safe and efficient vehicle movement in Walgett Shire	Investigation of traffic issues and referral to Local Area Traffic Committee (LATC) (where relevant)	No issues considered, resolution of issues within 90 days of referral	Director, Infrastructure and Engineering Services	LATC Meeting due Feb 09
		Installation of minor changes to traffic facilities	Facilities Installed, works constructed within agreed time and budget		Ongoing ~ Pedestrian facilities at Walgett & Burren Junction ~ Walford coronial ~ Walgett College improvements

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT – DIRECTOR RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE & SUPPORT SERVICES

No	Mission Aim	2008/2009 Activity	Measurement, Method and Target	Responsible Manager	Status
4.	To operate Council Quarries and Gravel Pits in a safe and efficient manner to provide cost-effective materials for road construction and maintenance operations	Implement a revised Mine Safety Management Plan to meet new legislation	Key personnel trained and authorised within legislated period	Director, Infrastructure and Engineering Services	Production Manager Nominated
		Resolve Licensing & Approval issues	Compilation of Quarry Register and correction of any omissions by June 2009		In progress
5.	To manage Council's Plant & Vehicle Fleet to provide appropriate and efficient plant and vehicles to meet Council's operational needs	Review Plant Replacement Program	Complete by December 2008	Director, Infrastructure and Engineering Services	In Progress
		Review the Motor Vehicle Replacement Policy	Complete by June 2009		Complete
		Review Plant Hire Rates (internal)	Complete by February 2009		60% complete
6.	To maintain & operate a Repair and Maintenance Workshop for heavy plant and vehicles that efficiently provides maintenance and repair services (including mobile services) that meets the operational needs of Council	Review and adjust procedures, human and physical resources to meet operational needs	On-going	Director, Infrastructure and Engineering Services	Ongoing
		Complete functional brief of requirements for replacement workshop	Complete by September 2008		Site options identified

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT – DIRECTOR RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE & SUPPORT SERVICES

No	Mission Aim	2008/2009 Activity	Measurement, Method and Target	Responsible Manager	Status
7.	To maintain & operate a Supplies Store to secure supplies that are not readily available at local businesses and to hold spares needed for emergency works to meet the operational needs of Council	Review and adjust procedures, human and physical resources to meet operational needs	On-going	Director, Infrastructure and Engineering Services	Ongoing
		Complete functional brief of requirements for replacement store	Complete by September 2008		Refer 6
8.	To provide the administer Council's support obligations to Emergency Services including the Local Emergency Management Committee, Rural Fire Service, and State Emergency Service	To provide the Local Emergency Management Officer	On-going	Director, Infrastructure and Engineering Services	One LEMC meeting to date DISPLAN under review Risk Management Assessment under review
		To represent the General Manager at Rural Fire Service Zone Service Level Agreement and Bushfire Management Meetings	On-going		Two meetings to date

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT - DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

No	Mission Aim	2008/2009 Activity	Measurement, Method and Target	Responsible Manager	Status
1.	Provide an efficient timely and user friendly response to client requests and concerns.	Council will maintain and improve its customer action request statistics.	Respond to issues raised within thirty days taking appropriate recommendations to Council. Reduce Customer Action Requests System average days outstanding to <45 days. All customer enquiries and complaints will be dealt with in five working days.	Director Corporate and Community Services	Targets met Ongoing, Council Management ensure dealt with in a timely manner
2.	To provide services to meet the needs of people from cultural and linguistic backgrounds.	Review Local Ethnic Affairs Priorities Statement (LEAPS) and Action Plan 2006-2009.	Completed by December 2008.	Director Corporate and Community Services	May 2009
		Provide cultural awareness training to staff.	Ensure that cultural awareness training is provided to all current staff by April 2009 and subsequently every two (2) years.		In progress

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT - DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

No	Mission Aim	2008/2009 Activity	Measurement, Method and Target	Responsible Manager	Status
3.	Develop an organisation that displays good management and strong forward planning.	Management Plan and Budget Review undertaken on a quarterly basis.	Completed October 2008, February 2009, April 2009 and July 2009.	General Manager and Director Corporate and Community Services	Feb 2009 completed
		Rates and Annual Charges Outstanding reduced by sale of land for unpaid rates, agreements and strong debt recovery policy.	Rates and Annual Charges outstanding reduced to 9% by June 2010. At least annually hold sales of land for unpaid rates in accordance with S713 of LGA.	Director Corporate and Community Services	Audited results presented at Nov Meeting Sale of land held in Jan 09
		Operate sound financial management practices	Acceptable level of above 2:00:1 unrestricted current ratio maintained Debt Service Ratio below 10% Maintained		
4.	Provide a secure and compliant Records Management Regime.	Purchase, install and implement an electronic records system.	Electronic records system purchased, installed and implemented by January 2009.	DCCS and Records Manager.	System purchased, trial site installed Jan 09
		Continue with the "Authority" record keeping system, in keeping with its obligations under Australian Standards (ISO 15489 as amended)	100% operational with suitably qualified staff.		Authority training being provided again May 09
5.	Council to provide, or lobby for the provision of, adequate social and community services across the Shire. social matters on behalf of the Community.	Update the Social and Community Plan for 2008/09 and report to Council on achievements from the Plan	Social and Community Plan updated and achievements of Social Plan reported to Council in October 2008, February 2009, April 2009 and July 2009. Community events promoted on Councils website.	Director Corporate and Community Services	Social Plan report Feb 09
		Continue to provide library services across the Shire, and to enhance the service, wherever possible	Library usage numbers are maintained and where possible increased, and library opening hours are increased in at least one location.		Library hours at deposit stations have been increased

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT - DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

No	Mission Aim	2008/2009 Activity	Measurement, Method and Target	Responsible Manager	Status
6.	To ensure that Information Technology is adequate for the organisation and to facilitate access to IT in the community	Continue implementation of "Conquest" System to ensure more effective tracking of Council assets.	Conquest fully operational December 2008.	Director Corporate and Community Services	Training to take place in April 2009
		Provide ongoing training and support to all staff.	Regular training provided. Web page training provided annually to representatives of all Council departments. IT training provided to all new staff.		Ongoing training provided to all staff within budgetary constraints
		Implement the Community Wireless Internet pilot project in Collarenebri	Community Wireless Internet project implemented by November 2008.		Community Committee established Jan 09 Operational at Colly agency Oct 08.
7.	To provide quality service to all customers.	Measure performance through the use of a Customer Satisfaction Survey.	A minimum of 160 surveys per annum, tracking individual responses and mean averages for each survey.	Director Corporate and Community Services	3000 surveys distributed Oct 2008 Survey results to be provided at March council meeting
		Further review and develop processes and procedures to ensure optimal delivery and customer satisfaction.	An average of four to be targeted:- 1= Poor, 2= Fair, 3= Good, 4= Very Good, 5= Excellent		

WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL AGENDA

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT - DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

No	Mission Aim	2008/2009 Activity	Measurement, Method and Target	Responsible Manager	Status
8.	To provide a highly skilled and motivated workforce.	Staff are continually provided with adequate resources and training when required to ensure optimal productivity.	Percentage of staff at skill level 2 and above is over 50% by December 2009.	Director Corporate and Community Services	Ongoing
		Staff turnover is kept at an acceptable level of industry standard.	Labour turnover is below average industry standard.		
		Restructure of Organisational Structure	Completed June 2008		Completed
		Review Salary System	Completed June 2009		Consultation and implementation complete March 2009
		Development of Human Resources Strategy	Completed December 2008, School to Work Program implemented, Minimum of two (2) apprentice/traineeships employed by June 2009		School to Work - ongoing
9.	To develop and promote Walgett Shire through tourism and visitation programs to achieve major sustainable benefits for the community	Report to Council the achievements of the Tourism Destination Strategy.	Completed July 2008, October 2008, February 2009 and April 2009.	Director Corporate and Community Services	Report Feb 09 Council meeting
		Continue to improve presentation of shire towns and entrances.	Signage Audit requirements met by December 2010.		Ongoing
		Make information regarding tour options available to all visitors to the Shire through the provision of tourism information and pamphlets.	Tourism pamphlets updated annually. Significant Aboriginal sites promoted in pamphlets.		

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT - DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

No	Mission Aim	2008/2009 Activity	Measurement, Method and Target	Responsible Manager	Status
10.	To offer equal opportunity to all young people within our Shire, striving to achieve positive outcome for the benefit of all youth in the Shire.	Development of Youth Services Strategy	Completed by January 2009	Director Corporate and Community Services	Strategy to Feb 09 Council meeting
		Provision of Quality Supervised Programs relevant to the youth of today to engage and maintain their attendance in the programs and to provide a safe and enjoyable environment.	Youth centre attendance figures increased by 25% by June 2009. Staff provided with training opportunities by June 2009.		Attendance figures steady. Staff training provided as necessary
		Renovation of Youth centre buildings to ensure safety standards are met.	Applications for grant funding sought to upgrade Lightning Ridge and Collarenebri Youth Centres by March 2009		Ongoing
11.	To enhance, support and sustain economic development in the Walgett Shire.	Develop strategies and events for the effective marketing and promotion of the Shire.	Upgrade of CBD of main towns Provide support with annual events through webpage, brochures and advertising.	Director Corporate and Community Services	Ongoing
		Access funding opportunities relevant to Economic Development in the Walgett Shire.	Identify funding opportunities and provide support with grant applications to local businesses and/or community organisations.		Ongoing
		Provide support to existing businesses in the Shire, where appropriate			

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT - DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

No	Mission Aim	2008/2009 Activity	Measurement, Method and Target	Responsible Manager	Status
12.	To ensure a high quality of service and responsiveness to the needs of the Aboriginal community within Walgett Shire.	Develop an Aboriginal Community Development and Reconciliation Plan.	Adopted by June 2008. All recommendations achieved by April 2009.	Director Corporate and Community Services and Aboriginal Liaison Officer	Ongoing, 19 of 31 recommendations achieved to date
		Develop an Aboriginal Employment Strategy.	Draft presented to Council by November 2008.		AL Officer on extended leave, relief officer employed
		Further develop School to Work Programme.	Implemented in Walgett, Lightning Ridge and Collarenebri by July 2008.		Implemented in Lightning Ridge & Colly
		Formalise partnerships between Council and agencies through an interagency approach.	Formalise a MoU with local Aboriginal community through CWP by November 2008.		March 09

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT - DIRECTOR PLANNING AND REGULATORY SERVICES

No	Mission Aim	2008/2009 Activity	Measurement, Method and Target	Responsible Manager	Status
1.	To promptly and professionally assess development proposals.	Process Complying Development Certificate Applications.	90% of complete applications are finalised within 7 days.	Director Planning and Regulatory Services	5 Applications average 42 days
		Process Construction Certificate and Development Applications	80% of complete applications are finalised within 40 days		16 Applications average 4 days
2.	To develop a Local Environmental Plan that brings Walgett Shire in line with current New South Wales standards.	Prepare and adopt a Local Environmental Plan based on the Walgett Shire Growth Management Study and Strategy	Draft Environmental Plan to be finalised by August 2008.	Director Planning and Regulatory Services	Study & Strategy awaiting Council endorsement
3.	To provide companion animal management and control services.	(a) Address emergency situations where dogs are attacking people and animals.	(a) All attacks are investigated within 24 hours of notification.	Director Planning and Regulatory Services	Target believed to be met
		(b) Micro chipping of companion animals.	(b) 90% of animals are micro chipped within three working days of request.		Target believed to be met
4.	To ensure that dilapidated premises and environmental health matters are addressed to minimise risks to the public.	Complaints will be promptly investigated.	Action will be taken within two weeks to address 90% of complaints received.	Director Planning and Regulatory Services	Initial action taken but frequently of minimal effect
5.	Minimise the risk of significant environmental pollution.	Respond to major pollution incidents.	All reported major incidents are investigated within 24 hours.	Director Planning and Regulatory Services	No incidents reported

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT - DIRECTOR PLANNING AND REGULATORY SERVICES

No	Mission Aim	2008/2009 Activity	Measurement, Method and Target	Responsible Manager	Status
6.	To responsibly manage planning and environmental issues, while taking into account the needs of the community and updating means of acquiring information for users.	Integration of GIS (Geographical Information System) into present corporate software package.	Continual operational updates.	Director Planning and Regulatory Services	Tourism feature data created
7.	To monitor algal blooms within the Namoi and Barwon Rivers.	Submit samples of river water from Collarenebri and Walgett to the Department of Natural Resources for analysis of algal content.	Samples are submitted on a weekly basis in summer and fortnightly in winter.	Director Planning and Regulatory Services	Target predominantly met
8.	To provide a water supply to Walgett, Collarenebri, Lightning Ridge, Carinda, Cumborah and Rowena.	Undertake a regular programme of sampling and testing to check potable water quality.	Weekly sampling of Walgett, Lightning Ridge and Collarenebri. Monthly sampling of all other water supply	Director Planning and Regulatory Services	Target predominantly met Target met
9.	To ensure that rural and urban addressing within the Shire is improved to comply with Australian Standards.	Rural Addressing number allocation and signage implementation.	Complete by 30 June 2008.	Director Planning and Regulatory Services	Rural Road name review completed Dec 2008
		Urban Addressing numbers allocated with community consultation.	Majority of urban premises clearly numbered by 30 June 2009.		Not yet commenced
10.	To produce a compliant State of the Environment (SoE) Report or annual supplementary report	Review and update SoE and/or supplement by August each year	Update completed by August each year.	Director Planning and Regulatory Services	Completed Nov 2008

19. A COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN FOR WALGETT SHIRE – OUTCOMES FROM COUNCIL'S PLANNING WORKSHOP

REPORTING SECTION: General Manager
AUTHOR: Ray Kent - General Manager
FILE NUMBER: 145/11/00/00

Summary:

As the first step towards preparing a 10 year Community Strategic Plan, Councillors participated in a Planning Workshop on the 10th February 2009. The Workshop was facilitated by Ms Robbie Sefton. This report provides a summary of the outcomes from the Workshop and seeks Council's endorsement of the next steps.

Discussion (including issues and background):

Attached is a short "Outcomes Paper" prepared by Ms Sefton following the Workshop. Councillors need to review and amend this Paper as appropriate. It is proposed that Ms Sefton, in collaboration with the General Manager, prepare a Draft Community Strategic Plan for consideration at a further Workshop proposed to be held on Tuesday 17th March (a week prior to the Council Meeting). The Draft will follow the format generally prescribed by the Department of Local Government and will incorporate all the agreed outcomes from the February Workshop.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Portfolio of documents provided to the February 2008 Planning Workshop.

Stakeholders:

Councillors and residents

Financial Implications:

Nil

Recommendations:

That:

- 1. The contents of the "Report on Initial Strategic Planning Workshop: February 2009" prepared by Ms Robbie Sefton, be endorsed**
- 2. Ms Robbie Sefton, in collaboration with the General Manager, prepare a Draft Community Strategic Plan which incorporates all the agreed outcomes from the February Workshop**
- 3. A Workshop to consider the Draft Community Strategic Plan be held on Tuesday 17th March 2009**

Attachments: Report on Initial Strategic Planning Workshop.

Report on initial strategic planning workshop: February 2009

Walgett Shire Council

This report covers the outcomes of the first strategic planning workshop held by Walgett Shire Council in February 2009 as part of the process of developing a community strategic plan. It summarises the key findings of the workshop and presents the next steps.

1. Background

The Department of Local Government is making it mandatory for councils to prepare community strategic plans. The focus of each plan is building a sustainable community and the various roles that a council could play in achieving this aim, with a time frame of around ten years. The key elements of a sustainable community are social cohesion, functional economy, robust environment and sound infrastructure. While the format of the plans is up to each council, they must address four themes: social, environmental, economic and governance. The first step in creating the plan was to run a strategic planning workshop with a skilled facilitator familiar with the issues faced by remote rural communities.

2. The workshop

The first strategic planning workshop was held on 10 February 2009, facilitated by Robbie Sefton of Sefton & Associates. The day covered:

- A review of current social, economic and demographic characteristics and trends for the shire (presented by the General Manager)
- A SWOT analysis of the shire (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities And Threats)
- Consideration of longer term objectives, priorities and broad strategies for achieving outcomes
- Preliminary deliberation of priorities in short term (3-4 year) projects and programs.

3. Findings from the workshop

Through the morning discussions and the SWOT processes, the workshop gathered information that will be used in developing the community strategic plan. All the information from the day has been captured and a summary of the initial findings is included below.

4. Shire characteristics, trends and projections

The General Manager prepared a report on characteristics, trends and projections for Walgett Shire based on findings from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Some of the key points arising from the report into the shire population are:

- The population continues to fall.
- The population is aging, with a significant increase in 45+ years.
- There is a significant gender imbalance, with males outnumbering females.

- The indigenous population has increased by 28% in the past decade, especially in younger age groups (eg the 0-14 years indigenous population is 46.9% of the total, while the 65-plus indigenous population is only 10.7%).
- Employment in agriculture, fishery and forestry has remained constant, while mining has dramatically declined and growth has been in public administration and safety, education and training, health care and social assistance.
- Towns within the shire ranked very high in socio-economic disadvantage and criminal offences (eg Walgett was the top ranking LGA for non-domestic violence assault in 2007 and the second top ranking for domestic violence assault).

The trends show that there are major challenges for the shire in the future, with crime and socio-economic disadvantage standing out as key issues.

5. Brainstorming outcomes

Workshop participants brainstormed community values, community spirit and the SWOT analysis. The bullet points below are a summary of the key issues and opportunities arising.

4.1 The actual and desired values of Walgett Shire

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect for other people/each other and property • Speak up about socially undesirable behaviour (not be scared) • Act, don't just talk about issues • Lead by example • Don't be complacent • Not accept bad language – all ages • Say G'day first | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trust is important to bring back • Healthy living is a goal • Positive thinking is important • Proud to work in the shire • Proud families • Economic stability |
|---|--|

4.2 What contributes to community spirit in Walgett Shire

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmony • Cooperation to achieve a goal (e.g. pool in Lightning Ridge is a good example) • Business opportunities • Hard workers • Pride • Friendly • Mates • Good people • Aboriginal culture • Talented people • People from around the world – Multiculturalism in Lightning Ridge | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great place to make money – entrepreneurial (drawing from Lightning Ridge), opportunities in the rest of the Shire • Villages: Country characteristics • Walgett – Walk down street and know people, know what's going on • Space – geography/ don't live on top of people • Resilient people • Great sunsets and landscapes • Big bright skies, multitude of stars at night |
|---|--|

4.3 Strengths of Walgett Shire

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community spirit • Cheap living in Lightning Ridge • Work as a team, new enthusiastic councillors = community support • Ag is sustainable + good wheat/cereal growing country • Land available for development • Untapped workforce | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economically sound council with potential • Tourist destinations – Opals at Lightning Ridge, agriculture and Aboriginal heritage elsewhere • Vision on where we want to be and plan for what we want to achieve |
|--|---|

- Councillors on same level striving for the same things
- Culture for supporting ideas – an example is the Lightning Ridge swimming pool committee
- Council to raise awareness of funds/grants
- Council and staff available to promote the shire
- Good weather – Spring/Autumn/Winter – Clean
- Tourism/Ag/Mining

- Local infrastructure – Lightning Ridge has pool and schools and so do other town centres
- Community spirit in Lightning Ridge is positive
- Farmer/miner
- Aboriginal community
- Rural industries
- Overall climate suitability

4.4 Weaknesses of Walgett Shire

- Law and order
- Penalty does not fit crime
- Drugs and alcohol – all ages, gender, indigenous and white people
- Aging – population decline – disrespect for people (aged/elders) in home and school
- Lack of service organisations
- Not enough participation in community or sporting activities or active pursuits
- Potential leaders and advocates are time poor
- Long distance and small population
- Transport lacking (particularly air)
- Medical facilities
- Not enough mentors for the young
- Government legislation and regulation
- Drought – economic reliability

- Lack good roads to attract tourism and transport produce
- Lack sport/activities/facilities to occupy young
- Appearance towns – main street beautification for both Lightning Ridge and Walgett desired
- Miss out on opportunities due to infighting – Lightning Ridge and Walgett
- No air link
- No specialist doctors
- Unemployment high
- Floodplain
- Lots of ideas but no real way of getting them out
- High aspiration but not captured
- Great initiative but no pathway
- Lack volunteers and leaders

4.5 Opportunities for Walgett Shire

- Create infrastructure for employment/training for local people – up skilling what we have – policy from shire/community
- Shape jobs to suit peoples needs – flexibility for work & training
- Attract skilled people where necessary
- Create comprehensive tourism plan and strategy – camping areas, sign posts, use grants
- Lobby government – opposition and those in power
- Green power – solar opportunities, heat exchange from bores
- Ethanol stage 2 – biodiesel
- Extensive agriculture – Irrigation

- Game processing plant – value add
- Consider carbon trading opportunities – part of the solution
- Attract flying schools – Big skies
- Value add Agriculture – i.e. grains
- Consider what incentives local businesses could create to do business
- Youth based programs developed for training self esteem
- Create long term opportunities for government funding
- Dinosaur sites, third Geo Park Opportunity

4.6 Threats facing Walgett Shire

- Government funding slowing
- Tourists slowing down due to Global Financial Crisis (GFC)
- People and families leaving due to education prospects

- Unemployment
- Remote airlines failing to support shire
- Despair – start to 'give up'
- Government regulation and legislation

- Our own L.E.P.
- Outside impression of towns
- Law and order – judiciary issues – fly in/out – not understanding issues
- Status of railways for freight of produce
- Floods/Droughts (climate change)

- Environmental activists and minority groups
- GFC
- Water – Government decisions
- Water for town

6. Findings relating to the themes of the plan

After brainstorming and discussion covering values, community spirit and the SWOT analysis, the workshop then focused on each of the themes that will be covered in the plan: social, economic, environmental and infrastructure. For each of these areas the participants identified activities already in action or about to be actioned by and discussed ideas for future activities that could contribute to a sustainable community in each of the theme areas. All of the issues and suggestions discussed in the workshop have been captured. By way of summary, the bullet points below cover what counsellors considered the most important issues under each theme.

7. Important areas to focus on for social issues

- Creating employment and traineeships for local people
- The main street needs improvements
- The judiciary is disconnected to local community
- Punishment doesn't fit the crime
- Drugs and alcohol are major issues
- Government regulations and legislation – issues affecting the shire
- Lack of law and order
- No service organisations – not enough community participation
- Lack of sport/activities facilities
- Lobby government – focus on opposition as well as those in power
- Youth based programs developed for training/self esteem
- Community spirit, teamwork as in Lightning Ridge
- Workforce available

- Planning and vision for where we want to be
- Combined leadership – councillors working together
- Educating Aboriginal Elders to /consult/inform/advise
- Traineeships
- Lack of education
- Young people leaving
- Lack of discipline
- Consider community service program for law and order breaches
- People leaving
- Despair
- Outside impression of towns
- Ageing
- Time poor, isolation and distance
- Not enough mentors
- Lost opportunities due to in-fighting

8. Important areas to focus on for economic issues

- Traineeships with youth – employment and creation with flexibility
- Education
- Promote agriculture, sustainable ag sector
- Business opportunities
- No airlink – look at options and opportunities
- Keep council economy sound
- Mining industry
- Cheap living in Lightning Ridge (shacks)

- Business information to be available
- Untapped workforce
- Vision/planning for future
- Support for ideas – translate into reality
- Ethanol stage 2
- Government legislation and regulations
- Government funding slowing – create employment opportunities for funding
- Slow down in tourism activity
- Drought and flood

9. Important areas to focus on for environmental issues

- Green power – solar opportunities and power alternatives
- Good weather – spring/winter (tourism)
- Floods and droughts
- Our own LEP
- Carbon trading
- Ethanol stage 2
- Extensive and intensive farming (Irrigation)
- Environmental activists

10. Important areas to focus on for infrastructure issues

- Create opportunities (long term) from Government funding
- Maintenance program/plan for infrastructure
- Provide money for the infrastructure to support tourism plan roll out
- Shore up Walgett water supply
- Burren Junction water (Bore) use/recycle – Walgett effluent
- Status of railways
- Lack of good roads to attract tourists and transport of produce
- Expand and further develop tourism centres

11. Other information presented in the workshop

The workshop also brought together other information including current projects being carried out by different sections of the council and future projects that will be commenced and/or completed over the next decade.

The workshop participants also considered the council's vision statement and mission statement prior to the workshop. These were not altered during the workshop.

12. What must be covered in a community strategic plan

The Department of Local Government's discussion paper on community strategic planning recommends that:

- A community strategic plan should cover a timespan of at least 10 years.
- Councils need to think beyond the services they can directly provide and determine where they, as an organisation, will fit within their community's future.
- The purpose of the plan is to identify the community's main priorities and expectations for the future and to plan strategies for achieving these goals. In doing this the planning process will consider the issues and pressures that may affect the community during this period and the level of resources that will be available to achieve the aims and aspirations.
- To inform the plan, the council will draw from its existing plans and documents, such as social plans, cultural plans, state of the environment reports, Local Environment Plans (LEPs) and others.
- The plan must also fit with relevant state and regional plans (e.g. the 2006-2026 Western Catchment Plan).
- The plan should consider outcomes the council could achieve directly, in partnership or as an advocate/lobby agent.
- The council should consult widely with the community and other agencies providing services within the region. (The Department will provide detailed guidelines to help with engagement and consultation).
- There should be integration between the community strategic plans and other plans such as the LEP.
- Councillors and staff are expected to work together to develop the delivery program for achieving the outcomes of the community strategic plan.

20. COMMUNITY SERVICES ACTIVITIES QUARTERLY REPORT

REPORTING SECTION: Corporate and Community Services
AUTHOR: Gai Richardson - Community Services Liaison Officer
FILE NUMBER: 003/05/01/00

Summary:

This report is a summary of activities from the Council's Community Service Sector

Discussion (including issues and background):

Libraries.

Northern Regional Library (NRL) has new management and concerns need to be noted of a possible reduction of service provision as it appears that the local library staff are being requested to undertake duties previously performed by NRL. IT services may no longer be provided by NRL.

Lightning Ridge - the library continues to be very busy and reportedly has the second largest patronage of the Northern Regional Libraries. The Library Officer reports that she has ongoing requests for longer opening hours from the patrons. Activities at the Lightning Ridge Library include a discussion group called T.A.L.K (They Love Sharing Knowledge) meeting Friday or Saturday mornings and Storytime conducted by NRL.

Scarlett Affection, a musical duo currently touring NSW, performed in the library on December 13th, 2008 at 11.30.

Lightning Ridge Library - has commenced a monthly book award for children borrowing and the most books and a voucher will be presented annually for the best review by a child.

Walgett Library - has commenced a monthly book award for children borrowing and the most books and a voucher will be presented annually for the best review by a child.

The 3 month trial of extra opening hours on Thursday morning at the Walgett library has proved very successful as it has allowed another morning for children's and other groups to visit and organise activities.

Storytime is held every Thursday morning and the Embroidery group meet every Tuesday and Thursday mornings in the library.

The library officer also visits the preschools and Kookaburra Court on a monthly basis and the deposit stations in Carinda and Burren Junction for exchanges.

Vacation Care activities have included Waste to Art, Parts of the Book, Cat Craft and Stories. Vacation Care and the Embroidery Groups have met at the same time with very good interaction between both groups.

Book Club members continue to meet monthly and review books and are now able to review the same books due to donations of multiple books to the club.

More men have become members over the past 4 months and there has been an increase in the use of talking books - especially with farmers and heavy machinery operators.

Tourism/Visitor Information Centre.

The Tourism officer reported current activities and projects at the November Council meeting. In December the main focus was on gaining information for a report on the primitive camping grounds and the completion of the venue infrastructure report for the multi purpose project meeting.

There has been an increase in visitors to the Centre over the past few months with the main requests being for use of the internet, information on caravan parks or designated camping areas and requests for laundry facilities especially from the seasonal workers in the district for the harvest.

Collarenebri Agency.

The recent appointment of casual staff has relieved staffing issues and the manager reports that business has increased in the past 2 months.

Family Day Care.

The Family Day Care Service closed on 19/12/2008. All of the families in the In Home Care Scheme were successfully transitioned to Cobar In Home Care and Family Day Care Collarenebri were transitioned to Moree. The toys and resources were distributed to pre schools around the Shire and were greatly appreciated. They will be well used by Shire children.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Nil

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Community
Walgett Shire Council
Moree Plains Shire Council
Northern Regional Library

Financial Implications:

Nil

Recommendations:

That the report be noted

21. REPORT ON YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES - OCTOBER 2008 – JANUARY 2009

REPORTING SECTION: Corporate and Community Services
AUTHOR: George McCormick – Youth Development Officer
FILE NUMBER: 003/05/01/00

Summary:

This report presents a brief overview of Youth Development programs and services planned, implemented and completed for the October 2008 – January 2009

Discussion (including issues and background):

Highlights:

- Record number of young people attending October Vacation Care programs in all centres.
- Successful Christmas Parties in partnership with local services providers.
- Lightning Ridge Youth Group stages community focused Christmas Lights Competition.
- Anti - Graffiti Initiative implemented in three larger communities.
- Anti - Domestic and Family Violence Calendar Project complete.

Youth Centres / after school care:

Attendance numbers for the reporting period have been fluctuating due to the heat and many young people attending the pools in communities. Youth Centres are still recording reasonable numbers when the weather is cooler and “special events” are offered.

Youth Centres are currently operating at Walgett, Monday –Thursday 3.30 pm-6.30pm .
Lightning Ridge and Collarenebri, Monday – Thursday 3.00pm – 6.00pm

Vacation Care services: Mon 29th Sep – Fri 10th Oct 08.

Record number of young people engaged in programs and activities offered in the communities of Walgett, Lightning Ridge, Collarenebri and Grawin.

Programs included:

- Country Rugby League skills and drills events in Walgett, Lightning Ridge and Collarenebri
- Jewellery making
- Aussie Rules Clinic at Walgett
- Youth Mental Health Days at all Centres
- Discos at three larger centres
- Healthy eating and cooking days
- Arts and crafts

N B: Vacation Care Services and Programs were conducted 12th January – 23rd January 2009. A report of programs and outcomes will be presented in the next quarterly reporting period.

Programs / events/ initiatives:

The Anti –Graffiti Poster Competition has begun with young people creating their masterpieces during Vacation Care programs conducted in January. All posters entered must have the slogan – “Don’t trash our town- we live here”, incorporated in the entries.

Walgett based organisation Youth off the Streets have formed partnership with Walgett Youth Council and Walgett Shire Youth Development in this program and will fund the prizes and cost of printing copies of the winning entries. The winning entries will be reproduced in poster form and placed in all youth “hot spots” throughout our communities in a bid to target the increasing incidents of Graffiti in our Shire and will be endorsed by the Youth Council.

Murals in the West Stage 3:

Anti – Drink / Drug Mural on Tommy Johnsons building in Walgett. Walgett Shire Youth Development will implement the project with the Art class from Walgett High School. The project will be completed to coincide with Youth Week 2009 in March / April and be a significant part of the celebration of Youth.

Walgett Shire Youth Council:

The Walgett Shire Youth Council’s last meeting was held in Walgett on the 20th November at Council Chambers. Youth Council addressed numerous issues and affairs with youth and will meet again on the 19th February at the Collarenebri Town Hall 10.am

The Lightning Ridge sub – group successfully staged the Christmas lights competition in their community in December.

* Youth Council minutes from November meeting attached.

Staff:

Youth Workers throughout the Shire and Youth Development Officer to engage in Youth specific Mental Health training on the 25th – 26th March, fully funded by Greater Western Area Health Service.

Interviews were conducted on 11th February with three applicants applying for the positions of on-call youth worker here in Walgett.

School to Work:

The three (3) “School to Work” participants in Youth Development / Services area have commenced work again at Youth Centres in Walgett, Lightning Ridge and Collarenebri. All students are gaining confidence and looking forward to the year ahead.

Youth Week 2009 - 28/03/09 - 5/4/09

“Make a Move”

Programs for Youth Week 2009 are in the development stages although we can confirm there will be a wide variety of activities, dance parties, youth information afternoons and educational opportunities for our young people to engage in with emphasis placed on recognition of our young people and promotion and awareness regarding their well being.

Youth Strategy - A five (5) year plan

Following extensive community, service provider and youth consultation Walgett Shire Youth Development have developed a Strategic Plan in Draft form to be presented to Council next month. It should be noted this document is in “draft form” as we are likely to update the information and recommendations when more statistics are available from service providers within our community and feedback from communities.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Walgett Shire Council Management Plan 2008 / 2009 – 2012 / 2013
Walgett Shire Youth Council Minutes – 20 November 2008

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council
Youth and Young people of Walgett Shire
Communities on the Walgett Shire

Financial Implications:

Nil

Recommendations:

That the report on Youth Development and Services for the period October 2008 – January 2009 be noted.

Attachments

Walgett Shire Youth Council minutes.

WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL AGENDA

Walgett Shire Youth Council Meeting November 20th 2008

Venue : Walgett Shire Council Chambers

Time: 11am

Minute taker: Melinda Ciprian(Sec)

PRESENT: Youth Council members- Paul Ryan & Marcus Weatherall -WALGETT, Jackie Burke & Dylan Adams- COLLARENEBRI
Melinda Ciprian & Mark Winch - LIGHTNING RIDGE.
George McCormick-WSC, Jodi West - Castlereagh LAC, Leanne McEwen- MPAYLP, Anne Dennis -Walgett/Collarenebri Community
Facilitator, Dianne Holz Lightning Ridge/Goodooga Community Facilitator.

APOLOGIES: Chief Inspector Bob Noble-Castlereagh LAC , Peter Nicholls -Walgett Community College Deputy Principle, Lyn Fields-YOTS
Graham Ruttley-ACLO , Carole Medcalf-Director Corporate Community Services WSC.

Meeting opened 11am

Paul Ryan, Walgett Rep elected chairman / Minutes from August meeting reviewed and passed-moved Marcus and in favour.
Chairmen welcomed all and asked for business arising from August minutes /identified the need for the option of three (3) different locations for
skate parks/family parks. The need to consider locations that are highly visible, safe and easily accessible.

Monthly status /Report from each sub-group.

Collarenebri /Jackie reported all is going ok in Collarenebri although the young people are getting a bit bored.
Been a lot of talk about the possibility of Skate/Family Park and the breaking of boredom, other activities.
Brief talk surrounding the extra Youth Service in Collarenebri, George spoke of a possibility to join forces with the Murdi Paaki run Service

Lightning Ridge/ Mark reports they have a new comer to committee, Miss Simone Weatherall will be at next Youth Council Meeting. Mark
moved- all in favour passed. Lightning Ridge also reports the sub-group is taking on the running off Christmas Lights Comp this year.
They already have funds saved and are seeking support to implement this project.

All present congratulated the members on displaying initiative along with confidence and community values in trying to save the Christmas
lights comp. All voted to accept Lightning Ridge's proposal and wished them all the best and offered support if needed.
George congratulated the Ridge members for showing leadership qualities and offered support with seeking other sponsors.

Walgett/ Marcus reported not too much happening in the Gate just waiting for the next Disco and Holiday program.
Still yet to finalize/collate the Skate Park Survey sheets. Young people may wish for outdoor Basket Ball/ play area,
Incorporating family BBQ'S etc.

AGENDA ITEMS

Youth Engagement Initiative:

Youth Council agreed the initiative falls right in the pathway of what it has identified within our communities and addresses the plan of giving
the young people something to engage in on Friday nights (Youth Council identified Friday Nights as the night the majority of young people
find themselves in trouble or get into mischief).

Discussion surrounding the unavailability to trial the initiative in all communities arose and was quickly addressed by Youth Council.

MOTION- moved by Melinda Ciprian "The Walgett Shire Youth Council wants to clarify that the *Youth Engagement Initiative* Proposal which
was developed with Council's Youth Development Officer is to be implemented across all communities, this is Shire Wide
Initiative and was developed to address the needs of all young people in the Shire not the young people in just one community".

Seconded- Marcus, (unanimous!)

Anti -Graffiti Project

Clarification that initiative will be implemented during Vacation Care Programs in January 2009.

Judging to take place during Youth Week 2009 (25th March-5th April).

Youth Off The Streets have agreed to fund \$1200 in prize vouchers and the printing costs for approx 400+ posters (colour) to be placed in youth
hot spots .**ACTION:** Youth council to design flyers for promotion of event. (two week deadline)

NAPCAN

Young people to get permission forms signed for Youth Council to be featured and promoted on the National Association Prevention of Child
Abuse and Neglect website, highlighting their direction/plans/ and achievements within their communities..

22. COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE SCHEME DONATIONS -2008/2009 BUDGET

REPORTING SECTION: Corporate & Community Services
AUTHOR: Serena Stubbs – Senior Finance Officer
FILE NUMBER: 180/08/00/00

Summary:

This report identifies requests for financial assistance from Council through the Community Assistance Scheme 2008/2009 and under Section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993

This is the second (and final) round of requests for financial assistance for the 2008/2009 financial year.

Discussion (including issues and background):

Applications have been received from community organisations for financial assistance under the Community Assistance Scheme. The scheme was advertised shire wide, with applications closing 2 February 2009.

Applicants must be non-profit organisations and based in, or affiliated with, Walgett Shire.

The Community Assistance Scheme objectives being to:

- Support charities and community projects, events and activities which occur within the Walgett Shire area, and are a benefit to the community;
- Foster or support new services, initiatives and resources within the shire;
- Improve awareness and use of community services and resources within the shire;
- Encourage increased participation in local community events within the shire.

Generally, applications for financial assistance are set at a maximum of \$500.00

Relevant Reference Documents:

WSC Procedures – AFM – Requests for Assistance
Section 356 Local Government Act 1993
Local Government (General) Regulation 2005
Walgett Shire Council Management Plan 2008/2009 - 2012/2013

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council
Various community organisations

Financial Implications:

An amount of \$15,600.00 has been provided for in the 2008/2009 Budget in accordance with Section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993.

- Allocated during the First Round of applications was \$9,250
- Budget remaining for 2nd Round of applications is \$6,350

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **That Council applies funds for financial assistance under section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993 for the last round of 2008/2009 as follows:-**

Summary of all applications:

Community Assistance Scheme - Round 2 - January 2009 (Ledger no. 11.01010.1405)

Organisation	Project	Request	Cost of Project / Activity	Recommendation	Stakeholders
L/Ridge Community Radio Inc	12th Birthday Celebrations ("Picnic in the Park") - cost of live entertainment	\$1,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$ 1,000.00	Community/Shire promotion over Australia-wide radio
Goodooga CWA *	Annual Wool Day lunch held in Sep/Oct (major annual fundraiser)	\$1,000.00	\$3,000.00	Nil	Community - especially children and women & medical scholarship
Walgett Hostess Club	"Welcome to Walgett" evening for newcomers to Shire	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$ 400.00	Community
Carinda Diggers Memorial Hall Committee	Catering equipment	\$500.00	\$750.00	\$ 500.00	Community
L/Ridge Golf Club **	Purchase 2nd hand small slasher	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	Nil	L/Ridge Community
Walgett Juniors Rugby	Purchase of safety head protectors	\$500.00	\$518.50	\$ 500.00	children (aged 5-17) of Walgett
				\$ 2,400.00	

* Suggest the CWA contact Brewarrina Shire Council as Goodooga falls outside of WSC

** Outside of scope

Total 2008/2009 Budget	\$ 15,600.00
Allocated during Round 1 (July 2008)	\$ 9,250.00
Remaining Budget available for Round 2	\$ 6,350.00
Overs / (Unders) of Budget based on above recommendation	\$ 3,950.00

23. INVESTMENT REPORT AS AT 31 JANUARY 2009

REPORTING SECTION: Corporate and Community Services

AUTHOR: Shane Roberts – Finance Officer

FILE NUMBER: 180/02/01/00

Summary:

This report summarises the investments of Walgett Shire Council for the month of January 2009.

Discussion (including issues and background):

The Investment summary as at 31 January 2009 as follows:

Recommendations:
1. That the investment report as at 31 January 2009 be received.

1. That the investment report as at 31 January 2009 be received.

WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL AGENDA

INVESTMENTS - CONSOLIDATED

Council investments have been made in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, the regulations and council's investment policy

<u>Investment Institution</u>	<u>Type of Investment</u>	<u>Term</u> (days)	<u>Rate %</u>	<u>Ref</u>	<u>Reset Date</u>	<u>Maturity Date</u>		
Term Deposits								
National Australia Bank	Term Deposit	175	8.52	520/09		03-Feb-09	\$	300,000.00
Savings & Loans Credit Union	Term Deposit	175	8.28	521/09		10-Feb-09	\$	250,000.00
Citibank	Term Deposit	168	8.50	522/09		17-Feb-09	\$	500,000.00
National Australia Bank	Term Deposit	182	7.95	523/09		24-Feb-09	\$	500,000.00
Newcastle Permanent Building Society	Term Deposit	175	8.40	524/09		03-Mar-09	\$	500,000.00
National Australia Bank	Term Deposit	168	7.95	525/09		16-Mar-09	\$	500,000.00
Westpac	Term Deposit	168	7.89	526/09		16-Mar-09	\$	500,000.00
Suncorp Metway	Term Deposit	182	7.50	527/09		24-Mar-09	\$	500,000.00
Bank of Queensland	Term Deposit	182	7.91	528/09		31-Mar-09	\$	500,000.00
Local Government Financial Services	Term Deposit	182	9.14	531/09		08-Apr-09	\$	500,000.00
Suncorp Metway	Term Deposit	182	9.32	532/09		14-Apr-09	\$	500,000.00
Bank of Western Australia	Term Deposit	91	7.63	535/09		03-Feb-09	\$	300,000.00
Savings & Loans Credit Union	Term Deposit	91	6.00	536/09		03-Mar-09	\$	500,000.00
Westpac	Term Deposit	121	5.60	537/09		08-Apr-09	\$	500,000.00
IMB Ltd Financial Services	Term Deposit	91	5.70	540/09		17-Mar-09	\$	500,000.00
Australian Central Credit Union	Term Deposit	91	5.20	541/09		07-Apr-09	\$	500,000.00
Police & Nurses Credit Society	Term Deposit	88	5.35	542/09		21-Apr-09	\$	500,000.00
Bank of Western Australia	Term Deposit	91	4.35	543/09		21-Apr-09	\$	300,000.00
Local Government Financial Services	Term Deposit	91	4.50	533/09		21-Apr-09	\$	500,000.00
Suncorp Metway	Term Deposit	91	4.60	545/09		28-Apr-09	\$	500,000.00
Newcastle Permanent Building Society	Term Deposit	91	4.60	546/09		28-Apr-09	\$	500,000.00
Bank of Western Australia	Term Deposit	91	4.25	547/09		28-Apr-09	\$	500,000.00
Callable Range Accrual Notes (CRAN)								
Commonwealth Bank of Australia bond	Term Deposit	90	7.50	538/09	16-Mar-09	16-Dec-10	\$	500,000.00
Royal Bank Canada bond	Term Deposit	90	7.70	539/09	16-Mar-09	16-Mar-11	\$	500,000.00
Floating Rates Collateralized Debt Obligations (CDO)								
Zircon Finance Limited	Floating Rate CDO	92			23-Mar-09	20-Sep-14	\$	175,275.00
Managed Aces SP	Floating Rate CDO	94			25-Mar-09	20-Jun-15	\$	64,670.00
Helium Capital	Floating Rate CDO	92			24-Mar-09	23-Jun-14	\$	105,800.00
Magnolia Finance	Floating Rate CDO	92			23-Mar-09	20-Mar-12	\$	36,500.00
							\$	11,532,245.00

24. *QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2008*

REPORTING SECTION: Corporate and Community Services
AUTHOR: Myrene Lovegrove - Finance Manager
FILE NUMBER: 145/04/27/00

Summary:

This report presents to Council the quarterly budget review for the period ending 31st December 2008

Discussion (including issues and background):

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

At the Council meeting on 17 June 2008, Council adopted the 2008/2009- 2012/2013 Management Plan, which incorporated the 2008/2009 budget.

The adopted budget provides for an operating surplus of \$130,318 and a capital deficit of \$15,402,948. The October 2008 Council meeting adopted variations to the original budget resulting in an operating deficit of \$76,744 and a capital deficit of \$14,005,948.

Operating revenue and expenditure relates to supply of services, maintenance and repairs. Capital revenue and expenditure relates to additions and improvements to assets.

If the following variations are adopted the budget result will be an operating surplus of \$782,509.00 and a capital deficit of \$14,859,680.00

GENERAL FUND

Increase in operating expenditure/ Decrease in operating revenue:

- An increase in expenditure of \$194,000.00 for Roads Maintenance Council Contract for routine services will be required to meet the fixed upper limit increased by the RTA.
- An increase in expenditure of \$3,000,000.00 for work in progress and forecast ordered works for Roads Maintenance Council Contract – Ordered works will be required to meet increased income from the RTA.
- An additional amount of \$6267.82 is required to meet Council's funding obligation to the Rural Fire Service.
- An additional \$84,000.00 is needed to meet Council's obligation to the noxious weeds program.
- A new expenditure item of \$15,000 for corporate planning needs adding to members and civic costs.

Decrease in operating expenditure/ Increase in operating revenue:

- The fixed upper limit for Roads Maintenance Council Contract for routine services has been increased by the RTA by \$194,000.00
- Work in progress and forecast ordered works for Roads Maintenance Council Contract – Ordered works will increase income from the RTA by \$3,000,000
- The subscription of \$10,000.00 to the Barwon Darling Alliance will not be required.
- \$59,667 was received from the sale of a trust.
- An insurance refund of \$10,000.00 was received.
- Expenditure of \$5,000 for executive consultancy fees has been reduced to zero.
- Executive expenditure on memberships has been reduced by \$5,240.00 to \$1,000.00
- Executive plant running cost budget has been reduced by \$10,000.00
- Executive staff housing subsidy has been reduced by \$4,644.00 to \$3,000.00
- Regional road heavy patching works will require \$550,000.00 less than budget to complete projects this financial year
- Sealed roads maintenance work will require \$110,000.00 less than originally budgeted to complete works this financial year.
- Reduction in regional roads –sealed roads maintenance of \$200,000.00 to be utilized for regional roads resealing.

Increase in capital expenditure/ Decrease in capital revenue:

- \$30,000 is required to purchase land on which the bore serving the Lightning Ridge Bore Baths is located.
- \$30,000 contribution towards a Rural Fire Services Fire shed at Burren Junction.
- MR 457 will require an additional \$660,000.00 for completion. This has been reallocated from regional road heavy patching and sealed road maintenance.
- Utilize \$200,000.00 from sealed regional road for regional roads resealing.

Decrease in capital expenditure/ Increase in capital revenue:

- A decrease of \$66,267.82 in the allocation to purchase land for a works depot in Walgett has been reallocated to: purchasing land under the bore baths at Lightning Ridge; a contribution to Rural Fire Service shed at Burren Junction and an additional operational contribution to the Rural Fire Service.

WATER FUND

Nil material variances to report

SEWER FUND

Nil material variances to report

DOMESTIC WATER FUND

Increase in operating expenditure/ Decrease in operating revenue:

- Domestic waste income will be \$50,000.00 lower due to an over estimation.

Decrease in operating expenditure/ Increase in operating revenue:

- The domestic waste clean up campaign will be reduced by \$50,000.00

All other areas of income and expenditure are at expected levels for the second quarter of the year.

The financial position of the council as at 31 December 2008 is satisfactory, having regard to the original estimate of income and expenditure.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Quarterly Budget Review to 30 September 2008
Walgett Shire Council Management Plan 2008/2009 - 2012/2013

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council
Walgett Shire Ratepayers

Financial Implications:

Additional operating revenue of \$3,213,667.00 and additional operating expenditure of \$2,354,384.00 will result in a budgeted operating surplus of \$782,509.00. An increase in \$853,732.00 capital expenditure will result in a budgeted capital deficit of \$14,859,680.00

Recommendations:

1. **That Council note the quarterly budget review for the period to 31 December 2009 and adopt the attached changes.**

Attachments:

Quarterly Budget Review

WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL AGENDA

WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL:	Quarterly Budget Review to 3 December 2008				
ORGANISATION DIVISION:	All Division Summary				
RESPONSIBILITY:	General Manager - Ray Kent				
	Original	Amended	Actual	Recommended	Amended
	Budget	Budget 10/08	Income/Costs	Changes	Eudget
<u>OPERATING REVENUE</u>					
Members and Executive	5,000	5,000	0	0	5,000
Corporate & Community Services	7,390,789	7,531,789	5,907,810	10,000	7,541,789
Planning & Regulatory Services	187,022	187,022	68,111	0	187,022
Rural Infrastructure and Support Services	11,501,348	11,934,645	7,160,529	3,194,000	15,128,645
Urban Infrastructure Services	5,015,389	5,015,389	3,850,130	9,667	5,025,056
TOTAL	24,099,548	24,673,845	16,986,580	3,213,667	27,887,512
<u>OPERATING EXPENDITURE</u>					
Members and Executive	377,484	391,484	193,007	15,000	406,484
Corporate & Community Services	2,137,462	2,137,462	902,560	(34,884)	2,102,578
Planning & Regulatory Services	1,128,713	1,168,713	552,437	84,000	1,252,713
Rural Infrastructure and Support Services	12,651,499	13,378,888	7,601,908	2,340,268	15,719,156
Urban Infrastructure Services	7,674,072	7,674,072	2,948,498	(50,000)	7,624,072
TOTAL	23,969,230	24,750,619	12,198,410	2,354,384	27,105,003
NETT OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	130,318	(76,774)	4,788,171	859,283	782,509
<u>CAPITAL REVENUE</u>					
Members and Executive	0	0	0	0	0
Corporate & Community Services	0	0	0	0	0
Planning & Regulatory Services	0	0	0	0	0
Rural Infrastructure and Support Services	0	1,440,000	1,340,000	0	1,440,000
Urban Infrastructure Services	1,090,000	1,090,000	0	0	1,090,000
TOTAL	1,090,000	2,530,000	1,340,000	0	2,530,000
<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>					
Members and Executive	0	0	0	0	0
Corporate & Community Services	26,666	26,666	0	0	26,666
Planning & Regulatory Services	0	0	0	0	0
Rural Infrastructure and Support Services	10,879,200	10,922,200	1,804,866	890,000	11,812,200
Urban Infrastructure Services	5,587,082	5,587,082	508,413	(36,268)	5,550,814
TOTAL	16,492,948	16,535,948	2,313,279	853,732	17,389,680

WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL AGENDA

NETT CAPITAL SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(15,402,948)	(14,005,948)	(973,279)	(853,732)	(14,859,680)
NETT DIVISION SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(15,272,630)	(14,082,722)	3,814,892	5,551	(14,077,171)

WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL:	Quarterly Budget Review to 3 December 2008				
ORGANISATION DIVISION:	Members and Executive				
RESPONSIBILITY:	Council and General Manager - Ray Kent				
	Original	Amended	Actual	Recommended	Amended
	Budget	Budget 10/08	Income/Costs	Changes	Eudget
<u>OPERATING REVENUE</u>					
Members and Civic	5,000	5,000	0		5,000
TOTAL	5,000	5,000	0	0	5,000
<u>OPERATING EXPENDITURE</u>					
Members and Civic Donations	377,484	391,484	193,007	15,000	406,484
TOTAL	377,484	391,484	193,007	15,000	406,484
NETT OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(372,484)	(386,484)	(193,007)	(15,000)	(401,484)
<u>CAPITAL REVENUE</u>					
Members and Civic	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0
<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>					
Members and Civic	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0
NETT CAPITAL SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	0	0	0	0	0
NETT DIVISION SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(372,484)	(386,484)	(193,007)	(15,000)	(401,484)

WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL AGENDA

WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL:	Quarterly Budget Review to 3 December 2008				
ORGANISATION DIVISION:	Corporate and Community Services				
RESPONSIBILITY:	Director of Corporate and Community Services - Carole Medcalf				
	Original	Amended	Actual	Recommended	Amended
	Budget	Budget 10/08	Income/Costs	Changes	Eudget
<u>OPERATING REVENUE</u>					
Community Services	275,679	275,679	192,521	0	275,679
Corporate Management	12,000	25,000	34,753	0	25,000
Financial Management	61,500	61,500	63,749	10,000	71,500
Interest Received	460,000	600,000	344,090	0	600,000
Rates -Ordinary	4,002,379	4,002,379	3,916,500	0	4,002,379
Tourism	23,000	11,000	3,380	0	11,000
Untied Grants	2,556,231	2,556,231	1,352,817	0	2,556,231
TOTAL	7,390,789	7,531,789	5,907,810	10,000	7,541,789
<u>OPERATING EXPENDITURE</u>					
Community Services	1,149,366	1,149,366	456,879	0	1,149,366
Corporate Management	522,785	522,785	252,139	(34,884)	487,901
Financial Management	58,960	58,960	27,569		58,960
Interest Received	0	0	0	0	0
Rates -Ordinary	0	0	0	0	0
Tourism	406,351	406,351	165,973	0	406,351
Untied Grants	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	2,137,462	2,137,462	902,560	(34,884)	2,102,578
NETT OPERATING SURPLUS/DEFICIT	5,253,327	5,394,327	5,005,251	44,884	5,439,211

WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL AGENDA

WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL:	Quarterly Budget Review to 3 December 2008				
ORGANISATION DIVISION:	Corporate and Community Services				
RESPONSIBILITY:	Director of Corporate and Community Services - Carole Medcalf				
	Original	Amended	Actual	Recommended	Amended
	Budget	Budget 10/08	Income/Costs	Changes	Eudget
<u>CAPITAL REVENUE</u>					
Community Services	0	0	0	0	0
Corporate Management	0	0	0	0	0
Financial Management	0	0	0	0	0
Insurance-General	0	0	0	0	0
Interest Paid	0	0	0	0	0
Rates -Ordinary	0	0	0	0	0
Tourism	0	0	0	0	0
Untied Grants	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0
<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>					
Community Services	0	0	0	0	0
Corporate Management	20,000	20,000	0	0	20,000
Financial Management	0	0	0	0	0
Insurance-General	0	0	0	0	0
Interest Received	0	0	0	0	0
Tourism	6,666	6,666	0	0	6,666
Rates -Ordinary	0	0	0	0	0
Untied Grants	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	26,666	26,666	0	0	26,666
NETT CAPITAL SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(26,666)	(26,666)	0	0	(26,666)
NETT DIVISION SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	5,226,661	5,367,661	5,005,251	44,884	5,412,545

WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL AGENDA

WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL:	Quarterly Budget Review to 3 December 2008				
ORGANISATION DIVISION:	Planning & Regulations				
RESPONSIBILITY:	Director of Planning & Regulatory Services - Matthew Goodwin				
	Original	Amended	Actual	Recommended	Amended
	Budget	Budget 10/08	Income/Costs	Changes	Eudget
<u>OPERATING REVENUE</u>					
Community Programs	23,328	23,328	2,242	0	23,328
Development Management & Support	161,510	161,510	65,869	0	161,510
Environmental Programs	2,184	2,184	0	0	2,184
TOTAL	187,022	187,022	68,111	0	187,022
<u>OPERATING EXPENDITURE</u>					
Community Programs	133,814	133,814	70,936	0	133,814
Development Management & Support	912,279	942,279	357,121	0	942,279
Environmental Programs	82,620	92,620	124,380	84,000	176,620
TOTAL	1,128,713	1,168,713	552,437	84,000	1,252,713
NETT OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(941,691)	(981,691)	(484,326)	(84,000)	(1,065,691)
<u>CAPITAL REVENUE</u>					
Community Programs	0	0	0	0	0
Development Management & Support	0	0	0	0	0
Environmental Programs	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0
<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>					
Community Programs	0	0	0	0	0
Development Management & Support	0	0	0	0	0
Environmental Programs	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0
NETT CAPITAL SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	0	0	0	0	0
NETT DIVISION SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(941,691)	(981,691)	(484,326)	(84,000)	(1,065,691)

WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL AGENDA

WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL:	Quarterly Budget Review to 3 December 2008				
ORGANISATION DIVISION:	Rural Infrastructure and Support Services				
RESPONSIBILITY:	Director of Rural and Support Services -Ian Taylor				
	Original	Amended	Actual	Recommended	Amended
	Budget	Budget 10/08	Income/Costs	Changes	Eudget
<u>OPERATING REVENUE</u>					
Emergency Services	25,000	25,000	0		25,000
Engineering Management	2,289,180	2,289,180	1,085,152		2,289,180
Plant Operations	2,453,460	2,453,460	1,310,162		2,453,460
Roads & Bridges	6,733,708	7,167,005	4,765,215	3,194,000	10,361,005
TOTAL	11,501,348	11,934,645	7,160,529	3,194,000	15,128,645
<u>OPERATING EXPENDITURE</u>					
Emergency Services	299,320	299,320	56,711	6,268	305,588
Engineering Management	2,288,556	2,288,556	1,010,613		2,288,556
Plant operations	1,881,155	1,881,155	948,161		1,881,155
Roads & Bridges	8,182,468	8,909,857	5,586,423	2,334,000	11,243,857
TOTAL	12,651,499	13,378,888	7,601,908	2,340,268	15,719,156
NETT OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(1,150,151)	(1,444,243)	(441,379)	853,732	(590,511)
<u>CAPITAL REVENUE</u>					
Emergency Services	0	0	0	0	0
Engineering Management	0	0	0	0	0
Plant, Equipment, Motor Vehicle Purchase	0	0	0	0	0
Roads & Bridges	0	1,440,000	1,340,000	0	1,440,000
TOTAL	0	1,440,000	1,340,000	0	1,440,000
<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>					
Emergency Services	0	0	0	30,000	30,000
Engineering Management	0	0	0	0	0
Plant, Equipment, Motor Vehicle Purchase	1,440,000	1,440,000	293,612	0	1,440,000
Roads & Bridges	9,439,200	9,482,200	1,511,254	860,000	10,342,200
TOTAL	10,879,200	10,922,200	1,804,866	890,000	11,812,200
NETT CAPITAL SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(10,879,200)	(9,482,200)	(464,866)	(890,000)	(10,372,200)
NETT DIVISION SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(12,029,351)	(10,926,443)	(906,245)	(36,268)	(10,962,711)

WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL AGENDA

WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL:	Quarterly Budget Review to 3 December 2008				
ORGANISATION DIVISION:	Urban Infrastructure Services				
RESPONSIBILITY:	Director of Urban Infrastructure Services -Siegfredo Coralde				
	Original	Amended	Actual	Recommended	Amended
	Budget	Budget 10/08	Income/Costs	Changes	Eudget
<u>OPERATING REVENUE</u>					
Engineering Management	1,639,027	1,639,027	893,246	0	1,639,027
Recreation & Community Assets	186,840	186,840	137,436	59,667	246,507
Properties	330,973	330,973	245,286	0	330,973
Domestic Waste Management	897,907	897,907	803,024	(50,000)	847,907
Water Supplies	1,305,910	1,305,910	1,137,993	0	1,305,910
Sewerage Supplies	654,732	654,732	633,145	0	654,732
TOTAL	5,015,389	5,015,389	3,850,130	9,667	5,025,056
<u>OPERATING EXPENDITURE</u>					
Engineering Management	1,638,404	1,638,404	613,223	0	1,638,404
Recreation & Community Assets	2,374,679	2,374,679	751,042	0	2,374,679
Properties	808,054	808,054	438,534	0	808,054
Domestic Waste Management	897,078	897,078	305,992	(50,000)	847,078
Water Supplies	1,302,402	1,302,402	580,401	0	1,302,402
Sewerage Supplies	653,455	653,455	259,306	0	653,455
TOTAL	7,674,072	7,674,072	2,948,498	(50,000)	7,624,072
NETT OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(2,658,683)	(2,658,683)	901,632	59,667	(2,599,016)

WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL AGENDA

WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL:	Quarterly Budget Review to 3 December 2008				
ORGANISATION DIVISION:	Urban Infrastructure Services				
RESPONSIBILITY:	Director of Urban Infrastructure Services -Siegfredo Coralde				
	Original	Amended	Actual	Recommended	Amended
	Budget	Budget 10/08	Income/Costs	Changes	Eudget
<u>CAPITAL REVENUE</u>					
Engineering Management	0	0	0	0	0
Recreation & Community Assets		0	0	0	0
Properties	1,090,000	1,090,000	0	0	1,090,000
Domestic Waste Management	0	0	0	0	0
Water Supplies	0	0	0	0	0
Sewerage Supplies	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	1,090,000	1,090,000	0	0	1,090,000
<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>					
Engineering Management	0	0	0	0	0
Recreation & Community Assets	1,280,880	1,280,880	62,917	(36,268)	1,244,612
Properties	3,333,042	3,333,042	403,718		3,333,042
Domestic Waste Management	255,635	255,635	0	0	255,635
Water Supplies	377,525	377,525	41,778	0	377,525
Sewerage Supplies	340,000	340,000	0		340,000
TOTAL	5,587,082	5,587,082	508,413	(36,268)	5,550,814
NETT CAPITAL SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(4,497,082)	(4,497,082)	(508,413)	36,268	(4,460,814)
NETT DIVISION SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(7,155,765)	(7,155,765)	393,219	95,935	(7,059,830)

25. *DEVELOPMENT AND COMPLYING DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE APPLICATIONS*

REPORTING SECTION: Planning and Regulatory Services
AUTHOR: Matthew Goodwin – Director Planning and Regulatory Services
FILE NUMBER: 007/02/04/55

Summary:

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

Discussion (including issues and background):

The table following this report provides details of Development Applications (DA) and Complying Development Certificate (CDC) applications dealt with under delegated authority by the Director Planning and Regulatory Services and General Manager during December 2008 and January 2009.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Files for the respective Development and Complying Development Certificate applications.

Stakeholders:

Public and applicants.

Financial Implications:

Nil.

Recommendations:

That Walgett Shire Council note the Development and Complying Development Certificate applications dealt with under delegated authority by the Director Planning and Regulatory Services and General Manager during December 2008 and January 2009.

Attachments:

AUTHORITY

Determined Applications



02/03/2009	Parameters:	Date Range:Y Start Date:1/12/2008 End Date:31/01/2009 As At Date:	Document Type: 20 Officer:ALL Number of Days:0 Stop The Clock:Yes	Page:1	
Document	Applicant Name / Address	Development Type Property Address Title Owner	Determination	Determined	Received
Document Type: 20					
	Stop the Clock	Total Elapsed Calendar Days: 47 Calendar Stop Days: 40 Adjusted Calendar Days: 7			
020/2008/00000027/001		70 Class 6 - Shop 38 Morilla ST LIGHTNING RIDGE LOT: 91 DP: 801149 Ms Z Milas	Approved - Staff Delegation	19/01/2009	04/12/2008
Officer: Ms J R Babic Number of Applications: 1					
		Average Elapsed Calendar Days: 7.00 Average Calendar Stop Days: 40.00 Average Adjusted Calendar Days: 7.00			
Document	Applicant Name / Address	Development Type Property Address Title Owner	Determination	Determined	Received
Document Type: 24					
	Stop the Clock	Total Elapsed Calendar Days: 14 Calendar Stop Days: 7 Adjusted Calendar Days: 7			
024/2008/00000040/001		10 Class 1a -Single Dwelling/Dual Occupancy Pandora ST LIGHTNING RIDGE LOT: 954 DP: 872184 Mr M & Mrs C M Martinez	Approved - Staff Delegation	10/12/2008	27/11/2008
	Stop the Clock	Total Elapsed Calendar Days: 59 Calendar Stop Days: 50 Adjusted Calendar Days: 9			
AUTHORITY					

AUTHORITY

Determined Applications



02/03/2009 **Parameters:** **Date Range:Y**
Start Date:1/12/2008
End Date:31/01/2009
As At Date: **Document Type: 20**
Officer:ALL
Number of Days:0
Stop The Clock:Yes **Page:2**

Document	Applicant Name / Address	Development Type Property Address Title Owner	Determination	Determined	Received
Document Type: 24					
024/2008/00000041/001		141 Class 10a - Garage 23 Montkeila ST WALGETT LOT: 32 ALT: PRT: SEC: 2 DP: 231207 Teacher Housing Authority of New South Wales	Approved - Staff Delegation	28/01/2009	01/12/2008
Stop the Clock Total Elapsed Calendar Days: 59 Calendar Stop Days: 50 Adjusted Calendar Days: 9					
024/2008/00000042/001		141 Class 10a - Garage 61 Namoi ST WALGETT LOT: 4 DP: 513882 Teacher Housing Authority of New South Wales	Approved - Staff Delegation	28/01/2009	01/12/2008
Stop the Clock Total Elapsed Calendar Days: 59 Calendar Stop Days: 50 Adjusted Calendar Days: 9					
024/2008/00000043/001		141 Class 10a - Garage 53 Dewhurst ST WALGETT LOT: 18 ALT: PRT: SEC: 41 DP: 759036 Teacher Housing Authority of New South Wales	Approved - Staff Delegation	28/01/2009	01/12/2008
Stop the Clock Total Elapsed Calendar Days: 59 Calendar Stop Days: 50 Adjusted Calendar Days: 9					

AUTHORITY

AUTHORITY

Determined Applications



02/03/2009 Parameters: Date Range: Y Document Type: 20 Page: 3
 Start Date: 1/12/2008 Officer: ALL
 End Date: 31/01/2009 Number of Days: 0
 As At Date: Stop The Clock: Yes

Document	Applicant Name / Address	Development Type	Determination	Determined	Received
Document Type: 24 024/2008/00000044/001					
		141 Class 10a - Garage	Approved - Staff Delegation	28/01/2009	01/12/2008
		Neilly ST WALGETT			
		LOT: 26 DP: 589336			
		Teacher Housing Authority of New South Wales			
Stop the Clock Total Elapsed Calendar Days: 1 Calendar Stop Days: 0 Adjusted Calendar Days: 1					
024/2008/00000045/001		10 Class 1a -Single Dwelling/Dual Occupancy	Approved - Staff Delegation	03/12/2008	03/12/2008
		LOT: 34 DP: 752246			
		Mr P J Ricardo			
Stop the Clock Total Elapsed Calendar Days: 2 Calendar Stop Days: 0 Adjusted Calendar Days: 2					
024/2008/00000046/001		143 Class 10a - Carport	Approved - Staff Delegation	11/12/2008	10/12/2008
		12 Earl ST COLLARENEBRI			
		LOT: 1 DP: 722534			
		Mr B E Treloar			
Stop the Clock Total Elapsed Calendar Days: 49 Calendar Stop Days: 42 Adjusted Calendar Days: 7					
AUTHORITY					

AUTHORITY

Determined Applications



02/03/2009 Parameters: Date Range: Y Document Type: 20 Page: 4
 Start Date: 1/12/2008 Officer: ALL
 End Date: 31/01/2009 Number of Days: 0
 As At Date: Stop The Clock: Yes

Document	Applicant Name / Address	Development Type	Determination	Determined	Received
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Document Type: 24
 024/2008/00000047/001

141	Class 10a - Garage	Approved - Staff Delegation	28/01/2009	11/12/2008
14 Gilbert ST WALGETT				
LOT: 15 DP: 226373				
Teacher Housing Authority of New South Wales				

Officer: Mr L J Smyth
 Number of Applications: 8

Average Elapsed Calendar Days: 6.63	Total Elapsed Calendar Days: 302.00
Average Calendar Stop Days: 31.13	Total Calendar Stop Days: 249.00
Average Adjusted Calendar Days: 6.63	Total Adjusted Calendar Days: 53.00

Report Totals & Averages

Total Number of Applications : 9

Average Elapsed Calendar Days: 38.78	Total Elapsed Calendar Days: 349.00
Average Calendar Stop Days: 32.11	Total Calendar Stop Days: 289.00
Average Adjusted Calendar Days: 6.67	Total Adjusted Calendar Days: 60.00

AUTHORITY

26. *URBAN ADDRESSING WITHIN WALGETT SHIRE*

REPORTING SECTION: Planning and Regulatory Services

AUTHOR: James Abel - GIS Coordinator

FILE NUMBER: 100/03/00/00

Summary:

Significant issues exist regarding inadequate house numbering within urban areas of Walgett Shire. This report provides an overview of those issues and an outline of an impending urban addressing project that is intended to achieve compliance with the relevant Australian Standard.

Discussion (including issues and background):

A range of significant issues arise from inadequate numbering on houses within urban areas of the Shire, including:

Houses identified with a mixture of street numbers allocated by Council and lot numbers derived from the land title (mix)

Premises missing street numbers (miss)

No numbering at all (no)

Inconsistent sequencing of street numbers (seq)

Issues from the previous list which arise in each urban area are shown in the table below.

URBAN AREA	HOUSE NUMBERING	ISSUES
Walgett	Generally in place	Miss, seq
Lightning Ridge	Partial	Mix, miss, seq
Collarenebri	Nil	No
Carinda	Nil	No
Burren Junction	Nil	No
Rowena	Nil	No
Cumborah	Nil	No

A factor contributing to a lack of house numbering has been a common perception that there is no need for it because there are no postal deliveries to houses or businesses. All urban mail is presently collected from local postal agencies. Nevertheless Council staff receive regular complaints regarding problems experienced in correctly locating addresses from:

Emergency Services.

Service providers such as Telstra, Country Energy, etc.

The general public.

To address this situation the Planning and Regulatory Services division is planning to undertake a project to review urban addressing. The key objective will be to implement and maintain an urban address system that complies with the principles of Australian/New Zealand Standard 4819:2003 Geographic Information – Rural and Urban Addressing.

Issues and actions requiring consideration during this project include:

Reviewing existing urban addresses for consistency with the Australian Standard.

A preliminary review of Council records shows significant inconsistencies in the numbering of businesses in Fox Street, Walgett arising from variations in the width of street frontage for lots and an associated lack of synchronisation in numbering between opposite sides of the street. Further evaluation needs to be undertaken to determine whether this issue is significant, and hence whether a revision of affected street addresses is warranted. Similar issues exist in the Lightning Ridge urban area also.

Allocating urban addresses to those sites that do not already have one. This is especially relevant to Collarenebri, Burren Junction, Carinda, Rowena and Cumborah.

Facilitating appropriate street numbering by establishing a clear guideline to inform the community regarding Walgett Shire Council's expectations for street numbering. It is unfortunate that it will not be possible to establish a single method for numbering each house or business because: Many sites do not have kerb and guttering on the front boundary.

Some sites do not have fences at the front boundary.

Few sites have mail boxes because there are no mail deliveries within these communities.

Posts with street numbers at the front of each site may be vulnerable to vandalism.

The visibility of numbers on buildings will range from poor to good, depending on the actual distance of the building from the front boundary, the presence of line of sight obstructions such as vegetation, as well as the size, colour and reflectivity of the numbering used.

A preliminary review of the current situation suggests that the most appropriate hierarchy of street numbering will be:

First preference – Where there is a front boundary fence, the street number should be fixed to the fence at a minimum of about 0.9m above ground level next to the pedestrian access gate.

Second preference – If the house or business premises is close to the street and/or there is there is a good line of sight from the street, then the number should be fixed on or near the front door at about 1.8m above the height of the door step.

Third preference – Where there is no front boundary fence and there is poor visibility of the front of the premises from the street, then the street number should be fixed to a post that is located near the front boundary. The post should be at least 0.9m high and have a firm foundation to minimise the risk of it being damaged accidentally or intentionally.

In addition to at least one of the above measures, where there is kerb and guttering on the front boundary, it may also be appropriate for Council to paint street numbers on the kerb and guttering at the front of each site.

It is expected that guidelines will be issued indicating that street numbers should be a minimum of 100mm high and made from reflective materials to enhance their visibility at night time.

Publicising any changes, including:

Situations where lot numbers are currently being used. Affected residents will need to be informed that using lot numbers is not appropriate and their assistance is required to ensure the

site is physically identified by its street number as well as on any relevant documentation such as their licence, insurance, etc.

Where street numbers have been revised in response to significant actual or potential problems.
New street numbers where they have not been allocated previously.

Implementing changes that are appropriate to ensure urban addressees comply with Australian standards, including:

Painting street numbers on kerb and gutters.

Updating street signs to incorporate street number sequences.

Supplying updated urban addressing data to the NSW Department of Lands.

Council's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Coordinator is currently overseeing the implementation of rural addressing within Walgett Shire as well as several other projects. The rural addressing project is nearing completion, which will enable the GIS Coordinator to commence the urban addressing program in coming months.

Relevant Reference Documents:

* Australia/New Zealand Standard. Geographic information - Rural and urban addressing.
AS/NZS 4819:2003

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council, community, emergency service providers, utility providers etc.

Financial Implications:

Additional expenditure may be required in the next financial year for painting street numbers on kerbs and gutter as well as to upgrade street signs.

Recommendation:

- 1. That Council note the report provided by the GIS Coordinator on the impending urban addressing project which details the issues involved and a tentative project scope.**

27. APPLICATION TO REVIEW DETERMINATION FOR DA2008022

REPORTING SECTION: Planning and Regulatory Services
AUTHOR: Janet Babic - Town Planner
FILE NUMBER Application for Development Determination Review 2008001

Summary:

Walgett Shire Council has received application 2008001 for Development Determination Review relating to the development consent issued for Development Application 2008022. It is recommended that Walgett Shire Council confirm its original decision.

Discussion (including issues and background):

Section 82A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 provides that an applicant can apply to have Council review a Development Application determination (See Attachment 4). In that context Trevor Hudson has lodged application for Development Determination Review 2008001 with Walgett Shire Council to review its determination of Development Application 2008022, dealt with at the Walgett Shire Council meeting held on 28 October 2008 (See Attachment No. 2 for a copy of the report presented to the meeting).

An assessment of application for Development Determination Review 2008001 is provided as Attachment No. 1 to this report.

In summary, the reasons put forward by the applicant (see Attachment 3) for allowing a larger sign at the intersection of Morilla Street and Three Mile Road do not provide justification for effectively ignoring the assessment criteria contained in Schedule 1 of State Environmental Planning Policy No. 64 - Advertising and Signage. That schedule contains mandatory assessment criteria that Council must consider in connection with applications for this type of advertising sign.

In the above context it is recommended that Development Consent Condition Rap 020 should be maintained, that is, the proposed sign at the intersection of Morilla Street and Three Mile Road is to be no larger than 2.4 metres by 2.4 metres. Hence Walgett Shire Council should confirm its previous decision made on 28 October 2008 regarding Development Application 2008022.

NOTE ON RECENT LEGISLATIVE CHANGE

On 11 August 2008 the Department of Local Government published circular number 08-45 titled "Commencement of the Local Government and Planning Legislation Amendment (Political Donations) Act 2008. Amongst other matters, that circular notes the introduction of section 375A to the Local Government Act 1993, as follows:

375A Recording of voting on planning matters

- (1) In this section, *planning decision* means a decision made in the exercise of a function of a council under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*:
 - (a) including a decision relating to a development application, an environmental planning instrument, a development control plan or a development contribution plan under that Act, but
 - (b) not including the making of an order under Division 2A of Part 6 of that Act.
- (2) The general manager is required to keep a register containing, for each planning decision made at a meeting of the council or a council committee, the names of the councillors who supported the decision and the names of any councillors who opposed (or are taken to have opposed) the decision.
- (3) For the purpose of maintaining the register, a division is required to be called whenever a motion for a planning decision is put at a meeting of the council or a council committee.
- (4) Each decision recorded in the register is to be described in the register or identified in a manner that enables the description to be obtained from another publicly available document, and is to include the information required by the regulations.
- (5) This section extends to a meeting that is closed to the public.

Relevant Reference Documents:

Development Application Review file 2008001
Development Application file - DA 2008022
Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
State Environmental Planning Policy No. 64 - Advertising and Signage
Local Government Act 1993
Interim Development Order No 1 – Shire of Walgett (gazetted 20-9-1968)
Department of Local Government circular number 08-45 titled "Commencement of the Local Government and Planning Legislation Amendment (Political Donations) Act 2008.

Stakeholders:

Trevor Hudson (applicant), Department of Lands (land owner), Walgett Shire Council (consent authority), advertisers with signs in the vicinity and the public.

Financial Implications:

Nil

Recommendations:

That Walgett Shire Council resolve to:

- 1. Under sub-section 82A(5) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, consider the application for Development Determination Review 2008001 relating to Development Application 2008022 in the name of Mr Trevor Hudson.**
- 2. Note that:**
 - a) The applicant has proposed that the sign to be erected at the intersection of Morilla Street and Three Mile Road will have a signage area of 3.6 metres by 3.4 metres (12.24 square metres).**
 - b) The largest existing sign on the site has a signage area of 2.4 metres by 2.4 metres (5.76 square metres) which is less than half the size of the proposed sign.**
 - c) Under State Environmental Planning Policy 64 - Advertising and Signage, Council is obliged to consider whether the proposal respects the "viewing rights of other advertisers" and whether the "scale, proportion and form of the proposal is appropriate for the streetscape, setting or landscape".**
 - d) Council's planning staff do not believe that the proposed sign at the intersection of Morilla Street and Three Mile Road respects the viewing right of existing advertisers and its scale is not appropriate for the streetscape, setting or landscape. As a result the site is not suitable and it is not in the public interest to approve a new sign for a private business on a public road that is more than twice the size of existing signs at the location.**
- 3. For the above mentioned reasons confirm the original decision made on 28 October 2008 regarding Development Application 2008022 in the name of Trevor Hudson, which was to approve the application subject to conditions, including condition Rap 020 which restricts signage area to a maximum of 2.4 by 2.4 metres (5.76 square metres).**

Attachments:

- No 1** - Assessment of application to review Development Determination 2008022
No.2 - Report on DA submitted to Council meeting held 28 October 2008
No. 3 – Letter from T Hudson
No. 4 - Section 82A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
No. 5 - Schedule 1 Assessment Criteria, from SEPP64

ATTACHMENT No. 1 - Assessment of application to review Development Determination 2008022

FILE NOTE 23 January 2008

DA Review 2008001 – T. Hudson

SIGN ON CORNER OF MORILLA STREET AND THREE MILE ROAD DA 2008022

Mr Trevor Hudson submitted Development Application 2008022 for signage on the corner of Morilla Street and Three Mile Road, Lightning Ridge.

The Development Application was approved at the Council meeting of 28 October 2008 with several Conditions of Development Consent.

On 11 December 2008 Mr Hudson lodged an application to have the determination reviewed.

The applicant is seeking endorsement of a revised proposal for a sign at the intersection of Morilla Street and Three Mile Road that is 3.6 metres by 3.4 metres.

Under Section 82a (5) - Review of determination, of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979, I am satisfied that the opportunity for a review of Development Consent Condition Rap 020 by Council is appropriate as Council was the determining body.

Development Consent Condition Rap.020 required the sign at the intersection of Morilla Street and Three Mile to be not more than 2.4 metres wide by 2.4 metres high. The reason for this condition was *"To ensure consistency with the maximum size of signs at the Morilla Street and Three Mile Road intersection"*.

Mr Hudson's core reasons for a larger sign at the intersection of Morilla Street and Three Mile Road (See attachment No. 1) appear to be:

1. *The business is 5 kilometres from the Lightning Ridge urban area, is not located on a main road and is a major attraction for Lightning Ridge.*

This is not disputed, however it does not warrant a much larger sign than those existing at the site; the problem can be addressed by an eye-catching design on the approved size and other advertising methods.

2. *Mr Hudson referred to other existing large signs in the area.*

These signs are for non-profit enterprises or are located on private land. It does not constitute good planning principles to allow further development, or continuance of any perceived precedence, of signs that are inappropriate on public land or at any particular location.

3. *Mr Hudson stated that "every other sign in town has no DA".*

A review of Council's records suggests that a significant number of signs have not been formally approved, but others have.

Assessment of the Development Application was carried out under Section 79C of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 and State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) No.64 – Advertising and Signage.

Relevant assessment criteria in Schedule 1 of SEPP No.64 for this application include:

Views and vistas

1. Does the proposal respect the viewing rights of other advertisers?

Streetscape and setting or landscape

2. Is the scale, proportion and form of the proposal appropriate for the streetscape, setting or landscape?

With regard to these two assessment criteria, the proposed sign at the intersection of Morilla Street and Three Mile Road would be 3.6 metres by 3.4 metres (12.24 square metres). The largest existing sign at this location is 2.4 metres high by 2.4 metres wide (5.76 square metres). If the proposed sign is more than twice the size of the existing largest sign on the site, then the “scale, proportion and form” of the proposal is not appropriate given the “streetscape and setting.”

In addition, the proposed sign would be erected on public land in a prominent location at the main access road (Bill O’Brien Way) to the Lightning Ridge urban area where allowing any commercial sign to dominate would be inappropriate.

In this context development Consent Condition Rap 020 was previously recommended and imposed to restrict the sign to a maximum size of 2.4 metres wide by 2.4 metres high

CONCLUSION

I remain of the opinion that none of the reasons put forward for allowing a larger sign by the applicant provides justification for ignoring the assessment criteria contained in SEPP 64. Accordingly it is recommended that Development Consent Condition Rap 020 should be maintained for the above reasons.

Janet Babic
Town Planner

ATTACHMENT No.2 - Report on DA submitted to Council meeting held 28 October 2008

WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL AGENDA

13. DA 2008022 – ADVERTISING SIGNS

REPORTING SECTION: Planning and Regulatory Services
AUTHOR: Matthew Goodwin - Director Planning and Regulatory Services
FILE NUMBER DA 2008022

Summary:

A Development Application has been lodged to erect advertising signs along the Three Mile Road at Lightning Ridge. It is recommended the Walgett Shire Council approve the Development Application.

Discussion (including issues and background):

Mr Trevor Hudson has lodged a Development Application to erect a series of signs to direct tourists to his business, the "Chambers of the Black Hand", at the Three Mile Opal Field, Lightning Ridge. Approval is being sought for the following signs:

- At the intersection of the Three Mile Road and Morilla St: - A sign 4.5 metres wide by 3.5 metres high at the location shown in Figure 1 and 2 (This will replace two existing signs erected without approval).
- Three Mile Road:- Six signs along the Three Mile Road at the locations indicated in Figure 2. These signs have already been erected without approval, while others have been removed at the request of the Department of Lands.

The Development Application was advertised in the "Lightning Ridge News" newspaper for three consecutive weeks. The Lightning Ridge Precinct Committee and the Lightning Ridge Working Party were notified of the Development Application. One submission was received which offered several comments on the signs, but no clear objection. These comments were considered during the assessment process.

The applicant has stated that visitors become lost and confused when searching for the location of the "Chambers of the Black Hand" and that clear signage is needed to clarify the route. He is concerned that "At least 3 to 4 bookings per week are a no-show due to confusion on the roads".

The six signs measure 1.3 metres wide by 0.8 metres high and are placed in what the applicant regards as strategic locations along the Three Mile Road culminating at the Chambers of the Black Hand on the Three Mile Opal Field.

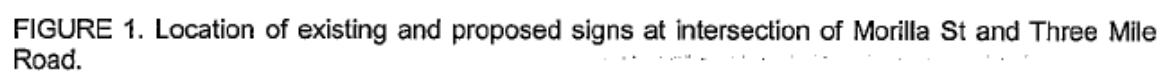




Figure 2 –Approximate location of six signs along the Three Mile Road, shown as black dots.

WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL AGENDA

STATUTORY MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION:

79C (1)(a)(i) PROVISIONS OF ANY ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING INSTRUMENT.

Under the Interim Development Order No. 1 – Shire of Walgett 1968 (IDO) the land is located within "Non-urban 1(a)" and 2. Village or Township zones. Development consent is required for the erection of advertising signs.

State Environmental Planning Policy 64 - Advertising and Signage (SEPP) applies to signs that are not exempt development and are visible from any public place (Clause 6). Clause 8 of the SEPP imposes the following requirement on Council:

8 Granting of consent to signage

A consent authority must not grant development consent to an application to display signage unless the consent authority is satisfied:

- (a) that the signage is consistent with the objectives of this Policy as set out in clause 3 (1) (a), and
- (b) that the signage the subject of the application satisfies the assessment criteria specified in Schedule 1.

The objectives of the SEPP are:

(1) This Policy aims:

- (a) to ensure that signage (including advertising):
 - (i) is compatible with the desired amenity and visual character of an area, and
 - (ii) provides effective communication in suitable locations, and
 - (iii) is of high quality design and finish, and

The most significant assessment criteria in Schedule 1 of the SEPP for this application are:

3 Views and vistas

- Does the proposal respect the viewing rights of other advertisers?

4 Streetscape, setting or landscape

- Is the scale, proportion and form of the proposal appropriate for the streetscape, setting or landscape?

With regard to these two assessment criteria it is important to note that the proposed sign at the intersection of Morilla St and Three Mile road will be 4.8 metres high by 3.5 metres wide, which is 16.8 square metres. The largest existing sign at this location is 2.4 metres high by 2.4 metres wide, which is 5.76 metres square. If the proposed sign is about three times larger than the existing largest sign at this site it is quite obvious that the viewing rights of other advertisers will not be respected, nor will the scale, proportion and form of the proposal be appropriate for the streetscape and setting.

It is also important to note that Clause 14 of the SEPP imposes a requirement that a development consent issued under Part 3 of the SEPP ceases to be in force "on the expiration of 15 years after the date on which the consent becomes effective". To make this requirement apparent to the applicant, it would be appropriate to impose a condition of development consent which indicates that the consent is only valid for 15 years.

79C (1)(a)(ii) PROVISIONS OF ANY DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING INSTRUMENT THAT IS OR HAS BEEN PLACED ON PUBLIC EXHIBITION.

Not applicable. There are no relevant draft environmental planning instruments on public display.

79C (1)(a)(iii) ANY DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN.

WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL AGENDA

Not applicable. Effectively there are no current Development Control Plans in Walgett Shire.

79C(1)(a)(iia) 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. No planning agreement has been proposed.

79C(1)(a)(iv) THE REGULATIONS.

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

79C (1)(b) LIKELY IMPACTS OF THE DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ON BOTH THE NATURAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENTS, AND SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS IN THE LOCALITY.

Current land uses on the surrounding land at the intersection of Morilla Street and Three Mile Road are commercial to the north, commercial and opal mining to the east and south and Tourist Park (Lions Park) to the west. Current land uses on surrounding land along the Three Mile Road are predominantly opal mining, residences located on Mineral Claims, Western Lands leases for residential purposes, and light-industrial. In general terms additional advertising signs are unlikely to adversely impact on the surrounding land uses, if they are of an appropriate scale.

In order to minimise visual impacts, dominance of the locality and to minimise the potential for diminishing the integrity of existing signs, it is recommended that a condition of consent be imposed requiring that the sign proposed for the site at the intersection of Morilla Street and Three Mile Road be no larger than the biggest existing sign, which is 2.4 metres high by 2.4 metres wide. It is also recommended that the six signs along the Three Mile Road be restricted to a maximum size of 0.8 metres high by 1.2 metres wide, as proposed by the applicant.

From a social and economic perspective the proposed signs have potential to enable an existing tourist business to maximise viability which in turn would contribute towards the local tourist industry and economy.

79C (1)(c) SUITABILITY OF THE SITE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT.

MINING: Opal mining may have taken place on or near the site in the past, but this is not expected to have a significant impact on the suitability of the site for the proposed development.

PUBLIC ROAD ACCESS: The Three Mile Road is the main access road to the Three Mile Opal Field from the urban area of Lightning Ridge. There are several minor unsealed tracks leading off this road which makes the route to Three Mile very confusing for visitors to the area.

Walgett Shire Council Engineering Department has recommended that a condition of development consent be imposed for the signs along the Three Mile Road that they be erected a minimum of 15 metres from the centre line of the road.

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

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.

WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL AGENDA

79C (1)(e) THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

Advertisements were placed in the Lightning Ridge News newspaper on three consecutive weeks. A single submission was received which made comments relating to "more garish signage along the Three Mile Road" and referred to existing signage. However no clear objection was put forward.

It would appear to be unreasonable to refuse the Development Application given that the proposed signs would clarify the route to the existing development and the Three Mile Opal Fields.

REGULATIONS

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

92(1)(a) Coastal areas - Not Applicable.

92(1)(b) Demolition - Not applicable, no demolition work is proposed.

93 Fire safety and other considerations - Not applicable.

94 Consent authority may require buildings to be upgraded - Not applicable.

94A Fire safety and other considerations applying to temporary structures - Not applicable.

95 Deferred commencement consent - Not applicable.

97A Fulfilment of BASIX commitments - Not applicable.

CONCLUSION

Tourism is important for the Lightning Ridge local economy and clear signage implemented in a manner consistent with existing signs is appropriate. Approval of the proposed development is appropriate given the potential benefits for the applicant, the local tourist industry and economy provided that appropriate conditions of consent are imposed.

Significant development consent conditions that are recommended for this development include:

- * Issuing the development consent for a maximum of 15 years, as per SEPP 64 requirements.

- * Restricting the sign at the intersection of Morilla St and Three Mile Road to a maximum of 2.4 metres high by 2.4 metres wide.

- * Restricting the size of the six signs along the Three Mile Road to be no larger than 0.8 metres high by 1.2 metres wide, as proposed by the applicant.

NOTE ON RECENT LEGISLATIVE CHANGE

On 11 August 2008 the Department of Local Government published circular number 08-45 titled "Commencement of the Local Government and Planning Legislation Amendment (Political Donations) Act 2008. Amongst other matters, that circular notes the introduction of section 375A to the Local Government Act 1993, as follows:

WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL AGENDA

375A Recording of voting on planning matters

- (1) In this section, *planning decision* means a decision made in the exercise of a function of a council under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*:
 - (a) including a decision relating to a development application, an environmental planning instrument, a development control plan or a development contribution plan under that Act, but
 - (b) not including the making of an order under Division 2A of Part 6 of that Act.
- (2) The general manager is required to keep a register containing, for each planning decision made at a meeting of the council or a council committee, the names of the councillors who supported the decision and the names of any councillors who opposed (or are taken to have opposed) the decision.
- (3) For the purpose of maintaining the register, a division is required to be called whenever a motion for a planning decision is put at a meeting of the council or a council committee.
- (4) Each decision recorded in the register is to be described in the register or identified in a manner that enables the description to be obtained from another publicly available document, and is to include the information required by the regulations.
- (5) This section extends to a meeting that is closed to the public.

Relevant Reference Documents:

- Development Application file - DA 2008022
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
- Local Government Act 1993
- Interim Development Order No 1 – Shire of Walgett (gazetted 20-9-1968)
- Department of Local Government circular number 08-45 titled "Commencement of the Local Government and Planning Legislation Amendment (Political Donations) Act 2008.

Stakeholders:

Mr Trevor Hudson – as the applicant
The Department of Lands – as the land owner
Walgett Shire Council – as controller of the land
Other advertisers
The public

Financial Implications:

Nil

Recommendations:

- 1) That Development Application 2008022 in the name of Trevor Hudson for advertising signs along the Three Mile Road at Lightning Ridge be approved subject to the following conditions of development consent:

CONDITIONS OF CONSENT

PRESCRIBED CONDITIONS OF DEVELOPMENT CONSENT

Prescribed conditions of development consent under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000 do not apply to the type of work being undertaken.

CONDITIONS IMPOSED BY COUNCIL

The following development consent conditions are imposed by Council.

GENERAL

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.

Gen 030.

Council is to be immediately informed in writing if arrangements for work are changed.

Reason: To enable Council to maintain an accurate record of approvals granted.

RESTRICTED APPROVAL

Rap 010.

This development consent is valid for fifteen (15) years from the date of consent.

Reasons: Clause 14 of State Environmental Planning Policy 64 - Advertising and Signage restricts development consents for advertising to a maximum of fifteen years.

Rap 020.

The maximum size and number of signs are to be as follows:

- (a) One sign at the intersection of Morilla Street and Three Mile Road that is no larger than 2.4 metres wide by 2.4 metres high.
- (b) Six signs along the Three Mile Road to be no larger than 1.2 metres wide by 0.8 metres high.

Reasons: To ensure consistency with the maximum size of signs at the Morilla Street and Three Mile Road Intersection. To restrict the number of signs to the maximum proposed by the applicant.

APPROVED PLANS

PIn 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.

WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL AGENDA

SITING/SETOUT

The signs along the Three Mile Road are to be set back a minimum of 15 metres from the centre line of the road.

Reason: To ensure the signs do not interfere with Council's maintenance operations along the road.

MAINTENANCE AND APPEARANCE

Mtc 015.

The signs are to be maintained in good condition and painted in colours compatible with its surrounds to the satisfaction of council.

Reason: To ensure compatibility with the streetscape is maintained.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Env 030.

Removal or disturbance of vegetation and topsoil must be confined to within 3 metres of the proposed structure.

Reason: To minimise environmental disturbance.

INSPECTIONS

The applicant is to advise Council of the name and address of the body nominated to act as the Principal Certifying Authority, on the "Notice of Commencement Form" forty eight (48) hours prior to work commencing.

Inspections at the completion of stages as indicated below are required to be carried out by the Principal Certifying Authority. **Work must not proceed past any inspection stage until approval is given by the Certifier.**

Inspections

- On set-out of the works and prior to any excavation.
- Footings after excavation and before pouring of any concrete

Reason: Compliance Certificates cannot be issued if the Principal Certifying Authority does not carry out the designated inspections, and to ensure compliance with the approved plans.

NOTE REGARDING COVENANTS:

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.

END

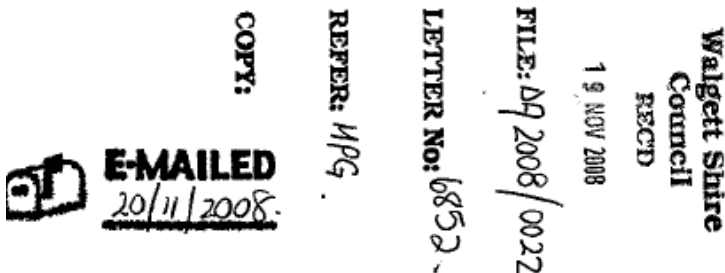
ATTACHMENT No. 3 – Letter from T Hudson

**POINTS WHY COUNCIL SHOULD APPROVE LARGER SIGN FOR CHAMBERS OF THE
BLACK HAND:**

ATT Mathew Goodwin:

Further to conversation I would like the council to revisit the reduction of signage space allowed. We need the full space for the reasons listed below:

- 1) Our venue is 5KM out of town we need an attractive presents on main entry
- 2) No real main street presents, we are restricted again by council at Cooper Cottage.
- 3) At present we are reliant on others to promote, when season is in full swing business houses are of course too busy with their own work load, we drop from summer time to winter time 30% in real tourist visitor numbers
- 4) A major attraction already, with huge repeat clientele and continual growth of carvings will make this a huge major attraction for Lightning Ridge and Western NSW
- 5) Winner NSW Hidden Jewel Award for 2008 and 1 of 7 for Australian Hidden Jewel Award 2009, and if successful will be on front page of Australian Tourism.
- 6) Any other council would give their right arm to have this unbelievable attraction in their shire and would bend over backwards to help not restrict the businesses growth. Why won't Walgett?
- 7) A precedent has now been set by allowing existing large signs and no doubt when fossil centre is up and running I do not think council would restrict them to 2.4 X 2.4m and so they should not. Lightning Ridge is Lightning Ridge it has always been colourful and hopefully will remain so.
- 8) We like all others have already 2.4 X 2.4m of signage at the corner of Three Mile Road and it does not work we don't have the space on that size to do justice in promoting what we have. We will when



allowed new sign remove existing with two others cleaning up the corner to be much nicer.

- 9) Every other sign in town has no DA yet we have paid for DA's and have been stopped at every turn. We feel we are being discriminated against for doing this the legal way.

We would appreciate a positive reaction to this application so as to move on with a positive working relationship with council regarding future growth for our region and in turn Western NSW. Tourism is Lightning Ridge's future; we need to be able to progress as we have in the past with individuality.

Regards,



T.Hudson

Chambers of the Black Hand.

ATTACHMENT No. 4 - Section 82A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 No 203

Current version for 26 January 2009 to date (accessed 9 February 2009 at 09:13)

[Part 4](#) > [Division 2](#) > [Section 82A](#)

<< page >>

82A Review of determination

- (1) If the consent authority is a council, an applicant may request the council to review a determination of the applicant's application, other than:
 - (a) a determination to issue or refuse to issue a complying development certificate, or
 - (b) a determination in respect of designated development, or
 - (c) a determination in respect of integrated development, or
 - (d) a determination made by the council under section 116E in respect of an application by the Crown.
- (2) A request for a review may be made at any time, subject to subsection (2A).
- (2A) A determination cannot be reviewed:
 - (a) after the time limited for the making of an appeal under section 97 expires, if no such appeal is made against the determination, or
 - (b) after an appeal under section 97 against the determination is disposed of by the Court, if such an appeal is made against the determination.
- (3) The prescribed fee must be paid in connection with a request for a review.
- (3A) In requesting a review, the applicant may make amendments to the development described in the original application, subject to subsection (4) (c).
- (4) The council may review the determination if:
 - (a) it has notified the request for review in accordance with:
 - (i) the regulations, if the regulations so require, or
 - (ii) a development control plan, if the council has made a development control plan that requires the notification or advertising of requests for the review of its determinations, and
 - (b) it has considered any submissions made concerning the request for review within any period prescribed by the regulations or provided by the development control plan, as the case may be, and
 - (c) in the event that the applicant has made amendments to the development described in the original application, the consent authority is satisfied that the development, as amended, is substantially the same development as the development described in the original application.

<http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/fragview/inforce/act+203+1979+pt.4-div.2-sec.82a+...> 9/02/2009

- (4A) As a consequence of its review, the council may confirm or change the determination.
- (5) The decision whether or not to review the determination must not be made by the person who made the determination unless that person was the council, but is to be made by a person who is qualified under subsection (6) to make the review.
- (6) If the council reviews the determination, the review must be made by:
 - (a) if the determination was made by a delegate of the council—the council or another delegate of the council who is not subordinate to the delegate who made the determination, or
 - (b) if the determination was made by the council—the council.
- (7) The council must give notice of the result of the review to the applicant as soon as practicable after the review.
- (8) If on the review the council grants development consent, or varies the conditions of a development consent, the council must endorse on the notice the date from which the consent, or the consent as varied, operates.
- (9) If on a review the council changes a determination, the changed determination replaces the earlier determination as from the date of the review.
- (10) If on a review the council grants development consent, or varies the conditions of a development consent, the council is entitled, with the consent of the applicant and without prejudice to costs, to have an appeal made under section 97 in respect of its determination withdrawn at any time prior to the determination of that appeal.
- (11) A decision on a review may not be further reviewed under this section.

[Top of page](#)

ATTACHMENT No. 5 - Schedule 1 Assessment Criteria, from SEPP64

State Environmental Planning Policy No 64—Advertising and Signage

Current version for 15 December 2008 to date (accessed 9 February 2009 at 09:18)

[Schedule 1](#)

[<< page >>](#)

Schedule 1 Assessment criteria

(Clauses 8, 13 and 17)

1 Character of the area

- Is the proposal compatible with the existing or desired future character of the area or locality in which it is proposed to be located?
- Is the proposal consistent with a particular theme for outdoor advertising in the area or locality?

2 Special areas

- Does the proposal detract from the amenity or visual quality of any environmentally sensitive areas, heritage areas, natural or other conservation areas, open space areas, waterways, rural landscapes or residential areas?

3 Views and vistas

- Does the proposal obscure or compromise important views?
- Does the proposal dominate the skyline and reduce the quality of vistas?
- Does the proposal respect the viewing rights of other advertisers?

4 Streetscape, setting or landscape

- Is the scale, proportion and form of the proposal appropriate for the streetscape, setting or landscape?
- Does the proposal contribute to the visual interest of the streetscape, setting or landscape?
- Does the proposal reduce clutter by rationalising and simplifying existing advertising?
- Does the proposal screen unsightliness?
- Does the proposal protrude above buildings, structures or tree canopies in the area or locality?
- Does the proposal require ongoing vegetation management?

5 Site and building

- Is the proposal compatible with the scale, proportion and other characteristics of the site or building, or both, on which the proposed signage is to be located?

<http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/fragview/inforce/epi+199+2001+sch.1+0+N?EPITL...> 9/02/2009

- Does the proposal respect important features of the site or building, or both?
- Does the proposal show innovation and imagination in its relationship to the site or building, or both?

6 Associated devices and logos with advertisements and advertising structures

- Have any safety devices, platforms, lighting devices or logos been designed as an integral part of the signage or structure on which it is to be displayed?

7 Illumination

- Would illumination result in unacceptable glare?
- Would illumination affect safety for pedestrians, vehicles or aircraft?
- Would illumination detract from the amenity of any residence or other form of accommodation?
- Can the intensity of the illumination be adjusted, if necessary?
- Is the illumination subject to a curfew?

8 Safety

- Would the proposal reduce the safety for any public road?
- Would the proposal reduce the safety for pedestrians or bicyclists?
- Would the proposal reduce the safety for pedestrians, particularly children, by obscuring sightlines from public areas?

28. ALOCHOL FREE ZONE RELATED LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS

REPORTING SECTION: Planning and Regulatory Services
AUTHOR: Matthew Goodwin - Director Planning and Regulatory Services
FILE NUMBER: 135/06/05/00

Summary:

Recently Local Government Act 1993 provisions relating to alcohol free zones were amended, and this was followed by an update to the Ministerial Guidelines on Alcohol Free Zones. This report provides an overview of the changes and recommends that Council note them.

Discussion (including issues and background):

The provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 relating to Alcohol Free Zones were amended via the Liquor Legislation Amendment Act 2008 which commenced on 3 December 2008. Notification of the amendment was made via Department of Local Government Circular to Councils 08-76 dated 11 December 2008.

Updated Ministerial Guidelines on Alcohol Free Zones were issued by the Department of Local Government in February 2009, as notified via Department of Local Government Circular to Councils 09-05 dated 5 February 2009.

The circulars and ministerial guidelines are available from the Department of Local Government web site at http://www.dlg.nsw.gov.au/dlg/dlghome/dlg_index.asp

Key changes include:

- Alcohol free zones can now be established for a maximum of 4 years at a time (previous maximum was 3 years).
- Fines for breaching alcohol free zones have been abolished.
- A Police officer or an enforcement officer (employee of Council authorised in writing by the Commissioner of Police) can seize any alcohol in the immediate possession of a person within an alcohol free zone. There is no longer a requirement for a prior warning to be issued.

Previously Walgett Shire Council has received objections from the NSW Anti-Discrimination board regarding the extensive nature of alcohol free zones adopted in Walgett, Collarenebri and, to a lesser extent, Lightning Ridge. The Board had repeatedly argued that the previous Ministerial Guidelines on Alcohol Free Zones effectively prohibited alcohol free zones from being established over the whole of a town, as recorded in the business papers for the 21 July 2005 and 15 July 2008 Council meetings.

The guidelines and Local Government Act 1993 did not contain a prohibition, only a suggestion *"that it would usually be inappropriate to zone the greater part of a town" "as alcohol-free"* as noted in the minutes of the 15 July 2008 Council meeting and associated response to the Board. The obvious inference of the guidelines was that unusual circumstances may require the greater part of a town to be established as an alcohol free zone

The recently revised guidelines make the arrangements for whole town alcohol free zones clearer, while adding a requirement for such zones to be “*supported generally by all stakeholder groups in that community*”, as noted below in an extract from page 7 of the guidelines.

Generally, an alcohol-free zone should be as small as is possible and must only extend to areas which can be supported by reasons as set out in point 1 above. However, larger alcohol-free zones, sometimes known as ‘whole-town’ alcohol-free zones may be effective in some rural and remote towns where they are supported generally by all stakeholder groups in that community. There are legal issues that need to be considered by councils when such ‘whole-town’ zones are proposed, as some relevant areas of a town will not be public roads, footpaths or public carparks.

Large alcohol-free zones need to be established in a way which is complementary with public places signposted under section 632 of the *Local Government Act 1993*. It is not usually appropriate to establish an entire local government area, or a substantial part of that area, as an alcohol-free zone. Similarly, it would usually be inappropriate to zone the greater part of a town, suburb or urban area as alcohol-free.

Relevant Reference Documents:

- Local Government Act 1993.
- Ministerial Guidelines on Alcohol Free Zones issued by the Department of Local Government, dated February 2009.
- Department of Local Government Circular to Councils 08-76 titled Alcohol Free Zones – Amendments to Legislation, dated 11 December 2008.
- Department of Local Government Circular to Councils 09-05 titled Alcohol Free Zones – Update of Ministerial Guidelines, dated 5 February 2009.

Stakeholders:

Public, NSW Police, Walgett Shire Council.

Financial Implications:

None.

Recommendations:

That Walgett Shire Council resolve to:

- 1. Note the report on recent amendments to provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 relating to alcohol free zones and associated updating of the Ministerial Guidelines on Alcohol Free Zones.**

**29. DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION 2008028 FOR DUAL OCCUPANCY,
VAUGHAN PLACE, WALGETT**

REPORTING SECTION: Planning and Regulatory Services
AUTHOR: Janet Babic - Town Planner
FILE NUMBER DA 2008028

Summary:

A Development Application has been lodged, on behalf of New South Wales Police for a dual occupancy development at Lot 67 in DP 825345, Vaughan Place, Walgett. It is recommended that the application be approved subject to appropriate conditions of development consent.

Discussion (including issues and background):

Timberline Homes have lodged a development application on behalf of the New South Wales Police for a dual occupancy development at Lot 67 in DP 825345, Vaughan Place, Walgett.

Two objections were received from nearby neighbours, (see Attachments No. 1 and No. 2). The core reasons for the objections appear to be:

* An expectation that the area has been set aside for "higher quality" dwellings, and that previous Council decisions support this

*The site does not have the dimensions to accommodate an additional dwelling, garden shed and garage.

It is important to note that under Section 116C of the Environmental Planning Assessment Act 1979, a consent authority, in respect of a development application made by, or on behalf of the Crown, must not:

- (a) refuse its consent to the application except with the written approval of the Minister, or
- (b) impose a condition of consent, except with the written approval of the Minister or applicant.

(See Attachment 3)

However the Crown is not exempt from the requirement to obtain approval to carry out plumbing or drainage works.

The Applicants, Timberline Homes, were sent a draft copy of this report with proposed the Conditions of Development Consent on 13 February 2008. A reply, by email was received from Chris Bathurst, on behalf of Timberline Homes, on 16 February 2008 agreeing in principle to the proposed Conditions of Development Consent (as provided below).

Relevant Reference Documents:

DA 2008028 file

Interim Development Order 1969

Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979



FIGURE 1 - LOCATION PLAN

STATUTORY MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION:

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

Under the Interim Development Order No. 1 – Shire of Walgett 1968 (IDO) the land is located within “2. Village or Township” zone where the predominant land-use is residential. The proposal is permissible with development consent.

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

Not applicable. There are no relevant draft environmental planning instruments on public display.

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

Not applicable. There are no current Development Control Plans in Walgett Shire.

However, the effectively obsolete Walgett Shire Council off Street Parking Code, was used as a guide to determine the appropriate number of parking spaces for a dual occupancy development (i.e. 2 spaces per 3 bedroom unit and 1 visitor parking space per three units or part thereof). The new dwelling will have a double garage and driveway parking and the existing dwelling has a double car-port and driveway parking. Proposed parking spaces are adequate for the development.

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. No planning agreement has been proposed.

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.

Natural and built environments:

The site is located in an established low density residential area of Walgett, characterised by a variety of building styles.

Unlikely to be significant adverse impacts as the site is located in an established predominantly residential area. Some trees on the site will be retained and new plantings are required under the BASIX certificate.

The proposal includes relocating a dividing fence between the existing house and the proposed house. This will create two separate areas; one of approximately 1050 square metres and the other approximately 899.25 square metres. Total site coverage for both areas will be less than 30%. Construction of the new dwelling will not significantly change the existing density of the area.

Unlikely to be significant adverse impacts on adjacent properties, adequate set-backs proposed and existing trees will soften any potential visual impacts. Existing fence between the existing and proposed dwellings will be relocated enabling a larger area for the new dwelling.

No other significant adverse impacts on the natural or built environments are likely.

Social and economic impacts:

The proposed dwelling is important for providing housing and retaining police personnel carrying out duties in Walgett and the shire as a whole.

Unlikely to be significant adverse impacts on adjoining properties.

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

The site is located in an established residential area of Walgett, zoned "2. Village or Township". There are no known environmental or other factors that make the site unsuitable for the proposed development.

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.

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

Two objections were submitted from neighbours. Their expectations regarding higher quality dwellings are not supported by any of the formal mechanisms that would normally be associated with such expectations, for example a covenant on the land title or zoning restrictions.

Assertions were also made that the site is too small to accommodate a second dwelling and associated structures. The applicant has proposed relocating a dividing fence between the existing house and the proposed house. This will create two separate areas; one of approximately 1050 square metres and the other approximately 899.25 square metres and the total site coverage for both areas will be less than 30%. In addition several existing trees will be retained and further landscaping carried out. From a planning perspective the proposed site coverage is not excessive and there is adequate land available to accommodate a second dwelling.

Given that there are no formal restrictions excluding dual occupancy on the site, and there is adequate land available to accommodate a second dwelling, it is believed that there is no tangible basis for seeking the Minister's or applicant's consent to refuse the application.

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

92(1)(a) Coastal areas - Not Applicable.

92(1)(b) Demolition - Not applicable, no demolition work is proposed.

93 Fire safety and other considerations - Fire schedule attached to conditions of consent.

94 Consent authority may require buildings to be upgraded - Not applicable.

94A Fire safety and other considerations applying to temporary structures - Not applicable.

95 Deferred commencement consent - Not applicable.

97A Fulfilment of BASIX commitments -

BASIX Certificate supplied with application..

CONCLUSION

No significant adverse impacts are expected on the natural or built environments. The size of the site is adequate for a dual-occupancy use. Adequate off street parking has been proposed and there is unlikely to be significant adverse impacts on the streetscape and locality. Quality housing is important for retaining police personnel.

Despite objector's expectations that multiple dwellings were not to be developed on the site, there is no formal basis for such expectations. It is also important to note that under Section 116C of the Environmental Planning & assessment Act 1979 Walgett Shire Council cannot refuse the application without the written approval of the Minister or applicant.

In this context approval of the proposed dual occupancy, subject to appropriate conditions of development consent, appears to be in the public interest.

RECOMMENDATION

That Walgett Shire Council approve Development Application 2008028 in the name of Timberline Homes subject to the following conditions of development consent.

CONDITIONS OF CONSENT

CROWN WORKS

Works carried out by or on behalf of the Crown are to comply with Section 116-G2 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 which states:

"(2) Crown building work cannot be commenced to be carried out unless the Crown building work is certified by or on behalf of the Crown to comply with the technical provisions of the State's building laws in force as at:

- (a) the date of the invitation for tenders to carry out the Crown building work, or
- (b) in the absence of tenders, the date on which the carrying out of the Crown building work commences, except as provided by this section."

COUNCIL IMPOSED CONDITIONS

The following development consent conditions are imposed by Council.

GENERAL

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.

Gen 030.

Council is to be immediately informed in writing if arrangements for work are changed.

Reason: To enable Council to maintain an accurate record of approvals granted.

Gen 045.

Prior to commencing any building works a Section 68 Activity Application must be obtained from Council to authorise construction.

Reason: To ensure compliance with the Local Government Act 1993 and the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

Gen 060.

The use or occupation of the premises is not to commence until such time as the terms of Development Consent have been complied with, to the satisfaction of Council and a final occupation certificate issued. The owner may make application to Council for the occupation of incomplete premises. The use or occupation of incomplete premises is not permitted until the premises have been inspected by Council Officers and an Interim Occupation Certificate issued.

Reason: To restrict the use of the premises until the terms of the Development Consent have been complied with so as to ensure the health and safety of occupants of the building.

Gen 090.

The garage has been approved as a Class 10a structure and shall not be used for residential purposes.

Reason: Garage design does not comply with BCA requirements for habitable occupation.

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.

WATER, SEWER, AND STORMWATER

NOTE: PLUMBING AND DRAINAGE WORKS

The Crown is not exempt from the requirement to obtain approval to carry out plumbing or drainage works. Before any plumbing, stormwater or sewer drainage works are commenced an Activity Application and Annexure accompanied by a diagram of proposed works and the appropriate fees is to be submitted and approval granted in accordance with the requirements of Section 68 of the Local Government Act 1993.

Reason: To ensure compliance with the Local Government Act 1993, Council's On Site Sewage Management Guidelines, Australian Standard 3500.1-4 and the Plumbing and Drainage Code of Practice.

Plu 010.

Provision shall be made for a water meter up stand within the confines of the property to be accessible to Council at all times.

Reason: To provide ready access for the Regulatory Authority.

Plu 050.

A minimum of 19 mm water service is required for the development.

Reason: To ensure compliance with NSW Plumbing and Drainage Code of Practice.

Plu 060.

All plumbing and drainage works are to be completed in accordance with Australian Standards 3500.1-4 and the NSW Plumbing and Drainage Code of Practice.

Reason: To ensure that plumbing and drainage works are completed in a professional manner.

Plu 130

Where the proposed building works necessitate the cutting-in of new stormwater outlets into the existing street kerb, the applicant and plumbing/drainage contractor shall ensure that the following procedures are adopted:

- (a) A kerb adaptor suitable for the particular kerb profile and capable of withstanding vehicular loadings is to be utilised,
- (b) Create the opening in the kerb by use of either a saw cut or bored hole only – breaking out the kerb by impact methods is not permitted,
- (c) The kerb adaptor is to be kept flush with the top and outside face of the kerb, and
- (d) The fixing of the kerb adaptor and filling in of side gaps is to be undertaken by the use of an epoxy resin – mortar or concrete is not to be used.

Reason: Requirement of Council as the Road Authority.

Plu 140.

Roof water is to be disposed of:

- (a) By piping to the street gutter or as instructed by Council.

Reason: To alleviate any potential stormwater problems with respect to the buildings on the allotment or adjoining allotments.

Plu 150.

Rainwater tanks are permitted if installed in accordance with the following provisions:-

- (a) When interconnected with Council's water supply, non-return valves to be installed to ensure that cross contamination cannot occur.
- (b) The overflow is to be connected to the stormwater system if available or on the downhill side of the dwelling/building at a minimum distance of 3 metres from any boundary of the property or any structure so as to prevent damage to any structure.

Reason: To prevent structural damage to buildings and protect public health.

Plu 170.

All plumbing and drainage works are to be carried out by licensed tradesmen.

Reason: To ensure compliance with AS 3500-2003.

FENCING AND LANDSCAPING

Fen 010.

All boundary fencing and landscaping works are to be carried out in accordance with the approved plans and specifications.

Reason: To ensure the appearance of the development is consistent with the existing streetscape.

Fen 020.

The area between the building line and the street alignment is to be landscaped and maintained with advanced shrubs or trees.

Reason: To enhance the appearance of the development site.

SITING/SETOUT

Set 010.

The owner of the property is to ensure that any building is constructed:

- (a) to meet the setback requirements of the approved plans,
- (b) to be located within the confines of the lot., and;
- (c) so that it does not interfere with any easements or covenants upon the land.

Reason: To avoid any buildings being erected in a location where it would be inappropriate.

CONSTRUCTION

Con 010

The applicant shall ensure that noise pollution is minimised during the course of construction. The use of power tools and/or similar noise producing activities shall be limited to the following hours:-

Weekdays	7.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m.
Weekends & Public Holidays	8.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m.

Reason: To ensure that public amenity is not unduly affected by noise.

Con 020.

All works are to be executed in a good and workmanlike manner and all materials are to be installed as per manufacturers' instructions and any applicable Australian Standards.

Reason: To ensure that the building work is completed in accordance with the approval and is in a safe and healthy condition for use by occupants.

Con 030.

The builder shall provide a temporary sanitary service to the building site before building operations are commenced.

Reason: To provide effective sanitation of the site during building construction.

Con 040.

All construction materials, sheds, skip bins, spoil, temporary water closets etc, shall be kept wholly within the property and not placed on public land or in a position that may result in materials/debris being washed onto the roadway or into the stormwater drainage system.

Reason: To preserve the amenity of the locality and protect stormwater systems.

Con 070.

All footings and/or slabs shall be constructed as per engineer's details.

Reason: To ensure compliance with the Building Code of Australia.

Con 170.

The building is to be installed in accordance with the Manufacturers installation instructions.

Reason: To ensure compliance with the Building Code of Australia.

PARKING & TRAFFIC

Par 001

Off street car parking is to be provided on site in accordance with the Walgett Shire Councils Off Street-Car Parking Code. A minimum of one covered space and one visitors car parking space is to be provided for each dwelling on site.

Par 010.

The off street car parking area is to be constructed of all weather material and maintained so that it is trafficable, free of pot holes, corrugations, erosion and does not interfere with stormwater runoff.

Reason: So adequate off street parking is provided for the development and it is maintained in an appropriate manner.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Env 020.

The land surrounding any structure must be graded to divert surface water clear of existing and proposed structures and neighbouring properties.

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

Env 160

Drainage from Evaporative Air Conditioning units is to be directed onto lawn and garden areas only. It is not to be disposed of into Council's storm water or sewerage systems.

Reason: To ensure that council's services are free of contamination and un-necessary load.

INSPECTIONS

The applicant is to advise Council of the name and address of the body nominated to act as the Principal Certifying Authority, on the "Notice of Commencement Form" forty eight (48) hours prior to work commencing. Inspections at the completion of stages as indicated below are required to be carried out by the Principal Certifying Authority. **Work must not proceed past any inspection stage until approval is given by the Certifier.**

Critical Stage Inspections.

- At the commencement of the building work, and
- After excavation for, and prior to the placement of, any footings, and
- Prior to pouring any in-situ reinforced concrete building element, and

- Prior to covering any sewer or stormwater drainage connections; and
- After the building work has been completed and prior to any occupation certificate being issued in relation to the building.

Reason: Occupation Certificates cannot be issued if the Principal Certifying Authority does not carry out the designated inspections, and to ensure compliance with the approved plans.

NOTE: COVENANTS

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.

ATTACHMENT No.1

FILE: DA 2008/c

LETTER No: 750

REFER: JRB

Jeff Austin

16/12/2008

Accredited Member
<http://www.ama-assn.org>

Independent Chairman
Neutral Good Image Been Earned by Gordon
<http://www.gordon.com>

Deputy Chairman, Nairobi Catchment
Management Authority
nma@nma.go.ke

Institution of Engineers Australia
Fellow
Chartered Professional Engineer
Registered PECC Engineer
0832 299 888 www.ieaust.org.au

Institute of Public Works Engineers
Australia
Fellow
<http://desai.brown.edu.au>

Churchill Fellow
 Cambridge University Press
<http://www.cambridge.org/9780521876223>

The dung beetle has a worldwide reputation for tirelessly working to convert and reuse waste of high nutrient value into a highly productive and environmentally agreeable foundation for growth. Hence the adoption of the Scarabaeidae genus as representative of the company's desire to roll together available data and use the resulting product for the betterment of all communities.

First Australian Trade Mark Application filed of the new millennium (IP Australia).

General Manager
Walgett Shire Council
PO Box 31
Walgett NSW 2832
Attention Mathew Goodwin

Objection to DA Application 2008/028

COPY:

Mathew,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the DA for 14 Vaughan Place.

I wish to object to the application on the following grounds:

1. Council Planning Committee at the time had put forward the subdivision as one that should encourage a higher standard of building construction than in other parts of Waigett.
2. When the subdivision was first developed in 1978, Council recognised that some of the building blocks were inadequate.
3. The first dwelling constructed was that on the site of the DA. Council adjusted the boundary of lots 6 and 7 (Vol 14957 Fol 176) increasing the block size to accommodate the dwelling.
4. Council subsequently adjusted the boundaries of lots 4 and 5 to allow the Pearson's to build their dwelling increasing the block size to accommodate the dwelling.
5. Council also adjusted the boundaries of lots 11, 12 and 13 increasing the block size to allow the construction of its own higher quality dwelling.
6. The boundary fence erected in recent years at #14 was, I understood from the previous tenants, to provide a smaller backyard for his children. The remaining open space facing Vaughan Place gives the appearance of a vacant block. This was maintained by the those tenants and allowed to be used by the children living nearby.
7. This 'vacant block' does not have the dimensions to accommodate 'an additional dwelling, garden shed and garage' and should fail the 'Heads of Consideration' test.
8. Approval to the DA would be an inappropriate application of dual dwelling guidelines in this subdivision.
9. My wife and I purchased our block from Council in good faith and constructed our home over 23 years ago to the higher standard sought by Council.
10. Approval to this DA would be contrary to good planning principles established by Council itself for this area.

I remain as always, a friend of Council.
Sincerely,

PRODUCTIVE OUTCOMES
Author, Analyst, Accredited Engineer Identity

JEFF AUSTIN
DIRECTOR

ATTACHMENT No.2

General Manager
Walgett Shire Council
PO Box 31
Walgett NSW 2832

16 December 2008

Attention Mathew Goodwin

Objection to DA Application 2008/028

Mathew

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the DA for 14 Vaughan Place.
I wish to object to the application on the following grounds.

- The vacant block does not have the dimensions to accommodate an additional dwelling, garden shed and garage and should fail the Heads of Consideration test.
- When we purchased our dwelling at #11 in 2002 we had a back entrance, than a dwelling was erected on the block behind us depriving us of a back entrance onto our block.
- Council Planning Committee should consider the inconvenience such decisions cause to property access.
- Approval to this DA would also be contrary to good planning principles established by Council itself for this area.
- Why would the applicants want to use that small parcel of land when they own every block in Howard's way.
- The applicants should consider donating this small parcel of land back to Council as a recreational area.

Bert Gordon & Debra Walford
11 Vaughan Place
Walgett
NSW 2832

30. *WALGETT SHIRE GROWTH MANAGEMENT STUDY AND STRATEGY*

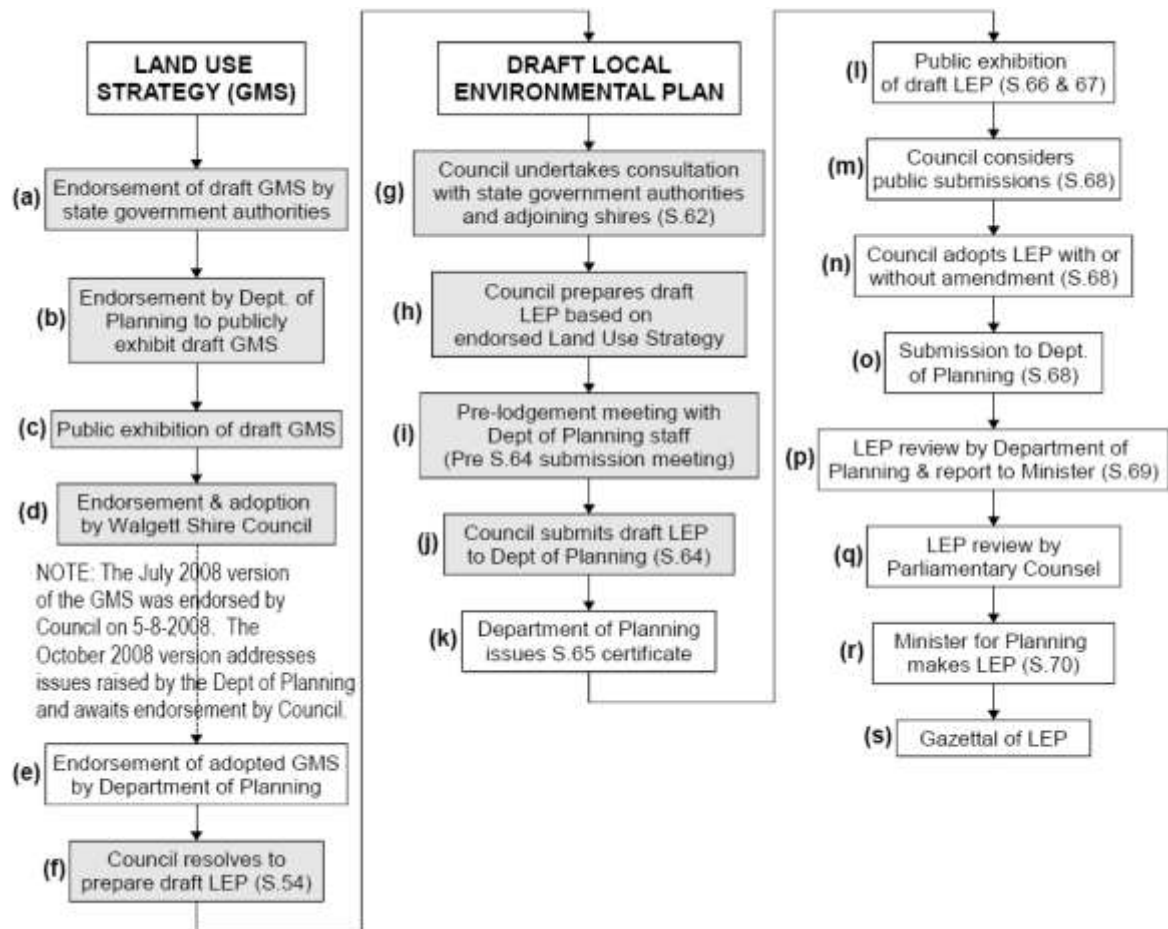
REPORTING SECTION: Planning and Regulatory Services
AUTHOR: Matthew Goodwin – Director Planning and Regulatory Services
FILE NUMBER: 315/01/02/00

Summary:

The report provides an overview of a recent workshop regarding the Walgett Shire Growth Management Study and Strategy and recommends that Council adopt the October 2008 version of that document with some minor amendments.

Discussion (including issues and background):

The flow chart below provides a simplified overview of the process involved in developing a draft Local Environmental Plan and its relationship with the GMS. Shaded steps have been completed or substantially progressed. Recommendations included with this report are intended to address the “relatively minor matters” associated with the GMS, as raised by the Department of Planning in its letter dated 10 October 2008 (Attachment A). Once these matters have been resolved, it is expected that the Department of Planning will endorse the GMS, hence steps (d) and (e) in the flow chart below will be complete.



The Department has stated that it must endorse the GMS before it will be prepared to issue a Section 65 certificate under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to enable Council to publicly exhibit a comprehensive draft Local Environmental Plan. Furthermore the draft Local Environmental Plan must be based on the recommendations contained in the GMS.

A workshop regarding the Walgett Shire Growth Management Study and Strategy (GMS) was held on Tuesday 17 February 2009 at the Walgett Shire Council chambers. The GMS was prepared by the principle of Edge Land Planning, Ian Sinclair, a specialist in rural land use planning. The version of the document under consideration was dated October 2008.

Issues which arose at the workshop are summarised in Attachment B which contains two key elements, as follows:

- **Actions** which will be taken by the author of the GMS or Council staff.
- **Policy positions** which the Councillors who were present agreed should be taken by Walgett Shire Council.

It is expected that the “Actions” detailed in the attached summary from the GMS workshop will generally be supported by the Department of Planning. The following table provides a brief analysis of the policy positions proposed by the Councillors present at the workshop.

POLICY POSITION PROPOSED AT WORKSHOP	COMMENT
--------------------------------------	---------

POLICY POSITION PROPOSED AT WORKSHOP	COMMENT
(a) Edge Land Planning be requested to revise the GMS with a view to providing for 10 to 40 hectare lifestyle blocks in the vicinity of Walgett, Lightning Ridge and Collarenebri while supporting a minimum holding size of 400 hectares to have a dwelling entitlement on rural land. It being noted that the Rural Lands SEPP does not require Council to adjust its minimum of 40 ha, but that there is a need for a larger minimum for a dwelling entitlement with the provision of smaller lots in the vicinity of 10 – 40 ha around the towns of Walgett, Lightning Ridge and Collarenebri.	This proposal is not inconsistent with the Rural Lands SEPP.
(b) Investigations should be carried out to identify land surrounding the settlements of Walgett, Lightning Ridge and Collarenebri for subdivision into lots of 10 – 40 ha in size. Discussions be held with the Department of Planning concerning these areas prior to the matter being reconsidered by Council.	This proposal is expected to be supported by the Department of Planning, although it could delay the establishment of a Local Environmental Plan.
(c) Walgett Shire Council should adopt a modified GMS which provides that new residential titles can be established on the preserved opal fields. In effect the forth recommended management strategy on page 191 will be reversed to become: “The Government should continue to issue residential titles on the preserved opal fields, so that people can continue to construct mining camps.”	This proposal is inconsistent with Edge Land Planning’s recommendation and the previously stated positions of the Department of Planning, Department of Lands and Department of Primary Industries (Minerals).
(d) The land identified as “Area C” in map 8.15 (page 176) within the GMS is its preferred location for the future urban expansion of Lightning Ridge, beyond the rezonings proposed within the GMS. However, given that Area C is unlikely to be required in the medium term, Council should request the Department of Primary Industries to make the land available for opal prospecting and mining until such time that it is required for urban expansion provided that rehabilitation is undertaken in the area in accordance with the standards applied by the Department of Primary Industries on ‘new’ opal fields.	This proposal is primarily of local significance and will probably be supported by the Department of Planning and relevant government agencies. If opal mineralisation is found within the area, some or all of the land may be rendered unviable for future urban development.

Relevant Reference Documents:

- Council file 315-01-02-00 – Local Environmental Plan
- Walgett Shire Growth Management Study and Strategy prepared by Edge Land Planning, dated July 2008.
- Walgett Shire Growth Management Study and Strategy prepared by Edge Land Planning, dated October 2008.