

BUSINESS PAPER

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL



Council Chambers | Walgett Shire Council
77 Fox Street, Walgett

On Tuesday 28th May 2024 at 11.30am

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993, that an Ordinary Meeting of the Walgett Shire Council will be held in the Council Chambers on Tuesday 28 May 2024 commencing at 11.30 am to consider the following business:

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Megan Dixon
GENERAL MANAGER

1. MEETING OPEN

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Acknowledgement of Country

In the spirit of reconciliation Walgett Shire Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country in Walgett Shire and their connections to land, water and community. We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

Declaration of Webcasting

I inform all those in attendance at this meeting, that the meeting is being webcast and that those in attendance should refrain from making any defamatory statements concerning any person, Councillor or employee, and refrain from discussing those matters subject to Closed Council proceedings as indicated in clause 14.1 of the code of meeting practice.

It is requested that Councillors within the duration of the Meeting, limit discussions to only the business on the agenda and what is permissible under our Code of Meeting Practice. As stated in the Governance Rules, other than an official Council recording, no video or audio recording of proceedings of Council Meetings will be permitted without specific approval by resolution of the relevant Council Meeting.

3. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS PRESENT

Our Councillors

Mayor Jasen Ramien
Deputy Mayor Colin Hundy
Councillor Jane Keir
Councillor Greg Rummery
Councillor Michael Cooke
Councillor Ian Woodcock
Councillor Alf Seaton
Councillor Daniel Walford

Staff

General Manager
Director Engineering & Technical Services
Scriber

Megan Dixon
Kazi Mahmud
Sharon Smith

4. APOLOGIES

Recommendation:

That the apology from Councillor Sue Currey be accepted.

Moved:

Seconded:

5. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Ethical Decision Making and Conflicts of Interest

A guiding checklist for Councillors, officers and community committees

Oath or Affirmation of Office

Councillors are reminded of the Oath or Affirmation taken of office, made under section 233A of the Local Government Act 1993 when elected.

Ethical decision making

- Is the decision or conduct legal?
- Is it consistent with Government policy, Council's objectives and Code of Conduct?
- What will the outcome be for you, your colleagues, the Council, anyone else?
- Does it raise a conflict of interest?
- Do you stand to gain personally at public expense?
- Can the decision be justified in terms of public interest?
- Would it withstand public scrutiny?

Conflict of interest

A conflict of interest is a clash between private interest and public duty. The test for conflict of interest:

- Is it likely I could be influenced by personal interest in carrying out my public duty?
- Would a fair and reasonable person believe I could be so influenced?
- Conflict of interest is closely tied to the layperson's definition of 'corruption' – using public office for private gain.
- Important to consider public perceptions of whether you have a conflict of interest.

There are two types of conflict:

- **Pecuniary** – regulated by the Local Government Act 1993 and Office of Local Government. A person with a pecuniary interest should at least disclose and not vote, but it would also in these cases be appropriate to leave the chamber.
- **Non-pecuniary** – regulated by Codes of Conduct and policy. ICAC, Ombudsman, Office of Local Government (advice only). If declaring a Non-Pecuniary Conflict of Interest, a person with a non-pecuniary interest can choose to either disclose and vote, disclose, and not vote or leave the Chamber.
- Local Government Act 1993 and Model Code of Conduct

For more detailed definitions refer to the Local Government Act 1993, Chapter 14 Honesty and Disclosure of Interest and adopted Code of Conduct.

Identifying problems

1st Do I have private interests affected by a matter I am officially involved in?

2nd Is my official role one of influence or perceived influence over the matter?

3rd Do my private interests' conflict with my official role?

Disclosure of pecuniary interests / non-pecuniary interests

Under the provisions of Section 440AAA(3) of the Local Government Act 1993 (pecuniary interests) and the Model Code of Conduct it is necessary for you to disclose the nature of the interest when making a disclosure of a pecuniary interest or a non-pecuniary conflict of interest at a meeting.

A Declaration form should be completed and handed to the General Manager as soon as practicable once the interest is identified. Declarations are made at Item 4 of the Agenda: Declarations of Interest - Pecuniary, Non-Pecuniary and Political Donation Disclosures, and prior to each Item being discussed.

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

Councillor	Item No.	Pecuniary/Non-Pecuniary	Reason

6. PUBLIC FORUM

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

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

A person may apply to speak on no more than 1 item of business on the agenda of the Council Meeting.

No more than two (2) speakers are to be permitted to speak 'for' or 'against' each item of business on the agenda for the council meeting.

Each speaker will be allowed three (3) minutes to address the council. This time is to be strictly enforced by the chairperson.

Approved speakers at the public forum are to register with the council any written, visual or audio material to be presented in support of their address to the council at the public forum, and to identify any equipment needs no more than one (1) day before the public forum. The general manager or their delegate may refuse to allow such material to be presented.

For further information about the conduct of public forums, refer to [Walgett Shire Council Code of Meeting Practice](#), item 4: Public Forums.

Speaker	Topic
Jenni Brammell	Australian Opal Centre (via Teams)
Luke Farr	Woodlands Road
Katrina Dowell	Project Turnaround

7. ADOPTION AND CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

7.1 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING 23rd APRIL 2024

Recommendation:

That the minutes from the Ordinary Council meeting held on the 23rd April 2024 having been circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of this meeting.

Moved:

Seconded:

Attachments:

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held 23 April 2024

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL HELD
23 APRIL 2024



MINUTES COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING

Tuesday 23rd April 2024

Megan Dixon
GENERAL MANAGER

*MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL HELD
23 APRIL 2024*

The Mayor declared the meeting open at 9:04am

PRESENT

Councillors:

Mayor Jasen Ramien
Deputy Mayor Colin Hundy
Councillor Greg Rummery
Councillor Michael Cooke
Councillor Ian Woodcock
Councillor Sue Currey
Councillor Alf Seaton
Councillor Daniel Walford

Officers:

Megan Dixon (General Manager)
Kazi Mahmud (Director Infrastructure and Compliance)
Sharon Smith (Minute Secretary)

ABSENT

Councillor Jane Keir

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS

The Mayor acknowledged the traditional owners of the lands within the Walgett Shire and acknowledged the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who now reside within this Shire.

05/2024/01 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor RUMMERY; Seconded by Councillor SEATON; That a leave of absence for Councillor Jane Keir Council is granted for Tuesday 23rd April 2024 Ordinary Business Meeting.

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY/NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Councillor	Item No.	Report title/ Subject matter	Pecuniary/Non-Pecuniary	Reason
Jasen Ramien	12.2.1	Monthly Grading Report	Pecuniary	Family-owned business

PUBLIC PRESENTATION

Ms Pauline Kearn – Item 12.1.1 Matters in Progress – Lightning Ridge Pool Complex – Resolution 08C/2023/2

05/2024/02 ADOPTION AND CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED ON MOTION by Councillor WALFORD; Seconded by Councillor SEATON that the minutes from the Ordinary Council meeting held the 26th March 2024th, having been circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings on these meetings.

05/2024/03 MAYORAL MONTHLY REPORT

RESOLVED ON MOTION by Councillor RAMIEN; Seconded by Councillor HUNDY that the Mayoral report for April 2024 be received and noted.

General Discussion regarding the proposed removal of the Weirs in Walgett Shire Local Government Area

*MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL HELD
23 APRIL 2024*

05/2024/04 MATTERS IN PROGRESS

RESOLVED ON MOTION by Councillor WOODCOCK; Seconded by Councillor WALFORD that the Matters in Progress up until March 2024 be received and noted.

05/2024/05 LIGHTING RIDGE WATER FUND

RESOLVED ON MOTION by Councillor WOODCOCK; Seconded by Councillor COOKE that a forensic Audit be undertaken on the Lightning Ridge Water Fund from the beginning of 2018.

The MOTION upon being PUT to the MEETING was declared CARRIED.

05/2024/06 COMMUNITY DONATIONS SPONSORSHIP FOR THE 2023/2024 FINANCIAL YEAR

RESOLVED ON MOTION by Councillor RUMMERY; Seconded by Councillor CURREY that Council receive and note the list of Community Donations and Sponsorships for the 2023/2024 financial year.

05/2024/7 IMPORTANT DATES – UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

RESOLVED ON MOTION by Councillor HUNDY; Seconded by Councillor COOKE that Council receive and note the list of upcoming meetings and events with the addition of the noted change by Councillor Hundy for the Cancer Council Biggest Morning Tea. Council meeting to start at 11am on 28 May 2024.

05/2024/08 PERMANENT STOCK ZONES IN THE WALGETT SHIRE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

RESOLVED ON MOTION by Councillor RUMMERY; Seconded by Councillor COOKE that Council declare there are no permanent stock zones within the Walgett Shire Local Government Area.

05/2024/08A AMENDMENT - PERMANENT STOCK ZONES IN THE WALGETT SHIRE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

RESOLVED ON MOTION by Councillor Hundy; Seconded by Councillor SEATON that Council declare that there no permanent stock zones on State Highways within the Walgett Shire Local Government Area.

The amendment on being put to the meeting was carried.

The AMENDMENT of the MOTION upon being PUT to the MEETING was declared CARRIED.

05/2024/09 CASH AND INVESTMENT AS AT 31st MARCH 2024

RESOLVED ON MOTION by Councillor HUNDY; Seconded by Councillor RUMMERY that the Investment report be received and noted.

05/2024/10 OUTSTANDING RATES AND CHARGES AS AT 31st MARCH 2024

RESOLVED ON MOTION by Councillor WOODCOCK; Seconded by Councillor CURREY that the 31st MARCH outstanding rates report be received and noted.

05/2024/11 PROJECT UPDATE APRIL 2024

RESOLVED ON MOTION by Councillor SEATON; Seconded by Councillor WOODCOCK that Council Projects list be received and note the report.

05/2024/12 2024 DESTINATION AND VISITOR ECONOMY CONFERENCE

*MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL HELD
23 APRIL 2024*

RESOLVED ON MOTION by Councillor HUNDY; Seconded by Councillor RUMMERY that council nominate attendance of up to two Councillors to the 2024 Destination and Visitor Economy Conference.

Meeting is taking place the same day of Council meeting – Mayor moved against the motion
The MOTION upon being PUT to the MEETING all in favour to move against the Motion.
Motion was declared LOST.

05/2024/13 2024 LOCAL ROADS CONGRESS

RESOLVED ON MOTION by Councillor COOKE; Seconded by Councillor WALFORD that council nominate attendance of the Mayor and up to two Councillors to the 2024 Local Roads Congress.

Councillor Walford to attend, alongside the Mayor, General Manager, Megan Dixon & Director Infrastructure and Compliance, Kazi Mahmud.

05/2024/14 RENAMING OF THE LIGHTNING RIDGE MULTIPURPOSE CENTRE

RESOLVED ON MOTION by Councillor COOKE; Seconded by Councillor WALFORD that Council resolve on a name during a future meeting, taking into account community feedback.

05/2024/14A RENAMING OF THE LIGHTNING RIDGE MULTIPURPOSE CENTRE

RESOLVED ON MOTION by Councillor COOKE; Seconded by Councillor SEATON that Council request the Lightning Ridge Multipurpose Service (Health Services) to change their name to include the word, Health.

The amendment on being put to the meeting was carried.
The AMENDMENT of the MOTION upon being PUT to the MEETING was declared
CARRIED.

05/2024/15 CIRCULARS RECEIVED FROM NSW OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

RESOLVED ON MOTION by Councillor WOODCOCK; Seconded by Councillor WALFORD that the information contained in the following Department circular 24-04 New Local Government Elections Webpage Launched on the Office of Local Government's website from the Local Government Division Department of Premier and Cabinet, be received and noted.

05/2024/16 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW STATEMENT – MARCH 2024

RESOLVED ON MOTION by Councillor RUMMERY; Seconded by Councillor HUNDY that Council adopt the attached Quarterly Budget Review Statement for 31st March 2024 as tabled.

At 10.52am Mayor Ramien declared a pecuniary interest and exited the Council Chamber.

Deputy Mayor Hundy assumed the role of Chairperson.

05/2024/17 MONTHLY MAINTENANCE GRADING REPORT

RESOLVED ON MOTION by Councillor WALFORD; Seconded by Councillor SEATON That Council receive and note the monthly maintenance grading works report for March 2024

At 10.55am Mayor Ramien returned to the meeting.

Mayor Ramien resumed the role of Chairperson.

*MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL HELD
23 APRIL 2024*

05/2024/18 REPORT TO PROVIDE UPDATE ON MAJOR ROAD PROJECTS AS AT 31st MARCH 2024

RESOLVED ON MOTION by Councillor RUMMERY; Seconded by Councillor HUNDY that Council receive and note the monthly major road projects report for March 2024.

05/2024/19 REPORT TO PROVIDE UPDATE ON TECHNICAL SERVICES PROGRESS AS AT 31st MARCH 2024

RESOLVED ON MOTION by Councillor HUNDY; seconded by Councillor SEATON that Council receive and note the monthly maintenance grading works report for March 2024.

05/2024/20 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION FOR DA2023/51 GRAIN CORPORATION PROJECT

RESOLVED ON MOTION by Councillor RUMMERY; Seconded by Councillor HUNDY that Council receive and note this report and delegates the approval of the Development Application DA2023/51 to the General Manager, subject to the contents of the report.

The MOTION upon being PUT to the MEETING was declared CARRIED.

05/2024/21 DEVELOPMENT APPROVALS MARCH 2024

RESOLVED ON MOTION by Councillor SEATON; Seconded by Councillor CURREY that Council note the information contained within this report.

05/2024/22 COMPLIANCE – MATTERS OF BRIEF MENTION

RESOLVED ON MOTION by Councillor HUNDY; Seconded by Councillor WOODCOCK that That Council note the information contained within this report.

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Question by Councillor Colin Hundy

I would like to have listed on the Agenda a Question ON Notice regarding the Council Re-Structure.

- 1) The approximate costs to Council when the new appointments are filled.
- 2) A detailed description of the new positions aligned to the Re-Structure.
- 3) The benefits the Shire will gain from this Re-Structure.

The General Manager provided the following comments to the questions on notice:

- The costs will be provided through the budget process, noting that there are both proposed savings, through the reduction in the number of Directors and contractors, as well as through improved results.
- As discussed, new roles being introduced to the organisation are roles that the Council should have allocated resources to. This includes Governance and Integrity, Communications and Economic Development. These roles are essential to meet community expectations, as well as legislative requirements.
- The role descriptions are published, when advertised. As they are publicly available, they will also be shared with Councillors.
- The new layer of management is about improving results, increasing accountability and oversight of the functions and delivering results to the community, while addressing organisation improvements identified through staff and community consultation. Other benefits include career pathways for staff.
-

*MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL HELD
23 APRIL 2024*

NOTICE OF MOTION

05/2024/23NOM Notice of Motion No.1 Submitted by Councillor Colin Hundy and Michael Cooke

Regarding a more relevant submission re: Small Claims Minig Titles.

Interwoven with Mining in the Opal Fields surrounding Lightning Ridge is the Mining Residuals and Western Lands Leases which are under threat.

This motion is needed for the discussion of withdrawing the lodged submission and replacing it with a new submission that will more accurately reflect the beneficial impacts to a large portion Walgett Shire

05/2024/23NOM-A AMENDMENT: That Council table a letter with the Minister based on Councillor Hundy's key points with regard to importance of opal mining to Walgett Shire.

The amendment on being put to the meeting was carried.
The AMENDMENT of the MOTION upon being PUT to the MEETING was declared
CARRIED.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 11.23am

To be confirmed at the next meeting of Council.

Mayor

General Manager

8. REPORTS OF COMMITTEE/DELEGATES

8.1 MINUTES OF LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 8 MAY 2024

Recommendation:

That the minutes from the Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting held on the 8th May 2024 having been circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of this meeting.

Moved:

Seconded:

Attachments:

Minutes of Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting



LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Minutes of the Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting held in the Walgett Shire Council Chambers on 8th May 2024 at 11.32am.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

ATTENDEES:

Chris Waters (REMO) – NSW Police
Kazi Mahmud (Acting LEMO) – Walgett Shire Council
Inspector Kevin Day (LEOCON) – NSW Police

Shane Edwards – Transport NSW
Angela Hundy – 2IC Western Health Services (Collarenebri)
Suzanne Mahoney – Western Health Services
Laura FRNSW – Walgett
Claire Bergin – Local Land Services
Emma Crowley – Department of Community Justice
Laura O'Brien – FRNSW
Jack Tecile – NSW SES
Stephen Gardiner – VRA Rescue NSW

The following attended via Teams video link:

Lynn-Maree Dunn – NSW Reconstruction Authority
David Minehan – Department of Communities and Justice
Jed Gollan – NSW Ambulance
Melissa Manning – Department of Education
Steve Brown – Regional NSW
Ben Anderson – Transport NSW
Vicky Hogland – Rural Fire Service

APOLOGIES:

Megan Dixon – Chair – General Manager, Walgett Shire Council

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – MEETING 14th FEBRUARY 2024

Moved: Kevin Day
Seconded: Chris Waters

The minutes were accepted.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- **Gingie and Namoi Villages**

Request for an update on the status of the recently built village roads, particularly regarding concerns about fire hydrant accessibility and restricted road access due to narrowing of the roads. The council has not actioned this due to staff turnover but will prioritise this matter.

- **Flood classifications for Collarenebri**

This topic was addressed at the state level; however, it seems no additional steps have been taken. The council and police will escalate this matter.

4. REMO REPORT (Attachment 2)

In terms of training, we're collaborating with Far West REMO and New England REMO to transfer training activities from Moree to Bourke. This is currently pending approval and falls under the oversight of the Premier's Department and Reconstruction Authority.

Moved: Emma Crowley

Seconded: Stephen Gardiner

5. ITEMS FROM AGENCIES

5.1 NSW Reconstruction Authority (Attachment 3)

Regular meetings of the Recovery Committee were held to address the aftermath of the Hudson Fires, which included tasks such as asbestos cleanup and securing funds for site clean-up.

State disaster mitigation plan – our team will be contacting the Council's Joint Organisations for workshops. There will be briefings this week on disaster adaptation plans for areas that will be likely impacted and future liaison with councils, community consultations.

In February, a meeting was held with Council's General Manger where the first draft of the pre-event recovery plan was discussed.

5.2 Fire & Rescue (Attachment 4)

Fire and Rescue held an open day on Saturday. There have been 34 responses in Walgett in the February – May period.

5.3 Transport NSW (Attachment 5)

There is no specific data for the area. Working on diversions and incident response plans for the highways. There is a team of four reviewing all diversions in place at the moment – road manager (new system) which will be able to provide info and support to councils on Highways. Look at floods and how they affect state roads and diversions.

5.4 SES NSW (Attachment 6)

The flood plan requires endorsement, which will be deferred to the next meeting. Attendees are reminded to submit all their feedback to the secretary to relay to the SES prior to the next meeting.

5.5 Education functional Area Report

Education has received endorsement as a functional area of the LEMC. Melissa Manning will be the coordinator of this department for concerns and issues relating to education, including advocating for educational institutions such as private schools, Catholic schools, and TAFE colleges.

5.6 WeIFAC

The district training exercise attracted more than 100 participants. WeIFAC is now part of homes under DCJ, which may involve a rebranding process. Have collaborated with the education department to offer assistance during evacuation situations.

6. AGENDA ITEMS

6.1 Evacuation Centre Audits

The centres are a work-in-progress that can be discussed over time.

The LLS have requested the following information be included:

Walgett: 75 Fox Street, suitable for small animals. Except for flooding the Walgett Showground and Sales yards for bigger animals.

Lightning Ridge - the Pony Club grounds and Racetrack

Collarenebri – To be advised.

The LLS are reauditing these sites in the near future.

Moved: Kevin Day

Second: Suzanne Mahoney

The Walgett PCYC, Lightning Ridge MPC and the Collarenebri Bowling Club have been endorsed as evacuation centres.

6.2 EMPLAN

Amendment for VRA – 1300872777

Amendment SES – 132500

Moved: Kevin Day

Seconded: Suzanne Mahoney

The Walgett Shire EMPLAN has been endorsed.

6.3 CMGS

All CMG's must contain a first point of contact phone number. These are to be on the agenda going forward at each meeting to be revised and kept up to date.

Moved: Kevin Day

Second: Emma Crowley

The Updated CMG for Transport of Animals and Biosecurity has been endorsed on the provision a contact number is included.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

Steve Brown – Resource Regulator are happy to assist police with the CMG for Mine Collapse. If a word document could be sent through, they will liase with police to update.

Lynn-Maree Dunn – Reconstruction Authority – Following up if the Council had been reimbursed by Public Works for the Hudson Fire Cleanup.

9. NEXT MEETING: 14th August 2024

MEETING CLOSED: 12.18pm

DRAFT

9. MAYORAL MINUTE

9.1 COMMUNITY SAFETY IN REGIONAL AND RURAL COMMUNITIES

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	General Manager
REPORT AUTHOR:	General Manager
FILE NUMBER:	24/9/0113
PURPOSE:	For Noting

RECOMMENDATION

That the Country Mayors submission - "Community safety in regional and rural communities" be received and noted.

Moved:

Seconded:

Summary:

The attached submission has been developed, endorsed and submitted on behalf of the members of the Country Mayors Association of NSW, within the submission there are 24 recommendations covering issues of; policing workforce, domestic violence, youth crime, courts and bail laws, greater supervision of offenders and their bail conditions, legislative review on social media platforms, funding for diversionary programs, establishment of drug and alcohol rehabilitation centres, review and Doli Incapax and so much more.

A list of 21 local government areas where hearings should be held has also been included. Submissions close Friday the 31st of May – Please make a submission prior to the deadline.

[Community safety in regional and rural communities \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/community-safety-in-regional-and-rural-communities)

Background:

This inquiry was self-referred on 20 March 2024.

That the Committee on Law and Safety inquire into and report on:

- (a) the drivers of youth crime across regional and rural NSW, particularly since the COVID pandemic;
- (b) how a whole of government approach can reduce the drivers and root causes of youth crime in regional and rural NSW;
- (c) the wraparound and diversionary services available for youth and families in the regions and rural areas and how they can be better matched to individuals, measured, improved and integrated into a coordinated approach to divert youth from crime, having regard to the NSW Government's commitment to working in partnership with Aboriginal people;
- (d) staffing levels and workforce issues, including police staffing, in regional and rural areas and how services can be improved to reduce youth crime in these areas;
- (e) recidivism rates in regional and rural areas, and related impacts on the community, services and law enforcement;
- (f) the range of functions being performed by NSW police officers, including mental health assistance and youth welfare, on behalf of other agencies in regional and rural areas, and the supports required to assist police; and
- (g) any other related matter.

The inquiry will report back in February 2025.

Attachment:

[Country Mayors submission - "Community safety in regional and rural communities"](#)

10. MAYORAL MONTHLY REPORT

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Office of Mayor
REPORT AUTHOR: Jasen Ramien
FILE NUMBER: 24/9/0106
PURPOSE: For Noting

RECOMMENDATION

That the Mayoral Report for May 2024 be received and noted.

Moved:

Seconded:

Summary:

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

Background:

On **April 25th**, I attended the Anzac Day march in Grawin and laid a wreath on behalf of the Council. The event saw a great turnout, and I had the opportunity to spend time speaking with the locals.

I was honoured to meet Claude "the Mowerman" Harvey during his recent visit to Walgett Shire. Claude stopped by Lightning Ridge and Walgett and I had the pleasure of meeting him in Collarenebri. Claude and his mower have been traveling around to raise funds to help prevent child sexual abuse in Australia. He has already raised over \$1.8 million, and by the time he reached Walgett, he was nearing the \$2 million mark. You can follow his journey on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ClaudeTheMowerMan>.



On May 9th, the General Manager and I attended the Local Government NSW Rural and Regional Summit at the State Library in Sydney. Joined by over 100 delegates, we heard from other Councils, government officials and experts on the issues facing rural and regional communities. Key speakers included The Hon Chris Minns MP, NSW Premier; Wendy Tuckerman MP, Shadow Minister for Local Government; Tara Moriarty MLC, Minister for Agriculture, Regional NSW, and

Western NSW; and Dugald Saunders MP, Shadow Minister for Regional NSW and Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Topics discussed included:

- The ability of Councils to fund infrastructure and services
- NSW Reconstruction Authority and new State Recovery Plan and Disaster Adaption Plans
- Renewable Energy Transition – Making it work for rural and regional NSW
- Showcasing excellence in the rural and regional local government sector
- Vision for rural and regional NSW

The forum was an excellent opportunity to meet Mayors and General Manager's from other Council's, be updated on major movements in policy, and better understand political objectives, as presented by the Premier and various Ministers and other representatives. Key concerns tabled with Government included increased costs, rate capping, reduction in grant funding and the equitable distribution of funding between metro and regional and rural Councils.

On May 10th I was on the green for the Dubbo Business Chamber Charity Golf Day which raised \$1,398 for Boys To The Bush. Boys to the Bush is focused on prevention and early intervention strategies for vulnerable male youth.



On the 13th May 2024 the Fishways Meeting was held at the Walgett Council Chambers, attended by myself, Clr Greg Rumrey, the General Manager and the Director of Infrastructure and Compliance. DPIE were represented by Manager of the project Andrew Fletcher and Andrew Grocott, Senior Community and Stakeholder Engagement Advisor – Water Group.

During the meeting, Council was assured that there is no intent to remove weirs, however the project of creating fishways will result in lowering of weirs. We assured them, that Council was supportive of fish passage ways, but not at the cost of lowering weirs or reducing water security. The General Manager has prepared a detailed report on the matter.

11. CORRESPONDENCE AND PETITIONS

RECOMMENDATION

That Correspondence from Luke Farr, Walgett Campdraft and Lightning Ridge Swimming Pool Association be received and noted.

Moved:

Seconded:

11.1 E-MAIL FROM LUKE FARR REGARDING ADDRESS COUNCIL

To: Admin Walgett <admin@walgett.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: Addressing councillors on woodlands Rd

Att walgett shire council GM,

Hi Megan I hope things are well with you. I am waiting on instruction on my address to Council at the next meeting on the development of woodlands Rd. I was told by Sherese on the 13th March via phone conversation that I would have feedback on the issue of having it placed on the agenda. I'm following up on the conversation as instructed by Mayor Jason Ramien.

Regards Luke Farr

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11.2 SPONSORSHIP REQUEST FROM WALGETT RODAO AND CAMPDRAFT



Walgett Charity Bushman's Carnival
PO BOX 339
WALGETT, NSW 2832

To the General Manager

I am writing on behalf of the Walgett Charity Bushman's Carnival in hopes of securing funding to assist with costs associated with our 2024 event.

The Walgett Charity Bushman's Carnival is facing large infrastructure expenses for the 2024 Campdraft & Rodeo with additional repairs and maintenance essential. Whilst we have strong sponsorship, the repairs and maintenance of infrastructure limit our capability in supporting our local community groups, organisation, and charities in the capacity we hope to.

The Walgett Charity Bushman's Carnival runs annually on the third weekend of August. We host three action packed days of Campdraft, Rodeo and live entertainment. Our event attracts more than 300 competitors who travel from as far north as Mareeba QLD and as far south as VIC. We host past Australian Champions across all events over the course of the weekend.

In addition to the high caliber of competition we also host fantastic musicians following the Rodeo on Saturday night. We have hosted Brad Cox, Hurricane Fall, our very own Maddie Warden and are excited to host Robbie Mortimer this year.

On average, the Walgett Charity Bushman's Carnival draws over 1500 spectators who travel from across Australia to enjoy the festivities and competition we have to offer.

We are of strong belief the township of Walgett benefits greatly from the Walgett Charity Bushman's Carnival. We source all products, materials, goods, and services from local businesses, we offer the opportunity for local businesses to trade at our event and local businesses benefit from the visiting population.

Further contributing to the lifeblood of Walgett, our event is an essential fund-raising opportunity for local community groups, organizations, and charities. Over the last 3 years alone we have donated in excess of \$30,000.00 to participating community groups, organizations and charities.

Beneficiaries have included Walgett DEC, St Joseph's School, Walgett CWA & CWA Medical Grant, Walgett Hospital Social Club, Walgett Men's Shed, Walgett Pony Club,



Walgett Charity Bushman's Carnival
PO BOX 339
WALGETT, NSW 2832

Walgett Community Promotions, Walgett Junior Rugby Union and Junior Rugby League, Walgett Swimming Club, Walgett Little Athletics and Sarah Wheeler and her Outback Long Ride. We strive to donate between \$10,000 and \$15,000 back to beneficiaries annually.

Our event posts more than \$22,000.00 in prize money at the Rodeo and in excess of \$10,000.00 in cash and prizes at the campdraft.

In 2023 alone, over \$20,000.00 was spent on necessary improvements to infrastructure including a new calf chute for the rodeo arena, a new load out ramp at the campdraft arena and modifications to yards at both the campdraft and rodeo arenas. These improvements are essential to ensure the safety of livestock, competitors, volunteers, and spectators.

It is with this I write asking the Walgett Shire Council to assist with funding in the construction of a new permanent loading ramp for the load out yards at the Campdraft arena.

The committee carries out all work themselves reducing labour costs however we require materials. We have been quoted \$11,000.00 for steel and concrete however thanks to the unwavering support of local businesses, we have had those costs reduced to \$8,500. We wish to request \$8,500 from Walgett Shire Council to assist with the remaining balance to purchase these materials.

We hope you take our request into consideration and look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,
Jordy Fenwicke
Secretary of the Walgett Charity Bushman's Carnival
PH: 0419 415 720
Email: walgettrodeocampdraft@gmail.com

11.3 LETTER FROM LIGHTNING RIDGE OLYMPIC POOL ASSOCIATION

LIGHTNING RIDGE OLYMPIC POOL ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED
PO Box 179
Lightning Ridge
NSW, 2834

Tel: 02 68290569
Fax: 02 68290773
ABN: 8302379586
M: 0403903520
Email: lilyann76@hotmail.com

Walgett Shire Councilors & The General Manager
Walgett Shire Council
PO Box 31
Walgett
NSW, 2832

March 24, 2024

To the Councilors and the General Manager of the Walgett Shire Council

Water Rates Charges

I am writing to you today in regard to water rates that were billed to the Lightning Ridge Olympic Pool Association at the end June of 2023, for the previous 2 years (due to not having been billed in the correct time period) plus subsequent water rates for the year 2023/2024, which up to date (including interest) come to a total of \$24,671.21

Prior to 2020 and since 1997 the Association has not been required to pay rates of any kind and we are asking if you would please consider waiving these rates now and into the future.

The Lightning Ridge Olympic Pool Association is a Not for Profit Organisation, that not only raised the money for and built the Sport and Aquatic Complex, but has also been voluntarily running this facility for the past 34 years. The Complex consists of an Olympic pool and octopus baby pool, a water theme park (including a wave pool, river pool, slide pool & children's wading pool complete with slides and water features), an indoor sports centre & gym and an indoor heated pool complex with a 10m diving tower.

We are very proud of this amazing complex and what has been created for the town and our main aim since opening each of our facilities has always been to manage, maintain, improve and run the complex to the best of our ability, for the benefit of the Lightning Ridge community, other communities in the Walgett Shire and visitors to the town. This vision remains the same today, but has become increasingly more difficult due to huge increases in costs.

As you would be aware, the Walgett Shire Council provides a partial subsidy (2022/2023 \$477,484.00 less \$43,407.00 GST = \$434,077.00) to assist in the running of the complex, which the committee is very grateful for. However, this funding is unfortunately nowhere near enough to run the four facilities.

The Association, therefore, must come up with the rest of the funding needed and generates an income through the entry fee and any profits made in the canteen.

Ordinarily, this opportunity of running the entry and the canteen is given to the pool manager (as is custom with most pools), but in order to have enough funds to run the complex, the Association manages this part and retains this money and puts it back into the running and maintenance of the complex. In the year 2022-2023 this amount came to just under \$175,000.00 that was raised and put back into the complex.

I would just like to make it clear that the \$434,077.00 (ex GST) subsidy given by the Council is for the running of all four facilities making up the Sport & Aquatic Complex and not just for one pool, as is the case in most other small towns.

The Association is very conscious of water usage, but the very nature of this business is water. Whether it be for swimming in, cleaning the amenities and grounds or maintaining the lawns, all of these are necessary to keep the complex open and in good condition. On the occasion that any of our 7 pools need to be emptied and re-filled, a water rates bill for this alone, would be astronomical and extremely costly.

With the cost of running the complex already being so high, we fear that this added charge of water rates will severely reduce the amount of funds available to run the complex and carry out the ongoing required maintenance and repairs and thus the complex will suffer. Deterioration will occur and sections may have to be temporarily closed down if important maintenance jobs cannot be carried out due to lack of funds.

Last financial year the total cost to run the complex was \$634,953.00 (see attachment 1 - income and expenditure breakdown). We would like to highlight that this amount does not take into account the thousands of volunteer hours done annually, by committee members and volunteers, to keep costs down in order to keep the facility running and well maintained.

This year, costs will be even higher due to inflation, rising operational costs and the amount of maintenance needed to be done throughout the complex, such as, repainting of the Olympic pool as well as three of the water theme park pools, repairs and repainting of many water theme park features and other general maintenance projects.

Annual Rates and Charges

Another issue the Association is faced with are the annual rates and charges for the use of water, sewerage availability and waste services, which have also been charged for the first time in 25 years. A letter was sent to the Association at the end of September 2023 from the then acting General Manager, Mr Hugh Percy, stating that these rates would also now be applicable and amounted to \$17,461.90 for the year 2023/2024.

This is just another blow that the Association was not expecting or had budgeted for and are also asking if Council would consider waiving these rates, now and into the future, as this is a huge expense that would see funds taken away from the running of the complex and important maintenance jobs that need to be carried out.

The alternative would be for Council to increase the subsidy to approximately the same amount as the annual rates and charges and water rates, or to reimburse the Association for this amount once it has been paid.

I would like to note that the above-mentioned water rates and annual rates & charges have not been paid, due to the Association wanting to first meet with the General Manager, to gain her advice on this situation and being advised to do so when brought to the attention of council staff. Unfortunately, due to the General Manager being newly appointed when this all began and her busy schedule, this meeting did take time to eventuate and has only recently taken place. The result being that interest has now been accrued on both sets of rates, due to time passing by and payments not being made when due.

We hope you can see fit to waive these rates, particularly now that interest is being accrued and even more is owing through no fault of our own.

Thanking you very much for your consideration on this matter.

Yours Sincerely

Lily Sisa
President
Lightning Ridge Olympic Pool Association Incorporated

Attachment 1.

Lightning Ridge Olympic Pool Association Incorporated
Income & Expenses Summary for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023
(excluding GST)

Revenue

Operating Activities

Canteen Sales	\$ 46,913.00
Donations received	\$ 2,395.00
Entrance Fees	
Diving pool	\$ 20,954.00
Sports Centre	\$ 12,561.00
Swimming pool and theme park	\$ 88,939.00
Interest received	\$ 969.00
Pool shop sales	\$ 1,438.00
Subsidies – Walgett Shire Council	<u>\$434,077.00</u>
	<u>\$608,246.00</u>

Expenses

Cost of Operation

Advertising	\$ 159.09
Bank Fees	\$ 517.00
Change in inventories	\$ 283.00
Chemicals	\$ 60,485.94
Cleaning	\$ 1,259.98
Consulting & Accounting	\$ 8,690.00
Electricity	\$141,542.06
Insurance	\$ 70,165.11
Licences, Registrations, Permits	\$ 211.00
Lifeguard & Lifesaving Expenses	\$ 60.22
Office Expenses	\$ 309.87
Postage	\$ 89.55
Rates	\$ 74.87
Raw Materials and Consumables used	\$ 29,276.00
Rent	\$ 507.60
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 43,610.81
Replacements	\$ 10,092.73
Sports/Pool Equipment	\$ 2,812.60
Salaries and Wages + Employee Expenses	\$264,607.00
Telephone	<u>\$ 197.49</u>
	<u>\$634,951.92</u>

12. REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

12.1 GENERAL MANAGER

12.1.1 FISH PASSAGE – RECONNECTING THE NORTHERN BASIN

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: General Manager
REPORT AUTHOR: General Manager
FILE NUMBER: 24/9/0107
PURPOSE: For Decision

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the information in this report be noted.
2. That Council write to the Hon. Rose Jackson MLC, Minister Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health , Minister for Youth and Minister for North Coast, expressing its disappointment as to what it views as inadequate consultation in respect of the Weir Project and further request a review of proposals for the removal of weirs along the Barwon Darling river system and the installation of fishways that result in reductions in the height of current weirs within the river system.
3. That Council take the necessary action to assist the NSW Water Group promote a consultation meeting in respect of the two affected weirs in Walgett during either June 2024 with a view to maximising representation at the meeting by those who are impacted by the project.

Moved:

Seconded:

Summary:

DCCEW has developed a major infrastructure program to deliver the reconnection project in partnership with the NSW Department of Primary Industries – Fisheries to install fishways at the Banarway and Calmundi Weirs in the Walgett Shire, which will also lower the height of both weirs.

The lowering of the height of the weirs has not been understood by the broader and immediate community and Council is seeking amendments to the project that see the heights of the weirs retained.

In order to achieve this outcome, this report recommends that Council writes to the Minister and requires further consultation with affected stakeholders.

Background:

Australian native fish migrate along inland rivers to spawn, find food and shelter, as well as to avoid threats such as drying habitats. The Barwon-Darling and Border Rivers are the main fish migration pathways in the Northern Basin of the wider Murray Darling Basin. As part of the Northern Basin Toolkit, and through the “Fish Passage: Reconnecting the Northern Basin Project,” the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEW) is seeking to improve connectivity across the northern basin and deliver ecological outcomes by reinstating the movement and abundance of migratory native species.

Funded to the amount of \$56.8m by the Australian Government under the Murray-Darling Basin Plan, DCCEW has developed a major infrastructure program to deliver the reconnection project in partnership with the NSW Department of Primary Industries – Fisheries. The project aims to address the barriers to fish passage at priority sites across the Northern Basin by providing a connected ‘highway’ for native fish to migrate. The infrastructure solutions to aid fish migration are

to be primarily focused on the construction of fishways and the re-engineering of existing weirs along the river system.

The project uses a staged approach, with project development activities occurring in parallel with some early on groundwork.

Project Consultation

On 2 April 2024, Council received the following correspondence from the project team, advising of consultation occurring in Walgett:

I'm reaching out to follow up on our previous communications and discussions throughout 2023 and early 2024 regarding the Fish Passage: Reconnecting the Northern Basin Project. We had been in touch with your former Urban Manager, David Ryan, regarding this matter. It is understood that David is no longer with the Walgett Shire Council, and we would like to ensure continuity in our communication and collaboration.

Part of the Northern Basin Toolkit, the fish passage project seeks to improve connectivity across the Northern Basin and deliver ecological outcomes by reinstating the movement and abundance of migratory native fish species. Native fish need to migrate along river systems to complete key life stages and to avoid drying habitats during droughts. Phase 1 of the project involves addressing barriers to fish passage by installing fishways at two priority weir sites in your LGA, including Banarway Weir and Calmundi Weir.

Below, you will find the email we sent to Council in January this year, where we extended an invitation to Council staff to receive a briefing from our project team.

Further to this, the Water Group in the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water is inviting the local community to participate in drop-in information sessions to learn more about Phase 1 of the project, ask questions and provide feedback to the project team.

The information sessions will be held across two locations on the following dates:

- *Tuesday 9 April 2024, any time between 9am to 11pm at The Red Shed (39 Herbert Street, Collarenebri)*
- *Tuesday 9 April 2024, any time between 3pm to 5pm at Gray Park (Euroka Street Walgett) (BBQ Area)*

We have also allocated time between 1-2pm to speak to the local First Nations representatives, pending any ongoing Sorry Business.

Notifications have been sent to all known landholders surrounding the weir and weir pools. Local print and radio ads have also been used to promote the sessions.

At the time, the project was not well understood, and no Council representatives attended the consultation.

Subsequent to this, we were contacted by Bourke Shire Council, who advised that the project needed better consultation and clarification regarding water security for the communities that use the two weirs identified for change in Walgett.

What has since become apparent – is that lowering of the weirs has not been well understood by affected stakeholders and has possibly been miscommunicated by the project team.

The Mayor advises that he has had contact with affected landholders and their understanding of the project was that weir heights would not be changed.

Based on this, Council reached out to the project team and they met with Council (all Councillors were invited) on 13 May 2024. At that meeting *the Council* was advised that in 2017 an environmental review of the Northern Basin was undertaken with various submissions received that raised environmental concerns. Fish passage was identified as a focus with 108 projects identified for the Northern Basin from the review.

Such fish passage projects seek to reconnect the Northern Basin by creating a “superhighway” of up and down stream access for fish throughout the basin which is seen as critical to the fish life cycle. There have been twenty (20) sites identified from Texas in QLD to Wilcannia in NSW, where work is planned to be undertaken with work to include the installation of fishways or the re-engineering of the weirs.

The project has been broken up into three (3) phases. Phase one (1) projects are fully funded and have been signed off by the Commonwealth and State Government. The Phase one (1) projects are expected to be delivered by June 2024.

The three (3) projects identified in phase one (1) are Banarway Weir No.4, Calmundi Weir (both above Walgett) and the Louth Weir – Down Stream. All projects are identified as having fishways installed and work to be undertaken on the existing weirs.

The impact from the first phase of work to Walgett Shire is the installation of a fishway at the Banarway and Calmundi Weirs and a corresponding reduction in the current height of the weir by 150mm and 400mm respectively. Such work will significantly reduce the storage of water in both weir pools during dry periods when the river ceases to flow.

Council voiced concern that this is the first consultation that has taken place with Council and asked if the community of had received any consultation. NSW Water advised that it had previously called a meeting at Walgett and Collarenebri with a number of members from the community attending.

They also advised that they had consulted with members of the community, in relation to cultural impacts.

Council raised the following concerns regarding the proposal:

- The community has not understood that the project will result in a lowering of both weirs
- The impact of installing the fishway at Banarway and Calmundi would reduce the current river water storage at both sites.
- People making decisions about the river do not live in the LGA, accordingly there is no lived experience
- Further consultation is required with both communities affected by the project.

The council is supportive of the concept of fishways; however we are concerned about proposals that impact existing weirs along the river system that appear to be at the expense to the quality of life of Walgett Shire residents.

Following discussions with the Mayor it was considered appropriate to recommend that Council write to the Water Minister, the Hon. Rose Jackson MLC, regarding the inadequate consultation in respect of the Fishway Project, requesting a review of proposals for the removal of weirs along the Barwon Darling river system and the installation of fishways that result in reductions in the height of current weirs within the river system.

It will be further recommended that Council take the necessary action to assist the NSW Water Group promote a consultation meeting with affected residents

Relevant Reference Documents/Policies:

Nil

Stakeholders:

Ratepayers

Banarway and Calmundi Water users

Walgett Shire Council

Financial Implications:

Nil.

Alternative Solutions/Options:

Nil.

Attachments

Nil

12.1.2 MATTERS IN PROGRESS

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	General Manager
REPORT AUTHOR:	Executive Assistant
FILE NUMBER:	12/14-03
PURPOSE:	For Noting

RECOMMENDATION

That the Matters in Progress up until May 2024 be received and noted.

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

This schedule summarises the current position of action taken in respect of matters considered at the previous meetings of Council.

Background:

Attached is the Matters in Progress previously titled the Resolution Register which summaries progress in respect of all resolutions which required action and are still outstanding. The exception is for the last meeting where items that have been completed are included. Councillors are reminded that any queries should be raised with the General Manager prior to the meeting.

Current Position:

Details of actions taken/being taken are flagged for each motion. Over time the register has grown in size because, whilst resolutions are actioned after the meeting, it is not always possible to resolve issues quickly, especially if other government agencies are involved or Council's own in-house resources are stretched, Council has to prioritise work commitments.

In these circumstances the register becomes the simple tool of keeping track of matters awaiting attention.

Again, Councillors are reminded that any queries should be raised with the General Manager prior to the meeting as this would streamline the meeting process and resolve minor issues more expediently.

Relevant Reference Documents/Policies:

Matters in Progress/ Resolution Register.

Governance Issues:

Standard Procedure dictates that Council resolutions should be implemented as soon as practicably be achieved.

Environmental Issues:

Nil.

Stakeholders:

Council

Conclusion:

That the Matters in Progress be received and noted. It is requested that any queries be raised with the General Manager prior to meeting day to facilitate proceedings at the meeting.

Link to Attachment:

[Action Resolution Register - until July 2023.docx](#)

[Matters in Progress July 2023 onwards.docx](#)

SUBJECT	RESOLUTION NO. & DATE	RESOLUTION	WHOM	ACTION
Lightning Ridge Opal Centre	08/2023/5 31/7/23	That as the contract for construction of the Australian Opal Centre has been signed that Council agree to funding agreement being amended to reflect the remaining milestone (Milestone 4) being tied to lodgment of the private certifier's Certificate of Occupancy).	GM	Construction has started. Project monitoring. Councillors will receive an briefing and report on 28 May 2024. Councillors are invited to a site visit on 29 May 2024.I.
Lightning Ridge Swimming Pool Complex	08C/2023/2 31/7/23	<p>1. The Council lodge a submission based on this report with the Department of Lands at Dubbo and confirm the Department of Lands Council's desire to meet with the Lands Department and Reserve Trust Managers in Lightning Ridge prior to the Agreement with the Lightning Ridge Olympic Pool Association expiring in 2026.</p> <p>2. A further report be brought to Council regarding the status of Lightning Ridge Swimming Pool Complex.</p>	GM	Acting GM H Percy has written to the Department of Lands. Lands have verbally advised GM that they are satisfied with the management by current Management. Report will be provided to Council, 2025.
Report to Provide Update on Lightning Ridge Bore Line Project	10/2023/15	<p>That Council</p> <p>1.Canvassing to the minister for funding in relation to Lightning Ridge Bore No 1 pipeline replacement project as a first option, or</p> <p>2. In the event that, a grant fund is not forthcoming, Council considers a low interest loan as second option, or</p> <p>3. Council considers funding the project from water reserve as a third option.</p> <p>10/2023/15a An Amendment was moved by Councillor Cooke and Councillor Seaton that the Council call for Tenders for the Lightning Ridge Bore Line Project.</p>	GM DES	<p>In Progress.</p> <p>Funding for the bore line is being supported by the Member for Barwon. An application for funding was lodged to National Water Grid Fund 5/12/23 (unsuccessful)</p> <p>The Mayor and GM have made representation to the NSW Minister for Water, the leader of the NSW Nationals and the Member for Parkes.</p> <p>The NSW Minister for Water was receptive;</p>

				<p>however, we are still waiting for confirmation.</p> <p>With regard to the amendment, Council would be in breach of procurement regulations, if it called a tender now.</p> <p>The procurement regulations require that Councils must have an Intention to Proceed: Councils must not invite or submit tenders without a firm intention and capacity to proceed with a contract, including having funds available.</p> <p>To call for and award a tender without funding source being resolved risks the Council being issued intervention orders by the Minister for Local Government. This may include administration, performance improvement or loss of financial control.</p>
Lightning Ridge Water Fund	10/2023/22 26/9/23	Notice of Motion: That a full report of all funds relating to the Lightning Ridge water fund be brought to the Council at its next meeting including historical information relating to the transfer of funds across the respective towns.	DES	<p>Report provided to Council 27/2/2024</p> <p>See Resolution 05/2024/05</p>
Lightning Ridge Welcome Sign	11/2023/9 26/10/23	John Murray be engaged to undertake the refurbishment of the welcome sign at the corner of Bill O'Brien Way and the Castlereagh Highway in accordance with the proposal lodged for the work at a cost of \$10,200 and that such cost	GM	Matter closed. Work undertaken.

		be funded from the Marketing and Promotion Account – 11.3763.2250		
Collarenebri Water Meters	11/2023/10 26/10/23	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Obtain copies of the documents committing the Council to this Project, 2. To clarify the ongoing costs of the project and 3. Report these matters to the Council for consideration of what may be done to limit those costs. 4. and review the Council's delegation to the General Manager in the amount of \$1m. 	DES	Matter closed. The Water Meter Project for Lightning Ridge has been completed. No further water meter project is considered at this stage
Planning Proposal – Rural Residential Strategy	11/2023/28 26/10/23	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That receive and note a preliminary presentation from senior planner Mr. Josh Eagleton of Barnson PL in relation to the planning proposal for a Rural Residential Strategy. 2. That Council adopts the draft bridging report and delegate authority to the General Manager to exhibit the proposal in accordance with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and a further report be provided to Council. 	DES	Matter closed. Policy exhibited and report provided to Council 27/2/2024
Planning Proposal – Intensive Agriculture	11/2023/29	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Council receive and note a preliminary presentation from senior planner Mr. Josh Eagleton of Barnson PL in relation to the planning proposal for Intensive Agriculture. 2. That Council adopts the following resolution, that Walgett Shire Council resolves to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Prepare a Planning Proposal to amend the Walgett Local Environmental Plan 2013 by relocating “intensive plant agriculture” from Permitted with consent to Permitted without consent in the RU1 Primary Production zone. b. Forward the planning proposal to NSW planning, industry & environment with a request for a gateway determination. c. Request delegation from the Minister to “make” the amendment to the Walgett Local Environmental Plan 2013. d. Give delegation to the General Manager to make any minor alterations as requested by NSW Planning, Industry & Environment; and e. Undertake the state agency and public consultation as per the requirements of the Gateway Determination and Schedule 1, Clause 4 of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979. 	DES	Matter closed. Policy exhibited and report provided to Council 27/2/2024.

Grawin Playground – Request to MEG not to regrant mineral claim over the playground	13/2023/5 12/12/23	The council is advised to write to the Mining, Exploration, and Geoscience (MEG) department, urging them to refrain from regranting the mineral claim that currently encompasses the Grawin Playground and Miners Road.	GM	Open. Request submitted to MEG by the GM.
Cumborah Cemetery Memorial Wall	13/2023/8 12/12/23	1.The Council resolve to move up to \$15,000 from the Walgett Cemetery fund to the project to enable the construction of the Cumborah Memorial Wall 2. The community be advised that the funds have been formally allocated to enable completion of the project.	GM	Underway. Community have been advised verbally. The scope for work is being prepared.
Draft Cemetery Policy	13/2023/20 12/12/23	Walgett Shire Council resolved to have the modification of the newly proposed Non-Denomination Beam Section and Council's amended Draft Cemetery Policy placed on exhibition for a period of 28 days to the General public.	DES	Matter closed
Headstone in the Presbyterian Lawn Section	11C/2023/4 26/10/23	A further report be provided to the Council on the review of the cemetery policy.	DES	Policy put on display for consultation. Report to be provided to Council once staff are in place.
New Walgett Shire Council Animal Facility	13C/2023/02 12/12/23	1. That Council decline to accept the tenders 2. The General Manager review and provide a further report to Council on the alternative options (of either a reduced facility or a staged approach to the development).	GM	Tenders declined. Review of scope underway.
Roads to Home Asbestos Waste	13C/2023/4 12/12/23	Walgett Shire Council undertake the necessary actions to achieve approval from the EPA to receive asbestos waste generated by the Roads to Home project.	DES	Underway. DA to take waste is being prepared.
Independent Review of the Small-Scale Opal Mines Titles Statutory Framework	03/2024/04 27.2.24	That Council note the information contained in this report. That Council allocate \$12,000 ex GST from general rates and revenue to produce a report on the economic impact of opal mining on the Walgett Shire	GM	Matter closed. Report prepared and circulated to Councillors for comment.

		That the General Manager prepare a submission on behalf of Council into the Review of Small-Scale Opal Mining Titles Statutory Framework		Submission made.
Permanent Stock Zones in Walgett Shire Local Government Area	03/2024/12 27.2.24	Council undertakes a 28-day notice period to declare “no permanent stock zones” and receive a report following the community consultation period.	GM	Matter Closed
Dolly Parton Imagination Library Program	03/2024/19	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Council considers funding or partly funding the Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library program from 2024/25 onwards 2. Council considers funding commitment on an annual basis with reviews and support information presented to Council prior to commitment/agreement each year 3. Council allocate costs for Dolly Parton Imagination Library 2024/2025 from the annual State Library – Local Priority Grant. 4. That Council invite Leo Kirkman from Unite Way to work with Council towards finding additional funding avenues for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library Program 	DICS	Matter pending adoption of 2024/25 budgets.
Mining Cavities in Fred Reece Way	03/2024/24 27.2.24	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Closure of Fred Reece Way and Lorne Road to all traffic 2. The installation of concrete chicanes to calm traffic in the area to exclude heavy vehicles completely. 3. Redirection of access to the airport for fuel trucks and garbage service vehicles via Stony Creek Road and the gravel road adjacent to the airport. 4. Upgrade of three intersections to accommodate articulated vehicles on the proposed alternative route. 5. Making representation to the Mines Department and Crown Lands Department emphasizing responsibility requirement to address this historic issue and seek financial support for rectification works. 		Matter underway. Road closure implemented, under the authority of NSW Police. Chicanes and signage installed. Redirection in place. First meeting has been held between MEG and Crown Lands, with MEG agreeing to pay for Geotech report required to access the risk of the cavities.

<p>Impending Expiry of Alcohol-Free Zones</p>	<p>03/2024/27 27.2.24</p>	<p>Note the letter dated 17 February 2015 from the Superintendent of Castlereagh Local Area Command requesting that the existing Alcohol-Free Zones at Walgett, Lightning Ridge and Collarenebri be maintained for a four-year period.</p> <p>2. Undertake consultation regarding establishing alcohol free zones in Walgett, Collarenebri and Lightning Ridge for four years, over the same areas as the existing zones. This will include publicising and circulating a proposal document, as well as inviting public submissions, via:</p> <p>(a) Advertising within the Walgett Spectator and Lightning Ridge News.</p> <p>(b) Advertising on the Walgett Shire Council web site.</p> <p>(c) Circulation of the proposal document via mail to the officer in charge of the Walgett, Lightning Ridge and Collarenebri police stations.</p> <p>(d) Circulation of the proposal document via mail to the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board.</p> <p>(e) Circulation of the proposal document via mail to any known organisation representing an identifiable Aboriginal or ethnic group within the local area</p> <p>(f) Circulation of the proposal document via mail to all liquor licenses within or adjoining the proposed alcohol-free zones.</p> <p>1. Upon consultation received, concerning the alcohol-free zone reintroduction, a report shall be submitted to the council with respect to the community consultation advertising outcome.</p>	<p>Public consultation underway.</p>
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Grawin/Sheepyards Bin Bank – Waste Strategy	03/2024/28 27.2.24	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reserve the idea of the Bin Bank Strategy for Grawin/Sheepyards area until a suitable site solution can be obtained. 2. That council staff carry out further research into finding a suitable location for implementing the Bin Bank system. 	Matter pending, allocation of staff resource to attend to the matter.
New Waste Depot Perimeter Fences – Grawin/Sheepyards	03/2024/29 27.2.24	Council resolves to the matter of Council funding covering the costs for the perimeter security fences located at Grawin and Sheepyards Waste Depots, that to have the money to be allocated out in July 2024 - 2024/2025 financial year budget to carry out the construction of the security fences.	Matter pending preparation of 2024/25 budgets.
Development Application for Subdivision 39 Gem Street Lightning Ridge	03/2024/32 27.2.24	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Council will endorse the submission of the planning proposal of supporting documentation to the Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure to seek a Gateway Determination. 2. That Council, submit the Planning Proposal for rezoning of land at 39 Gem Street Lightning Ridge as outlined in the submission from Craig Barnes provided in the attachment to the Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure for a Gateway determination. 3. That Council endorse Council Staff to submit minor changes to Councils Local Environment Plan 2013 in conjunction with the above submission. 4. Subject to the receipt of Gateway determination from the Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure proceed with the planning proposal 	Matter underway.

		and consultation with the government agencies in accordance Schedule 1, Division 1, Clause 4 of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 and any directions of the Gateway Determination.		
Water Usage Charges for Assessment 22434	3C/2024/36 27.2.24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accept the proposed reduction of \$923.94 in the water usage account according to legislation provisions. Consider the preparation of a report to Council regarding potential reduction in water access charges for stock and domestic use, highlighting policy consistency and financial implications. 		Resolution communicated to customer. Budget matter pending preparation of 2024/25 budgets.
Come-By- Chance Road Rescoping	3C/2024/37 27.2.24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council notes changes to the scope of works are required on the Come by Chance Project and approves entering into negotiation with The funders to change the scope of works and the Contractor to review and confirm revised length of road to be upgraded. 		Underway.
Castlereagh Macquarie County Council Contribution	3C/2024/39 27.2.24	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The annual contribution to the Castlereagh Macquarie County Council be received and noted for payment. work to implement a detailed service level agreement for weeds management that improves accountability for noxious weed services. 		Underway.
Lightning Ridge Opal Queen	04/2024/13 26.3.24	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Do not approve the sponsorship of the Opal Queen Ball for \$5,000 for the period 2022/2023 financial year as this has already been written off. Approves the sponsorship of the Opal Queen Ball for \$5,000 for the period 2023/2024 financial year, contingent upon the receipt of the organisation's most recent audited financial statements. Approves the sponsorship of the Opal Queen Ball for \$5,000 for the period 2024/2025 financial year contingent upon the receipt of the organisation's most recent audited financial statements. 		Underway. Have requested audited financial statements from the organisation.

		4. The sponsorship agreement with the Opal and Gem Festivals be reviewed annually to ensure transparency and appropriate allocation of funds.	
Everyone Can Play Park, Lightning Ridge	04/2024/21 26.3.24	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Decline the tender submission. 2. Seek full funding to implement the project, when a suitable funding stream becomes available. 	Tender declined and funder advised. Watching brief activated for funding opportunities.
Lightning Ridge Water Fund	05/2024/05	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That a forensic Audit be undertaken on the Lightning Ridge Water Fund from the beginning of 2016. 	A brief has been drafted, with a further report to Council on the scope, process and timelines to be considered in May 2024.

12.1.3 IMPORTANT DATES – UPCOMING MEETING AND EVENTS

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: General Manager
REPORT AUTHOR: Executive Assistant
FILE NUMBER: 12/14-03
PURPOSE: For Information

RECOMMENDATION

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

Moved:

Seconded:

Summary:

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

Discussion (including issues and background):

This report enables councillors and senior management personnel to organise their tasks and distribute their workload effectively in light of upcoming commitments. It serves to prevent instances where councillors may inadvertently miss meetings or remain unaware of their scheduling. Additionally, external organisations have been asked to directly forward meeting notices and minutes to the council's representatives. Upon receiving notifications, meeting dates will be included in the strategic tasks, events, and meetings calendar, with the respective representative(s) clearly identified.

Current Position:

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

Governance Issues:

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

Environmental Issues:

Not applicable.

Stakeholders:

Councillors and Walgett Shire Council staff.

Alternative Solutions/Options:

Not applicable.

Conclusion:

Provided there are no changes it is appropriate to receive and note the information.

Attachments:

Upcoming meetings and events schedule.

IMPORTANT DATES – Upcoming Meetings and Events

DATE	MEETING/FUNCTION	LOCATION	NOTES
28 May 2024	Biggest Morning Tea	Walgett Health Service	Councillors & GM
28 May 2024	Council Meeting	Walgett Chambers	Councillors, GM and Executive Staff to attend
29 May 2024	Australian Opal Centre Site Visit	Lightning Ridge Opal Centre	Councillors, GM and Senior Staff to attend
3 June 2024	Local Roads Congress	NSW Parliament House Sydney	Councillors, GM and Executive Staff to attend
6 June 2024	Local Area Traffic Committee	Walgett Chambers	Councillors, GM and Elected Members
13 & 14 June 2024	Western Division of the Shire Association		Mayor
25 June 2024	Council Meeting	Walgett Chambers	Councillors, GM and Executive Staff to attend
28 June 2024	Extra Ordinary Meeting for Adoption of Budget	Walgett Chambers	Councillors, GM and Executive Staff to attend
11 July 2024	Visit by NSW Minister for Regional Transport	Walgett	Mayor, Councillors & GM
23 July 2024	Council Meeting	Walgett Chambers	Councillors, GM and Executive Staff to attend
29 July to 4 August 2024	Local Government Week	TBA	Councillors, GM and Staff to attend
1 August 2024	Local Area Traffic Committee	Walgett Chambers	Councillors, GM and Elected Members
14 August	Close of nominations for NSW Local Government Elections	NSW Local Government Elections	
27 August 2024	Council Meeting	Walgett Chambers	Councillors, GM and Executive Staff to attend
16 August 2024 to 14 September 2024	Caretaker Period	NSW	Councillors and GM
14 September 2024	Election Day	NSW Local Government Elections	
3 October 2024	Local Area Traffic Committee	Walgett Chambers	Councillors, GM and Elected Members
1 October 2024	1 st Council Meeting to swear in Councillors, elect a Mayor and nominate committee representatives	Walgett Chambers	Councillors, GM and Executive Staff to attend (subject to the election being declared 30/9/2024)
22 October 2024	Council Meeting	Walgett Chambers	Councillors, GM and Executive Staff to attend
11 November 2024	Remembrance Day	Various Towns	Mayor, GM and Councillors
17 – 19 November 2024	LGNSW Annual Conference	Tamworth	Mayor, GM and Councillors

26 November 2024	Council Meeting	Walgett Chambers	Councillors, GM and Executive Staff to attend
6 December 2024	Local Area Traffic Committee	Walgett Chambers	Councillors, GM and Elected Members
17 December 2024	Council Meeting	Walgett Chambers	Councillors, GM and Executive Staff to attend

12.1.4 CIRCULARS RECEIVED FROM NSW OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: General Manager
REPORT AUTHOR: Executive Assistant
FILE NUMBER: 12/14-03
PURPOSE: For Information

RECOMMENDATION

That the information contained in the following Department circular 24-05 from the Local Government Division Department of Premier and Cabinet, be received and noted.

Moved:**Seconded:**

Summary

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

Background:

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

24-05 Information about rating 2024-25

Governance Issues:

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

Stakeholders:

Councillors and Walgett Shire Council staff.

Financial Implications:

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

Conclusion:

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

Attachments:

Circular

Circular Details	24-05 / 19 April 2024 / A894200
Previous Circular	23/02 – Information about Rating 2024-25
Who should read this	Councillors / General Managers / Council staff
Contact	Performance Team / (02) 4428 4100 / olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
Action required	Information / Council to Implement

Subject**Information about rating 2024-25****What's new or changing**

- Maximum boarding house tariffs for 2024-25 have been determined.
- Maximum interest rate payable on overdue rates and charges for 2024-25 has been determined.
- Section 603 Certificate fee for 2024-25 has been determined.
- Statutory limit on the maximum amount of minimum rates for 2024-25 has been determined

What this will mean for your council

Councils should incorporate these determinations into their 2024-25 rating structures, Operational Plan and Revenue Policy.

Key points**Boarding House Tariffs**

In accordance with section 516 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act), it has been determined that for the purpose of the definition of 'boarding house' and 'lodging house', the maximum tariffs, excluding GST, that a boarding house or lodging house may charge tariff-paying occupants are:

- Where full board and lodging is provided:
\$453 per week for single accommodation; or
\$747 per week for a family or shared accommodation
- Where less than full board or lodging is provided:
\$305 per week for single accommodation; or
\$502 per week for family or shared accommodation

Notice giving effect to these decisions has been published in the NSW Government Gazette (Government Gazette No 140 – 19 April 2024).

Maximum Interest Rate on Overdue Rates and Charges

In accordance with section 566(3) of the Act, it has been determined that the maximum rate of interest payable on overdue rates and charges for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 will be 10.5% per annum.

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The methodology used to calculate the interest rate applicable for the period 1 June 2024 to 30 June 2025 is the Supreme Court methodology (the Reserve Bank cash rate plus 6%), rounded to the nearest half per cent. The cash rate used for the purposes of the maximum interest rate for local government is based on the cash rate set by the Reserve Bank of Australia on 5 December 2023.

Notice giving effect to these decisions has been published in the NSW Government Gazette (Government Gazette No 140 – 19 April 2024).

Section 603 Certificate

Under section 603 of the Act, councils may issue a certificate as to the amount (if any) of rates, charges, etc. due or payable to the council for a parcel of land. Section 603(2) states the application must be accompanied by the approved fee. In accordance with the approved methodology, the approved fee for 2024-25 is determined to be \$100. This is an increase of \$5 from the 2023-24 fee.

This determination applies to the issuing of a certificate for the matters specified in section 603(2) of the Act. Where a council offers to provide other information as an optional service, the council is not prevented from separately determining an approved fee for that additional service. Furthermore, a council is not prevented from determining approved fees for additional services required by an applicant for the expedited processing of a Section 603 Certificate.

Statutory limit on the maximum amount of minimum rates

Following a recommendation by Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART), clause 126 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 will be amended on 1 July 2024 by the Local Government (General) Amendment (Minimum Amounts of Rate) Regulation 2024, so that under section 548(3)(a) of the Act, the maximum amount of the minimum ordinary rate will be \$617 for 2024-25.

The maximum amount of a minimum special rate (not being a water supply special rate or a sewerage special rate) prescribed by section 548(3)(b) of the Act will remain unchanged at \$2.

Where to go for further information

Office of Local Government has further information available at <https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/councils/council-finances/rating-and-special-variations/>

Douglas Walther
Acting Deputy Secretary, Office of Local Government

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12.1.5 CASH AND INVESTMENT FOR APRIL 2024

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	General Manager
REPORT AUTHOR:	Acting Finance Manager
FILE NUMBER:	24/9/0084
PURPOSE:	For Noting

RECOMMENDATION

That the Investment report be received and noted.

Moved:

Seconded:

Summary:

This report provides a summary and analysis of Council's cash and investments for the period ending 30th April 2024.

Background:

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

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

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

Current Position:

Council at month end held a total of \$36,398,954 in on-call bank accounts and interest-bearing term deposits with financial institutions in Australia. The investments are compliant with the Local Government Act (NSW), the associated Regulations and Ministerial Order and Council's Investment Policy.

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

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

Relevant Reference Documents/Policies:

Local Government Act (NSW) 1993
Local Government (General) Regulation 2021
Ministerial Investment Order 5th January 2016
Investment Policy (Revised and adopted in October 2023)

Governance issues:

Nil

Environmental issues:

Nil

Financial Implications:

As per report

Alternative Solutions/Options:

Nil

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council
Residents of Walgett Shire Council
Financial Institutions

Conclusion:

As at 30th April 2024 Walgett Shire Council's cash and invested funds totalled \$36,398,954 decreasing the portfolio by \$1,491,479 from the previous month of \$37,890,433

Attachment: Attachment 1 Walgett Shire Council's Portfolio reports from Arlo Advisory (previously known as Imperium Markets).

Certification – Responsible Accounting Officer

I hereby certify that the investments listed in the attached report have been made in accordance with Section 625 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, clause 212 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, the *Investment Order (of the Minister) 5th January 2016*.

I hereby certify that Council's Cash Book and General Ledger have been reconciled to the bank statement as at the end of month.

John van Gaalen – Acting Finance Manager

12.1.6 OUTSTANDING RATES AND CHARGES AS AT 30 APRIL 2024

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	General Manager
REPORT AUTHOR:	Acting Rates Clerk
FILE NUMBER:	24/9/0087
PURPOSE:	For Noting

RECOMMENDATION

The April 2024 Outstanding Rates & Charges Report be received and noted.

Moved:

Seconded:

Summary:

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

Background

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

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

Current Position

Collection of the current year's levy and arrears as at month ended April 2024 was 73.1%, an improvement of 2.2% on the previous year's collection of 70.9% at the corresponding period.

The improvement in collections can be largely attributed to Council's successful Sale of Land for unpaid rates during September 2023 & February 2024. The rates collections will continue to improve as proceeds of the Auction Sales are finalised together with payments received for the final 2023/24 Rate Instalments due 31st May 2024. A further Section 713 sale is proposed once the 2024/25 rate notices issue in July 2024 making the assessments over 5 years outstanding.

Relevant Reference Documents/Policies

Outstanding Rates Report & Councils Debt Recovery Policy.

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council & Walgett Shire Ratepayers

Financial Implications:

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

Alternative Solutions/Options

There are no alternative solutions or options

Conclusion:

The report indicates that Revenue staff continue to improve Council debt recovery ratio

Monthly Report - Outstanding Rates & Charges as at 30 April 2024			
	30 April 2024	30 April 2023	
Arrears of Rates & Charges as at 30th June	1,804,132.15	1,571,511.85	
Adjustments			
Sub Total	1,804,132.15	1,571,511.85	
Current Year Activity			
Legal fees (Including Write Offs)	7,044.45	500.00	
Levies	11,149,223.45	10,511,917.92	
Interest (Including Write Offs)	124,194.21	82,576.69	
Adjustments (Including Write Offs)	(106,406.36)	(3,071.79)	
Sub Total	11,174,055.75	10,591,922.82	
Total Arrears and Adjusted Levies	12,978,187.90	12,163,434.67	
Payments	(9,310,037.22)	(8,429,931.38)	
Pensioner Rebates - Government	(99,898.55)	(96,533.20)	
Pensioner Rebates - Council	(81,013.58)	(78,985.17)	
Special Rebates - Council	0.00	(15,313.00)	
Sub Total	(9,490,949.35)	(8,620,762.75)	
Total Remaining Levy	\$3,487,238.55	\$3,542,671.92	
Current Rates	2,338,101.23	2,504,594.45	
Arrears Rates	865,358.34	729,183.91	
Interest brought forward from previous year	108,537.70	135,104.86	
Current year interest	101,850.34	66,220.80	
Legals	73,390.94	107,567.90	
Total Remaining Levy	\$3,487,238.55	\$3,542,671.92	
Variance	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Total YTD Collected			
% of Levy, Arrears, Interest & Legal Fees	73.13%	70.87%	
% of Levy	83.32%	79.59%	

12.1.7 2024/25 DRAFT ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN, REVENUE POLICY, FEES AND CHARGES AND BUDGETS

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: General Manager
REPORT AUTHOR: General Manager
FILE NUMBER: 24/9/0100
PURPOSE: For Decision

RECOMMENDATION

That Council advertise the

- Draft 2024/25 Operational Plan
- Draft 2024/25 Revenue Policy
- Draft 2024/25 Fees and Charges and
- Draft 2024/25 Estimates

inviting written public submissions and comments up until 4.00 pm Tuesday 25 June 2024.

Moved:

Seconded:

Summary:

To seek Council endorsement to advertise the Draft 2024/2025 Operational Plan in conjunction with the Draft 2024/25 Revenue Policy, Draft 2024/205 Fees and Charges and Draft 2024/25 Estimates inviting written public submissions and comments up until 4.00 pm Tuesday 25 June 2024, the required 28 day period.

Background:

Section 405 of the Local Government Act 1993 (as amended) requires Council to prepare an Operational Plan each year. Prior to adoption of the Plan, Council must give a period of not less than 28 days inviting written public submissions and comment on the Plan.

Timelines and process:

The Annual Operating Plan and Budget is required to be adopted by 30 June 2024. This is a statutory requirement.

Before it is formally adopted, the draft is to be adopted to enable display for public comment for a 28-day period.

To meet to 30 June 2024 deadline, the follow dates are proposed:

28 May 2024 Adopt the Draft AOP and Draft Budget for 28-day Public Consultation
 29 May 2024 Start of 28-day consultation period
 25 June 2024 Last Day of 28 consultation period

If there are no public submissions on the Draft documents:

28 June 2024 Extraordinary Meeting of Council to adopt the 2024/25 AOP and Budget

If there are public submissions on the Draft documents (Staff need time to consider and report to Council)

5 July 2024 Extraordinary Meeting of Council to adopt the 2024/25 AOP and Budget

Report

Included with this report is a copy of the Draft 2024/25 Operational Plan, Draft 2024/25 Revenue Policy, Draft 2024/205 Fees and Changes and Draft 2024/25 Estimates.

The draft documents have been prepared on the basis of input from Councillors (Councillor emails and discussion 23 April 2024); workshops with staff and requests for information from Councillors, as well as requests received from the community and community groups throughout the year.

2024/25 and into 2025/26 is expected to be an extremely busy year with the finalisation great deal of capital improvement works to be completed or commenced together with a large flood restoration program of works on Council's road network and other programs and projects at least as follows:

Project	\$
Walgett River Platform & Walking Tracks	\$ 100,000.00
Town & Villages Refurbishment Program	\$ 100,000.00
Lightning Ridge - Bird Hide	\$ 100,000.00
Walgett Beautification	\$ 100,000.00
Lightning Ridge Oval Cottage	\$ 60,000.00
Parks Improvements	\$ 100,000.00
Grawin Reserve - Dump Point	\$ 500,000.00
Carinda Artesian Hot Springs	\$ 50,000.00
Lightning Ridge Community Space Wi Fi (MPC and HACC)	\$ 40,000.00
Swimming Pool - Walgett (redevelopment plans)	\$ 300,000.00
Swimming Pool - Collarenebri Entrance Renewal	\$ 100,000.00
Walgett Apex Park Amenities	\$ 25,000.00
Link path - Collarenabri Primitive Camp to Bridge	\$ 50,000.00
Main Street Beautification Program - Collarenebri	\$ 102,500.00
Walgett Multipurpose Sports Complex	\$ 2,650,000.00
Sportsgrounds - Carinda - Fencing	\$ 200,000.00
Sportsgrounds - Carinda - Water & Drainage	\$ 180,000.00
Administration Building - Walgett	\$ 100,000.00
Walgett Swimming Pool - Entrance Refurbishment	\$ 30,000.00
Walgett Swimming Pool - Fencing Upgrades	\$ 150,000.00
L/Ridge Oval and Race Track - Fencing	\$ 45,000.00
Tracker Walford Walkway - Walgett	\$ 95,661.00
Gray Park - Fencing and Improvements	\$ 68,462.00
Parks Grawin, CBC, Cumborah - Electric BBQ	\$ 50,000.00
Cumborah - Tennis Courts	\$ 10,000.00
Walgett Ovals 2 & 3 - Lighting	\$ 250,000.00
Burren Junction Oval - Watering & Lighting	\$ 200,000.00
Lightning Ridge - Opal Park BBQ/Shelters	\$ 30,000.00
Lightning Ridge Lions and Gem Parks Shelters	\$ 60,000.00
Lightning Ridge - Spider Brown Oval - Amenities	\$ 100,000.00
Cemetery Planning and Consultation	\$ 60,000.00
Burren Junction - Cemetery	\$ 113,000.00

Cumborah - Cemetery	\$	15,000.00
Walgett Landfill Environmental Improvements	\$	200,000.00
Regional Road Renewals	\$	450,000.00
Regional Roads Rural Sealed Reseal	\$	500,000.00
Reconstruct - RR426 Ridge Road	\$	13,300,000.00
RR7716 Come by Chance Rd Upgrade 52 km	\$	1,000,000.00
Upgrade RR457 Gundabloui Rd	\$	55,000.00
RR333 Cumberdoon Way H/Patch & Reseal	\$	108,000.00
FLR - Cryon Road, Rowena	\$	2,000,000.00
Footpaths - Walgett	\$	150,000.00
Footpath - Lightning Ridge Pandora Street	\$	181,322.00
Rowena Levee Bank (DRRF)	\$	254,763.00
Walgett Depot Upgrade	\$	175,000.00
Collarenebri Primitive Camping Grounds	\$	249,955.00
Walgett Water		
Water System Assets	\$	166,000.00
Water Security Walgett (weir)	\$	162,284.00
Lightning Ridge Water		
Cooling System - Lightning Ridge	\$	700,000.00
Bore 1 - Pipe Replacement	\$	2,600,000.00
Water Assets WIP	\$	166,000.00
Collarenebri Water		
Collarenebri Replacement of Membranes	\$	100,000.00
Water System Assets	\$	166,000.00
Village capital	\$	100,000.00
Walgett Sewer		
Sewer Mains Replace or Reline Program	\$	200,000.00
Sewer Equipment and Machinery Shed	\$	25,000.00
Lightning Ridge Sewer		
Sewer Mains Replacement	\$	200,000.00
Collarenebri		
Sewer Mains Replace or Reline Program	\$	<u>200,000.00</u>

Council has also considered the use of grant funding to help develop new projects and to assist in the cost-effective delivery of projects and maintenance across all areas of its operation. Should grant funding not be available for projects, Council will seek borrowings.

Walgett Shire Council have included in the budget and will work to source funding for the following capital projects (total \$5,350,000.00):

Walgett Bore Bath Structural Refurbishment	\$	100,000.00
Lightning Ridge Bore Baths	\$	100,000.00
Collarenebri Bore Baths	\$	30,000.00
Everyone Can Play Park (Lightning Ridge)	\$	1,200,000.00
Walgett Housing	\$	2,000,000.00
Walgett Animal Pound	\$	600,000.00

Collarenebri Hall/Youth Centre & Supper Room	\$	300,000.00
Rowena Hall Renovations	\$	300,000.00
Walgett - Gray Park (Skate Precinct)	\$	350,000.00
Walgett Pool Electricity Upgrade	\$	250,000.00
Carinda Racetrack Improvements	\$	50,000.00
Collarenebri Racetrack Improvements	\$	50,000.00
Lightning Ridge Racetrack Improvements	\$	20,000.00

Included in the budget are various allocations towards maintenance works to be undertaken in the areas of town services (parks, gardens, water and sewerage), in the roads area and for other Council assets.

Having such a sizeable capital and improvement budget, together with Council's normal maintenance program and expected flood restoration program will necessitate the employment of both extra management and operational resources to ensure works and programs are efficiently, safely and effectively.

Where possible, an increased operational staff level (both permanent and temporary) will also be used to undertake most works in house in conjunction with extra contracted works (local and tendered projects where special expertise is required).

An increased allocation of \$100,000 has also been provided for what is necessary towards improvements in Work Health Safety, along with the requirement to support the new Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC).

Relevant Reference Documents/Policies:

Community Strategic Plan
Local government Act 1993
Local Government Regulation 2021
Integrated Planning and Reporting Guidelines

Stakeholders:

This report is provided to commence the appropriate consultation process by advertising the Draft 2024/2025 Operational Plan in conjunction with the Draft 2024/2025 Estimates inviting written public submissions and comments up until 4.00 pm Tuesday 25 June 2024.

Legal Implications

Section 405 Local Government Act 1993 (as amended).

Risk Implications

Nil, unless the Draft 2024/2025 Operational Plan is not complete and adopted by Council by 1st July 2024.

Financial Implications:

Under the Integrated Planning and Reporting process, Council prepares a rolling Long Term Financial Plan. From this Plan, Council prepares a single year Financial Plan from its Delivery Program to identify its day-to-day operational needs and to determine future capital and maintenance works across all the service areas of Council.

The Draft 2024/2025 Operational Plan and Estimates importantly has included the additional costs that will come about with the increased or redeveloped assets that have been starting to come online over the past 12 months or will soon come online such as:

- The Walgett Splash Park

- The Collarenebri Bore Baths

These additional costs will now financially be affecting budgets and will need to be monitored to determine if extra ways of funding maintenance is required in the near future to ensure services are not needed to be reduced in other areas of the budget.

Where possible, use of Council's Internal Restricted Funds has been undertaken to reduce any impact on the overall budget.

Alternative Solutions/Options:

Nil as the Draft Operational Plan must be progressed.

Conclusion:

This report is provided to recommend to Council the advertising of the Draft 2024/2025 Operational Plan in conjunction with the Draft 2024/25 Revenue Policy, Draft 2024/205 Fees and Charges and Draft 2024/25 Estimates prior to adoption.

Attachments:

1. [Draft AOP](#)
2. [Draft Revenue Policy](#)
3. [Draft Fees and Charges](#)
4. [Draft Budget Documents Consolidated Draft
Draft LTFF](#)
 - Draft General Fund
 - Draft Water
 - Draft Sewer
 - Draft Waste

12.1.8 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING JANUARY – APRIL 2024

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Community, Culture, Customer Services
REPORT AUTHOR: Manager Community Development
FILE NUMBER: 24/9/0101
PURPOSE: For Information

RECOMMENDATION

That the report for Community Development: January – April 2024 be received.

Moved:

Seconded:

Summary:

We have welcomed 2024 across the community with a multitude of events and celebrations. Our staff across all areas continue to work on a continuous improvement model, seeking increased participation numbers of community members and strengthened engagement of target groups. Successful delivery of programs, initiatives and opportunities are achieved through best practice methods of meaningful partnerships and collaborations with local, regional and state organizations, agencies and services.

During the reporting period Councils community services and development teams targeted community engagement, building community-based initiatives, community consultation cultural development and recognition, Aboriginal and Cultural affairs, Senior's events, facilitating and supporting collaborative events targeting youth & early childhood initiatives. Recent changes within the staff organizational structure have seen the areas of customer service, service agencies in both Lightning Ridge and Collarenebri and Council's administration now also fall under management by my position.

Background:

This report summarises project progress and outcomes of our community, youth development, library teams working to increase community capacity during the reporting period, January 2024 - April 2024

Current Position:

During the reporting period Councils community development team incorporating, Youth Services, Libraries services, Aboriginal affairs, Seniors, multi-cultural affairs, disabilities and capacity building of all residents has aligned programs, initiatives and opportunities with *Council's Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027*.

The community development team focused on community engagement, awareness, community capacity building, initiated and supported projects and have partnering in programs, working with service providers and community alike as outlined below. The recent period has proved challenging with staff movements and added responsibilities across the sector, however our teams within the council have achieved some outstanding outcomes.

COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING & PROGRAMS

Partnerships and programs:

Partnerships with services on all levels continue to strengthen as does the quality of programs to community.

During this reporting period our teams have facilitated and supported the following:

Successful January school holiday programs across all communities.

Australia Day 24: “*Outback Festivals*” pool events - highest participation numbers recorded at three community events.

Successful Harmony Day 2024 series of events throughout the LGA.

Delivery of 2024 National Youth Week Programs with outstanding outcomes

Supporting minority community groups through Library programs and skill enhancement

Delivery of three successful International Women’s Day events

Sustained community governance and support through Walgett / Lightning Ridge Interagency committees.

Developed and initiated youth “*Shoots n ’Roots*” gardening group

Sustained 2024 Beat the Heat program across communities.

Continued implementation of School 2 Work Program

Delivered daily Youth Centre activities in the three larger communities.

Implemented “*Animal Care Program*” to youth centers.

2024 International Women’s Day: #Inspire Inclusion.

International Women’s Day 2024 events have been staged in our three larger communities across our Shire with extremely high participation numbers in all communities. Over 256 women from throughout our Local Government Area engaged in the events. The IWD 2024 campaign theme was “**Inspire Inclusion**”. When we inspire others to understand and value women’s inclusion, we forge a better world. And when women themselves are inspired to be included, there’s a sense of belonging, relevance and empowerment. The #InspireInclusion campaign aims to forge a more inclusive world for women. The celebrations witnessed a selection of service providers supporting and working alongside Council staff in delivery of an engaging, meaningful event for all. The events provided an opportunity for all women from different backgrounds to come together, celebrating and connecting, sharing stories while enjoying a wonderful lunch. Official openings, guest speakers, fun games, and a diverse array of activities kept the ladies entertained offering social interaction and a chance to celebrate all the amazing things women have achieved and continue to achieve. Service providers kindly donated a spectacular variety of gifts and prizes.

Feedback by participants has again been very positive with many looking forward to next year. Collaborations and partnerships have again been highlighted at the forefront @ each community’s event in Walgett, Lightning Ridge and Collarenebri. Special mention to Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service, Mission Australia, Wirringahs Women’s Group, Wellways, PCYC, Royal Flying Doctors Service Big Sky Libraries, NSW Health, Aboriginal Land Councils, Walgett Newsagency, Youth Development Team, TAFE NSW, Mackillop Services and more. Most importantly the participation from our Women throughout the Shire was excellent.

Walgett Shire: Harmony Day 2024: “Elimination of Racial Discrimination”

Harmony Day is celebrated on the 21st of March each year and coincides with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Communities celebrated with local service providers again contributing to the events delivered by Councils youth and community teams and showcased our multi-culturalism and promoting living in Harmony. The Harmony initiative and each year provides Australians with an opportunity to get to know each other better by:

Promoting our community’s success as a multicultural society: Recommitting ourselves to respect Goodwill and understanding between all Australians of all backgrounds. - Saying no to racism.

The Walgett community and the community of Collarenebri engaged in events at the local pools with guest speakers from different countries explaining their thoughts on our communities, and the differences in our multi-cultural society, with BBQ and refreshments offered for all. Community members, school children and service providers came together in Lightning Ridge with the event staged at the multi-purpose centre, foods from across the world were on offer and speakers addressed the crowd of over 100 residents. Partnerships again ensured the events attracted huge participation of residents and we acknowledge the support of Mission Australia, Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service, PCYC, Lightning Ridge Health Services, McKillop Services, Wellways, Walgett Newsagency, Local Schools, Shire staff at the pools in Walgett and Lightning Ridge and youth

development staff. Harmony Day 2024- has been hailed as a great success and showcased all the great things a multicultural community can achieve and celebrate.

Wirringahs Women's Group:

The council has welcomed support of a local Lightning Ridge Women's Aboriginal Elders Group, The Wirringahs during Youth Week 2024. The group rich in information, cultural ways and information hosted a group of young ladies from the Lightning Ridge youth center as an initiative within the youth week program. The local Aboriginal women hosted the initiative with story telling's, introduction to bush medicines, and have promoted the sharing space they have developed. This group of ladies have limitless knowledge and skills and it's a wonderful situation where we have this group sharing, guiding and supporting our young ladies into womanhood.

Community Gardens: Lightning Ridge "Shoots n Roots" young people gardening group.

Our council supports the Volunteer run Lightning Ridge Community Gardens. The project offers residents a place to gather fresh produce for the family at a minimal cost (gold coin donation). This is truly community focused work at its best and the Council has committed to continuing to support such a meaningful initiative driven by community minded champions and also supported by Rotary. During the recent youth week programs, a group of youth have now begun their involvement in gardening with the "Shoots n Roots" program.

YOUTH AND YOUNG PEOPLE AFFAIRS:

Walgett Centre

Walgett Youth Centre after school program has been engaging youth in various outside activities including ball games as well as cooling down activities at the swimming pool during January holiday programs. The community's young people have expressed gratitude for the splash park and programs over summer incorporated a few afternoons at the facility. Holiday activities were again supported by the "Beat the Heat Initiative" along with a series of Family Fun Days at Walgett Pool. Programs have been supported by the Walgett Police and ACLO staff with young people enjoying movie nights and art programs with local artist Frank Wright. This again is a fine example of collaboration of services at its best.

The recent April 24' holiday activities aligned with Youth Week Programs and have recorded an average of 25 plus young people a day engaging in activities. Partnerships in delivering programs has returned great outcomes and we acknowledge supporters' Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service, Mission Australia, Ranger Services, Goonimoo Childrens Services, PCYC for providing support staff, fruits, healthy treats and resources to the communities of both Walgett and Collarenebri

Lightning Ridge Centre

Lightning Ridge youth center is fully functional and delivers after-school and holiday programs. Positive outcomes in building "connected young people" is youth participation with enrolment numbers on the increase. After school programs are seeing a significant increase with 30 to 45 young people attending and engaging in afternoon programs from 3pm to 6pm. We are also fortunate to be able to have direct access the football oval- tennis, netball and basketball courts which creates more activities for young people to be engaged in.

All young people are encouraged to have input in the programs that they are wanting to participate in. Youth/young people have a sense pride when other services visit the center. Service and agency collaboration and partnerships has been key to supporting the programs and initiatives delivered to our young people.

Collarenebri Youth Services

Collarenebri youth centre continues to provide engaging activities for young people from the Red Shed with thanks to *Murdi Paaki* for their continued support in providing the space to facilitate programs for our young people. Many new programs have been implemented working closely with the staff and young people to deliver programs that directly relate to the young people of Collarenebri.

Staff utilising the use of all facilities (as well as partnering with other services to deliver meaningful programs. Holiday activities see an average of 25 to 40 young people attending.

Funding review (Walgett Support Services)

Youth and Community Development staff recently meet with representatives of *Department Communities and Justice* in relation to reviewing delivery of services aligning with funding agreements. The review was positive, and Walgett Shire Council are well above targeted outcomes and expectations. It has been advised that in 2025 forward_ all contracts with funding support will be reviewed and organisations / agencies that are being supported through funding will need to undergo an application process to apply for funding going forward. Council will ensure these needs are met and inform of any further developments.

Walgett Shire Youth Council

Re-establishment of the Walgett Shire Youth Council is well underway with correspondence and communication between Council and Lightning Ridge, Collarenebri and Walgett schools carried out. The youth council is an important pathway for our Shire's future leaders to meet, share ideas and have a say in decisions that affect them. The Youth Council has been inactive post COVID restrictions, however recent conversations with youth across communities indicate that many are keen to be a part of this group again. The Youth Council operates as a Section 355b committee under the Local Government Act and operates as a voice of youth across our Local Government Area.

Youth Week 2024:

National Youth Week (NYW) is an important event for youth services and most importantly our young people as it is the largest celebration of young people across Australia, with thousands of young people involved each year. The two-week program blasted off this year coinciding with the recent holiday programs delivered in the three larger communities of Walgett, Lightning Ridge and Collarenebri.

Our program this year continued to highlight the formidable partnerships Council have sustained for many years with our local organisations and agencies collaborating in all aspects of the events.

This year's program was packed with exciting events and activities designed to recognize and support the talents, achievements, and contributions of young people in our community, providing opportunities for them to develop new skills, build connections, and have fun. The program included:

Series of Movie Nights across communities with local Police
Expression Sessions Youth Festivals across three communities
Healthy eating and life skills programs
Activation Days with workshops and competitions
Animal awareness and education sessions with Ranger and resources
A Cultural Exchange program with local and visiting youth from Sydney.
Demonstration of martial arts, live theatre, traditional dancing and culture sharing
Young girls' program with Wirringah's Elders Group
Youth Gardening - Life Skill initiative

The 2024 program recorded over 2500 participants attending 32 different programs and initiatives spread across the Walgett Shire.

Under the direction of the young people attending our centres and input from youth workers, fresh and new ideas have allowed for these outstanding outcomes of engagement and participation achieved. The support for Walgett shire youth week's 2024 has been welcomed with 16 (sixteen) local, regional and State organisations again supporting the youth and young people of the Walgett Shire with activities and events offering and building capacity of our young people, showcasing their talents, skills and celebrating the important role in which they play in our communities and futures.

Youth and young people are encouraged to have input into decisions that affect them, creating

opportunities that aligns with Council's *Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027*.

Walgett Shire NAIDOC Week 2024

NAIDOC Week 2024 is an annual celebration in Australia that honors the history, culture, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It takes place from July 7th to July 14th, 2024. This year's theme, chosen by the National NAIDOC Committee, is "Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud & Proud." Let me tell you more about it! The theme "Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud & Proud" symbolizes the enduring strength and vitality of First Nations culture. Fire serves as a powerful symbol of connection: to Country, to each other, and to the rich tapestry of traditions that define Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Planning meetings are underway with local organisations and Aboriginal groups and agencies across the Shire in preparation of delivering another memorable series of events and opportunities across the Shire in 2024.

LIBRARIES- SERVICES, CONNECTION & PROMOTION

Walgett:

Patrons and usage

Our Libraries in both Lightning Ridge and Walgett along with deposit stations in Burren Junction and Collarenebri continue to assist social cohesion and cross-cultural understanding through enhancing positive social interaction. We have had a significant increase in memberships and are important central hubs for people in the local community. (current members 1357). Our Libraries continue to provide the space and support of the library staff for community programs, workshops, exhibitions and meetings reflecting and responding to the locals needs.

Our libraries offer a range of materials that you can access free of charge including books, newspapers and magazines, DVD's, audio books and eBooks. We also offer free programs and resources ranging from early childhood, community interest, education, literacy, and recreational programs that cover a multitude of interests and topics suitable for all ages. Community members use our computers to access the internet and Microsoft Office, plus printing and scanning facilities. Free Wi-Fi available at both of our branches. We provide free 24/7 access to our eResources including eBooks, eMagazines via an internet connection. New members for the reporting period totalled (20) boosted by (32) members re-registering giving a total of 739 current members. During reporting period 1003 items were borrowed from the library and 90 computer bookings were placed.

Preschool literacy

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

Dolly Patrons Imagination Library

United Way Australia is a non-profit organisation and licence holder of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, working to ensure every Australian child has access to books in their homes and the chance to reach their full potential. Each month a new book is posted to the child free of charge until the child starts school. To be eligible the child must have been born after 1 January 2022. To date Walgett Shire Council working with Early Childhood health services have 174 babies enrolled in this program across the shire.

Library Programs and social inclusiveness.

Tuesday mornings Council host the knitting/coffee club, with 13 members engaged in the program. This quarter the group have been knitting to exhibit at the local show.

Thursdays we have our local painting group use the library space for art activities. At the moment they are busy painting for a local exhibition at Come By Chance and our local show. Fridays we host a babies and toddlers rhyme time playgroup. Which has been very popular with the Mums and bubs enjoying books, music and craft with a cuppa. Technology awareness continues being promoted through our e-platforms to Library members helping them download eBooks, eMovies,

eMagazines and eAudio on their own devices.

Deposit Stations

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

Book Club

Book club members continue to grow with 15 members that meet every second Wednesday of the month to discuss the book of the month and enjoy morning tea. Book clubs are a great way to expand your literacy horizons and make new friends with common interests in your community. This quarter we have enjoyed reading and discussing these titles.

Chai Time at Cinnamon Gardens by Shankari Chandran

The Lobotomist's Wife by Samantha Greene Woodruff

Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

Stone Town by Margaret Hickey

Homebound

The library provides a free book on wheels delivery service to housebound members of the local community who are physically unable to visit the library. Walgett Library Services will be hosting end of year gatherings for groups on the below dates.

Lightning Ridge Library:

Patrons and usage

Lightning Ridge services continue to be driven by community needs and feedback. Available are free programs and resources ranging from early childhood, community interest, education, literacy, and recreational programs that cover a multitude of interests and topics suitable for everyone within our local community. New members for the reporting period totalled (18) plus (31) members re-registering giving a total of 626 members. During this reporting period 1024 items were borrowed from the library and 120 computer bookings were placed. Continuous liaison with the NSW State Library with (ILL) Inter Library Loans allows us to source a large range of Multicultural and HSC literature which is available for our members to loan.

Preschool literacy

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

New resources

Recent additions at the Ridge Library space include outdoor furnishings and facility upgrades. These on-going improvements meet with community needs and creates an improved space for residents and visitors alike to recreate and maximize their time at our local Library. The grants provided by NSW State Library assist with these additions.

School Holiday & After School Programs

Sustained engagement of youth and young people utilizing the services and resources. This program is offered Wednesday and Thursday afternoons and continues to be popular during this particular reporting period we have had over 100 youth and young people attending this program.

Book Club

Currently have 15 members involved in the Book club who meet every Friday from 10am – 12pm discussing various books and subjects and enjoying morning tea together.

Upcoming events and Programs:

Meetings have taken place with Walgett Aboriginal Land Council and other services in relation to planning for NAIDOC week. Meetings and planning sessions will be locked away with Aboriginal groups and then broader community / services meeting to discuss implementation of NAIDOC Week 2024.

NAIDOC Week 2024: 7th -14th July

Holiday Programs 8th - 19th July

Youth Council meeting: TBA

Local Government Week 29th July- 4th August

Relevant Reference Documents/Policies:

Walgett Shire Council Community Strategic Plan 2017 – 2027, Walgett Shire Council Aboriginal Community Development and Reconciliation Plan 2007–2010, Walgett Shire Disability and Inclusion Plan 2017-2021 , Walgett Shire Youth Development Youth Strategy 2009 – 2014, Walgett Shire Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan 2016-2020, Australian National Quality Framework.

Governance issues:

The development of programs and activities are conducted with a whole of Shire focus to enhance access and equity for Shire residents.

Environmental issues:

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

Stakeholders:

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

Financial Implications:

Activities conducted within applicable budgets.

Alternative Solutions/Options:

Not applicable

Conclusion:

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

12.1.9 COUNCIL PROJECT UPDATE

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: General Manager
REPORT AUTHOR: Executive Assistance
FILE NUMBER: 24/9/0104
PURPOSE: For Information

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council projects list be received and noted.

Moved:

Seconded:

Summary:

Council is overseeing numerous projects, including many that are grant-funded. Almost all of these projects have encountered delays and are nearing the end of their timelines for completion.

Background:

Council has faced various challenges, including high staff turnover, the impact of COVID-19, and natural disasters such as floods and a bushfire. These factors have contributed to a backlog of projects that are either overdue for completion or nearing their funding end dates.

Relevant Reference Documents/Policies:

Local Government Act 1993
 Funding Deeds

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council
 Walgett Shire Ratepayers
 Visitors / Tourists
 NSW Government

Financial Impact:

Grant-funded projects pose a significant risk due to their timelines, strict guidelines, and scope requirements. Many of these projects were inadequately scoped during the funding acquisition phase, leading to issues with delivery. Despite identifying challenges early on, some projects remained stagnant for several years. Consequently, new staff encountered not only fast approaching deadlines but also escalating costs, contractor availability constraints, and internal resource limitations. As a result, some projects had to be forfeited or significantly downscaled.

Revenue-funded projects lack clear scope and detailed planning, making it difficult for staff to identify and execute them efficiently. This has led to significant delays in meeting community expectations. Additionally, delays and rising costs have rendered the previously allocated budgets insufficient for project completion. These projects now require further staff attention to understand community needs and ensure they can be delivered within a reasonable budget.

Alternative Solutions/Options:

N/A

Conclusion:

A more comprehensive report will be prepared for the next meeting, detailing works completed in the current financial year, providing a more detailed status of ongoing projects and outlining plans for the new financial year.

All revenue-funded projects are currently on hold as Council prioritises those that are grant funded, which are subject to strict deadlines and conditions. Many of these revenue funded projects lack sufficient scope or detailed planning and will need further consideration and budgetary adjustments. The Council will reassess their feasibility, ensuring they align with community needs and can be delivered within the available budget once grant funded projects are adequately addressed.

Significant changes or updates from the previous meeting:

Collarenebri Hall Refurbishment:

The Collarenebri Hall Refurbishment project, initiated under Stronger Country Communities Fund Round 3 (SCCF3) in late 2021 and supplemented by Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) funds in 2022, faced significant challenges due to budgetary constraints and structural issues, including standing water under the flooring and the need for asbestos removal. Despite securing half a million dollars in funding, costs have escalated substantially, with preliminary estimates indicating that remediation or demolition and replacement of the hall could require between \$2 to \$6 million.

Council will have to withdraw from SCCF Round 3 as the project delivery deadline for this financial year cannot be met. Despite significant efforts by Council staff, experienced project managers, and the Grants Office to utilise the \$248,000 in accordance with the grant's guidelines, no viable solutions passed the governance test of the funders. The LRCI funding of \$250,000 was also at high risk, needing to be spent this financial year or reallocated by 30 April 2024. To preserve these funds, they were redirected to gravel re-sheeting.

The Collarenebri Hall Refurbishment remains a priority for both the Council and the community. A three-year project schedule and estimated costings report has been created, with further strategic planning needed to ensure future funding allocations can be effectively used.

Collarenebri Showground Jockey Room:

Only one quote was received, which significantly exceeded the budget. Several builders did not submit quotes due to the tight delivery timeframe, which related to the Jockey Club meet and not the grant funding.

Fencing at Lightning Ridge Sporting Oval:

A variation request is in process to change the white picket fence to a 6-foot palisade fence due to community concerns with the open drain area. A gate will also be installed to allow staff access for drain maintenance. This project was partially completed several years ago, utilising only half of the allocated budget. There is no record explaining why only half of the fence was installed.

Walgett Skate Park:

Community consultations were conducted to gather input on the design elements. Contractors are now preparing a draft design based on community consultation.

Fencing at Collarenebri Sporting Field:

Old fencing has been removed. New fencing installation has commenced; expected completion before June long weekend.

Collarenebri Bore Baths:

Completed with minor works ongoing; currently organising an official opening ceremony.

Walgett Netball Courts:

First design estimated around the 3 million mark. A redesign underway to reduce costs.

Walgett Cemetery:

Footpath has been completed. Landscaping is underway. The project is expected to be completed

by the end of this month.

Carinda Sportsground Fencing:

The allocated funds were insufficient to cover the required work. Additional community consultation is needed to ensure the fence meets local needs and expectations. Although LRCI funding was reallocated due to budget overruns and deadlines, this project remains a priority for completion in the new financial year.

Grant Name	Grant Reference Number	Total Amount Allocated	Total Grant	Council contribution	Project Status	End Date	Notes
Carinda Sporting Facilities Water & Drainage improvements	DSP-LSP-070	\$122,000	\$122,000	\$0	On Hold		With the GMO for a status update
LRCI 3 - Rowena Hall Refurbishment	LRCI-3	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$0	Variation	31.6.2024	Under review for variation - Rowena Fencing
LRCI 3 - Collarenebri Hall Refurbishment	LRCI-3	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$0	Variation	31.6.2024	Variation on LRCI - See Colly Hall Report
SCCF - Collarenebri Multipurpose Hall	SCCF3-1116	\$248,314	\$248,314	\$0	Shelved	31.5.2024	Funding to be withdrawn. Project Shelved
Hall Improvements - Rowena	DSP-LSP-069	\$96,500	\$96,500	\$0	On Hold		Requires a rescope
SCCF 4 - Fencing Lightning Ridge Sporting Ovals	SCCF4-1121	\$84,153	\$84,153	\$0	In Progress	7.6.2026	Work to Commence Late June 2024
SCCF 4 - Enhancing Gray Park Walgett	SCCF4-1049	\$72,822	\$72,822	\$0	In Progress	7.6.2026	Installation in Progress
SCCF 4 - Extension and refurbishment of Collarenebri Showground & Racecourse	SCCF4-0894	\$77,168	\$77,168	\$0	In Progress	7.6.2026	1 Quote - Overbudget - Further Planning
SCCF 4 - Norman Tracker Walford Walkway Walgett	SCCF4-1070	\$95,661	\$95,661	\$0	In Progress	7.6.2026	In planning stages
SCCF 5 - Fencing of Collarenebri Sports Field	SCCF5-0822	\$138,000	\$138,000	\$0	In Progress	7.6.2026	Installation in Progress
SCCF 5 - Collarenebri Main Street Beautification Project	SCCF5-0822	\$205,000	\$205,000	\$0	In Progress	7.6.2026	In design stage with engineering dept.
SCCF 5 - Footpath/Cycleway, Kerb & Guttering in Onyx Street Lightning Ridge	SCCF5-0822	\$228,000	\$228,000	\$0	On hold	7.6.2026	Awaiting completion of priority projects
SCCF 5 - Walgett Skate Park Precinct	SCCF5-0822	\$169,000	\$169,000	\$0	In Progress	7.6.2026	In design concept stage
SCCF 5 - Lightning Ridge Footpath Cycleway Pandora Street Lightning Ridge	SCCF5-0822	\$181,322	\$181,322	\$0	On Hold	7.6.2026	Awaiting completion of priority projects
Everyone Can Play Program - Pandora St LR Mega - Park	ECPP	\$511,928	\$431,953	\$79,975	Shelved	31.6.2024	Quotes came in over \$800,000.
Crown Lands - Plans of Management		\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0	In Progress	30.6.2024	New staff assigned to deliver
Collarenebri New Bore Baths		\$920,124	\$920,124	\$0	Completed	30.3.2024	Organising Opening Ceremony
Upgrade of Collarenebri Primitive Camping Grounds	RFCG014	\$274,950	\$274,950		On Hold		Project Manager left, to reassign
Collarenebri Grandstand	MDBA	\$488,000	\$488,000		On Hold	11.9.2023	Seeking legal advice
Walgett Masonic Hall	Insurance	\$175,000	\$175,000		In Progress		
Conversion of Netball Courts to a Multi-Sport Complex	MSCF-21/22	\$1,500,000	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	In Progress	30.6.2025	Design estimate came in at 3mil, redesigning
ENVIRONMENTAL							
Bin Banks		\$10,000		\$10,000	On Hold		New location required
Animal Pound		\$500,000	\$500,000	\$0	On Hold		Quotes came in over budget
Stronger Country Communities - Cemetery Walgett - Stage 2	SCCF2-1044	\$329,701	\$329,701	\$0	In Progress	31.5.2024	Footpath complete, landscaping underway
Walgett Rural Residential Strategy		\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0	In Progress		
ENGINEERING							
LRCI 3 - Opal Street Footpath	LRCI-3	\$210,000	\$210,000	\$0	Variation		Undelivered in timeframe, variation sought
LRCI 3 - Carinda Sportsground	LRCI-3	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$0	Variation		Project cost higher than funding.
LRCI 3 - Gravel Re-sheeting & Sheetting of Unsealed Roads	LRCI-3	\$731,230	\$731,230	\$0	Variation		More funds from LRCI3 - variation
Flood Mitigation Works at Rowena Village	PJ-0000939	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$0	On hold		In Discussions with landholders

Grant Name	Grant Reference Number	Total Amount Allocated	Total Grant	Council contribution	Project Status	End Date	Notes
Flood Mitigation Works at Rowena Village	PJ-0000939	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$0	On hold		In Discussions with landholders
WASTE							
Waste Less Recycle More - Walgett Recycling Aggregation Centre	2018/LC2/0023	\$190,300	\$137,500	\$52,800	On hold		Awaiting new compliance officer
Waste Less Recycle More - LR Landfill Consolidation	2017/LC1/0010	\$299,500	\$200,000	\$99,500	On hold		Awaiting new compliance officer
Waste Less Recycle More - Walgett Landfill Environmental Improvements	2018/LC2/0024	\$172,208	\$123,920	\$48,288	On hold		Awaiting new compliance officer
REVENUE FUNDED FROM BUDGET							
Walgett Ovals 2 & 3 - Lighting	Revenue	\$120,000	\$0	\$120,000	On hold		Awaiting Budget Review
Fencing Rowena	Revenue	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	In Progress		Being delivered before Cracker night
Lightning Ridge Opal Park BBQ/Shelters	Revenue	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	On hold		Awaiting Budget Review
Walgett - Gray Park	Revenue	\$84,500	\$0	\$84,500	On hold		Grant Funded Projects being Delivered First
Walgett Swimming Pool - Entrance Refurbishment	Revenue	\$11,619	\$0	\$11,619	On hold		Awaiting Budget Review
Walgett - Memorial Park Shade Shelter	Revenue	\$40,000	\$0	\$40,000	On hold		Awaiting Budget Review
Parks Grawin, CBC, Cumborah - Electric BBQ	Revenue	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000	On hold		Awaiting Budget Review
Cumborah - Tennis Courts	Revenue	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	On hold		Awaiting Budget Review
Burren Junction Oval - Watering & Lighting	Revenue	\$180,000	\$0	\$180,000	On hold		Awaiting Budget Review
Lightning Ridge Lions and Gem Parks Shelters	Revenue	\$45,000	\$0	\$45,000	On hold		Awaiting Budget Review
Lightning Ridge - Spider Brown Oval - Amenities	Revenue	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000	On hold		Grant Funded Projects being Delivered First
Cumborah Cemetery Columbarium	Revenue	\$15,000	\$0	\$15,000	In Progress		Being scoped and designed
Collarenebri Hall	Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	On Hold		Being scoped for three year plan
Carinda Sportsground Fencing	Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	On Hold		Awaiting Budget Review

12.1.10 REQUEST FOR SPONSORSHIP

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: General Manager
REPORT AUTHOR: Executive Assistant
FILE NUMBER: 24/9/0112
PURPOSE: For Decision

RECOMMENDATION

1. Council to decide on the amount \$8,500 sponsorship to construct a permanent loading ramp at the Walgett Showground that will benefit the Walgett Rodeo, Campdraft. And other users at the Showgrounds.
2. If supported Council require a sign to be displayed acknowledging the contribution.

Moved:

Seconded:

Summary:

The Walgett Rodeo has submitted a request to the Council for a donation of \$8,500. This funding is intended to cover infrastructure upgrades, specifically the construction of a new permanent loading ramp at the Campdraft area.

Background:

The Walgett Shire Council supports various community events and functions through Section 365 sponsorships. Community organisations can request up to \$3,000 through the Community Assistance Scheme or apply for higher amounts via a Council resolution.

In the past year, the Council has provided support to key events, including:

Lightning Ridge Race Club: Up to \$10,000
 Lightning Ridge Easter Festival: \$10,000
 Walgett Show Society: \$10,000

Other organisations have received funding up to \$3,000 through the Community Assistance Scheme. This financial support underscores the Council's commitment to fostering community engagement and enhancing local events.

Relevant Reference Documents/Policies:

Local Government Act 1993

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council
 Walgett Ratepayers
 Tourist and Visitors

Financial Impact:

Funding this request may reduce the budget available for other community events and initiatives. However, the Walgett Rodeo is a major event for the region, benefiting both local residents and tourism.

Alternative Solutions/Options:

Council declines to support this event.
 Council supports this event with a smaller financial contribution.

Conclusion:

Council are requested to decide whether or not they are support the Walgett Rodeo and Campdraft for the 2024-2025 financial year.



Walgett Charity Bushman's Carnival
PO BOX 339
WALGETT, NSW 2832

To the General Manager

I am writing on behalf of the Walgett Charity Bushman's Carnival in hopes of securing funding to assist with costs associated with our 2024 event.

The Walgett Charity Bushman's Carnival is facing large infrastructure expenses for the 2024 Campdraft & Rodeo with additional repairs and maintenance essential. Whilst we have strong sponsorship, the repairs and maintenance of infrastructure limit our capability in supporting our local community groups, organisation, and charities in the capacity we hope to.

The Walgett Charity Bushman's Carnival runs annually on the third weekend of August. We host three action packed days of Campdraft, Rodeo and live entertainment. Our event attracts more than 300 competitors who travel from as far north as Mareeba QLD and as far south as VIC. We host past Australian Champions across all events over the course of the weekend.

In addition to the high caliber of competition we also host fantastic musicians following the Rodeo on Saturday night. We have hosted Brad Cox, Hurricane Fall, our very own Maddie Warden and are excited to host Robbie Mortimer this year.

On average, the Walgett Charity Bushman's Carnival draws over 1500 spectators who travel from across Australia to enjoy the festivities and competition we have to offer.

We are of strong belief the township of Walgett benefits greatly from the Walgett Charity Bushman's Carnival. We source all products, materials, goods, and services from local businesses, we offer the opportunity for local businesses to trade at our event and local businesses benefit from the visiting population.

Further contributing to the lifeblood of Walgett, our event is an essential fund-raising opportunity for local community groups, organizations, and charities. Over the last 3 years alone we have donated in excess of \$30,000.00 to participating community groups, organizations and charities.

Beneficiaries have included Walgett DEC, St Joseph's School, Walgett CWA & CWA Medical Grant, Walgett Hospital Social Club, Walgett Men's Shed, Walgett Pony Club,



Walgett Charity Bushman's Carnival
PO BOX 339
WALGETT, NSW 2832

Walgett Community Promotions, Walgett Junior Rugby Union and Junior Rugby League, Walgett Swimming Club, Walgett Little Athletics and Sarah Wheeler and her Outback Long Ride. We strive to donate between \$10,000 and \$15,000 back to beneficiaries annually.

Our event posts more than \$22,000.00 in prize money at the Rodeo and in excess of \$10,000.00 in cash and prizes at the campdraft.

In 2023 alone, over \$20,000.00 was spent on necessary improvements to infrastructure including a new calf chute for the rodeo arena, a new load out ramp at the campdraft arena and modifications to yards at both the campdraft and rodeo arenas. These improvements are essential to ensure the safety of livestock, competitors, volunteers, and spectators.

It is with this I write asking the Walgett Shire Council to assist with funding in the construction of a new permanent loading ramp for the load out yards at the Campdraft arena.

The committee carries out all work themselves reducing labour costs however we require materials. We have been quoted \$11,000.00 for steel and concrete however thanks to the unwavering support of local businesses, we have had those costs reduced to \$8,500. We wish to request \$8,500 from Walgett Shire Council to assist with the remaining balance to purchase these materials.

We hope you take our request into consideration and look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,
Jordy Fenwicke
Secretary of the Walgett Charity Bushman's Carnival
PH: 0419 415 720
Email: walgettrodeocampdraft@gmail.com

12.2 DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMPLIANCE

12.2.1 MATTERS GENERALLY FOR BRIEF MENTION OR INFORMATION FROM ACTING MANAGER COMPLIANCE

REPORTING SECTION: Infrastructure and Compliance
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Acting Manager of Compliance
REPORT AUTHOR: Administrative Services Officer – Compliance Services
FILE NUMBER: 24/9/0091
PURPOSE: For Noting

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note this report.

Moved:

Seconded:

This report provides notes on items for brief mention, or information only, on more significant matters recently arising in the Infrastructure and Compliance Division.

For Councillor Information purposes, the following applications were received during April 2024

Outstanding Notice Certificate

Nil

Construction Certificate

1 received – Pending Technical review

Complying Development Certificate

Nil

Food Shop Inspections

Nil

Swimming Pool Compliance Certificates

Nil

Activity Approvals

Nil

Final Occupation Certificate

1 Final – Private Certifier

Sub-Division Certificate

Nil

Fire Safety Schedule

Nil

Current Building Project Under Construction

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

Private garage @ 38 Warrena Street Walgett

Storage Units @ 40 Nobby Road Lightning Ridge

99 Wee Waa Street Walgett Multi Unit housing project

88 Pandora Street Lightning Ridge Dual Occupancy – Manufactured Home

6560 Castlereagh Highway Walgett – Large Rural metal shed

1360 Wilby Wilby Road Cumborah Rural Property Garage and dwelling

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

398 Bowra Lane Carinda Inground Fibreglass Swimming Pool

110 Fox Street Walgett new aboveground Diesel Fuel Tank installation

225 Woodlands Road Walgett Inground Fibreglass Swimming Pool

9906 Castlereagh Highway Walgett – Manufactured Home

Other Activity

Food Inspections.

Following two food complaints, Inspections were carried out on both premises.

Both had issues but one was so serious that a prohibition order (Closure) was issued after a second Inspection and an attempt to educate the operators will be made before re-opening.

Clean-up Notices Issued

Nil

Abandoned Vehicles

Seven (7) abandoned vehicles across the Shire were moved to impound in April 2024.

PLANNING CERTIFICATES:

April 2024 – Thirteen (13) 10.7 Certificates were issued

April 2024 – Seven (7) Drainage Diagrams were issued

OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

April 2024 Animal Impounding Records

Month of April 2024 – Seized animals - 13 dogs and 4 cats

4 cats were rehomed to Rescue

4 dogs were rehomed to Rescue

3 dogs were returned to owner

3 dogs were euthanised

3 dogs were stolen from the Pound

12.2.2 DEVELOPMENT APPROVALS APRIL 2024

REPORTING SECTION: Infrastructure and Compliance
REPORT AUTHOR: Administrative Services Officer – Compliance Services
FILE NUMBER: 24/9/0092
PURPOSE: For Noting

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note this report.

Moved:

Seconded:

Summary:

This report is to advise the April 2024 development approvals for the information of Council and to ensure compliance with Section 4.59 of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979* and Section 124 of the associated Regulation.

Background:

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

Current Position:

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

For Councillor Information purposes, the following developments have been lodged and are currently waiting a determination. **Please note, this is only current as at 1 April –30 April**

Appl. No	Address	Title	Development	Status
DA2008/12: 4	Mining, Lightning Ridge	Lot -1 DP 1103508 - WLL14607	MODIFICATION Rotating inlet cowls replaced with fixed cowls and rearranged in position. Entry Oculus Moved towards the North (nom. 2m). Entry Walkway Reconfigured and moved towards the north Accessible Carparking 2 carpark accessible parking spaces relocated. Fire Stairs Fire stairs St-02 and St-03 have been removed Fire Booster Relocated	Pending Technical Review

CC/2024/7	2 Pandora Street LIGHTNING RIDGE NSW 2834	Lot 1 Section 25 DP 758612	The proposal is for the demolition and redevelopment of a preschool building and site, being Lot 1 Section 25 DP 758612, Parish of Wallangulla, in the R1 General Residential Zone. The proposed development is for the expanded and continued use of the site as a preschool. The Lightning Ridge area expects a steady increase in children's numbers for upcoming years. The redevelopment will enable a better working environment for teachers and children.	Pending-Awaiting Fee Payment
OC/2024/1	41 Namoi Street WALGETT NSW 2832	Lot 34 DP 30504	Dwelling Private Certifier Occupation Certificate	Whole Issued

Governance issues:

Nil

Environmental issues:

Nil.

Stakeholders:

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

Financial implications:

Nil

Alternative solutions:

Nil

12.2.3 REVIEW OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION REGARDING APPROVAL FOR INTENSIVE PLANT AGRICULTURE

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Infrastructure and Compliance
REPORT AUTHOR: Acting Manager Compliance
FILE NUMBER: 24/9/0093
PURPOSE: For Decision

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolve to either;

- a) Rescind its previous resolution to remove the need for Council consent for “Intensive plant agriculture” on RU1 Land under Councils Local Environmental Plan 2013 (LEP)., or
- b) Defer the implementation of its previous decision to remove the need for Council consent for “Intensive plant agriculture” on RU1 Land under Councils Local Environmental Plan 2013 (LEP) for further consideration, or
- c) Proceed with the existing resolution to remove the requirement of Council approval for “Intensive plant agriculture” under its Local Environmental Plan 2013

Moved:

Seconded:

Summary:

1. Council received a report recommending that it remove the need for Council consent for “Intensive plant agriculture” on RU1 Land under Councils Local Environmental Plan 2013 (LEP).
2. Council adopted the recommendation.

Background:

I am concerned that Council may not understand the full implications of its decision to proceed with this amendment, as I don’t believe the author of the recommendation fully appreciates the broader implications for land and water usage in the Western districts.

Shortly after I commenced work with Brewarrina Shire, we received a complaint about the earth works being carried out on a large rural holding. Locals had no concept of the implications that a previous Development Consent granted about 18 years ago had on the water catchment of a local river and the volume of water that was going to be taken out of the catchment.

While I was able to contain the cost of the matter in the Land and Environment Court with my legal background and some pro-bono work done by a legal firm and Barristers, the experience gained was invaluable, as the same requirement that applies under Walgett Councils LEP exists in the Brewarrina LEP.

Some dot points as to why Council should at least reconsider its current Resolution to remove this type of Development from the LEP controls.

- The current issues emerging in relation to both existing and possible new Weirs in our waterways show how unrealistic and disconnected various State Government agency can be when dealt with by staff located on the Eastern area of the State. It is my understanding that the current weir issue is being driven by Fisheries. Bureaucrats who do not live in the

Western area of the State and are driven by single issues such as “Fish Requirements” simply don’t understand local realities.

- While Fish considerations are legitimate, humans living and producing in the West are now an embedded part of the environment and because this has been encouraged and facilitated by State Government, human living and producing is also an absolute imperative of equal concern.
- If the Council surrenders this final (and perhaps only!) decision on “Environmental Issues” such as water supply, allocation, conservation and usage in its area, those decision will be made by faceless bureaucrats who have little concept about the concerns of residents and ratepayer who actually live in and understand the challenges that water utilisation can create for Western communities and the impacts on of both rural and urban residents and enterprises.
- While there are some agricultural interests that would prefer to have this land use removed from requiring Council Consent, one suspects that with the emerging Weir concerns, a much larger percentage of the Community and Rural Industry would prefer that these activities that consume massive volumes of our water remain under the influence of Council involvement and decision making.
- While I have no statistical information or research information to support the argument that such developments do not significantly increase the amount of wealth that remains in the local community. Certainly, there are several specific industries that gain economic advantages from this type of industry, the wider impact on the general Agricultural industry and community may be quite negative.

Stakeholders:

The general community – both Urban and Rural

Land holders who may wish to pursue for “Intensive plant agriculture” with the least oversight by Local Government

Service contractors and transporters who are engaged with the Intensive plant agricultural production and export.

Financial Implications:

There are unlikely to be any immediate financial implications for Council.

There may be financial implications for individual land holders who wish to pursue intensive plant agriculture, however, this does not stop them lodging an application for that purpose.

There may be financial implications for contractors who service intensive plant agriculture, but again, if the proposals meet Councils concerns the project would proceed.

Alternative Solutions/Options:

The alternative solution is to proceed with the current resolution to remove the need for Council assessment, approval, or refusal of Intensive Plant agriculture proposals, leaving the assessment and approval or refusal to State Government agencies.

Conclusion:

Water issues are the life blood of the Agricultural Industry and the Community in the West, but decision making on such issue at a local level, appear to be diminishing.

12.2.4 RESIDENTIAL AND PROPERTY FENCING

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Infrastructure and Compliance
REPORT AUTHOR:	Acting Manager Compliance
FILE NUMBER:	24/9/0094
PURPOSE:	For Information

RECOMMENDATION

That Council pursue a public information and education program through social media and advertising, advising that all new fencing on properties must comply with State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008 (SEPP), or alternatively, they must lodge a development application for a variation of those requirements.

Moved:

Seconded:

Summary:

Council recently had a complaint about a fence between two properties and a notice was served on the owner that erected the non-complying fence. For a number of reasons that notice was cancelled but in reality, Councils Development Control Plan (DCP) clause dealing with fencing is very poorly worded and multiple properties in the same area where in breach of both the DCP and the SEPP.

Of course, if the fencing was established before the DCP or SEPP, it is unlikely that Council or anyone else could do anything about those properties.

Background:

The Planning reasoning behind the restrictions on various property fencing issues can be summarised as follows:

- **Safety** The requirement of 50/50% open fences on street frontages and in front of the Building line (often the boundaries between two properties in front of the Dwellings or building) is based on the need to provide clear vision for vehicles leaving the property to avoid injuring pedestrians and being able to see other vehicles approaching.
- **Visual impact** The other reason is to present a semi open, pleasant landscape from public roads and footpaths that also facilitates a degree of neighbourhood "crime prevention" environment. Without it, people could make the street scape a sea of high fences and isolation.

The fact that people continue to erect fences that do not comply with the SEPP means we are never progressing and as in the case that prompted this report, one can argue that there are many other properties with the same problem. As indicated above, if they existed before the SEPP there is probably little can be done about existing non-conforming fences, but at some stage new works must be required to comply.

Relevant Reference Documents/Policies:

- State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008
- Councils DCP – but as indicated it is very poorly worded and the SEPP would take precedence.

Stakeholders:

Residents and Ratepayers

Financial Implications:

All residential and Commercial/industrial premises will potentially have to go through a DA process if they do not comply with the SEPP or other clauses in the DCP.

Alternative Solutions/Options:

Nil

Conclusion:

While the general fencing requirements are relatively universal throughout the State, there are weaknesses in the theory behind it.

A good example of this is that a person can grow a Hedge without height restrictions and which can be just as visually dense in terms of safety – right up to and along the front boundary.

There needs to be a concerted public education program regarding this issue.

12.2.5 UPDATE ON MAJOR PROJECTS AS AT 30 APRIL 2024

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Director Infrastructure and Compliance
REPORT AUTHOR:	Project Manager
FILE NUMBER:	24/9/0090
PURPOSE:	For Noting

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the monthly major projects report for April 2024.

Moved:

Seconded:

Summary:

This report provides the Council with the current status of major projects within the shire as at the 30th April 2024

Background and status:

The shire currently has several major projects in progress being:

Goangra Bridge – Works complete. A Project completion report drafted for submission to funding body and to allow Project closure.

Come by Chance Road Reconstruction and seal – Physical works onsite are currently on hold pending the outcome of scope variation requests that have been submitted to our two funding bodies. Positive progress has been made with the federal funding body (HVSPP) that may allow the completion of the full length of the Project inclusive of the proposed scope changes - This involves seeking additional federal funds. Discussions are ongoing with INSW to confirm their acceptance of our proposed way forward.

Burransbaa Road Reconstruction and reseal – The road is complete. There is spray seal and linemarking outstanding for a 1km section where the Contractor removed and replaced a portion of defective gravel. These works were rescheduled due to weather, however, will be completed in May. The Project completion report is being drafted for funding bodies to allow project close-out.

Lorne Road Reconstruction and reseal – Lorne Road is open to traffic. Due to existence of significant mining cavities in Fred Reece Way and the northern end of Lorne Road, Transport for NSW through the Traffic Committee require that the road will be closed at Kangaroo Hill until the cavity issue can be fixed. Council have an alternative route to the airport and are preparing a budget for the installation and maintenance of a bypass to the airport. Line marking was completed in March.

Cryon Road – This Contract was released for tender via Tenderlink. Tenders for the Project closed on Friday 10th May, and five tender submissions were received - these are currently being reviewed.

Relevant Reference Documents/Policies:

Project Funding Deeds
Project Contracts

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council
Walgett Residents
Funding bodies

Contractors

Financial Implications:

Varies

Alternative Solutions/Options:

Nil

Conclusion:

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

Attachments:

240331 Major Project Report attachment

Lorne Road @ 30th April 2024

% of Project	Task	Units	Contracty Quantity	% Complete	Quantity Complete	CH 0	CH 500	CH 1000	CH 1500	CH 2000	CH 2500	CH 3000	CH 3500	CH 4000	CH 4500	CH 5000	CH 5500	CH 6000	CH 6500			
0.3%	Road Furniture - Sign Posts	item	10	100.0%	10	6														4		
0.3%	Road Furniture - Guide Posts	item	50	100.0%	50	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3		
0.3%	Road Furniture - Line Marking	m	5,100	100.0%	5,100	364	364	364	364	364	364	364	364	364	364	364	364	364	364	368		
19.0%	Sealing	M ²	40,748	100.0%	40,748	1567	3134	3134	3134	3134	3134	3134	3134	3134	3134	3134	3134	3134	3134	1573		
31.0%	Placement of Gravel	M ³	11,676	100.0%	11,676	834	834	834	834	834	834	834	834	834	834	834	834	834	834	834		
21.0%	Stabilisation	M ²	51,975	100.0%	51,975	3713	3713	3713	3713	3713	3713	3713	3713	3713	3713	3713	3713	3713	3713	3713		
4.0%	Placement of Bulk fill Cut	M ³	4,164	100.0%	4,164	320	320	320	320	320	320	320	320	320	320	320	320	320	320	4		
1.0%	Proof roll and removal of Unsuitable	M ²	56,100	100.0%	56,100	4000	4100	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000		
5.0%	Clearing of Vegetation	M ²	204,000	100.0%	204,000		16000	16000	16000	16000	16000	16000	16000	16000	16000	16000	16000	16000	16000	12000		
3.5%	Preliminary - Site oncosts	item	1	100.0%	1	0.5														0.5		
3.5%	Preliminary - Traffic control	item	1	100.0%	1	0.5														0.5		
7.0%	Preliminary - Site establishment	item	1	100.0%	1	0.5														0.5		
3.5%	Project Management	item	1	100.0%	1	0.07	0.09	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07		

99.4%

Project status 99.40%

Lorne Road is open to traffic. Due to existence of significant mining cavities in Fred Reece Way and the northern end of Lorne Road, Transport for NSW through the Traffic Committee require that the road will be closed at Kangaroo Hill until the cavity issue can be fixed. Council have an alternative route to the airport and are preparing a budget for the installation and maintenance of a bypass to the airport. Line marking was completed in March.

Cryon Road @ 30th April 2024

% of Project	Task	Units	Contracty Quantity	% Complete	Quantity Complete	01-Feb-23	01-Mar-23	01-Apr-23	01-May-23	01-Jun-23	01-Jul-23	01-Aug-23	01-Sep-23	01-Oct-23	01-Nov-23	01-Dec-23	01-Jan-24	01-Feb-24	01-Mar-24	01-Apr-24	01-May-24	01-Jun-24	01-Jul-24	01-Aug-24	01-Sep-24	01-Oct-24	01-Nov-24	01-Dec-24
	Preliminary																											
1	Geometric Design	ITEM	1	70%	0.700					1																		
1	Geotechnical	ITEM	1	70%	0.700					1																		
1	Environmental Factors Review	ITEM	1	100%	1.000					1																		
1	Procurement	ITEM	1	25%	0.250															0.25								
	Construction																											
0%	Site Preperation	ITEM	1	0%	0																							
0%	Removable of unsuitables	M3	1	0%	0																							
0%	Bulk Earthworks (Cut to Fill)	M3	1	0%	0																							
0%	Stabilisation	M2	1	0%	0																							
0%	Mass Haul Gravel	M3	1	0%	0																							
0%	10mm-14mm Spray Seal	M2	1	0%	0																							
0%	Road Furtniture - Traffic Signs	ITEM	1	0%	0																							
0%	Road Furtniture - Guide Posts	ITEM	1	0%	0																							

PROJECT STATUS

This Contract was released for tender via Tenderlink. Tenders for the Project closed on Friday 10th May, and five tender submissions were received - these are currently being reviewed.

12.2.6 MONTHLY MAINTENANCE GRADING REPORT AS AT 29th FEBRUARY 2024

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Director Infrastructure and Compliance
REPORT AUTHOR:	Senior Officer Roads Delivery
FILE NUMBER:	24/9/0090
PURPOSE:	For Noting

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and acknowledge the report.

Moved:

Seconded:

Summary:

This report summarises the Capital and Maintenance works conducted for the month of April 2024

Capital Works

RR 329 Merrywinebone Road DRFA reconstruction

The works on this site are being conducted by a crew that was made up of local contractors and a site supervisor working for council. The works on Merrywinebone are progressing well, the crews have been hindered by wet weather during April but are still progressing through the approved scope. The total square metres completed for the month of April are 18,000m² with sealing to take place on 15th May weather permitting. Crews are concentrating on areas between the Gywdir Hwy and Camerons Lane as this area requires the most attention to bring the road up to a reasonable standard. Current Expenditure for this project is \$1,427,924.07.

RR 383 Pilliga Road DRFA Reconstruction

The works on this site are conducted by Council works crews. The works on Pilliga Road went well during April. The crew completed the approved scope of 12,912m² on these works with only the resealing left to complete during May. This crew will now move onto shoulder widening works on Cryon Road. Current Expenditure for this project is \$490,072.40.

RR 457 Gundabloui Road DRFA Reconstruction

The works on this site are being conducted by a mixture of local contractors and supervised by a council supervisor. The works have been hindered a lot by wet weather during April. The current expenditure for this project is \$75,413.46.

Resealing Local Roads

During March the Engineering Department inspected numerous towns and streets to scope up a program of works for resealing in towns and villages within the Shire. The funding source for these works is from Roads to Recovery funding and must be expended before end of June 2024. The streets were identified by the deterioration of the existing seal and streets that did not take much preparation works prior to sealing. Below are the streets that were identified,

Street	Village	Comments
Inkerman Street	Burren Junction	Full Length
Waterloo Street	Burren Junction	Between Alma and Inkerman streets
Alma Street	Burren Junction	Between Waterloo and Corunna Streets
Hastings Street	Burren Junction	Full Length
Trafalga Street	Burren Junction	Full Length
Sebastopol Street	Burren Junction	Full length

Houlahan Street	Burren Junction	Full Length
Corunna Street	Burren Junction	Full length
Blenheim Street	Burren Junction	Full Length
Walgett Street	Collarenebri	Between Gwydir Hwy and Barwon Street
Barwon Street	Collarenebri	Full Length
Church Street	Collarenebri	Full Length
Earl Street	Collarenebri	North of Queen Street
Queen Street	Collarenebri	Between Narran and Barwon Streets
High Street	Collarenebri	Between Herbert and Queen and north of Queen
Narran street	Collarenebri	Herbert and Cemetery Road
Fred Reece Way	Lightning Ridge	Full Length
Nettle Drive	Lightning Ridge	Full Length
Harlequin Street	Lightning Ridge	Between Gem and Opal Streets
Kaolin Street	Lightning Ridge	Between Brilliant and Gem Streets
Brilliant Street	Lightning Ridge	Between Kaolin and Morilla
Pandora Street	Lightning Ridge	Between Nettleton and Gem Streets

During April the works in Lightning Ridge and Collarenebri were completed and the works in Burren Junction are scheduled to be completed in early May 2024. Line marking will be organised to be completed during late May to early June 2024. The total allocation for these works is \$983,000.00. No current expenditure to date as invoices will be received in May.

Hollywood Bridge Approaches

These works are being completed by Council crews. The works on this site have been hindered by wet weather during April. The roadworks signage has been installed on this project and crew are waiting for the site to become dry so works can commence. The duration of these works are 4 weeks and require 100m of seal each side of the newly constructed bridge. Current expenditure for this project is \$26,750.00.

Maintenance Works

Seal Patching Works

During April patching works on Regional and Local roads were ramped up to help catch up on the back log of defects on Regional, Local and Urban roads. Two extra contract wet hire trucks were hired in and have been deployed to regional roads and Urban streets preparing resealing areas. The extra trucks are here to help until 30th June 2024. There are currently areas being scoped up on regional roads for resealing to help expend the Block Grant Funding.

Maintenance Grading

Maintenance grading works were hindered a lot during April due to wet weather. These works were completed by Council crews and contractors. The following roads were graded during April 2024,

Road No	Road Name	Kms Completed	Completed by
SR114	Bogewong Road	48.7	WSC
RR426	Ridge/Sherman Way	70.1	WSC
RR457	Gundabloui Road	16	WSC
SR3	Clarks Road	6	Contractor
SR90	Fairview Road	12.6	Contractor
SR71	Rossmore Road	10.7	Contractor
SR123	Rowena Road	34.5	Contractor
SR122	Old Burren Road	33.9	Contractor
SR25	Wombo Road	17.7	Contractor

SR26	Hardys Lease Road	16	Contractor
SR27	Colrose Road	20.6	Contractor
RR7716	Come by Chance Road	60.9	Contractor
	Total	347.7	

The budget for maintenance grading,

Road Category	Budget	Current Expenditure
Local Road Unsealed	\$652,681.00	\$598,514.00
Regional Unsealed	\$209,096.00	\$80,895.52
Totals	\$861,777.00	\$679,409.52

The expenditure for these budgets is council assets and contractors combined and both assets play an important role in maintaining council assets on a fulltime and contract basis. The current percentages for Council and Contractor assets against expenditure is set out below.

- Council Assets 51.29%
- Contractor Assets 48.71%

Signage & Slashing Works

During April council employed new employees to operate the Road Patrol Truck. This crew is currently working on sign defects around the shire on Local and Regional Roads. Contractors have been engaged during April to help Council Slashers in slashing Regional and Local Roads these works are progressing well.

Relevant Reference Documents/Policies:

23/24 Approved Council Budget

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire Council, Walgett Shire Community

Financial Implications:

None

Alternative Solutions/Options:

None

Conclusion:

Works and program will be updated monthly to keep Council informed on the progress of each project and program created for the approved budgets.

12.2.7 UPDATE ON TECHNICAL SERVICES PROGRESS AS AT 30 APRIL 2024

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Director Infrastructure and Compliance
REPORT AUTHOR:	Director Infrastructure and Compliance
FILE NUMBER:	24/9/0103
PURPOSE:	For Noting

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Engineering Services monthly works progress report for April 2024

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

The purpose of this report is to update Council with regards to the Engineering Services progress works up to 30th April 2024

Background:

The revised budget of the Engineering and Technical Services Department for Capital & Maintenance Works, Quarry Management, Fleet Management, Water & Sewerage works, Parks & Garden and Engineering Administration for 2023/2024 is \$58,983,859

The breakdown of the budget is as follows:

Items	Revised Budget	Expenditure up to 30 th April 2024	%
Engineering Technical Services including RMCC Works	\$52,735,898	\$34,386,142	65%
Water - Maintenance	\$3,541,003	\$1,356,467	38%
Water - Capital	\$1,271,903	\$350,110	28%
Sewer - Maintenance	\$1,051,608	\$425,454	41%
Sewer - Capital	\$400,000	\$0	0.0%
Total	\$58,983,859	\$36,518,173	61.9%

Relevant Reference Documents/Policies:

2023/24 Operational Plan and Budget

Governance Issues

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

Environmental issues:

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

Stakeholders:

Walgett Shire

Walgett Shire Residents and Rate Payers

Financial Implications:

As of 30th April 2024, \$36,518,173 expended.

Alternative Solutions/Options:

Nil

Conclusion:

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



AGENDA FOR CLOSED COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 28 May 2024

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to clause 7 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice that the Closed Council Meeting of Walgett Shire Council will be held at Walgett Shire Council Chambers on Tuesday 28 May 2024 to discuss the items listed in the Agenda.

Megan Dixon
GENERAL MANAGER

AGENDA

14. MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION

MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION	
Time:	
That the public be excluded from the meeting pursuant to Sections 10A (1) (a) (b) & (2) (a) (b) & (c) the Local Government Act 1993 on the basis that the items deal with:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A council, or a committee of the council of which all the members are councillors, may close to the public so much of its meeting as comprises-- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) the discussion of any of the matters listed in subclause (2), or b) the receipt or discussion of any of the information so listed. 2) The matters and information are the following-- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors), b) the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer, c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business, 	
Moved:	Seconded:

15. CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS/CLOSED COUNCIL MEETING

15.1	<u>General Manager</u>	
15.1.1		Minutes of Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC)
15.1.2		Mineral Lease Rates Write Off
15.1.3		Landfill Service Contract
15.1.4		Australian Opal Centre – Funding Agreement Variation
15.1.5		Forensic Audit Lighting Ridge Water Fund
15.1.6		Wildgame Meatwork Access

16. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Return to open session	
Recommendation:	
That Council return to open session.	
Moved:	Seconded:

17. ADOPTION OF CLOSED SESSION REPORTS

Adoption of closed session reports	
Recommendation:	
That Council adopt the recommendations of the Closed Committee Reports	
Moved:	Seconded:

18. CLOSE OF MEETING

Time: