



**BLAND SHIRE COUNCIL**  
*west wyalong*

# **Bland Shire Council**

## **Business Paper**

**15 April 2014**



# OUR VISION, MISSION AND VALUES





# AGENDA

## COUNCIL MEETING

### 15 APRIL 2014

#### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

*Let us acknowledge the Wiradjuri people, their elders past and present, traditional custodians of the land we now share.*

*Let us be inspired by the resilience, innovation and perseverance of past generations.*

*Let us honour those who protect this great land, may you draw strength from your God or Faith so that we may, here today, on behalf of our community, - build a vibrant future together.  
("Pause for Reflection").*

#### **2.0 ATTENDANCE**

##### **2.1 Councillors**

Cr P Grellman

Cr L Hampton

Cr K Keatley

Cr T Lord

Cr L McGlynn

Cr B Monaghan

Cr L Pike

Cr N Pokoney

Cr P Templeton

##### **2.2 Staff**

General Manager – Ray Smith

Director Asset & Engineering Services – Will Marsh

Executive Assistant – Julie Sharpe

##### **2.3 Apologies**

Mrs Adele Casey - Director Corporate, Community & Development Services

### **3.0 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES**

#### **3.1 Ordinary Meeting held on 18 March 2014**

- **Confirmation**

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 18 March 2014 be confirmed as a correct record of proceedings.

- **Corrections**

- **Business Arising**

#### **3.2 Extraordinary Meeting held on 1 April 2014**

- **Confirmation**

That the minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 1 April 2014 be confirmed as a correct record of proceedings.

- **Corrections**

- **Business Arising**

### **4.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

A pecuniary interest is an interest that a person has in a matter because of a reasonable likelihood or expectation of appreciable financial gain or loss the person or another person with whom the person is associated.

A person does not have a pecuniary interest in a matter if the interest is so remote or insignificant that it could not reasonably be regarded as likely to influence any decision a person might make in relation to a matter.

<b>Councillor/Officer</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Nature of Interest</b>

### **5.0 PUBLIC FORUM**

#### **5.1 Presentation to Council by Mr Joe Penn**

### **6.0 MAYORAL MINUTE**

### **7.0 NOTICES OF MOTION**

### **8.0 DELEGATES & ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Section 1 – Delegates & Advisory Committee Reports & Minutes** *(for information)*

## **9.0 STAFF REPORTS**

That the Council receive the staff reports.

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## **10.0 URGENT BUSINESS WITHOUT NOTICE**

**11.0 QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS**

- Matters to be dealt with arising out of the proceedings of former meetings of the Council
- Other Matters

**12.0 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING TO DISCUSS CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 10A(2) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT**

**12.1 Swimming Pool Contract**

*Local Government Act (Section 10A(2)(d)(i))*

*The matters and information are commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.*

**12.2 Winning, Blasting And Crushing Contract**

*Local Government Act (Section 10A(2)(d)(i))*

*The matters and information are commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.*

**13.0 RESUMPTION OF THE MEETING AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CLOSED SECTION OF THE MEETING**

**14.0 CLOSE OF THE MEETING**

# SECTION 1 – DELEGATES & ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

*Our leadership*

*Setting a benchmark for community standards*

Vision: A well run council acting as the voice of the community

*DP15.2 Working in partnership with community groups, advisory committees, Government Departments, businesses and Council staff*

**Officer’s Recommendation:**

**That the Council receive and note the delegate and advisory committee reports from Councillors and Advisory Committee meeting minutes as presented.**

**Section 1 – Delegates & Advisory Committee Reports & Minutes (for information)**

Committee	Date/s	Minutes attached
<b>Access Advisory Committee</b> (Cr Grellman)	2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2014	
<b>Bland Rural Fire District Zone Liaison Committee</b> (Cr Grellman, Cr Keatley - alternate)		
<b>Bland – Temora RFS Zone Bushfire Management Committee</b> (Cr Grellman, Cr Keatley - alternate)	26 <sup>th</sup> March 2014	
<b>Cowal Gold Project Community Environmental Monitoring &amp; Consultative Committee (CEMCC)</b> (Mayor Pokoney, Cr McGlynn - alternate/observer, Cr Hampton - observer)	5 <sup>th</sup> March 2014 4 <sup>th</sup> June	✓
<b>Cultural Advisory Committee</b> (Cr McGlynn, Cr Keatley)	26 <sup>th</sup> May 2014	
<b>Economic Development Committee</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> April 2014	
<b>Goldenfields Water County Council Board</b> (Cr Templeton)	27 <sup>th</sup> February 2014 24 <sup>th</sup> April 2014	✓
<b>Health &amp; Wellbeing Advisory Committee</b> (Cr Lord, Cr Monaghan, Cr Grellman, Cr McGlynn)		
<b>Heritage Advisory Committee</b> (Cr McGlynn, Cr Grellman)	9 <sup>th</sup> April 2014 7 <sup>th</sup> May 2014	
<b>Indigenous Advisory Committee</b> (Cr McGlynn, Cr Grellman)	25 <sup>th</sup> March 2014 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2014	
<b>Local Traffic Advisory Committee</b> (Mayor Pokoney, Cr Grellman - alternate)	6 <sup>th</sup> May 2014	

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF BLAND HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS WEST WYALONG ON TUESDAY 15 APRIL 2014

.....  
MAYOR

<b>Murrumbidgee Medicare Local Board</b> <i>(Cr Monaghan)</i>	20 <sup>th</sup> March 2014	
<b>Museums Advisory Committee</b> <i>(Cr Lord, Cr Keatley)</i>	26 <sup>th</sup> June 2014	
<b>Newell Highway Taskforce</b> <i>(Cr Lord)</i>		
<b>NSW Association of Mining Related Councils</b> <i>(Cr McGlynn, Cr Hampton)</i>	27 <sup>th</sup> February 2014 9 <sup>th</sup> May 2014	
<b>Plant Committee</b> <i>(Cr Grellman, Cr Templeton, Cr Lord)</i>	1 <sup>st</sup> July 2014	
<b>Public Libraries NSW South-West Zone</b>		
<b>Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC)</b> <i>(Mayor Pokoney)</i>	29 <sup>th</sup> April 2014	
<b>Riverina Regional Tourism</b> <i>(Cr Lord)</i>		
<b>Visitor Economy &amp; Tourism Advisory Committee</b> <i>(Cr Lord, Cr Hampton)</i>	20 <sup>th</sup> March 2014 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2014	✓



**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**COWAL GOLD MINE  
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING  
AND CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (CEMCC)**

**Wednesday 5 March 2014**  
**9.07am – Jemalong Regional Education Centre**  
**Minutes taken by: Elliot Willemsen-Bell**

**Attendees:**

Independent Chair:	Margaret MacDonald-Hill (MMH)
Barrick:	Alan Fearon (AF), Shane Goodwin (SG) and Garry Pearson (GP)
Community Members:	Angus Stitt (AS) and Lucy Buttenshaw (LB)
Lake Cowal Land Holder Association:	Bruce Dent (BD)
Bland Shire Council:	Neil Pokoney (NP)
Lachlan Shire Council:	Graham Scott (GS)
Forbes Shire Council:	Brian Mattiske (BM), Graeme Miller (GM)
Lake Cowal Foundation:	N/A
Wiradjuri Condobolin Corporation:	N/A

Observer: Leanne Hampton (West Wyalong Local Aboriginal Land Council and Bland Shire Councillor)

**Apologies:** Daryl Neilson, Ally Coe, Garry Shaw, Jenene McGrath, David Carter

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<p><b>1.0 Welcome</b></p> <p>Independent Chair, Margaret MacDonald-Hill opened the meeting at 9:07 am, acknowledged new Forbes representatives and welcomed all in attendance.</p>	
<p><b>2.0 Declaration of Interest</b></p> <p>Margaret MacDonald-Hill declared her interest as Independent Chair of the CEMCC, appointed by the Director General of the Department of Planning and Infrastructure. For record purposes, Margaret advised the committee she is a member of the Mine Subsidence Board and the Minister’s Arbitration Panel.</p>	
<p><b>3.0 Confirmation of Minutes</b></p> <p>MMH advised minor corrections:            September meeting date should be 3, not 30 and footer has wrong date.            Amendments accepted  <b>Moved:</b> Angus Stitt  <b>Seconded:</b> Lucy Buttenshaw  <b>Accepted.</b></p>	
<p><b>4.0 Business Arising from Minutes</b></p> <p>LB asked about the status of releasing the Social Impact Assessment, what a</p>	



<p>Social Closure Plan involved and what involvement the CEMCC would have. SG said that he had every intent in releasing the SIA to the CEMCC. He said that he had recently provided it to senior members of the Bland Shire Council. SG plans to release the SIA more widely once a determination about the Modification has been made, as he did not wish to put out mixed messages to the community.</p> <p>SG also explained that a Social Closure Plan was a planned ramping down of Barrick community development and other activities in the lead up to mine closure. He also said that there would be a great deal of consultation with the CEMCC through this process.</p> <p>NP said that Barrick had provided a copy of the SIA to Bland Shire Council, and that Council had requested that Barrick hold off releasing the report at this time. SG said that whilst early engagement is encouraged, Bland Shire is the planning authority, so he agreed to their request.</p>	
<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p><b>In</b>  email 24/12/13 - Barrick on NF&amp;O incident report  email/letter 15/1/14 - Barrick - complaints register  letter 24/1/14 - Mayor, Forbes Council advising new representatives  email 14/2/14 - Barrick on NF&amp;O incident report</p> <p><b>Out</b>  email 3/2/14 from Barrick welcoming new Forbes Council representatives  email 4/2/14 from Chair welcoming Forbes Council representatives  email 7/2/14 to Chris Roylance thanking him for his contribution to CEMCC</p>	
<p><b>5.0 Reports</b></p> <p><b>Shane Goodwin</b> provided a detailed account of Barrick Cowal's Community Relations Activities over the past three months – See the attached presentation for more information (Attachment A).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Community Relations activities</li> <li>▪ Wiradjuri update</li> <li>▪ Complaints/Grievances</li> <li>▪ Modification Proposal Update</li> <li>▪ Upcoming activities</li> <li>▪ Cowal Partnering Program discussion</li> </ul> <p><b>Complaints/Grievances</b></p> <p>2 complaints received since the last meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ One complaint received related to driving behaviour of a suspected Barrick employee or contractor.</li> <li>▪ One complaint received related to employee behaviour in a non-work related capacity.</li> </ul>	

<p><b>Cowal Partnering Program</b> – Two proposals were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wiradjuri Dreaming Centre</li> <li>▪ West Wyalong District Country Education Fund.</li> </ul> <p>Both proposals drew detailed discussion, with positive comments and recommendations from the Committee. Barrick to consider and put forward proposal to General Manager for approval.</p> <p><b>Garry Pearson</b> provided a detailed account of Barrick Cowal’s Environment Department Activities over the past three months – See the attached presentation for more information (Attachment B).</p>	<p>SMG</p>
<p><b>6.0 General Business</b></p> <p>MMH raised the issue of putting out a media release regarding the meeting. GM will raise this with Sarah Davies from Forbes Shire Council.</p> <p>BM raised the issue of approved access to the mine, specifically the use of Bogey’s Island Road. SG said that Barrick employees had been instructed not to use the road, as the Lachlan Shire had requested through the Modification submission that the road be removed from the approved routes.</p> <p>There was discussion around the Road Maintenance MoU, with SMG stating that the funding for 2013 and 2014 had been agreed. In 2013, the majority of the funding had gone to the Bland Shire, and that in 2014, it would be shared between all Councils.</p>	
<p><b>7.0 Meeting Closed – 10:35am</b></p>	
<p><b>8.0 Next Meeting</b></p> <p>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2014, at Barrick Cowal Gold Mine. Other meetings to occur on September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2014 and December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2014.</p>	

# ATTACHMENT A – COMMUNITY RELATIONS PRESENTATION

# Driven by Returns



CEMCC – Community Relations Update

Wednesday, 5 March 2014

## Community Relations



- Community Relations Team activities
- Wiradjuri update
- Complaints/Grievances
- Modification Proposal Update
- Upcoming activities
- Cowal Partnering Program

## Community Relations



### Activities since the last CEMCC Meeting:

- Hosted two Christmas Parties for Employees and Families at Ron Crowe Oval, West Wyalong (600+ guests)
- Attended West Wyalong High School Awards Ceremony and presented Volunteering Award and Endeavour Scholarships
- Attended Condobolin High School Presentation Night
- Presented \$4,000 Barrick Buddies Payment to the West Wyalong Touch Football Association
- Attended Community Drug Action Team (CDAT) meeting in Forbes
- Meeting with Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation (VFFF) regarding Community Development initiatives and opportunities in Condobolin
- Visit with Yawarra in Condobolin to receive an update on the implementation of the three-year partnership with Barrick
- Attended the unveiling of the Russell Drysdale Monument in West Wyalong - \$14,000 financial support provided by Barrick for this project
- Received notice that Cowal has been awarded with Barrick's Global Excellence Award for Corporate Social Responsibility – Barrick Buddies Program
- Finalised noise mitigation agreements with two adjacent landowners

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## Christmas Parties



4

## Russell Drysdale Monument Unveiling



5

## Wiradjuri Update



- Planned ETBC and CPCC Meetings for March 2014
- Will be delivering annual report on the implementation of the Native Title Deed to the WCC Board during March
- Currently working with the Yoorana Gunya Family Healing Centre in Forbes on developing a proposal for project funding via Barrick's Cowal Partnering Program
- Received an application from the Condobolin Local Aboriginal Lands Council for support via the Cowal Partnering Program – will be working with the CLALC during March to refine their application

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- Planned ETBC and CPCC Meetings for March 2014
- Will be delivering annual report on the implementation of the Native Title Deed to the WCC Board during March
- Currently working with the Yoorana Gunya Family Healing Centre in Forbes on developing a proposal for project funding via Barrick's Cowal Partnering Program
- Received an application from the Condobolin Local Aboriginal Lands Council for support via the Cowal Partnering Program – will be working with the CLALC during March to refine their application

## Complaints/Grievances

- CGM received two (2) complaints since the last meeting of the CEMCC which was held on 4 December 2013.
- Five (5) further calls were made to the Cowal Community Complaints Hotline for matters that were not complaints - general enquiry (2) and test calls (3).
- The two complaints received relate to:
  - Driver behaviour: 1
  - Employee Behaviour: 1
- The complaints were from a selection of stakeholders:
  - Complainant A: 50% (1)
  - Complainant B: 50% (1)

### **Driver Behaviour:**

- Barrick received one complaint from Complainant A regarding the driving behaviour of a suspected Barrick employee/contractor on 17/12/2014
- In response to this complaint, Barrick's representative advised the complainant that Barrick would review footage of the mine's car park during the period nominated by the complainant to see if the vehicle described could be identified as being associated with the Cowal Gold Mine.
- After reviewing the available footage, Barrick's representative contacted the Complainant and advised that they had been unable to identify the vehicle described by the Complainant.
- The Complainant insisted they were sure that the alleged offending vehicle was owned/operated by an employee or contractor of the Cowal Gold Mine
- Barrick's representative recommended that the Complainant may like to report the matter to the local police. Barrick's representative also assured the Complainant that regular safe driving messages were communicated to employees and contractors at the Cowal Gold Mine.

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### **Employee Behaviour:**

- Barrick received one complaint from Complainant B regarding the behaviour of Barrick employees in the community.
- The Complainant advised that they were dissatisfied with a decision which had been made by Barrick employees in their private capacity as office-bearers in a community based organisation.
- Barrick's representative advised the Complainant that Barrick was not in a position to interfere with the activities of any community organisation or the activities of its employees when they are acting in a private capacity.
- Barrick's representative recommended that the Complainant make further contact with the community organisation in an effort to resolve their concerns.

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## Modification Proposal



- Public Exhibition of the Environmental Assessment commenced on 26/09/2013 and ended on 08/11/2013.
- Submissions included:
  - 71 individual supportive submissions from the public
  - Bland, Forbes, and Lachlan Shire Councils all made supportive submissions
  - 10 individual objections from the public
  - Various submissions from government agencies with comments on the proposal
- Barrick submitted responses to submissions in January 2014.
- The Department of Planning and Infrastructure is currently assessing Barrick's proposal, submissions, and responses.
- Barrick is hoping for Determination of their proposal within the coming weeks.

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## Upcoming activities



- Distribution of the March 2014 edition of The Cowal Update to homes in West Wyalong, Forbes and Condobolin
- Determination of Barrick's Modification Proposal
- Annual Report on Implementation of Native Title Deed
- ETBC and CPCC Meetings with Wiradjuri Condobolin Corporation

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## CEMCC Presentation

# *Cowal Partnering Program Applications*

January to March 2014



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## Approved applications

The following Cowal Partnering Program applications were approved without referral to the CEMCC:

- "Heartmoves" Program by the Bland Shire Council (Bland Shire) - \$5,000
- West Wyalong Regional Music Incorporated (Bland Shire) - \$1,000
- St Laurence's Parish School Annual Fete (Forbes Shire) - \$690
- NSW Ag Field Day (Lachlan Shire) - \$3,500
- Environmental Development and Allied Professionals Regional Conference (Regional) - \$1,000

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### Wiradjuri Dreaming Centre, Forbes

- Project is being undertaken by a local committee, in partnership with local service providers
- The aim is to create cultural space for Indigenous people and events, with public access to improve cultural awareness in local community
- Solar security lighting and improved fencing
- Landscaping and replanting of native vegetation
- Initial request was for approximately \$18,000
- Recommend development of three year partnership
  - 2014 - \$10,000
  - 2015 - \$5,000
  - 2016 - \$2,500

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### West Wyalong and District Country Education Fund

- Designed to provide financial assistance to young people, who need to relocate to gain post-school education or employment
- Grants are provided to assist with costs of accommodation, text books, tools and travel
- Applications open in September and close in December 2014, for award in February 2015.
- Barrick has supported the Country Education Fund since early 2010, with a total of \$20,000 donated to date.
- Request is an extension of the existing funding agreement by three year:
  - 2014 - \$5,000
  - 2015 - \$5,000
  - 2016 - \$5,000

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**ATTACHMENT B – ENVIRONMENT PRESENTATION**



Cowal Gold Project  
Environmental Management  
CEMCC Meeting 05 Mar 2014

## Environmental Management Overview

- Environmental Policy (August 2013)
- Environmental Incidents
- Environmental Summary
- Government Interactions
- Cyanide Management
- 2013 Look Ahead





## Barrick Environmental Policy

Barrick Gold Corporation believes that wise environmental stewardship is based on careful work planning, diligent implementation, thoughtful assessment of performance and a desire to improve over time.

Successful implementation of our plans results in some disturbance to our natural environment. However, Barrick believes that we can contribute to the sustainable development of our host communities. We are committed to meeting the needs of current members of that community without jeopardizing the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

Therefore, I believe Barrick must:

Regularly communicate this policy to those who work at Barrick, their families, and our host communities.

Establish, document and maintain an environmental management system and clearly defined environmental requirements.

Educate our employees, their families, and our neighboring communities about our systems and practices.

Insist that those who provide services or products adhere to our environmental policy and practices.

Ensure that our leadership and employees understand, support and maintain our environmental management system.

Provide our managers and supervisors the authority and resources necessary to implement our environmental management system and associated environmental standards and practices.

Apply proven management practices to prevent pollution or other environmental impacts, when practical, or to mitigate our impacts.

Set and review environmental objectives and targets aimed at continual improvement.

Conduct periodic reviews of our operations to monitor environmental performance and to guide its environmental management program.

Fully comply with all applicable environmental laws, regulations and other environmental obligations.

Work with governmental and civic leaders, environmental groups, and other concerned parties to develop a mutual understanding of environmental issues.

Jamie Sokalsky  
President and CEO  
August 2003



# Environmental Incidents

## Reportable Incidents

All incidents related to death of native fauna on the mining lease.

## December 2013

- 1 Apostlebird – bitumen access road.
- 1 Brown Snake – bitumen access road.
- 1 Galah – bitumen access road.
- 1 Red-rumped Parrot – bitumen access road.
- 1 Cockatiel – bitumen access road.
- Two (2) native animal rescued - x2 Brown Snakes – Admin and Mining areas. WIREs.
- Pest Control:
  - Active cat trapping when weather suitable. No mice since 2012 mini-plague.
  - Meat ant numbers on the increase. Rabbit numbers rising around Admin areas.
- 1080 Fox baiting from 27 June 2011 to end-2012. Resuming May 2014.
- **Mutual Aid:** x1 Tiger Snake ?? = x1 Blue-tongue - WW7. WIREs.

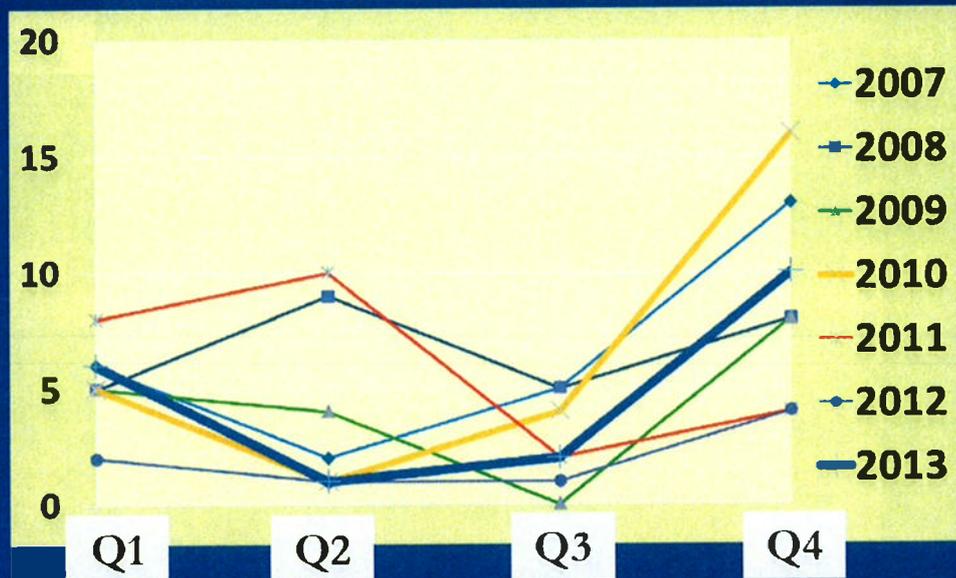
All incidents were reported to Government agencies in accordance with regulatory approvals. Deceased fauna were forwarded to Veterinary Clinic to confirm cause of death. No death was associated with chemical toxicity & no further action necessary.

**BEEP  
FOR  
BIRDS  
Use car  
horn to  
Scare**



# Bitumen road bird deaths

Beeping at Birds since end-2010



5




## Environmental Incidents

- **Reportable Incidents**  
All incidents related to death of native fauna on the mining lease.
- **January 2014**
  - 1 Galah – bitumen access road.
  - 1 Brown Snake – E42 Pit crest gravel access road.
  - 1 Myall (Curl) Snake – TSF gravel access road.
  - 1 Brown Snake – juvenile - CV201 conveyor tunnel – Bobcat tyre.
  - Two (2) native animal rescued – Brown Snake – Orica Depot yard; Bearded Dragon – Fixed Plant Workshop. WIREs Calls.
  - Pest Control:
    - Addressing feral cats numbers.
    - Mouse baiting continuing. No mice since 2012 mini-plague.
  - 1080 Fox baiting from 27 June 2011 to end-2012. Resuming May 2014.
  - **Mutual Aid:** Green Tree Frog – School Teacher’s bag after field trip. WIREs.
- All incidents were reported to Government agencies in accordance with regulatory approvals. Deceased fauna were forwarded to Veterinary Clinic to confirm cause of death. No death was associated with chemical toxicity & no further action necessary.

**BEEP  
FOR  
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horn to  
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# Environmental Incidents

**BEEP  
FOR  
BIRDS**

Use car  
horn to  
Scare

- **Reportable Incidents**  
All incidents related to death of native fauna on the mining lease.
- **February 2014**
  - 1 Gould's Wattled Microbat – Gold Room furnace start-up (during Heatwave).
  - 1 Brown Snake – saline water puddle by Bulk Lubes Tanks bunded area.
  - 1 Blue-bellied Black Snake – bitumen access road.
  - 1 Long-necked Turtle – E42 Pit Northern Go-Line haul trucks.
  - 1 Stubble Quail – Process Plant bulk oxygen storage truck stop bay.
  - Seven (7) native animal rescued - x2 Brown Snakes – Admin – Mining; x1 Black Snake – Mining Admin; x1 Tiger Snake – Orica Depot; x1 Freckled Duck – E42 Pit young male; x1 Long-necked Turtle – top E42 Pit North Ramp. WIREs.
  - Pest Control:
    - Addressing feral cats numbers.
    - Mouse baiting continuing. No mice since 2012 mini-plague.
  - 1080 Fox baiting from 27 June 2011 to end-2012. Resumed May 2012.
  - **Mutual Aid:** x1 juv Emu – Lake Cowal – euth; x1 Brown – Ungarie – euth; x1 Major Mitchell Cockatoo – Ungarie – euthanased (beak and feather – Humbug Creek). WIREs.
- All incidents were reported to Government agencies in accordance with regulatory approvals. Deceased fauna were forwarded to Veterinary Clinic to confirm cause of death. No death was associated with chemical toxicity & no further action necessary.



# Environmental Incidents

**BEEP  
FOR  
BIRDS**

Use car  
horn to  
Scare

- **Reportable Incidents**  
All incidents related to death of native fauna on the mining lease.
- **March 2014**
  - xx.
  - .
  - xxx (xx) native animal rescued - . WIREs.
  - Pest Control:
    - Addressing feral cats numbers.
    - Mouse baiting continuing. No mice since 2012 mini-plague.
  - 1080 Fox baiting from 27 June 2011 to end-2012. Resuming May 2014.
  - **Mutual Aid:** xx; . WIREs.
- All incidents were reported to Government agencies in accordance with regulatory approvals. Deceased fauna were forwarded to Veterinary Clinic to confirm cause of death. No death was associated with chemical toxicity & no further action necessary.

# Sat Image February 2014

## Lake level (2010 – 2014)



## Receding phase (23 Jan 2014)

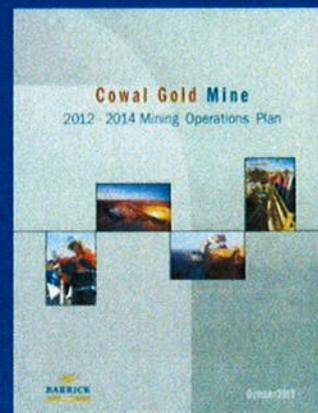
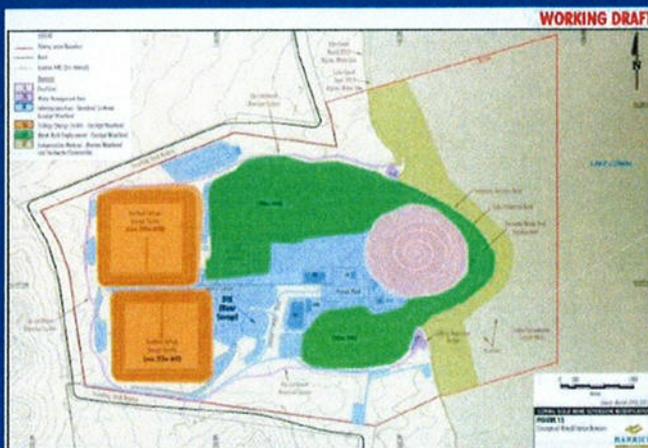


# Northern Barrick farm / Bird breeding area



## Environmental Summary

- New MOP to be prepared and submitted by end-March
  - received written extension until end-January 2015 (accommodation of mid-2014 EA MOD11 (s75W) request process).



# Regulatory Inspections

- s75W Closure Security Bond Review (20 April 2010)
  - Bonded amount at AUD 63.5 million from July 2009.
  - Model re-run July 2010, July 2011 – adequate security; and
  - AUD 63.3 million (May 2012) – adequate Security.
  - AUD 61.8 million (August 2013) – adequate Security.
  
- Varied EPL11912 in effect from 24 June 2011
  - Lodged AER on 20 February 2014 with cheque;
  - Monthly EPL required PIRMP data; &
  - No harm reports for Cowal PIRMP (CGM ERP).



## SWE south (Dec 2013 – Jan 2014)



## South SWE rehab works



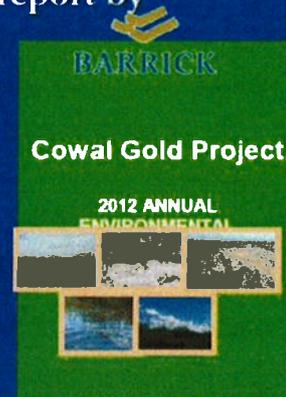
## Regulatory Inspections

- 9<sup>th</sup> Independent Monitoring Panel visit

- 11<sup>th</sup> Sept 2013 – 2012 AEMR and reports.
- Awaiting release from DP&I of 2013 SoE report by IMP.

- All relevant govt depts 2013 visit

- 02<sup>nd</sup> October – no issues arising.



## Environmental Summary

Prior business items before the CEMCC. Presently with DP&I for feedback/ approval:

- Strategy for the **Decommissioning of Water Management Structures and Long-Term Management of Final Void and Lake Protection Bund** – required to be prepared in consultation with the CEMCC & DRE.
- Strategy for **Long-term Land Use Strategy** – required to be prepared in consultation with the CEMCC & DRE.

## Environmental Summary

Cowal Mine EMPs approvals status:

- All revisable EMPs have been revised and sent to DP&I for approval to use (5-yearly review).
- Awaiting outcome of MOD11 (s75W) before can revise last six EMPs to meet approval requirements.

Advised to use revised CGM EMPs as though they are approved (DP&I verbal September 26, 2013).

- Probably not until the request for the end-2014 as current CGP Development Consent already states that EMPs can be modified after an outcome of a MOD request is known and that is unlikely to change (Ref: COW.400.05.3004GP; 21 May 2013).

# Environmental Summary

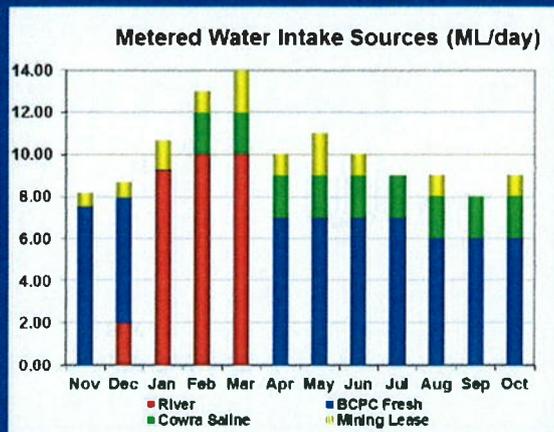
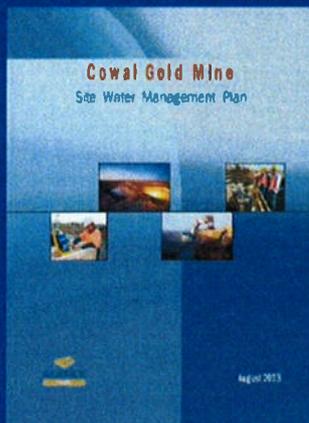
- Lake Blast loggers working well. SAROS mtce 8-9 October.
- Blast activities - 100% compliance with 120 dB(L).
  - Ongoing communications with neighbours.



# Water Supply

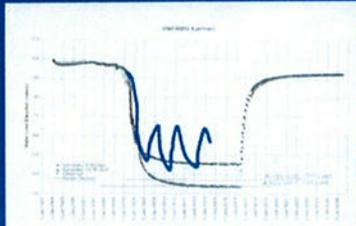
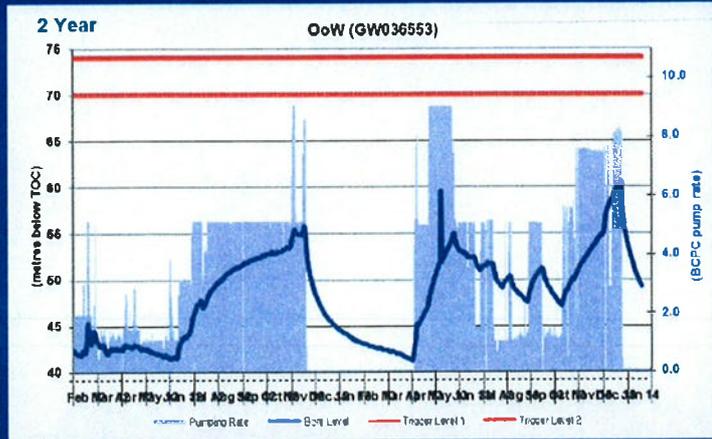
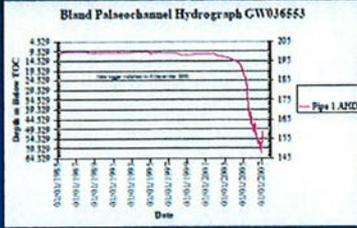


- Pond D9 low (capacity of 690ML).
- Taken 2,000 ML High Security Lachlan Reg Rv water. Saline water is off line (ESB). New RO Plant running.



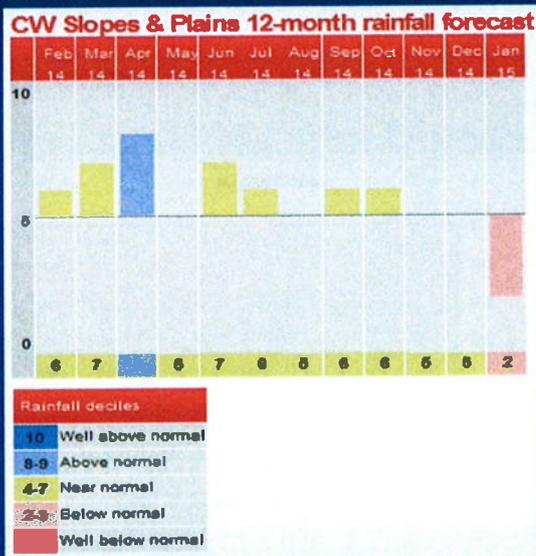
# Environmental Summary

## Drought or not?



208mRL - 134 = 74m below surface (notify Govt / Users).  
70 m below is preliminary water support (already doing).

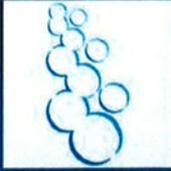
# Weather forecast 2014



[eldersweather.com.au](http://eldersweather.com.au)

### Long Range Disclaimer

The forecast information contained on the Elders Weather website, while believed to be reasonably made at the time of publication, is subject to change. In particular, 28 day and 12 month rain forecasts given the range of the forecast, do not contain a guarantee of rain on any day and will contain some degree of inaccuracy. You should always seek updated professional weather advice before taking any action dependent on certain weather conditions prevailing. Liability for any errors or omissions, including that arising as a result of Elders negligence, (except any statutory liability which cannot be excluded) is excluded by Elders Limited, its associates, officers, directors, employees and agents.

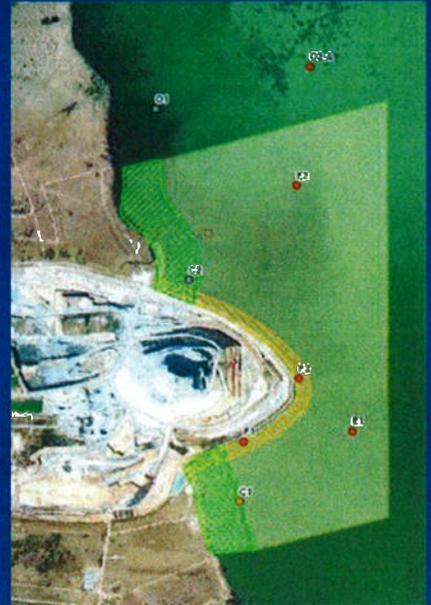


# February 2014 fish survey

Low diversity of species and low abundances.

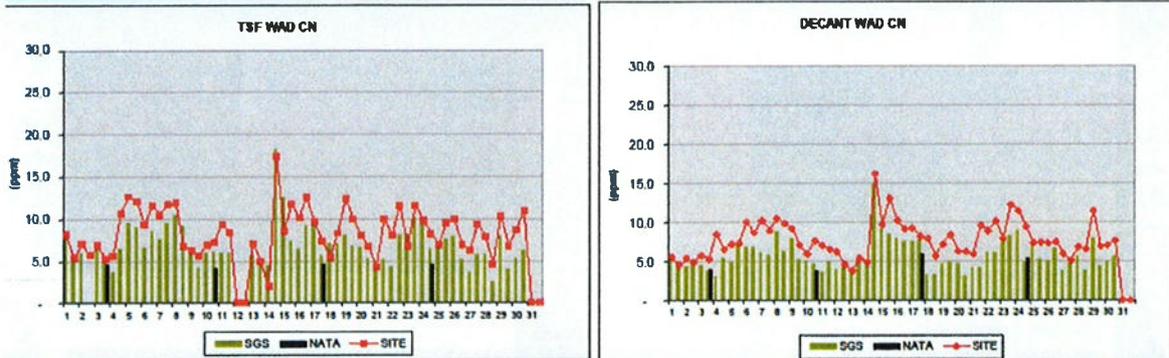
No Golden Perch (Yellowbelly).

Surveys Jan 2011, July 2012.



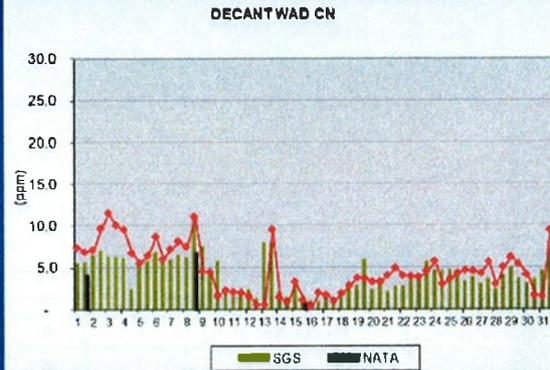
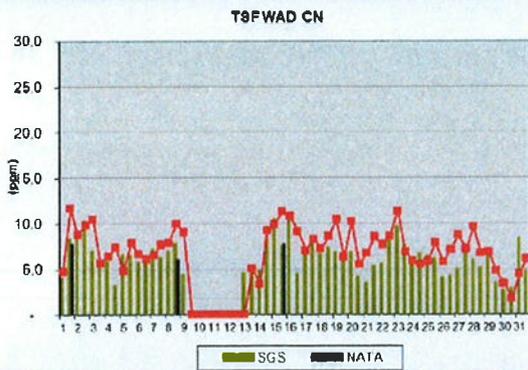
# Cyanide Monitoring Results

November 2013 – TSF - Decant



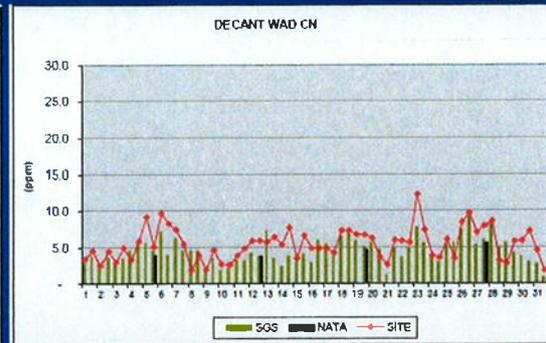
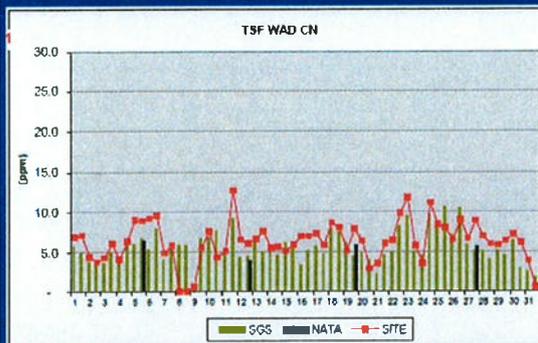
# Cyanide Monitoring Results

December 2013 – TSF - Decant



# Cyanide Monitoring Results

January 2014 – TSF - Decant



# Env Dept Happenings



## Team Cowal – Enviros

- 2014 targets underway

Environmental Management  
**RESPONSIBLE  
 MINING**  
 Cowal Gold Mine 2014

*Continual improvement*

KPI	Measure	Status
Standards Implementation	Biodiversity	●
	Climate Change	●
	Environmental Incident Reporting	●
	Water Conservation	●
	Mine Closure	●
Closure	Reclamation Cost Estimate	●
	Closure Plan	●
EMS	Major Non-conformances	●
Cyanide Code (Audit 19-21 Nov 2013)		●
Certified to ISO 14001:2004		●



## Thumb drives - Members

June 2014 meeting:

- CGM 2013 AEMR; and
- IMP 2013 report – awaiting release from DP&I of 2013 SoE report by IMP.

# Look Ahead Key Environmental Issues

- E42 Modification (H-Cutback) request:
  - Approval pathway closure (Q2, 2014).
- July 2014 ambient noise survey.
- Ongoing rehabilitation trial & maintenance works
- Next CEMCC Meeting (04<sup>th</sup> June 2014).



**BARRICK** Plans to position us to be the world's best gold mining company by operating as a fully profitable and responsible miner.

**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**

<b>People and Organization</b>	<b>Improve to Operate</b>	<b>Operational Excellence</b>	<b>Operational Discipline</b>	<b>Secure the Future</b>
• Attract, engage and retain the best talent	• Maximize operational performance and productivity	• Optimize the use of resources	• Minimize environmental and social risks	• Maximize shareholder value

**2014 PRIORITIES**  
Strengthen Barrick for "Strategic Advantage"

• Focus on operational excellence	• Maximize operational performance and productivity	• Optimize the use of resources	• Minimize environmental and social risks	• Maximize shareholder value
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**CORE VALUES**  
Integrity, Respect and Open Communications, Responsibility and Accountability, Teamwork, Create Shareholder Value



**Integrity**

**Respect and Open Communications**

**Responsibility and Accountability**

**Teamwork**

**Create Shareholder Value**

## Questions

**Minutes of the meeting of GOLDENFIELDS WATER COUNTY COUNCIL held at  
TEMORA OFFICE on 27 FEBRUARY 2014**

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The meeting commenced at 1.01PM

**PRESENT**

Cr P Speirs (Chair), Cr A Clinton (arrived 1.55pm), Cr D McCann, Cr J McGregor, Cr C Manchester, Cr K Morris, Cr P Templeton.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr A Grant (General Manager), Mr T McClellan (Manager Finance & Administration), Mr C Perry (Manager Distribution & Construction) Mr G Finlayson (Acting Manager Technology) Mrs A Coleman (Executive Assistant).

**1. APOLOGIES**

An apology has been received from Cr Dennis Palmer for this meeting.

**14/001 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs McGregor and McCann that leave of absence be granted to Cr Palmer.

**2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

**Declaration of Interest**

No interests were declared at this time.

**3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD ON 20 DECEMBER 2013**

**14/002 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs McCann and Manchester that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 December 2013 having been circulated and read by members be confirmed.

**4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

Mr Grant noted that an update on the Data Acquisition Contract and an update on the Land matter would be discussed in Closed Session.

**5. PUBLIC ACCESS**

Nil

**6. NOTICES OF MOTION / RESCISSION MOTIONS**

No Notices of Motion or Rescission Motions were received.

**7. ADMISSION OF LATE REPORTS**

**14/003 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs McGregor and Templeton that Council consider the late report of New Connection Fees.

**Minutes of the meeting of GOLDENFIELDS WATER COUNTY COUNCIL held at  
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**8. CHAIRPERSON'S MINUTE**

The Chairperson did not submit a Chairpersons minute to the meeting.

**9. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORTS**

**9.1 FINANCIAL REPORTS**

**9.1.1 COUNCIL INVESTMENTS (G35507005)**

**14/004 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Morris and Manchester that the report detailing Council Investments at 31 January 2014 be received and noted.

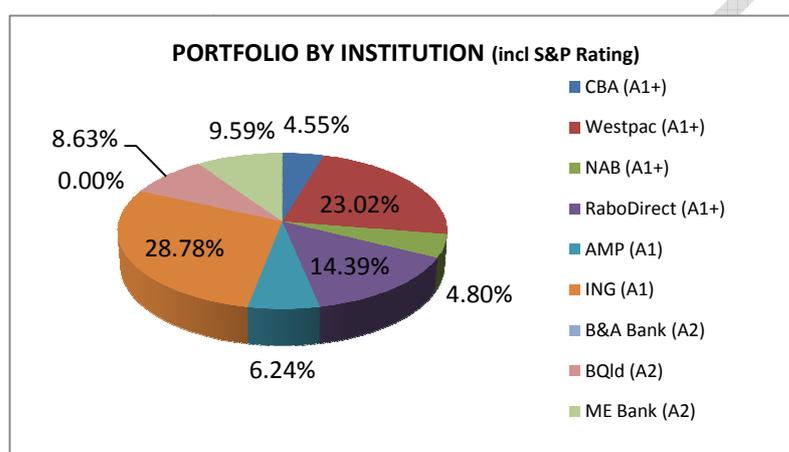
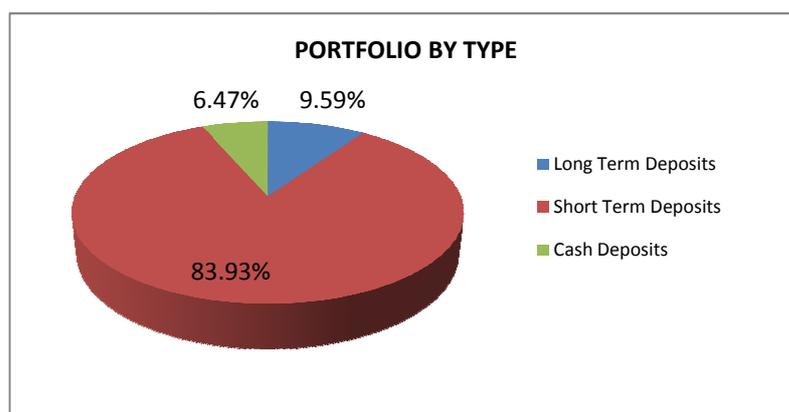
**Report prepared by Manager Finance & Administration**

This report is presented for information on Council Investments in accordance with clause 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005. The following details Council Investments as at 31 January 2014:

	<b>Market Value (\$)</b>	<b>Term (days)</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Maturity Date</b>	<b>% of Portfolio</b>
<b>Long Term Deposits</b>	<b>2,000,000.00</b>				<b>9.59%</b>
Westpac Coupon Select Deposit (5yr)	2,000,000.00	3m BBSW+1.3%	3.92%	27/10/15	9.59%
<b>Short Term Deposits (&lt;1 yr)</b>	<b>17,500,000.00</b>				<b>83.93%</b>
RaboBank Australia	1,000,000.00	189	4.15%	3/02/14	4.80%
ING Bank (Australia) Limited	1,200,000.00	181	3.87%	3/02/14	5.76%
ING Bank (Australia) Limited	1,800,000.00	210	4.09%	17/02/14	8.63%
ING Bank (Australia) Limited	1,500,000.00	182	3.91%	3/03/14	7.19%
Members Equity Bank	900,000.00	280	4.23%	31/03/14	4.32%
Bank of Queensland	800,000.00	210	3.80%	14/04/14	3.84%
Members Equity Bank	500,000.00	224	3.73%	12/05/14	2.40%
Members Equity Bank	600,000.00	279	4.03%	12/05/14	2.88%
Bank of Queensland	1,000,000.00	281	3.95%	10/06/14	4.80%
AMP Bank	900,000.00	181	3.90%	10/06/14	4.32%
RaboBank Australia	1,000,000.00	280	3.75%	21/07/14	4.80%
National Australia Bank	1,000,000.00	182	3.80%	21/07/14	4.80%
ING Bank (Australia) Limited	1,500,000.00	365	3.97%	19/08/14	7.19%
RaboBank Australia	1,000,000.00	365	3.85%	30/09/14	4.80%
Westpac Banking Corporation	1,500,000.00	365	3.92%	4/11/14	7.19%
Westpac Banking Corporation	1,300,000.00	365	3.92%	11/11/14	6.24%
<b>Cash Deposits</b>	<b>1,349,684.59</b>				<b>6.47%</b>
Commonwealth Bank At Call A/c	500,000.00	At Call	2.45%	N/A	2.40%
AMP Bank At Call A/c	400,000.00	At Call	3.35%	N/A	1.92%
CBA Premium Business A/c	449,684.59	At Call	Various	N/A	2.16%
	<b>20,849,684.59</b>				<b>100.00%</b>

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**Movements within Bank account for the reporting period (\$)**

Cash Book balance as at 30 November 2013	138,738.83
Plus Deposits	
December	2,996,990.66
January	3,589,328.67
Less Payments	
December	2,872,418.78
January	3,383,486.32
 Cash Book balance as at 31 January 2014	 469,153.06
Less Outstanding Deposits	71,974.80
Plus Unpresented Cheques	52,506.33
 Bank balance as at 31 January 2014	 449,684.59

It is hereby certified that the above investments have been secured in accordance with:

- Local Government Act, 1993;
- Local Government (General) Regulation, 2005;
- Investment Order - dated 12 January 2011; and
- Council's Investment Policy (adopted 28/4/2011).

**Minutes of the meeting of GOLDENFIELDS WATER COUNTY COUNCIL held at  
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**Recommendation**

Recommendation made was adopted.

**9.1.2 OUTSTANDING WATER DEBTORS (G35307005)**

**14/005 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Templeton and Manchester that the report detailing Council's outstanding water debtors as at 31 January 2014 be received and noted.

**Report prepared by Manager Finance & Administration**

This report is presented for information on Council's outstanding water debtors as at 31 January 2014:

\$'s	Arrears	Interest	Current	Total
Access Charges	128,442.48	12,666.62	407,539.61	548,648.71
Consumption Charges	299,349.08	29,961.20	1,170,903.74	1,500,214.02
Deferred Headworks	241,108.00	0.00	9,471.00	250,579.00
<b>Sub-Totals</b>	<b>668,899.56</b>	<b>42,627.82</b>	<b>1,587,914.35</b>	<b>2,299,441.73</b>
Less Overpayments Received				-142,156.38
<b>Total Outstanding</b>				<b>2,157,285.35</b>
Less Bulk Council Accounts Outstanding				-547,409.53
Less Headworks Accounts Outstanding				-250,579.00
<b>Total Outstanding from Retail Customers</b>				<b>1,359,296.82</b>

It should be noted that these figures include the latest retail accounts issued, with the payment due date being 6 February 2014.

**Recommendation**

Recommendation made was adopted.

**9.1.3 WATER DEBTOR WRITE-OFF (79916)**

**14/006 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Manchester and McGregor that to avoid further hardship, Council write off \$647.04 from account 79916 for unexplained consumptions for the December 2012 and March 2013 quarters. Further, the Health Service and customer be advised that this is a one-off grant and that the customer be encouraged to monitor their water consumption.

**Report prepared by Senior Revenue Officer**

A letter of support has been received from a Health Service for a customer seeking relief from their outstanding account. The customer has minimal income and an underlying medical condition. The account balance is \$1,013.19.

Accounts were being paid until the issue of accounts for the December 2012 and March 2013 quarters when higher than normal usage was recorded. These accounts for \$1,153.92

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(601kl) and \$524.16 (273kl) respectively have caused the customer financial stress. Consumption before and after this period have ranged from 56kl to 152kl per quarter.

Council has previously provided 50% reductions between excessive bills and normal consumption that was considered to be beyond a customer's reasonable control. In a specific case, Council provided a residential customer the benefit of the doubt for an unexplained consumption.

It is suggested that a 50% reduction (\$647.04) between the excessive bills and previous year's comparative consumptions be considered.

**Recommendation**

Recommendation made was adopted.

**9.1.4 WATER PRODUCTION COSTS (G35201005)**

**14/007 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Manchester and McCann that the report detailing Council's production cost comparatives as at 31 January 2014 be received and noted.

**Report prepared by Manager Finance & Administration**

This report provides a comparison of Council's production costs as at 31 January 2014, with the previous two years. It also shows the relationship between production costs and production volumes. A separate report on production volumes is presented elsewhere in the business paper.

**YTD Production Cost Comparisons through January**

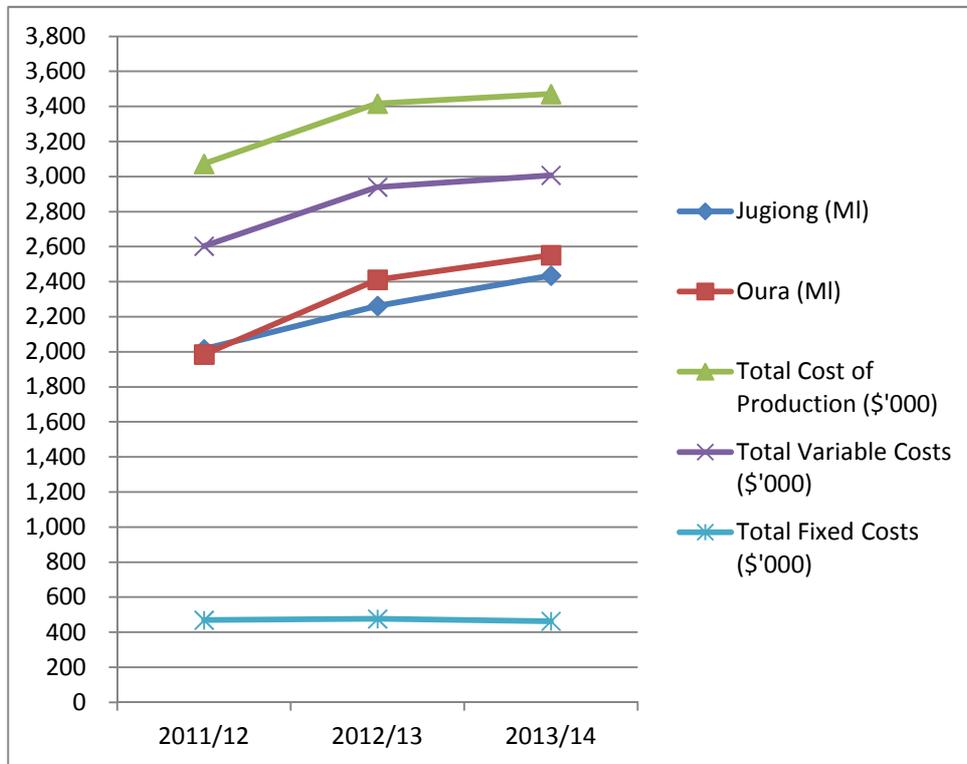
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	% Change
<b>Production Volumes (MI)</b>				
Jugiong (MI)	2,015	2,262	2,435	7.65%
Oura (MI)	1,985	2,411	2,551	5.81%
Other (MI)	452	560	589	5.18%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,452</b>	<b>5,233</b>	<b>5,575</b>	<b>6.54%</b>
<b>Cost of Production (\$'000)</b>				
Mains Operation	227	275	254	-7.64%
Reservoirs Operations	26	29	31	6.90%
Pumping Stations & Bores Operations	8	8	8	0.00%
Treatment Operations	208	164	170	3.66%
<b>Total Fixed Costs (\$'000)</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>-2.73%</b>
Mains Maintenance (Recurrent)	688	603	587	-2.65%
Reservoirs Maintenance (Recurrent)	153	98	87	-11.22%
<b>*Pumping Stations &amp; Bores Energy</b>	<b>1,104</b>	<b>1,597</b>	<b>1,701</b>	<b>6.54%</b>
Pumping Stations & Bores Maint (Recurrent)	439	385	362	-5.97%
Treatment Chemical Costs	148	160	176	10.00%
Treatment Maintenance	71	97	94	-3.09%
<b>Total Variable Costs (\$'000)</b>	<b>2,603</b>	<b>2,940</b>	<b>3,007</b>	<b>2.29%</b>
<b>Total Cost of Production (\$'000)</b>	<b>3,072</b>	<b>3,416</b>	<b>3,470</b>	<b>1.59%</b>

\*It should be noted that these expenditure comparisons can be slightly distorted by timing issues of creditor payments.

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Given the significance of energy costs on the total cost of production, and the timing of electricity invoice payments, the current year's energy cost has been estimated by applying the percentage increase in production volumes to last year's comparative cost.



**Recommendation**

Recommendation made was adopted.

**9.1.5 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW STATEMENT - DECEMBER 2013 (G35201005)**

**14/008 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Manchester and McGregor that the Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the period ended 31 December 2013 be received and noted with the variations to income and expenditure adopted as the revised Budget estimates for the year ended 30 June 2014.

**Report prepared by Manager Finance & Administration**

This report is presented to Council to revise estimates of income and expenditure in accordance with clause 203 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005. The review is for the quarter ending 31 December 2013 and is attached for Council's consideration.

The budget review statement is provided in two formats. The first being by type and reflective of how the end of year Income Statement is reported. The second being by activity as Special Schedule 3 is reported in the Financial Statements.

At the September Review, Council's budgeted Operating Result before Capital Items forecast a surplus of \$1,852,000. The December QBR result, as presented, reflects an

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increase from that projected at September by \$1,455,000, resulting in a budgeted surplus result of \$3,307,000.

The major components of the reviewed surplus are listed below:

- Increases in residential (\$180k) and non-residential (\$637k) water sales based on the expected impact the water meter replacement program will have on recorded usage and the anticipation of increased demand from customers in comparison to last year;
- Headworks contributions (\$150k) have increased based on contributions received to-date;
- GWCC500 Wildlife Corridor (\$100k) operating budget approved by Council at the December meeting;
- On-costing of labour and administrative costs are charged to operating and capital works. The income generated is then offset against these costs. This contribution was underestimated (\$320k) in preparing the original budget; and
- Budgets for mains maintenance (\$150k) and pumping maintenance (\$70k) have been reduced as works staff have been concentrating on capital works projects, in particular the meter replacement program.

Notes detailing December QBR variations to the operating result are listed on page 5 of the review statement.

Councillors will note changes to the Capital Budget Review Statement of \$1.078 million. The changes are as follows:

- \$1.1m is provided as an estimated cost to roll-out the data network infrastructure;
- \$525k is reinstated to the budget in relation to mains replacement at Oura no.2. This budget had been doubled up in the Capital Works Progress report in August, but was correct in the budget papers. The adjustment to remove it from the budget was made in error;
- \$462k in programmed works has been removed from this year's budget as a result of the priority given to meter replacement and the data network rollout. These items are detailed in the Capital Works Progress report; and
- \$85k budgeted for the installation of telemetry equipment at Temora, Junee Reefs and Gidginbung Bypass has been removed pending a review of the entire SCADA system.

Notes detailing December QBR variations to the capital budget are listed on page 7 of the review statement.

Please refer to the attached statements for financial details and accompanying notes.

**Recommendation**

Recommendation made was adopted.

**9.2 WORKS REPORTS**

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**9.2.1 DECEMBER 2013 / JANUARY 2014 (G95507005)**

**14/009 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Morris and McGregor that the Works Report for December 2013 and January 2014 be received and noted.

**Report prepared by Manager Distribution & Construction**

**Water Losses & Mains Repairs**

NUMBER	DATE	TIME		LOCATION	PIPE DIAMETER	CONSUMERS AFFECTED	ESTIMATED LOSS (KI)	REASON
		Off	On					
65.	2/12	-	-	West Wyalong, Neeld Street	100	-	100	Split Pipe
66.	7/12	7.00	8.30	Binya, Hughenden Road	100	20	50	Split Pipe
67.	8/12	10.00	14.30	Stockinbingal, Cambria Street	150	2	10	Hole In Pipe
68.	10/12	12.30	15.30	Naradhan, Monia Gap Road	80	-	80	Hole In Pipe
69.	10/12	11.00	12.00	Binya, Garoolgan Merribee Road	100	-	5	Split Pipe
70.	10/12	13.00	14.30	Weethalle, Fishers Lane	100	-	5	Split Pipe
71.	11/12	15.30	16.30	Weethalle, Youngs Lane	80	-	150	Split Pipe
72.	16/12	6.30	11.00	Matong, Junee Road	100	-	2	Joint Failure
73.	19/12	11.00	1.00	Matong, Deepwater Road	100	-	2	Joint Failure
74.	20/12	13.30	17.30	Wyalong, Slee Street	100	6	80	Split Pipe
75.	22/12	17.30	21.30	Temora, Thanowring Road	250	50	250	Split Pipe
76.	23/12	13.00	16.00	Barellan, Old Narrandera Road	100	15	10	Split Pipe
77.	24/12	10.00	12.00	Wallenbeen, Grey Street	100	-	10	Split Pipe
78.	27/12	15.30	21.30	Harden, Harden Jugiong Road	375	-	10	Hole In Pipe
79.	27/12	11.30	14.30	Barmedman, Queen Street	100	-	5	Joint Failure
80.	28/12	11.00	12.00	Naradhan, Monia Gap Road	80	-	5	Split Pipe
81.	30/12	10.30	11.30	Naradhan, Rankins Springs Road	80	-	2	Hole In Pipe
82.	30/12	23.30	2.15	Naradhan, Rankins Springs Road	80	9	20	Joint Failure
83.	31/12	7.30	10.00	Matong, Junee Road	100	8	20	Joint Failure
84.	1/01	12.00	2.30	Marrar, Marrarvale Road	80	-	5	Split Pipe
85.	2/01	9.00	12.30	Coolamon, Mirrool Street	100	20	5	Split Pipe
86.	4/01	9.00	11.00	Junee, Cox Street	100	5	100	Split Pipe
87.	6/01	15.00	16.00	Binya, Garoolgan Merribee Road	100	-	2	Split Pipe
88.	6/01	14.00	15.00	Naradhan, Hannan Road	150	-	5	Split Pipe
89.	6/01	-	-	Marrar, Marrar Road	100	-	1	Hole In Pipe

**Minutes of the meeting of GOLDENFIELDS WATER COUNTY COUNCIL held at  
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NUMBER	DATE	TIME		LOCATION	PIPE DIAMETER	CONSUMERS AFFECTED	ESTIMATED LOSS (KI)	REASON
		Off	On					
90.	6/01	-	-	Matong, Pine Street	100	-	1	Other
91.	6/01	17.00	19.00	June, Fitzroy Street	100	30	100	Split Pipe
92.	8/01	5.30	1.30	Coolamon, Wade Street	100	15	3	Split Pipe
93.	8/01	9.00	11.00	Marrar, Coursing Park Road	150	-	200	Split Pipe
94.	9/01	15.30	18.00	Ungarie, Lake Road	150	-	200	Split Pipe
95.	10/01	8.00	10.00	Matong, Deepwater Road	100	-	2	Split Pipe
96.	12/01	7.00	9.00	Cootamundra, Dirnaseer Road	100	-	3	Split Pipe
97.	12/01	12.45	16.30	Ungarie, Murial Street	100	-	50	Split Pipe
98.	13/01	16.00	17.00	Temora, Goldfields Way	50	-	2	Split Pipe
99.	13/01	12.00	2.00	Marrar, Marrarvale Road	80	-	1	Split Pipe
100.	13/01	10.00	12.00	Coolamon, Mirrool Street	100	-	1	Split Pipe
101.	15/01	9.30	13.30	Naradhan, Rankins Springs Road	80	-	10	Split Pipe
102.	15/01	9.00	12.00	Matong, Matong Street	100	-	2	Split Pipe
103.	16/01	1.00	5.30	Temora, Thanowring Road	250	50	250	Split Pipe
104.	16/01	8.30	11.30	Coolamon, Coolamon Ardlethan Road	150	2	1	Joint Failure
105.	20/01	-	-	Coolamon, Wattle Lane	100	-	1	Joint Failure
106.	21/01	7.30	12.00	Weethalle, Talleeban Road	100	-	100	Split Pipe
107.	21/01	13.30	15.30	Weethalle, Jansens Lane	80	-	20	Split Pipe
108.	21/01	8.00	9.30	Barmedman, Loftus Street	150	-	5	Split Pipe
109.	22/01	9.30	12.00	Ungarie, Lake Road	150	-	200	Split Pipe
110.	24/01	15.30	20.00	Naradhan, Monia Gap Road	80	-	5	Split Pipe
111.	27/01	7.00	19.00	Marrar, Turners Lane	80	5	500	Split Pipe
112.	28/01	9.30	12.00	Temora, Victoria Street	100	-	5	Split Pipe
113.	28/01	12.30	16.30	Temora, Warre Warral Lane	100	30	10	Joint Failure
114.	28/01	9.00	11.00	Marrar, Bussenschutts Lane	50	-	2	Split Pipe
115.	28/01	11.00	12.30	Coolamon, Wattle Lane	100	-	2	Split Pipe
116.	29/01	11.00	13.00	Cootamundra, Olympic Hwy	100	-	2	Split Pipe
117.	29/01	8.30	10.30	Weethalle, Woolners Lane	80	-	100	Hole In Pipe
118.	29/01	10.45	12.45	Weethalle, Kolkilbertoo Road	100	-	5	Split Pipe
119.	29/01	12.00	15.00	Barellan, Martin Street	50	-	5	Split Pipe

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NUMBER	DATE	TIME		LOCATION	PIPE DIAMETER	CONSUMERS AFFECTED	ESTIMATED LOSS (KI)	REASON
		Off	On					
120.	30/01	11.00	15.30	Marrar, Bussenschutts Lane	50	2	1	Split Pipe

**Complaints**

Water Quality

Dirty Water

11/12/2013	Gilgal Rd Cootamundra
13/12/2013	Junee Licorice Factory
16/12/2013	Percy Street Old Junee
16/12/2013	Percy Street Old Junee
19/12/2013	Neeld Street West Wyalong
20/12/2013	Kurrajong Street West Wyalong
20/12/2013	Garland Street Coolamon
8/01/2014	Milvale Road Temora
9/01/2014	Milvale Road Temora
15/01/2014	Twynam Street Temora
21/01/2014	Gilgal Road Cootamundra
24/01/2014	Curtis Lane Coolamon
28/01/2014	Jugiong Road Cootamundra
29/01/2014	Jugiong Road Cootamundra
31/01/2014	Iverach Street Coolamon

A total of 146 service difficulty and fault reports were received for December 2013/January 2014.

**Construction & Major Maintenance**

The following significant works were undertaken in December 2013/January 2014

- All potable water 20mm and 25mm meter replacements have been completed in both Southern and Northern Areas
- Commenced replacement of 32mm 40mm and 50mm meters
- Completed meter reading in Southern/Northern areas
- Main upgrade Wade Street Coolamon Stage 1 & 2 complete

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- Completed 100mm main extension for Fire Service Curtis Street Coolamon
- Completed 10 New Services Coolamon and Junee town and rural
- Junee Reefs Booster Pump outboard bearing failed causing excess vibration and noise – bearing replaced and tested.
- General pump checks – Preventative maintenance, checking vibration, noise, temperatures, lubrication across the scheme
- Bird and pest proofing/sealing reservoirs – water quality issue
- Check the operations of PRV's and Sustainers in the Junee and Frampton areas
- Repaired leak on Jugiong service ring main
- Temora Area - Fabricated stainless steel pipework for fire services
- Oura Pump Station - Checked alignment of pumps due to movement of pipework
- Investigate and repair Soda Ash dust extractor at Jugiong Filtration Plant

**Recommendation**

Recommendation made was adopted.

**9.2.2 CAPITAL WORKS PROGRESS REPORT (G35201005)**

**14/010 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs McGregor and Templeton that the report detailing the progress of Council's Capital Works Program as at 31 January 2014 be received and noted.

**Report prepared by Manager Finance & Administration**

This report is presented for information on the progress of Council's Capital Works Program as at 31 January 2014:

Description	Location	Anticipated Start Date	Anticipated Completion Date	Program Estimate (\$)	Expend to 30/06/13 (\$)	2013/14 Budget (\$)	YTD Expend (\$)	Total Expend to Date (\$)	Comment
<b>New System Infrastructure Assets</b>									
Site / Easement Acquisition	Opportunistic budget per year	1/07/13	30/06/14	70,000	0	70,000	53,371	53,371	In progress
Description	Location	Anticipated Start Date	Anticipated Completion Date	Program Estimate (\$)	Expend to 30/06/13 (\$)	2013/14 Budget (\$)	YTD Expend (\$)	Total Expend to Date (\$)	Comment
Electrical Office Demountable	Temora Office	1/07/13	30/06/14	35,000	0	35,000	0	0	Not yet commenced
Mains Extension	Opportunistic budget per year	1/07/13	30/06/14	50,000	0	50,000	14,694	14,694	Dan Curtis Ln Coolamon, Kitchener Rd Temora

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Additional Storage	Junee	1/07/11	30/06/14	2,500,000	100,963	2,400,000	1,244,486	1,345,449	In progress
<b>Infrastructure Asset Renewals</b>									
Depot Reconfiguration	Temora Works Depot	1/07/13	30/06/14	500,000	0	500,000	0	0	Not yet commenced
Bore Construction	Oura Bores	1/07/10	30/06/14	1,185,000	23,491	1,135,000	34,123	57,614	Preliminaries in progress. Contract awarded
Major Electrical Upgrade	Jugiong No.1 Pump Station	1/07/09	31/10/13	2,130,000	1,361,243	129,100	131,489	1,492,732	Completed.
Regrade & Seal Road, Fencing	Jugiong Treatment Plant	1/07/12	31/10/13	99,000	69,912	29,000	34,591	104,503	Completed.
Replace Control System	Jugiong Filtration Plant	2/04/10	31/10/13	500,000	308,714	128,200	91,144	399,858	Completed - awaiting final claim from contractor.
Internal Painting & Fittings Replacement	Jugiong Filtration Plant	1/07/13	30/06/14	50,000	0	50,000	0	0	Not yet commenced
Mains Replacement	Coursing Park	1/05/13	30/08/13	140,000	92,993	47,000	27,422	120,415	Completed
Mains Replacement	Strathmores to McKenzies Ln	1/05/13	30/08/13	50,000	4,529	45,000	42,618	47,147	Completed
Mains Replacement	Pattersons Ln	1/06/13	30/08/13	27,000	435	27,000	26,746	27,181	Completed.
Mains Replacement	Olympic Way Cootamundra	1/07/13	30/06/14	40,000	0	40,000	0	0	Not yet commenced
Mains Replacement	Suttons Ln Cootamundra			80,000	0	0	0	0	Job deferred due to re-prioritisation
Mains Replacement	Black Gate Rd Cootamundra	1/07/13	30/06/14	32,000	0	32,000	0	0	Not yet commenced
Mains Replacement	Cowabbie St Coolamon			58,500	0	0	0	0	Job deferred due to re-prioritisation
Mains Replacement	Loughnan St Coolamon	1/07/13	28/02/14	45,500	0	45,500	5,003	5,003	In progress
Mains Replacement	Wade St (1) Coolamon	1/07/13	30/06/14	26,000	0	26,000	53,229	53,229	Completed - an additional 120m added to job
Mains Replacement	Wade St (2) Coolamon	1/07/13	30/06/14	26,000	0	26,000	28,997	28,997	Completed
Mains Replacement	Stinson St Coolamon			33,800	0	0	0	0	Job deferred due to re-prioritisation
Mains Replacement	Mann St Coolamon	1/07/13	30/06/14	26,000	0	26,000	0	0	Not yet commenced
<b>Description</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Anticipated Start Date</b>	<b>Anticipated Completion Date</b>	<b>Program Estimate (\$)</b>	<b>Expend to 30/06/13 (\$)</b>	<b>2013/14 Budget (\$)</b>	<b>YTD Expend (\$)</b>	<b>Total Expend to Date (\$)</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Mains Replacement	Deepwater Rd Matong	1/07/13	30/06/14	26,000	0	26,000	0	0	Not yet commenced
Mains Replacement	Grong Grong Rd Matong	1/07/13	30/06/14	19,500	0	19,500	0	0	Not yet commenced
Mains Replacement	Waterview St Ganmain	1/07/13	30/06/14	26,000	0	26,000	0	0	Not yet commenced

This is Page 12 of the minutes to the Goldenfields Water County Council meeting held on the  
27 February 2014

General Manager.....Chairperson.....

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Pumps Major Maintenance Program	Throughout Distribution Area	1/07/13	30/06/14	221,000	0	221,000	60,795	60,795	In progress
Pumps Replacements (2)	Mt Daylight	1/07/13	30/06/14	50,000	0	50,000	1,321	1,321	In progress
Pump Stn Valve Replacement Program	Mt Daylight	1/07/13	30/06/14	20,000	0	20,000	0	0	Not yet commenced
Replacement, Augmentation, Improvement	Jugiong Pump Stations			200,000	0	0	0	0	Job deferred due to re-prioritisation
High Voltage Customer Agreement Upgrade	Jugiong Pump Stations	1/07/13	30/06/14	80,000	0	80,000	0	0	Under negotiation
Air-conditioning	Jugiong Pump Stations	1/07/13	30/06/14	3,000	0	3,000	0	0	Not yet commenced
Power Factor Correction	Oura Pump Stations			90,000	0	0	0	0	Job deferred due to re-prioritisation
Mains Isolation Valve	Oura Pump Stations	1/07/11	31/12/13	20,000	7,154	13,000	0	7,154	In progress
Electronic Actuator	Oura Pump Stations	1/07/13	30/06/14	20,000	0	20,000	0	0	Not yet commenced
Air-conditioning	Oura Pump Stations	1/07/13	30/06/14	11,000	0	11,000	0	0	Not yet commenced
Electrical Panel Upgrade	Garoolgan Pump Station	1/07/13	30/06/14	38,000	0	38,000	0	0	Not yet commenced
Air-conditioning	Ariah Park Pump Station	1/07/13	30/06/14	4,000	0	4,000	0	0	Not yet commenced
Electrical Spares	Pump Stations	1/07/13	30/06/14	36,500	0	36,500	0	0	Not yet commenced
Reservoir Rehabilitation	Barellan Reservoir	1/07/12	31/10/13	250,000	209,073	41,000	40,359	249,432	Completed
Water Meter Replacement Program	Throughout Distribution Area	1/07/13	30/06/16	2,140,000	65,423	810,000	714,303	779,726	In progress
Data Network Roll-out (Trial)	Selected trial locations			30,000	0	30,000	4,252	4,252	Completed
Data Network Roll-out (Phase 2)				200,000	0	200,000	62,835	62,835	In progress
Data Network Roll-out - Full Installation	Throughout Distribution Area	17/02/14	30/06/14	1,100,000	0	1,100,000	0	0	About to start. Contract being finalised

Please note that the following jobs, totalling \$462,300 have been recommended for deferral from this year's capital budget in the December Quarterly Budget Review:

- Mains replacement - Suttons Ln, Cootamundra \$80,000
- Mains replacement - Cowabbie St, Coolamon \$58,500
- Mains replacement - Stinson St, Coolamon \$33,800
- Jugiong Pump Stations Improvements \$200,000
- Oura Pump Stations Power Factor Correction \$90,000

**Recommendation**

Recommendation made was adopted.

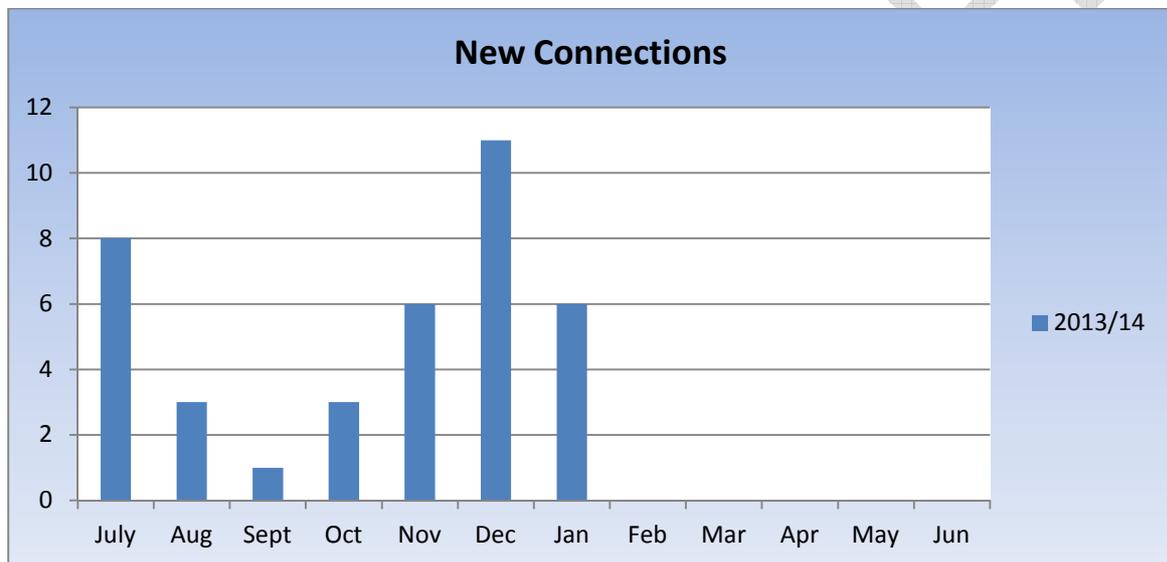
**9.2.3 NEW WATER SERVICE CONNECTIONS (G95151005)**

**14/011 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Manchester and McCann that the report detailing new water service connections be received and noted.

**Report prepared by Senior Revenue Officer**

This financial year there have been 38 new water service connections to 31 January. Additionally, a new 100mm fire service was installed in December.

The following graph shows the number of new connections per month:



The following table shows the status of applications received and the number of new connections as per their charging classification, reported on a shire basis.

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Shire	Applications				Charging Classification			
	Received	Connected	Rejected	Pending	Res	N-Res Rural	N-Res Hi Vol	N-Res Other
Bland	6	6		0	6			
Coolamon	14	13		1	12			1
Cootamundra				0				
Juneë	22	12		10	8	2		2
Narrandera	1			1				
Temora	16	7		9	6	1		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>

Of the 21 pending applications; 5 have been accepted with work orders issued and 9 letters of offer have been made. The remaining applications are under investigation.

### Recommendation

Recommendation made was adopted.

## 9.3 OTHER REPORTS

### 9.3.1 WATER PRODUCTION UPDATE (G95809505)

**14/012 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Manchester and McGregor that the report detailing Council's year to date water production status as at 30 January 2014 be received and noted.

#### Report prepared by Senior Revenue Officer

This report is presented for information on Council's year to date water production status as at 30 January 2014.

The table below provides an analysis of water production to date, measured against the estimated production figures used to estimate water sales for the year.

The monitoring of these production figures provide an early indication as to how Council's sales are potentially tracking for the year, given that the bulk of actual sales figures are only available after quarterly meter reads.

Source	Max Extraction (Ml)	Production Figures through January			
		Est Prod'n	Prod'n YTD	Variance	Percent
Jugiong	5,590	2,123	2,435	312	14.7%
Oura	6,000	2,180	2,551	371	17.0%
Other	1,222	490	589	99	20.2%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>12,812</b>	<b>4,793</b>	<b>5,575</b>	<b>782</b>	<b>16.3%</b>

The above comparison shows the results of consecutive days of extremely hot weather in December and January along with the lack of any significant summer rainfall over the entire supply area.

The attached graphs show water production comparatives between this year, last year and the estimate for Councils two main water sources, Jugiong and Oura.

### Recommendation

Recommendation made was adopted.

### 9.3.2 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW RESPONSE (G45407005)

**14/013 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Manchester and McGregor that Council authorise the General Manager to submit an independent response to the review based on the benefits of county councils based on business principles.

#### Report prepared by the General Manager

The NSW Local Government Review report as attached electronically has negative implications for GWCC. These include a proposed merger with Riverina Water and loss of self determination and core functions.

The General Manager met with general managers from the other water County Councils in Sydney to discuss the review.

The General Manager offered to author a joint submission for the water county councils. This offered was accepted on the proviso that the draft was acceptable.

### Recommendation

That Council authorise the General Manager to submit a response to the review based on the benefits of county councils based on business principles.

Council authorise in addition that the General Manager author and negotiate a joint submission with the other water county councils.

### 9.3.3 BUSINESS ACTIVITY STRATEGIC PLAN (G05601505)

**14/014 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs McCann and Morris that Council:

1. Review the performance tables from the BASP
2. Indicate any actions that require prioritisation by the end of March.

#### Report prepared by Business Enterprise Officer

##### Business Activity Strategic Plan (BASP) Performance Tables

The BASP is the primary driver for the Delivery Program and Operational Plan and is the pre-eminent document for GWCC Board Term. The BASP also drives the resourcing strategy determining the resources needed to complete yearly and longer term objectives/actions.

This report contains the reviewed performance tables of the BASP for council consideration. The 2013/2014 Operational Plan Actions have been evaluated against GWCC Strategies and Delivery Programs, with outcomes recorded.

**Recommendation**

That council

1. Review the performance tables from the BASP
2. Indicate any actions that require prioritisation

*Cr Clinton arrived at the meeting at 1.55pm*

**9.3.4 Savewater!® Alliance MEMBERSHIP AND WATER REFILL STATIONS**

**(G30058005)**

**14/015 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs McCann and Templeton that council:

1. Approve installation of 1 water refill station per GP council to strengthen community ties and promote GWCC in the community.
2. Approve Savewater!® Alliance membership and to supply 8 water refill stations.
3. Approve the General Manager to write to the 8 Constituent Councils with a letter of offer outlining the conditions of the water refill stations.

**Report prepared by Business Enterprise Officer**

This report outlines the opportunity for council to strengthen community ties and promote GWCC through the installation of 1 water refill station per GP council area.

This project will also enhance the GWCC and GP council relationship through collaboration and offers community members fresh drinking water in prominent areas.

Total price for ordering 8 units is \$28,800 plus GST, however with membership this is reduced to \$17,240 plus GST (membership cost is \$8,500 per annum). Delivery cost is \$699 + GST per pallet (4 units per pallet). Total saving to council is \$1,660.

Savewater units are competitively priced: Aquafil units are priced at \$5,428 plus GST and delivery.

**Recommendation**

1. Approve installation of 1 water refill station per GP council to strengthen community ties and promote GWCC in the community.
2. Approve Savewater!® Alliance membership and to supply 8 water refill stations

**9.3.5 WATER CONNECTION FEES (G95151005)**

**14/016 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Manchester and McCann:

1. That the following proposed connection fees been applied to the remainder of the 2013/14 financial year:

	Current Fee (\$)	Proposed Fee (\$)	Difference (\$)
20mm Connection	1,950.00	1,450.00	500.00
25mm Connection	2,420.00	1,600.00	820.00
32mm Connection	2,890.00	2,030.00	860.00
40mm Connection	3,200.00	2,420.00	780.00
50mm Connection	3,825.00	2,855.00	970.00

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> 50mm Connection

At Cost

At Cost

2. That partial refunds be provided to new customers who have paid the current fee for 2013/14.

**Report prepared by Manager Finance & Administration**

In April 2011, a review of the water connection cost, found that the average cost was almost double the fee at that time (\$1,800 v \$1,000 for a 20mm connection). Costs can vary depending on the location, proximity to the main and whether an under bore is required. The fee was set at \$1,250 for a 20mm connection for the 2011/12 financial year with annual increments in the fee of 25% for 4 years.

Following a recent complaint, another review was undertaken. Through efficiencies gained, particularly as a result of the acquisition of a vacuum trailer in June 2013, the average cost of a 20mm connection is now estimated at approximately \$1,450. Council currently charges \$1,950.

Given this variance, it is appropriate to amend this fee and provide refunds for new customers who have been connected this year. There have been 38 new water service connections to 31 January, with 14 others in the process of being connected. The value of refunds is approximately \$26,000.

**Recommendation**

Recommendation made was adopted.

**9.3.6 NEXT MEETING**

**14/017 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Clinton and Manchester that the next Ordinary Meeting of Council scheduled for Thursday 24 April 2014 be rescheduled to Thursday 8 May 2014 at 1.00pm.

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council is scheduled to be held on Thursday 24 April 2014 however it is proposed that this be moved to Thursday 8 May 2014 to avoid conflicting with the Easter and Anzac Day holidays.

**Recommendation**

Recommendation made was adopted.

**10. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS**

Cr McGregor queried the bore levels across the scheme. Chris Perry confirmed that bores are performing well and maintaining their levels.

Cr Templeton asked if Council would consider funding a water tank for the Naradhan Public Hall. To be discussed in Closed Session.

*Staff members Tim McClellan, Chris Perry and Greg Finlayson left the meeting.*

**11. CLOSED SESSION 2.36PM**

**14/018 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Clinton and Manchester that Council meet in closed session.

**UPDATE ON THE DATA ACQUISITION CONTRACT AND A LAND MATTER**

*This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under section 10A(2)(c) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to the following:*

*(c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.*

**OTHER MATTERS RAISED IN CLOSED SESSION**

**14/019 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Manchester and McGregor that Council donate funds to the Naradhan Residents Trust for the purchase of a 5000 gallon tank for the Naradhan Public Hall.

**OPEN SESSION 3.30PM**

**14/020 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Clinton and Morris that Council revert back to open session and that the resolutions made in closed session be made public.

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There being no further business requiring the attention of the Council, the meeting closed at 3.31pm.

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**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE BLAND SHIRE VISITOR ECONOMY AND TOURISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD AT THE BLAND SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN THE FOYER MEETING ROOM ON THURSDAY 20 MARCH 2014 COMMENCING AT 5:30 PM**

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*Our prosperity*

*Ensuring a vibrant and sustainable future*

*Vision: Growing our population and jobs*

*DP16.0 Community satisfaction with the quantity and quality of tourist information and resources provided*

*DP19.0 Visitors and tourists are welcomed and make a positive contribution to the community and economy*

*DP19.3 Visitor information is kept relevant and up to date*

*DP21.0 Promote leading edge communication technology to link everyone within and outside Bland Shire*

*DP21.2 Analyse, interpret and promote emerging social trends and Government initiatives in technology to benefit the community*

**Author:** Jeff Stien Senior Economic Development & Tourism Advisor

**Officer's Recommendation:**

That the draft minutes of the 13 February 2014 Visitor Economy and Tourism Advisory Committee be confirmed.

**Present:** Cr. Tony Lord, Cr. Neil Pokoney, Martin Lane, Amanda Stitt, Bernie Couzens, Mal Carnegie, Peg Mrowka, Jeff Stien (Senior Economic Development & Tourism Advisor).

**Apologies:** Des Delanie

**ITEM 1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

That the draft minutes of the Bland Shire Council Visitor Economy and Tourism Advisory committee meeting held on Thursday 13 February 2014 be confirmed, with, "The Ballarat visitor numbers have hit their highest levels in a decade" be removed.

Moved: M Carnegie

Seconded: B Couzens

**CARRIED**

- There was a discussion about the minutes of 13 February 2014 and it was agreed that the minutes will be noted as draft minutes until they have been confirmed at the next Visitor Economy and Tourism Advisory Committee meeting. Cr Pokoney commented that the minutes should not record verbatim as to what was discussed at the meeting as it may not convey the true meaning of what was intended. Cr Pokoney mentioned that he was concerned that motels and fast food outlets would

be the only beneficiaries from Tourism, refer to the previous minutes. Cr Pokoney also made the comment that the new economic development and tourism assistant could be appointed (removing will and replaced with could) and Bland Shire Council will define their role and that one of their activities will be to produce six new events.

## **ITEM 2 CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence In:

- Jacqueline Bolte letter
- Legislative Council General Purpose Standing Committee No.3
- Charles Kingston email

Correspondence Out:

- Nil

## **ITEM 3 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

- The Gold Trails won the State Your Case at the LGNSW Tourism Conference.
- The Eastern Riverina Destination Management Organisation (ERDMO) Committee were planning to meet in Junee on Friday 28 February 2014 but due to the Department of Planning (Sam Haddad - Director General plus entourage of high level officials) are visiting Wagga Wagga on the same day, the meeting was rescheduled to Friday 28 March 2014.
- The Visitor Economy & Tourism Advisory Committee projects will remain in the minutes:
  - Cultural Centre including a Visitor Information Centre
  - Cooinda Reserve Precinct including the Wetlands, Poppet Head and Rotary Park
  - Airport, gliding and car clubs
  - Augmented reality, holograms and Apps
  - Bird Trails
  - Bland Shire Heritage, Gold Trails and Tours
  - Interpretive signs gold, tin, flowers, birds, eucalyptus, indigenous, history and heritage
  - Development of a content management and online booking and payment systems, social media including smartphone, electronic tours tablet, photo library and promotional videos in English and other languages
  - Events and prospectus
  - Destination Management plan
  - Newell Highway brochure, website and promotions
  - West Wyalong brochure
  - Hotels & Clubs of the Bland Shire & Surrounding areas
  - Notable people sculptures, Reading of the Riot Act and Sporting Icons
  - Taleeban
  - Vivid Bland Shire
  - Bike Trails
  - Forests, National Park and Reserves
  - Farm stays

- Bland Shire’s murals need to be assessed and repainted if necessary and other opportunities need to be identified
  - Geocaching
  - WiFi access in the main street
- The Newell Highway Promotions Committee has mentioned that they have 17,000 copies of the Newell Highway brochure remaining and will require a reprint or new brochure.
  - At the February Visitor Economy & Tourism Advisory Committee meeting it was recommended that other VIC options be included in any study and/or EOI that is being considered by Bland Shire Council including a standalone and or a combined VIC. That Bland Shire Council provides the VEATAC with a dollar figure on how much Bland Shire Council are willing to contribute to the running of the different VIC options. The following paper was included in the March Bland Shire Council Business Paper:

**9.5 Expression Of Interest For The Visitor Information Centre**



DP 16.0 Community satisfaction with the quantity and quality of tourist information and resources provided by Council  
 19.0 Visitors and tourists are welcomed and make a positive contribution to the community economy  
 DP19.2 Work with the tourism industry to identify and develop products and services that appeal to visitors of the Shire  
 DP19.3 Visitor information is kept relevant and up to date

**Author:** Senior Economic Development & Tourism Advisor

**Visitor Economy & Tourism Advisory Committee's Recommendation:**

1. That Council expand the draft Expression of Interest (EOI) for the Operation of a Visitor Information Centre (VIC) to include a standalone or a combined VIC.
2. That Council provide the Visitor Economy & Tourism Advisory Committee with the amount of funding that they are prepared to allocate for the different options to operate a VIC.

**Introduction**

An EOI for the Operation of a Visitor Information Centre paper was presented at the December 2013 Bland Shire Council Meeting. At this meeting, Council resolved to hold this matter over until February 2014.

At the November 2013 Visitor Economy & Tourism Advisory Committee (VEATAC) meeting the VEATAC expressed that they were disappointed that there has been no consultation regarding the EOI for the Operation of a Visitor Information Centre. It was agreed that this should be discussed in the New Year at the February VEATAC meeting.

Some of the issues discussed at the February VEATAC meeting include:

- That there have been a lot of current and past debates and discussions on a VIC but nothing had been done.
- Businesses would not have the required area and trained staff to properly establish and run a VIC.
- Businesses would not have adequate parking for the number and range of vehicle types.
- There is a potential for a conflict of interest relating to the promotion of other businesses;
- The VIC will be offered a poor level of service because the business's main priority will be for their primary business.
- The VIC EOI did not consider any other VIC options.
- A stand alone VIC is the preferred option and would catch most of the passing traffic.
- Surrounding LGA's have successful standalone VIC's.

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF BLAND HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS WEST WYALONG ON TUESDAY 18 MARCH 2014

.....  
MAYOR

- The State Government allocates \$125million towards tourism and the Federal Government \$130million. Destination NSW indicates the tourism is worth \$11.6 billion to the NSW economy.
- A VIC also offers social, environmental and secondary and multiplier benefits for the community.

It was recommended at the February 2013 VEATAC meeting that other VIC options be included in any study and/or EOI that is being considered by Bland Shire Council including a standalone and or a combined VIC. That Bland Shire Council provides the VEATAC with the dollar figure on how much Bland Shire Council are willing to contribute to the running the different VIC options.

**Conclusions**

That the draft EOI be modified as a result of the outcomes of the discussions around this paper. That Bland Shire Council provide the VEATAC with the dollar figure on how much Bland Shire Council are willing to contribute to the running the different VIC options.

**Financial Implications**

Any financial implications are still to be determined and it may be more appropriate to wait for the release of the EOI and review any submissions before committing to any specific expenditure on this matter.

There is no specific budget allocation for the operation of the VIC within the Library. However, an amount of \$16,000.00 is included in Tourism Overheads to help meet the cost of Library staff time that is dedicated to VIC tasks. This amount is based on 12 hours per week.

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MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF BLAND HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS WEST WYALONG ON TUESDAY 18 MARCH 2014

.....  
MAYOR

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PAGE NO. 4 OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE BLAND SHIRE VISITOR ECONOMY & TOURISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 20 MARCH 2014

.....  
General Manager

.....  
Mayor

At the March Bland Shire Council meeting they resolved that the expression of interest for the visitor information centre discussion be deferred to the Budget workshop for deliberations as per the following:

### **9.5 Expression Of Interest For The Visitor Information Centre**

Council Recommendation:

10032014 RESOLVED on the motion of Cr McGlynn seconded Cr Grellman that the matter be deferred to the Budget Workshop for deliberations. CARRIED

### **9.6 Request For Funding To Conduct Tourism Study**

Council Recommendation:

11032014 RESOLVED on the motion of Cr McGlynn seconded Cr Keatley that the matter be deferred to the Budget Workshop for deliberations. CARRIED

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MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF BLAND HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS WEST WYALONG ON TUESDAY 18 MARCH 2014

.....  
MAYOR

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- As discussed at the February Visitor Economy and Tourism Advisory committee meeting the following reports were distributed to the committee members:
  - A Feasibility Report into the business development, economic and social benefits of a New Visitor Information Centre for West Wyalong;
  - West Wyalong Works;
  - A Strategic Action Plan For The 21<sup>st</sup> Century For West Wyalong/Wyalong Centre Of Bland Shire NSW
  - West Wyalong As We'd Like To See It By 2021
- A response was tabled and discussed with regards to the discussion papers prepared by Cr Pokoney:
  - The discussion papers were backward looking;
  - There are more contemporary documents that should have been referenced and referred to;
  - Tourism is mentioned in the Community Strategic Plan and the Community supports Tourism and Council should get on with the implementation instead of writing reports;
  - The Visitor Economy and Tourism Advisory Committee has identified projects as per recommendation 4b;
  - Cr Pokoney mentioned that the discussion papers were draft and released too early. Indigenous tourism and recreational tours were mentioned.

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PAGE NO. 5 OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE BLAND SHIRE VISITOR ECONOMY & TOURISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 20 MARCH 2014

.....  
General Manager

.....  
Mayor

- It was recommended by The Visitor Economy and Tourism Advisory Committee that the response that was tabled in relation to Cr Pokoney's discussion papers be included in the minutes.

Moved: M Carnegie

Seconded: B Couzens

## CARRIED

### Bland Shire Council Visitor Economy and Tourism Committee (BSCVETC) – March 2014

Response to: *Discussion Papers – 'Tourism in Bland Shire' and 'Recreational Tourism in Bland Shire' – January 2014*

Prepared by: Cr. Neil Pokoney.

Clarification - Is this a Tourism or Economic Development discussion paper? Do the elected Council Representatives understand the inter-relationship between Tourism (Visitor Economy) and Economic Development?

Page two of the Tourism in the Bland Shire Discussion Paper (TBSDP) mentions that "Bland Shire Council (BSC) has in fact invested considerable time, energy and money into exploring the concept of Tourism for the Shire and what it has to offer our community". Page five mentions that "the current budget for the Tourism component is approximately \$160,000, a not so small investment by Council. In the last five years there have only two additional positions added to the Bland Shire Council Organisational structure increasing the FTE numbers. They were both appointed to support the needs of Tourism and Economic development".

The investment of \$160,000 is extremely small when compared to the investment by our surrounding Councils into the Visitor Economy and Tourism, all of whom fund their Accredited Visitor Information Centres (AVIC) that operate seven days a week. Most of the surrounding Councils fund 100% of their AVIC's and their Councils' digital, social, familiarisation, print and television promotional activities. They have also developed policies which prioritise the adoption and promotion of new technologies in line with acceptance and adoption by the wider community: e.g. Cowra VIC have had their hologram display for 14 years.

The Visitor Economy and Tourism is an important industry sector and Destination NSW estimates that Domestic overnight spend in the Bland Shire over a four year average is \$17 million. In the 1997 State of Place Project Report (SOPPR), Tourism NSW's estimate of the value of tourism in the Bland Shire is \$14 million. SOPPR (pp7) also states that the "major basic industries are primary production and tourism".

The SOPPR stated that West Wyalong had three major problems:

1. It has an identity crisis – no reason to be remembered by tourists;
2. It has a lack of any substantial value-adding business;
3. It has a sense of apathy and 'resigned fate' by the community in general.

The elected Bland Shire Council Representatives are the peak community representative body, what has elected Bland Shire Council Representatives been doing since 1997 to address these problems? Bland Shire Council has acted on some of the findings or recommendations in part or in full, but the reports mentioned in the TBSDP appear mostly to have sat on a shelf or been put in a box for 15 years.

As mentioned at the February BSCVETC meeting, at this stage the majority of the reports referred to in the TBSDP cannot be found in the Bland Shire Councils Record Management System. It was mentioned at the BSCVETC that the General Manager has copies of the reports mentioned in the TBSDP.

Have the Councillors received copies of the reports mentioned in the TBSDP and have they read them? If they have not received them and read them how can they make recommendations and decisions? Do the reports relate to Tourism or to Economic Development: e.g. an intermodal report is mentioned (TBSDP, pp5)?

Why is the SOPPR mentioned in the TBSDP?

**Recommendation 1:** That the 1999 State of Place project Report be reviewed and reconsidered by Council's Economic Development sub-committee to determine any relevance it currently has to achieving a revitalised local economy and community.

Clarification - Is this a Tourism or Economic discussion paper? Does Council understand the inter-relationship between Tourism (Visitor Economy) and Economic Development?

A more modern and contemporary title for the discussion paper would have been The Visitor Economy and Tourism in the Bland Shire. The Visitor Economy has been adopted by the NSW, United Kingdom, New Zealand and ACT Governments to name a few. Government organisations who are responsible for the development and implementation of funding programs expect funding applicants to be conversant in current industry concepts, standards and terminology.

The TBSDP does not mention or reference current reports, strategies or plans prepared by Bland Shire Council, Destination NSW, Tourism Australia, Riverina Tourism or other Regional Tourism Organisations. Bland Shire Council has a strong relationship with all of these organisations

The TBSDP is going 15 years back to the future and a lot has changed since 1999 when the State of Place Project Report (SOPPR) was released and is referred to in the TBSDP. Some of the events and changes that have occurred or taken place include:

- 1999 - Australia's population reaches 19 million. Constitutional referendum proposal to establish Australia as a republic defeated. Australian troops lead multi-national United Nations peacekeeping force in East Timor. WiFi was commercialised.
- 2000 - Goods and Services Tax was introduced as part of the government's tax reform program aimed at redressing the effects of declining revenue from income tax and the Sydney Olympic Games. USB Flash Drives commercialised.
- 2001 - Centenary of Federation, Tampa crisis and Iraq War etc.
- 2005 - Google Maps launched.
- 2004 - Cowal Gold Mine construction commences, Facebook founded.
- 2007 - Pace Farms layer hen facility commissioned, Lake Cowal Conservation Centre opened, Apple released the iPhone.
- 2010 - West Wyalong Skate Park opened, Lake Cowal fills after 9 years of drought, Apple released the iPad.
- 2013/14 - Ford, Toyota and Holden announce that they will cease manufacturing in Australia. Australia's population has reached 23.4 million.

**Recommendation 2:** That Council reviews the "West Wyalong 2021 Report" for the purpose of assessing progress for each of the seven focus areas and to determine the current ongoing relevance of these areas.

See Recommendation 1 response.

The West Wyalong 2021 Report (WW2021R) was prepared approximately 15 years ago and a lot has changed in 15 years. As mentioned at the BSCVETC, the WW2021R cannot be found in the Bland Shire Councils Record Management System. It was mentioned at the BSCVETAC, that the General Manager has copies of the reports mentioned in the TBSDP.

**Recommendation 3:**  
**a.** That Council formally reviews the 2000 report into the Feasibility of a Stand Alone VIC for West Wyalong.  
**b.** That the Visitor Economy and Tourism Advisory Committee be asked to develop a new Tourism 2013 Report utilising the SOPP report, West Wyalong 2021 Report and VIC Feasibility Report and refer this to Council for consideration.

Page four of the TBSDP mentions that at the end of 2000, A Feasibility Report into Business Development, Economic and Social Benefits of a New Visitor Information Centre for West Wyalong report. As mentioned at the BSCVETC February meeting, the Feasibility Report into Business Development, Economic and Social Benefits of a New Visitor Information Centre for West Wyalong report cannot be located in the Bland Shire Councils Record Management System. It was mentioned at the BSCVETC February meeting, that the General Manager has copies of the reports mentioned in the TBSDP.

It appears that Bland Shire Council spends a lot of time, money and resources on reports and feasibility studies, with some/partial action and implementation. Why have the vast majority of towns in New South Wales established, continually supported and enhanced their AVIC's? The returns on the Visitor Economy and Tourism are not unclear as mentioned earlier. Destination NSW (2012) estimates that the annual Domestic overnight spend in the Bland Shire over a four year average is \$17 million, a significant increase on the previously referenced 1997 State of Place Project Report (SOPPR), Tourism NSW's estimate of the value of tourism in the Bland Shire is \$14 million. Council should make an informed decision on the best location for an AVIC and establish the AVIC. This is not hard, as many of or all of our surrounding Councils have done this and are reaping the benefits of investing in the Visitor Economy and Tourism and in their AVIC's. Bland Shire is the only Shire on the Newell Highway without a dedicated AVIC.

The BSCVETC recognises the validity of utilising contemporary reports, strategies and plans prepared by Bland Shire Council, Destination NSW, Tourism Australia, Riverina Tourism or other Regional Tourism Organisations. BSCVETC refers Council to the Bland Shire Community Strategic Plan 2012 – 2023 – Delivery Program 2013 – 2016 (pp 42 – 46): 'Bland Shire Council will strive to attract new tourists, new industry and business, support existing businesses and promote leading edge practices to help stimulate investment and employment to ensure a vibrant future' and BSCVETC priority projects as outlined in the response to Recommendation 4b below.

**Recommendation 4:** That the Visitor Economy and Tourism Committee be asked to respond to the following points:

- a) Do we need to develop a strategic 10 year plan?
- b) Do we need to identify target areas and overall strategy for Shire?
- c) Do we develop a Tourism event or "theme" for the Shire?
- d) Do we build on existing strengths? What are these strengths?
- e) How do we build partnerships? Who do we partner with?
- f) What Council investment do we make?

To the comments on the top of page five of the TBSDP regarding the 2011 Council Workshop, the current BSCVETC are not aware of the 'important aspects' or any reference to them. Provision of information relating to the referenced 2011 Council Workshop would be appreciated. The BSCVETC responds to the 'important aspects' as follows:

**4a: Do we need to develop a strategic 10 year plan?**

BSCVETC refers Council to the Bland Shire Community Strategic Plan 2012 – 2023 – Delivery Program 2013 – 2016 (pp 42 – 46): 'Bland Shire Council will strive to attract new tourists, new industry and business, support existing businesses and promote leading edge practices to help stimulate investment and employment to ensure a vibrant future', *Objectives 19.1 – 22.4*.

**4b: Do we need to identify target areas and overall strategy for Shire?**

BSCVETC refers Council to the Bland Shire Community Strategic Plan 2012 – 2023 – Delivery Program 2013 – 2016 (pp 42 – 46): 'Bland Shire Council will strive to attract new tourists, new industry and business, support existing businesses and promote leading edge practices to help stimulate investment and employment to ensure a vibrant future', *Objectives 19.1 – 22.4*.

The BSCVETC has identified the following target areas and projects:

- Development of a Destination Management Plan.
- Establishment of an Accredited Visitor Information Centre incorporating a Cultural Centre.
- Development of content management, online booking and payment systems, social media including smartphone, electronic tours tablet, on line digital events and prospectus, photo library and promotional videos in English and other languages. Augmented reality, holograms and Apps.
- Cooinda Reserve Precinct including the Wetlands, Poppet Head and Rotary Park.
- Airport, gliding and car clubs.
- Bird Trails.
- Bland Shire Heritage, Gold Trails and Tours.
- Interpretive signs gold, tin, flora, fauna, eucalyptus industry, Aboriginal and European culture and heritage.
- West Wyalong and Newell Highway brochures, website and promotions.
- Hotels & Clubs of the Bland Shire & Surrounding areas.
- Russell Drysdale monument and interpretive sign.
- Notable people sculptures, Reading of the Riot Act and Sporting Icons.
- Lake Cowal and Manna Mountain.
- Taleeban.
- Vivid Bland Shire.
- Bike Trails.
- Forests, National Park and Reserves.
- Farm stays.
- Bland Shire's murals need to be assessed and repainted if necessary and other opportunities need to be identified.
- Geocaching.
- WiFi access in the main street, relates to Destination NSW strategy.

Most Councils have been proactive in developing Visitor Economy and Tourism activities whilst the Bland Shire has been relatively inactive except for spending a lot of time, money and resources on reports and feasibility studies and does not act on or implement them. Comments have been made that the above projects identified by the BSCVETC are a scatter gun approach, but they all contribute to the bigger picture of making the Bland Shire a more desirable visitor and tourist destination, and for the residents of the Bland Shire. The BSCVETC identified these projects with the aim of appealing a wide cross section of the visitors and tourists that visit the Bland Shire when travelling on the Newell and Midwestern Highways and Goldfields Way.

The BSCVETC has identified the projects mentioned above to address ongoing development and enhancement for the Visitor Economy and community wellbeing of the Bland Shire. These projects need to be developed and implemented as a priority as opposed to time, money and resources being spent on another report which may or may not be acted upon or implemented. Action on the vision of the Bland Shire Community Strategic Plan 2012 – 2023 will alleviate fate of many recommendations of previous reports referred to in the TBSDP.

**4c: Do we develop a Tourism event or "theme" for the Shire?**

Bland Shire already hosts a range of events aligned to the Visitor Economy e.g. "In The West", Rugby League Knockout and Mirool Silo Kick. BSVETC is prepared to investigate development of a 'theme' for the Shire along the lines of Temora's "The Friendliest Town" theme.

**4d: Do we build on existing strengths? What are these strengths?**

Past reports commissioned by Council clearly identify the strengths of Bland Shire and these strengths need to be built upon as a matter of priority with sustained action per the aforementioned target areas and projects in 4b. The strengths must acknowledge the significance of the Barrick Cowal Gold Mine, Pace Farms, and natural assets including forests, flora and fauna.

**4e: How do we build partnerships? Who do we partner with?**

High level partnerships have been built with the Newell Highway Promotions Committee, Riverina Regional Tourism, Central NSW Tourism, Inland NSW Tourism, Destination NSW, Gold Trails, NSW Modern Mining Trail, Lake Cowal Conservation Centre, and surrounding Councils. Consolidation and maintenance of these partnerships, along with the identification of new partnership opportunities is critical to the success of Visitor Economy strategies as both the Federal and NSW Governments are requiring that Councils and organisations work collaboratively by bundling products and experiences together. Visitors and tourist do not stop at LGA borders and they have to travel through a number of LGA's before they get to the Bland Shire.

**4f: What Council investment do we make?**

The Bland Shire Council's current level of investment in the Visitor Economy is extremely small when compared to the investment by our surrounding Councils. Most of the surrounding Councils fund 100% of their AVIC's and their Councils' digital, social, familiarisation, print and television promotional activities. In recognition of the importance of the Visitor Economy and its direct link to Economic Development, surrounding councils allocate significant percentages of their operating budgets towards the Visitor Economy with the view that their investment preparedness demonstrates to potential funding organisations and partners a clear commitment to strategy for community development. Funding organisations and partners are looking for proponents who can demonstrate effective leveraging and value-adding for their allocations.

Council needs to consider investment in the Visitor Economy in the order of 5% of operating budget (approx. M\$22 = M\$1.1). The establishment of an Accredited Visitor Information Centre (AVIC) could cost approximately M\$3 with a required annual operating budget of approximately \$300,000. Some of the cost of the establishment of the AVIC would be offset by pairing with the establishment of a Cultural Centre.

**Recreational Tourism in Bland Shire Discussion Paper**

The concurrent Recreational Tourism in Bland Shire Discussion Paper (RTBSDP) deals with only one component of the Visitor Economy. Such an elemental approach will achieve lesser outcomes than that of an integrated strategy which draws together all attributes of the Shire. The plan for this approach is outlined clearly in the Bland Shire Community Strategic Plan 2012 – 2023 and Delivery Program 2013 – 2016.

On page two, the RTBSDP mentions, *“The Tourism sector is passionate about telling everyone what it contributes to local economies. I believe that a lot of the information available is generated by a sector with a vested interest in promoting itself. I personally have a problem with the tourism industry counting my kids coming home for Christmas as “tourism”. Putting this aside I still believe that we would do well to clearly define what a vigorous tourism industry will do for our shire, beyond making more money for our Motels and food outlets and putting more pressure on our toilets and parks”*. The motels and food outlets do provide employment and offer services to the residents of and Bland Shire as well as the visitors and tourists. So does this mean that we put signs up on the motels, food outlets, toilets and parks that allow sporting visitors access and other visitors are not welcome?

Does the *“making more money for our Motels and food outlets and putting more pressure on our toilets and parks”*, comment apply to the sporting visitors that are mentioned in Part B of this report? As surrounding Shires do, Bland Shire should be welcoming all positive visitor activity to the area as a matter of priority.

**Conclusion**

The TBSDP provides a highly subjective review of the Visitor Economy status for the Bland Shire with omissions of significant information from the various referenced documents. Council has invested funds, energy and resources into supporting tourism across the Shire however, a continuum of studies and reports will amount to nothing if recommendations are not acted upon, ‘Vision without action is a dream’. The use of contemporary information, concepts and jargon are critical to establishing the Shire's intent as a leader in the Visitor Economy to government and other potential partners.

Since the end of 2011 the Bland Shire Councils Visitor Economy & Tourism Advisory Committee (BSCVETC) has been working on increasing the identity of the Bland Shire. BSCVETC has identified and presented to Council a comprehensive and relevant list of target areas and projects which will provide an enhanced and inspiring visitor experience of the Bland Shire. These initiatives provide shovel-ready projects which address the community vision and can be matched to existing budgetary allocations and funding opportunities as they emerge. The Bland Shire Community Strategic Plan 2012 – 2023 and Delivery Program 2013 – 2016 set the pathway for Bland Shire, it is time to move forward with implementation.

BSCVETC refers Council to current documents relating to the Visitor Economy and Tourism:

- *Bland Shire Community Strategic Plan 2012 – 2023 – Delivery Program 2013 – 2016.*
- *Riverina Destination Management Plan, September 2013*
- *Travel To Riverina, Year Ending December 2013, Destination NSW*
- *LGA Visitor Profile – Bland, Year Ending September 2013, Destination NSW*
- *Bland Local Government Area Tourist Accommodation Profile, September 2011, Destination NSW*
- *Bland Heritage Strategy 2011-2014*
- *Tourism in Local Communities, Legislative Council, General Purpose Standing Committee NO.3, 6<sup>th</sup> March 2014.*

#### **ITEM 4           GENERAL BUSINESS**

- Following on from the comments made at the February Visitor Economy and Tourism Advisory Committee Meeting regarding the Bland Shire Council website, Martin Lane mentioned that he was personally responsible for the website and that information updates were in the hands of Bland Shire Council. Martin Lane asked Cr Pokoney for further explanation of the comments made at the February meeting. Cr Pokoney mentioned that it would not be appropriate for him to respond.
- Cr Lord gave a brief report from attending the 2014 LGNSW Tourism Conference and mentioned that the presentations on Visitor Information Centres were good and informative. The Senior Economic Development and Tourism Advisor will distribute the presentations when they become available. Cr Lord also mentioned that the Gold Trails won the State Your Case presentation.
- Cr Lord will table a paper at the next Visitor Economy and Tourism Advisory committee meeting after participating in the Murals Tour at Kurri Kurri as part of the 2014 LGNSW Tourism Conference. The western wall of the White Tank Hotel may be an ideal location for a mural.
- Mal Carnegie mentioned that the 'Hear The Bush Beat' concert started in 2009 at Condobolin with John English and Shannon Noll with 1,500 people attending. Following on from Poppers In The Pines that was held in Burcher on the 22 & 23 September 2012, a small committee including the Burcher Progress Association has been formed to organise another concert to be held on 20 September 2014. Mental As Anything has been confirmed that they will attend and they will be approaching other bands. The Committee will be seeking support at a later date.

- The following Tourism In The Bland letter by Jacqueline Bolte was tabled and noted:

TOURISM IN THE BLAND.

Most people agree the more visitors to our region the more prosperous our Shire.

So let's explore what brings the tourist?

1. One off or annual large event or festival. Eg Elvis in Parks, Moomba in Melbourne the Olympic Games.

COMMENT :- WW Events have held successful annual events, but volunteers are few and far between.

Various sporting events have also been held annually.

Christmas carnivals bring local shoppers not out of towners.

2. Natural scenery. e.g Beach or mountain settings. Snow sports

COMMENT Lake Cowal or Cowal Gold mine could be explored, Booberi Hills or farm stays.

3. Famous people or monuments. Eg Henry Lawson festival Dog on the tuckerbox.

COMMENT Maybe the new Russel Drysdale monument will bring in a few.

SUMMARY

Over the years the biggest influx of visitors has come from one single event "Duck Opening"

Now against the law.

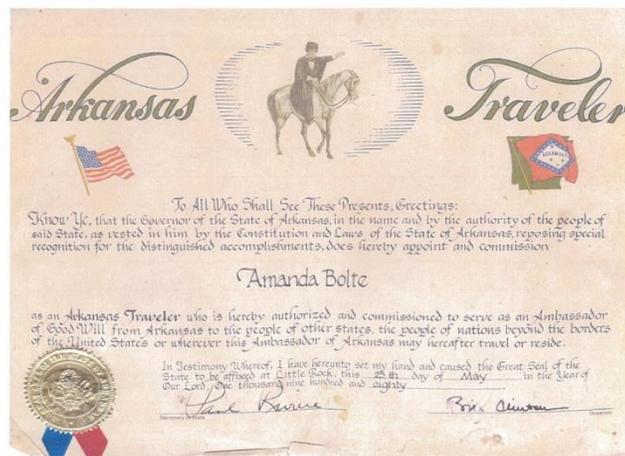
Over one weekend in the 1990's one property alone at Lake Cowal hosted 1200 cars and shooters. Mostly Victorians. They purchased perishable food drink and petrol from this area over many years.

What could bring such numbers again? What are people passionate about? Bird watching? Environmental issues? Fashion? Photography? Food, we have many different nationalities in town let them cook their national dishes.

How about a "Grey Nomads" caravan happening? An indigenous display?

My best wishes to the tourist committee. Jacqueline Bolte.

- Amanda Stitt tabled the following Ambassador and Town Identity information which was discussed briefly:



When Amanda Stitt travelled to Arkansas in 1980, they were giving out certificates to travellers. A formal document should be investigated for West Wyalong. Ambassadors Club / Geelong.

### ***Town Identity***

- **Home:** for people that have lived here and moved away West Wyalong will always be Home: “*Come Home to West Wyalong*” The I love West Wyalong facebook page has had some fantastic feedback from former residents.
  - “*Back to West Wyalong 2019*” The name for the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary is Quasquicentennial. This term was coined by Robert L. Chapman, the editor of Funk and Wagnalls, in 1961. The word broken down as quasqui which means ‘and a quarter’ and centennial which means ‘100 years’
- **Friendly:** Most visitors comment on how friendly the town is, locals will engage visitors. “*West Wyalong the friendly town*”
- **Bland:** with the latest media hype we need to play on the Bland, Dull & Boring theme. “*Bland is far from Dull & Boring*”
- **History:** The Heritage of the area is rich in Gold. & wheat farming “*Find Hearts of Gold*” walking tours of main Street Buildings. Driving tours of all the old gold mines. Tours to Cowal Gold
- **Culture:** West Wyalong has a large group of talented artists, plus we have our name on a Drysdale painting!. “*Bland Art*” we could start a facebook page to help artists promote and sell their work.
- **Nature:**
  - Bland shire boasts a large variety of native birds, including the Bird Sanctuary at Lake Cowal.
  - It also has numerous native plants and flowers.
  - We have a lot of different rock formations“**Capture It**” Photographic tours of our unique Shire.
- **Sport:** Bland Shire boasts a large number of State, & Australian title holders and representatives. A “*Sporting Hall of fame*” could be set up in one of the empty business premises. Even just using the window area so no personnel are required to man the shop.
- **Aboriginal heritage:** My understanding is the wetlands area between Wyalong & West Wyalong will include a large amount of information about the Aboriginal heritage of this area, and a lot of native vegetation. Can we incorporate this into some form of educational tour?
- **Niche industries:** Eucalyptus Farm, Regal Estate winery, Hot Glass Gallery. Encourage & support these industries in embracing tourism.

Following a brief discussion it was recommended that the Bland Shire have a celebration for the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Moved: A Stitt

Seconded: M Lane

#### **CARRIED**

Following a brief discussion it was recommended to investigate and discuss the Town Identity and Town Ambassador Program.

Moved: A Stitt

Seconded: P Mrowka

#### **CARRIED**

- Mal Carnegie mentioned that it appears the committees of the Bland Shire are working in isolation and there is no dialogue between the committees with the potential for duplication of projects. It was recommended that each committee produce a quarterly report to be circulated to each of the committees.

Moved: M Carnegie

Seconded: B Couzens

### **CARRIED**

- Bernie Couzens asked Cr Pokoney for an update on the current status of the proposed indoor sports stadium. Cr Pokoney mentioned that that the proposal for indoor sports stadium is being developed and discussions are progressing and have included a multicultural facility and a theatre has also been discussed. Bernie asked if the indoor sports stadium was included in the IPR documentation. Cr Pokoney mentioned that it was in a delivery plan and will be included in budget discussions being held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April.
- The following Ten Reasons Why A New & Expanded 'VIC' Is Needed In Bland Shire by Charles Kingston was tabled and noted:

#### **TEN REASONS WHY A NEW & EXPANDED 'VIC' IS NEEDED IN BLAND SHIRE**

1. **VISITORS WILL STOP IF IT'S VISIBLE & OPEN:** Evidence from other rural shire and town communities is that visitors will make a point of stopping to have a look around when they can clearly identify and access a facility which is highly visible from the main thoroughfare, has adequate parking and is open all days of the week. This is not the case at present where information and assistance is confined to the Bland Shire Library, not visible from the main thoroughfare and with restricted hours on weekends.
2. **LOCAL RATEPAYERS & BLAND SHIRE COUNCIL HAVE ALREADY IDENTIFIED IT AS A TOP PRIORITY:** It is already listed as a top priority in Bland Shire Council's Community Strategic Plan, a working document achieved and ratified after extensive consultation with the wider community and published in June 2012.
3. **THERE ARE LONG TERM ECONOMIC, SOCIAL & CULTURAL BENEFITS TO BE HAD FROM SUCH A FACILITY:** opportunities for local businesses, community groups and cultural, environmental and sporting interest projects to sell, share and interest people in their products, concerns and projects.
4. **SUSTAINABILITY & EMPOWERMENT OF THE BLAND SHIRE COMMUNITY:** *"As a community, we need to look ahead to the time when there is no mine in the area."* Standing on its own by putting its best collective feet together through positive promotion of its numerous attractions is fundamental.
5. **"OH YES, WEST WYALONG. WE'VE BEEN THROUGH IT."** The most commonly recalled comments from travellers suggest they do not stick around long because they don't know what to see or do.
6. **LOCALS & NEW RESIDENTS DESERVE & NEED TO KNOW WHAT'S HERE ALSO:** A new, expanded VIC would improve not only the numbers of tourists who choose to stay and see, but also provide its residents with a source of readily available information, consultation and participation.
7. **THE LIBRARY STAFF IS BUSY BEING EXCELLENT LIBRARIANS:** While they do a wonderful job with limited space, hours & resources, a proper VIC deserves both paid employees & volunteers who are there for it.
8. **A PEOPLE TO PEOPLE APPROACH IS APPRECIATED:** Brochures and computerised information sources are all well and good, but, in addition, the person to person approach is what moves people to action.
9. **OTHER SHIRES OF SIMILAR SIZE & PROXIMITY HAVE WONDERFUL VIC FACILITIES:** For example, Cowra, with its impressive, original hologram re. the WWII Cowra breakout, or, even closer to Bland Shire in distance and town size, the wonderful combined Information Centre and Rural Museum in Temora.
10. **THE DESIRE & FELT NEED FOR IT ASAP IS CLEARLY PRESENT:** A well-attended public meeting in December 2013 not only expressed strong support but set up a public action committee to get something moving on this from the Council and others who care about the present & future of the community. Several letters to the Editor in the *WW Advocate* (from people NOT at those meetings) endorsed that even more strongly.

#### **ITEM 5 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 10 April 2014 commencing at 6:00pm

#### **ITEM 6 CLOSE**

Meeting closed at 6:30pm

## SECTION 2 – OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

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### 9.1 Monthly Status Report

*Our leadership*

*Setting a benchmark for community standards*

*Vision: A well run council acting as the voice of the community*

*DP14.3 Ensure the General Manager takes on a high level role in implementing the Community Strategic Plan and associated documents*

**Author:** Executive Assistant

**Officer's Recommendation:**

**That the information contained in the April 2014 monthly status report be received and noted.**

**Introduction**

At its June 2011 meeting Council approved for the submission of a "Monthly Status Report" to each ordinary Council meeting for effective monitoring and recording of Council's decisions and actions taken.

This course of action creates greater transparency for staff responsible for implementing Council decisions and provides Councillors with a more accurate outcome of their decision making process.

When the action required from each decision is completed the item will be deleted from the report.

**Conclusion**

The actions taken by staff in implementing Council decisions and detailed in the Monthly Status Report be received and noted.

**Financial Implications**

Nil to this report

# MONTHLY STATUS REPORT - COUNCIL MEETING RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION

Blue shading indicates action completed

COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 16 APRIL 2013			
Item Number	Action By	Council Resolution/Action Required	Outcome
MULTIPURPOSE CULTURAL PRECINCT INCLUDING A VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE - 11042013	DCCDS	That the Council confirms the inclusion of a Visitor Information Centre in the current investigations and scope for a multipurpose cultural/exhibition space and that the findings of the investigations be presented to Council for further consideration and consultation.	Investigations Underway and ongoing 6/8: to be discussed at special Council Workshop on 13/8/2013 20/8: GM to inspect proposed new property development in Main St for further consideration of options. 5/11 GM has inspected. 3/12 To be held over until February meeting pending discussion at workshop. 5/2: Facility Designer visited West Wyalong in late January, awaiting report.
COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 17 SEPTEMBER 2013			
Item Number	Action By	Council Resolution/Action Required	Outcome

<p>Awning - Park Street Recreation Ground - 03092013</p>	<p>DAES</p>	<p>1. Seek the view of the Park St Recreation Committee in regard to this development. 2. Produce cost estimates for erecting an awning at the Park St Recreation Ground over the existing concrete slab.</p>	<p>In hand - letter sent 15/10: awaiting response from User Group. 5/2: User Group to organise an onsite meeting with engineers then a response will be received. 26/3: Submitted to Council as part of the Capital Works "wish" list for consideration for inclusion into the 2014/15 Budget</p>
<p><b>COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 22 OCTOBER 2013</b></p>			
<p><b>Item Number</b></p>	<p><b>Action By</b></p>	<p><b>Council Resolution/Action Required</b></p>	<p><b>Outcome</b></p>
<p>Executive Certificate For Elected Members - 08102013</p>	<p>GM</p>	<p>1. That Council agree in principle to participate in the Executive Certificate for Elected members program. 2. That the General Manager liaises with councillors and LGNSW to establish an appropriate timetable for conducting the program in West Wyalong.</p>	<p>Arrangements are in hand to conduct this program early in 2014. 3/12 Now looks like being in April/May 2014. 5/2: Waiting confirmation of dates from LGNSW 10/3: Confirmation has been received for 24-25-26 May and 5-6 July and the following clrs. have nominated - N. Pokoney / L. McGlynn / L. hampton / L. Pike.</p>
<p><b>COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 19 NOVEMBER 2013</b></p>			
<p>Allocation from Budget for Installation of Heritage Plaques - 03112013</p>	<p>DCCDS</p>	<p>1. That Council allocate \$10,000 to the design and installation of Heritage Plaques from the 2013/2014 budget. 2. That \$10,000 for additional Heritage Plaques be included for consideration in the 2014-2015 budget</p>	<p>3/12 Guy is working with Heritage Advisor to come up with appropriate wording etc. 5/2: Panel detail and design is being finalised. Initial quotes have been received.</p>

## COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 3 DECEMBER 2013

Item Number	Action By	Council Resolution/Action Required	Outcome
Expressions of Interest for the Operation of a Visitor Information Centre - 07122013	GM	That this matter be held over until February 2014.	5/2: to February Visitor Economy & Tourism Advisory Committee then back to March Council meeting 10/3: Refer to the minutes of the VE & T AC of 13 February 2014. <b>2/4: This matter was deferred from the March meeting to the April budget</b>
Proposal for a New Indoor Sporting Complex - 08122013	DCCDS	1. That Council commence investigations into the available options to establish a new indoor recreation facility or to upgrade and expand the existing indoor facility; 2. That funds for this purpose be made available from the current budget allocation for this purpose; 3. That the General Manager establishes a staff team to oversee these initial investigations; 4. That the General Manager endeavour to engage all possible stake holders in this process.	5/2: Facility Designer visited West Wyalong in late January, awaiting report. 4/3 Preliminary report received, clarification being sought
NSW Road Naming Policy - Geographical Names Board - 10122013	DAES	That Council support the principals of the Geographical Names Board "NSW Road Naming Policy" and commence the process to rename duplicate road names within our Local Government Area.	5/2: Ongoing investigations
Sunshine Park Mirrool - 13122013	DAES	That the matter regarding the capital upgrade of the existing Sunshine Park fence be considered during the discussions for the 2014 - 2015 capital works program.	5/2: to be included in consideration in 2014/2015 Budget <b>26/3: submitted to Council as part of the Capital Works "wish" list for consideration for inclusion into the 2014/15 Budget</b>

<p>Planning Proposal - Neeld Street, Wyalong</p>	<p>DCCDS</p>	<p>That Council: a) Receive and note the Planning Proposal to rezone Lots 11 to 20 Section 36 DP759123, Lots 1 to 7 Section 37 DP759123, Lots 1 to 10 Section 48 DP759123 and Lots 11 to 20 Section 49 DP759123, Neeld Street, from B6 Enterprise Corridor to R1 General Residential; b) Forward the subject Planning Proposal to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure under Clause 56(1) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, requesting that the Minister issue a "Gateway Determination" that would allow for the planning proposal to proceed; c) Delegate authority to the General Manager to make any minor alterations requested by the Department of Planning and Infrastructure; d) Request that the Minister delegate authority for Council to determine the planning proposal; and e) Advertise the Planning Proposal as per the provisions of Section 57 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979 once a Gateway determination has been issued.</p>	<p>5/2: Proposal lodged with Department, Planning Panel heard application, now awaiting gateway decision. Gateway approval received, Community consultation beginning week 17/3</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 18 FEBRUARY 2014</b></p>			
<p>Item Number</p>	<p>Action By</p>	<p>Council Resolution/Action Required</p>	<p>Outcome</p>
<p>Mobile Grandstand - 03022014</p>	<p>DAES</p>	<p>That Council obtain quotes on a mobile Grandstand for consideration in the 2014/15 Budget estimates.</p>	<p>26/3: Quotes obtained and matter submitted as part of 2014/15 budget</p>
<p>Tourism in Bland Shire - 04022014</p>	<p>GM</p>	<p>That the recommendations contained within the Discussion Paper be referred to the Economic Development Committee.</p>	<p>10/3: The discussion paper was presented to the Committee's meeting on 13 February 2014. <b>2/4: The Economic Development Committee is scheduled to meet on 29 April</b></p>

Events West Wyalong - Request for Financial Assistance, Festival - Mexico in the West - 09022014	DCCDS	1. That Council support the Mexico in the West Festival, scheduled for 17-19 October 2014, by way of a financial contribution of \$15,000.00 and in-kind assistance to the value of \$5,000.00; 2. That the funds for this purpose be allocated from the existing Strengthening Communities funding allocation for 2013-2014, and 3. That Council consider making an annual allocation for such an event in conjunction with the preparation of the 2014-2015 budget.	10/3: letter sent to EWW
Major Repairs to Naradhan Community Hall - 05022014	DCCDS	That Council provide up to \$18,000 from the Strengthening Communities Grant Program for the major repairs required at Naradhan Community Hall.	Paperwork underway
Strengthening Communities - West Wyalong League Tag Knockout - 16022014	DCCDS	That Council approve a Strengthening Communities grant of \$1500 to support the inaugural West Wyalong League Tag knockout on March 1, 2014.	Paperwork underway
Access Incentive Grant - Cuts N Curls - 17022014	DCCDS	The Council approves an Access Incentive Grant for Cuts N Curls for the amount of \$4000.	Paperwork underway
Bald Archy Exhibition - 18022014	DCCDS	That subject to Council being offered the Bald Archy Exhibition, that the Mayor and General Manager negotiate with Splatter Gallery & Cafe to host the exhibition and that expenses not exceed \$5,000.	Bald Archy's not visiting West Wyalong in 2014. Request for exhibition in 2015 has been made.
Local Approvals Policy 2014 - 20022014	DCCDS	that Council adopt the draft Local Approvals Policy as required by Section 158 of the Local Government Act, and place it on public exhibition for a period of 42 days.	On Public exhibition
Multi-Purpose Cultural/Exhibition Space - 22022014	DCCDS	That Council conduct a community survey regarding a multi-purpose cultural space, in consultation with the chair of the Cultural Advisory Committee, commencing by April 1, 2014.	Development of Survey underway

Clean Up Australia Day - 23022014	DCCDS	That Council open its landfill sites to Bland Shire residents for free to celebrate Clean Up Australia Day on Sunday, March 2 with a limit of one sorted cubic metre per load.	Completed.
Main Street Toilet- Upgrade - 25022014	DAES	That Council proceed with the refurbishment of the Main Street toilets including two unisex toilets fitted the same and having baby change tables as shown and the additional funding of \$20,000 be sourced from the current under expenditure in the WHS-Risk area.	26/3: Commenced
Boardwalk Wetlands - 26022014	DAES	That Council approve for an increase in the Wetlands Capital Budget by \$50,000 to enable the completion of the boardwalk construction at the Wetlands, as per Proposal 1 - Addition of \$50,000 to the budget result in 2013-14 with a reduction of Capital expenditure of \$50,000 in 2014-15.	26/3: Ongoing

## COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 18 MARCH 2014

Item Number

Action By

Council Resolution/Action Required

Outcome

Revitalising Local Government - Final Report - 07032014	GM	1. That Council endorse the REROC response to the Revitalising Local Government Final Report; 2. That Council include an additional response supporting the retention of Goldenfields Water as a separate water authority; and 3. That the General Manager continues to keep councillors and staff apprised of any progress on this issue. 4. That the General Manager investigate and report back to Council on the implications of joining the Riverina Regional Library.	2/4: Council's submission, together with a letter supporting the retention of Goldenfields Water has been forwarded to the Minister for Local Government
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Support For Health Professionals - 08032014	GM	That Council, in an endeavour to maintain consistency, agrees to support Dr. Oladiran and Dr. Kumar by way of a six month rental subsidy in accordance with past arrangements and that such subsidy be made direct to the two doctors.	2/4: Council at its March meeting resolved to support both new doctors by way of a rental subsidy. All arrangements have been completed
Support For Health Professionals - 09032015	GM	That a welcome reception for the two (2) new doctors be held on Tuesday 1 April 2014 commencing at 5.00pm in the Council Chambers.	2/1/3: To be held at 6pm, invitations sent. 2/4: The reception was successfully held on 1 April.
Expression Of Interest For The Visitor Information Centre - 10032014	GM	That the matter be deferred to the Budget Workshop for deliberations.	2/4: Considered at the April Budget Workshop and will be the subject of a report to the April Council meeting
Request For Funding To Conduct Tourism Study - 11032014	GM	That the matter be deferred to the Budget Workshop for deliberations.	2/4: Considered at the April Budget Workshop and will be the subject of a report to the April Council meeting
Making Of Rates & Charges 2014/15 - 14032014	DCCDS	ORDINARY RATE A. That it is hereby RECOMMENDED that Ordinary Rates be made for the year commencing on 1st July 2014 on all rateable land within the area of the Council of Bland as follows: a) Farmland Rate: A base amount of seventy six dollars (\$76.00) per assessment plus an ad-valorem amount of point zero six one eight one cents (0.006181c) in the dollar on the land value of all rateable land categorised as farmland, the base amount to yield two point nine two percent (2.92%) of the total amount payable by the levying of the Farmland rate. b) Mining Rate: A base amount of one hundred and sixty three dollars (\$163.00) plus an ad-valorem amount of point zero zero nine eight six four cents (0.009864c) in the dollar on the land value of all land categorised as mining land, the base amount to yield three point zero zero percent (3.00%) of the total amount payable by the levying of the mining rate. c) Gold Mining Rate: A base amount of one hundred and sixty three dollars (\$163.00) plus an ad-valorem amount of point zero four six three two one cents (0.046321c) in the dollar on the land value that is categorised as gold mining land, the base amount to yield zero point zero two percent (\$0.02%) of the total amount payable by the levying of the mining rate.	

**Making Of Rates & Charges  
2014/15 - 15032015**

**DCCDS**

B. That it is hereby RECOMMENDED that Ordinary Rates be now made for the year commencing on 1st July 2014 on all rateable land within the area of the Council of Bland as follows: a) Residential Rate: A base amount of seventy six dollars (\$76.00) per assessment plus an ad-valorem amount of point zero six eight seven four cents (0.006874c) in the dollar on the land value of all rateable land categorised as residential, the base amount to yield twenty nine point four five percent (29.45%) of the total amount payable by the levying of the Residential rate. b) Business Rate: A base amount of one hundred and forty one dollars (\$141.00) plus an ad-valorem amount of point zero one two five four nine cents (0.012549c) in the dollar on the land value of all land categorised as business land, the base amount to yield twenty seven point one eight percent (27.18%) of the total amount payable by the levying of the Business Rate. But excepting there—from any land within the following areas of the Council of Bland which are hereby taken to be separate centres of population for the purposes of Section 529 (2) (b) of the Local Government Act 1993; and centres of activity for the Purposes of Section 529 (2) (d) of that Act:

- \* Land within the West/Wyalong Differential General Rating District as defined in the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 8th December 1992.
- \* Land within the Town Improvement District of Barmedman as defined in the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 8th November 1940 and notified in the NSW Government Gazette of 15th November 1940.
- \* Land within the Town Improvement District of Ungarie as defined in the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 10th December 1926 and notified in the NSW Government Gazette of 24th December 1926.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Making Of Rates &amp; Charges 2014/15 - 16032016</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>DCCDS</b></p>	<p>WEST WYALONG - WYALONG THAT Ordinary Rates be now made on all rateable land within that part of the area of the Council of Bland within the West Wyalong/Wyalong Differential General Rating District as defined in the Minutes of the Council held on 8th December 1992, as follows: a) Residential (West Wyalong/Wyalong) Rate : A base amount of one hundred and forty one dollars (\$141.00) per assessment plus an ad-valorem amount of point zero one two three seven eight cents (0.012378c) in the dollar on the land value of all rateable land, the base amount to yield twenty two point five zero percent (22.50%) of the total amount payable by the levying of the Residential (West Wyalong/Wyalong) rate. b) Business (West Wyalong/Wyalong) Rate: A base amount of one hundred and sixty three dollars (\$163.00) per assessment plus an ad-valorem amount of point zero two eight five three cents (0.020853c) in the dollar on the land value of all rateable land categorised as business land, the base amount to yield eleven point four four percent (11.44%) of the total amount payable by the levying of the Business (West Wyalong/Wyalong) rate.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Making Of Rates &amp; Charges 2014/15 - 17032017</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>DCCDS</b></p>	<p>BARMEDMAN THAT Ordinary Rates be now made on all rateable land within that part of the area of the Council of Bland within the Town Improvement District of Barmedman as defined in the Minutes of the Council held on 8th November 1940 and notified in the NSW Government Gazette on the 15th November 1940, as follows: a) Residential (Barmedman) Rate: A base amount of seventy six dollars (\$76.00) per assessment plus an ad-valorem amount of point zero two one zero four one (0.021041c) in the dollar on the land value of rateable land, that is categorised as residential land, the base amount to yield thirty seven point zero seven percent (37.07%) of the total amount payable by the levying of the Residential (Barmedman) rate. b) Business (Barmedman) Rate: A base amount of seventy six dollars (\$76.00) per assessment plus an ad-valorem amount of point zero two zero zero four cents (0.022004c) in the dollar on the land value of all rateable land categorised as business land, the base amount to yield thirty five point two six percent (35.26%) of the total amount payable by the levying of the Business (Barmedman) rate.</p>	

<p><b>Making Of Rates &amp; Charges 2014/15 - 18032018</b></p>	<p><b>DCCDS</b></p>	<p>UNGARIE THAT Ordinary Rates be now made on all rateable land within that part of the area of the Council of Bland within the Town Improvement District of Ungarie as defined in the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 10th December 1926 and notified in the NSW Government Gazette of the 24th December 1926, as follows: a) Residential (Ungarie) Rate: A base amount of seventy six dollars (\$76.00) per assessment plus an ad-valorem amount of point zero three nine one five three cents (0.039153) in the dollar on the land value of all rateable land, the base amount to yield thirty five point three nine percent (35.39%) of the total amount payable by the levying of the Residential (Ungarie) rate. b) Business (Ungarie) Rate: A base amount of seventy six dollars (\$76.00) per assessment plus an ad-valorem amount of point zero four two two nine eight cents (0.042298) in the dollar on the land value of all rateable land categorised as business land the base amount to yield twenty eight point nine four percent (28.94%) of the total amount payable by the levying of the Business (Ungarie) rate.</p>	
<p><b>Making Of Rates &amp; Charges 2014/15 - 19032019</b></p>	<p><b>DCCDS</b></p>	<p>That the following rates and charges be deferred to the Budget Workshop for deliberations: * Sewer Special Rate * Domestic Waste Management Charge * Trade Waste Service Charge * Annual Waste Management Charge.</p>	
<p><b>General Library Guidelines Policy - 20032014</b></p>	<p><b>DCCDS</b></p>	<p>That Council adopts the General Library Guidelines Policy as presented for the Bland Shire Library.</p>	<p>Policy register updated and policy placed on website.</p>

<p>NSW Public Library Association Funding Campaign - 21032014</p>	<p>DCCDS</p>	<p>That Council provide support to the campaign mounted by the NSW Public Library Associations for increased state funding to local government for public libraries by: a. Making representation to the local State member, Hon. Adrian Piccoli, in relation to the need for additional funding from the NSW State Government for the provision of public library services; b. Writing to the Hon. George Souris, Minister for the Arts, calling upon the government to implement the Reforming Public Library Funding submission of the Library Council of NSW in 2012 for the reform of the funding system for NSW public libraries; c. Approving the distribution of NSW Public Library Associations campaign information in Council's library and deposit stations; d. Taking a lead role in activating the campaign locally.</p>	
<p>Review Of Policy - Dealing With Development Applications Lodged By Council Staff Or Councillors And Assessment Of The Council's Development Applications - 22032014</p>	<p>DCCDS</p>	<p>That Council adopt the Dealing with Development Applications Lodged by Council Staff or Councillors policy and the Policy for the Assessment of Council's Own Development Applications as written.</p>	<p>Policy register updated and policy placed on website.</p>
<p>Review Of Policy - Planning Agreement - 23032014</p>	<p>DCCDS</p>	<p>That Council adopt the Planning Agreement as written.</p>	<p>Policy register updated and policy placed on website.</p>
<p>Local Heritage Funding - 93-95 Main Street West Wyalong - 24032014</p>	<p>DCCDS</p>	<p>That Council endorse the recommendation of the Bland Heritage Advisory Committee and approve \$10,582.00 funding to K Dodds and M Keys for repairs and alteration to the existing awning, including the repair of the existing lead lighting at 93 - 95 Main Street, West Wyalong as detailed in the application.</p>	

<p>Strengthening Communities Grant - West Wyalong And District Country Education Fund - 25032014</p>	<p>DCCDS</p>	<p>That Council withdraw its previous offer of \$1000 funding under the Community Groups Assistance Grant program and approve a Strengthening Communities grant application from the West Wyalong and District Country Education Fund for \$5000 to assist with providing scholarships to young people within the community to access post high school education, training and vocational opportunities.</p>	
<p>Strengthening Communities - Wyalong Motor Sports Club - 26032014</p>	<p>DCCDS</p>	<p>That Council approve a Strengthening Communities grant of \$2500 for the Wyalong Motorsports Club to assist with the costs of running the 2014 Wyalong Cup.</p>	
<p>Children Services Policy Adoption - Child Safe Environment Policy - 27032014</p>	<p>DCCDS</p>	<p>That the Council adopts the Child Safe Environment Policy presented for the Children Services Unit.</p>	<p>Policy register updated and policy placed on website.</p>
<p>Compulsory Acquisition Of Crown Land For The Sewage Treatment Works And Landfill At Barmedman - 28032014</p>	<p>DAES</p>	<p>1. That pursuant to Section 186 of the Local Government Act 1993, Bland Shire Council make application to the Minister for Local Government and Her Excellency, The Governor, for the compulsory acquisition of Lots 117 &amp; 228 DP750607 and Lot 7015 DP94598 for the purposes of a Sewage Treatment Works and Landfill. 2. That all mines and minerals be excluded from the compulsory acquisition. 3. That on acquisition, and pursuant to Section 34 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council advertise the draft resolution: "It is intended to classify Lots 117 &amp; 228 DP750607 and Lot 7015 DP94598 (land situated at Barmedman) as operational land." 4. That pursuant to Section 377 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council delegate authority to the General Manager to sign: a) Land and Property Information Resumption Application Form b) Land and Property Information Request Form.</p>	<p>26/3: works being progressed</p>
<p>Harvest Truck Warning Signs Policy - 29032014</p>	<p>DAES</p>	<p>That the Harvest Truck Warning Signs policy be adopted.</p>	<p>Policy register updated and policy placed on website.</p>

<p>New Proposed Rural Fire Service Sheds- Deed Of Agreement With Property Owners - 30032014</p>	<p>DAES</p>	<p>That Council authorise the General Manager to sign and seal the following Deeds made in relation to the erection of Rural Fire Service Sheds on private lands; 1. Mildil Station- Lot 18 DP 750828 Portion 1 and 2 (Owner Terry Cattle) 2. Mallee Plains Station- Lot 2 DP 792428 Portion 1 and 2 (Owner Chris Hefer) Thullooo Station- Lot 1 DP 1081366 Portion 1 and 2 (Owner Denis Henly).</p>	<p>26/3: Completed</p>
<p>Dome Lights for the West Wyalong Runway - 33032014</p>	<p>DAES</p>	<p>That Council include the provision of dome lights for the West Wyalong Runway in the 2014/15 budget estimates.</p>	<p>26/3: included in 2014/15 Budget Estimates</p>
<p>Review of Airport Concept Plan - 34032014</p>	<p>DAES</p>	<p>That the Airport concept plan be reviewed to include: 1. Creation of a taxiway past the east side of the proposed bowser to run parallel to the airport road. Thus providing access to blocks running between the taxiway and the airport road. 2. That these blocks be made available for freehold purchase. 3. That airline companies and CASA be engaged to ascertain a position for a bowser that does not inhibit any future opportunity for a return of domestic flight service. 4. That airline companies be invited to stop en-route to and from Griffith, Broken Hill, Wagga and Sydney. With option to refuel. 5. That aviation fuel companies be invited to tender to supply avgas and jet a1.</p>	<p>26/3: works progressing</p>
<p>Proposed Purchase of Investment Property - 36032014</p>	<p>GM</p>	<p>That the General Manager be authorised to investigate and negotiate with the owner of the subject property.</p>	<p>2/4: Information was provided to Councillors at the April Budget Workshop and no further action is to be taken</p>

## 9.2 Council's Capital Expenditure Projects 2013/14

*Our leadership*

*Setting a benchmark for community standards*

*Vision: A well run council acting as the voice of the community*

*DP14.3 Ensure the General Manager takes on a high level role in implementing the Community Strategic Plan and associated documents*

**Author:** General Manager

**Officer's Recommendation:**

**That the information detailing the progress of Council's 2013 / 2014 capital expenditure projects, as at 19 March 2014 be received and noted.**

**Introduction**

Included as an attachment to this report is a list of the capital expenditure items agreed to by council in conjunction with the adoption of the 2013 / 2014 annual budget.

The list has been update to 19 March 2014.

**Financial Implications**

Any expenditure related to the projects detailed in the list has been included in the current 2013/2014 budget and where it is a project of significance it is the subject of a separate report to council.

# CAPITAL PROJECTS 2013-2014

## TO COUNCIL

PROJECT	BUDGET	JOB NO.	TARGET DATE
<b>General Fund</b>			
Investigate new Indoor Recreation Facility	\$50,000.00	1010-0470-0009	commenced
Destination Management Plan	\$20,000.00	1010-0470-0008	Starting – June 2014
Information Shelters	\$45,000.00	1100-4700-0010	commenced
HACC Carport	\$12,500.00	3100-0470-0010	Quotes accepted, work to commence
HACC – 7 Seater Vehicle	\$35,000.00	3100-0470-0020	Purchased
Children’s Services – Painting	\$5,300.00	2240-4700-0010	Completed
Children’s Services – Rangehood & Electrical	\$1,837.00	2240-4700-0020	Completed
Children’s Services – Shed	\$20,000.00	2240-4700-0030	Completed
Children’s Services – Air Conditioning	\$18,950.00	2240-4700-0040	Starting March – 2014, to be carried over
Children’s Services – Shade Sail	\$7,500.00	2240-4700-0001	Starting May – 2014, to be carried over
Pound Upgrade - Lighting	\$3,500.00	4440-4700-0001	Completed
RCD Compliance	\$15,000.00	4410-4712-0000	Starting - June 2014, ongoing
Ungarie Museum – Internal Alterations	\$2,500.00	4630-4100-0010	Starting – June 2014, commenced
Ungarie Museum – Roof Repairs	\$9,000.00	4630-4100-0020	Starting – June 2014, commenced
Caravan Park – Essential Fire Upgrade	\$40,000.00	4640-4700-0010	Starting – July 2014
Main Street Illumination	\$40,000.00	4100-0514-0010	Starting – June 2014
Refurbish Toilets – Community Health	\$5,000.00	4100-0514-0020	Not being done
White Tank Lane – Bollards	\$9,000.00	4100-0514-0030	Completed as per Council instruction
Improve Flood Flow – Court Lane (Church & Operator)	\$30,000.00	4100-0514-0040	commenced
Dry Weather Footpath – Wootten St.	\$10,000.00	4100-0514-0050	Completed
Refurbish Airport Terminal Building	\$65,000.00	4210-4700-0010	commenced
Cemetery – Sump Solar Pump & Ag. Pipe	\$12,000.00	4250-4700-0050	commenced
Repair Old Unattended Grave Sites	\$20,000.00	4250-4700-0060	As required
Wetlands	\$50,000.00	4260-4711-0014	Ongoing

Herridge Park – BBQ & Shelter	\$25,000.00	4260-4700-0302	completed
Service Person – Reg Rattey	\$80,000.00	4260-4700-0700	commenced
Small Weed Spraying Machine & Ancillary Equipment	\$15,000.00	4450-4700-0100	Completed
Wyalong Tennis Court Refurbishment	\$25,000.00	4280-4700-0030	Completed
Holland Park Pool – Concrete Apron	\$4,000.00	4200-4700-0010	Completed
Holland Park Pool – Repairs to Roof	\$10,000.00	4200-4700-0020	Completed
Ungarie Pool – Replace damaged Concrete	\$5,000.00	4201-4700-0006	Completed
<b>Waste Management</b>			
Barmedman – Fence & Road	\$30,000.00	4510-4715-0020	Completed
Ungarie – Fence & Road	\$30,000.00	4510-4705-0020	Completed
Tallimba – Fence & Road	\$10,000.00	4510-4725-0020	Completed
West Wyalong - Vehicle Access	\$10,446.00	4510-4700-0020	Completed
West Wyalong – Internal Infrastructure	\$40,000.00	4510-4700-0030	Completed
<b>Sewer Fund</b>			
Barmedman – Infrastructure	\$20,000.00	5000-4710-0010	Completed
Saleyard Reticulation	\$138,000.00	5000-4700-0030	Completed
Sewer Investigation Camera	\$60,000.00	5000-4700-0040	Completed
<b>Carried Forwards</b>			
Exhibition Space	\$50,000.00		Preliminary Investigation, budget allocated to be determined
Reclad Main Airport Building	\$20,737.00		Completed
Toilets – Aberlines Toilets	\$20,000.00		commenced
Cemetery extension, landscaping	\$37,223.00		commenced
Fitness Equipment for Adults	\$7,000.00		commenced
Barnado Park – new solar light to illuminate playground	\$8,000.00		commenced
Holland Park – new lighting	\$6,732.00		Almost completed
Perseverance Street Dam – finalisation and turf	\$2,761.00		Not being done
<b>Carried Forwards - Sewerage Services</b>			
Ungarie – Infrastructure	\$10,000.00		completed
Reticulation – Double capacity Boundary Street dam	\$3,407.00		Completed
Telemetry for Ungarie Works	\$21,392.00		Not being done

## 9.3 Declaration of Gifts & Benefits

*Our leadership*

*Setting a benchmark for community standards*

*Vision: A well run council acting as the voice of the community*

*DP18.1 Develop, implement and promote best practice governance policies and procedures*

**Author:** Executive Assistant

**Officer's Recommendation:**

**That Council receive and note the attached procedure and process chart for the declaration of all and any, gifts and benefits, offered to Council officials.**

**Introduction**

The Model Code of Conduct details the requirements of staff and councillors in relation to gifts and benefits and these are summarised in the attached procedure. Councillors are urged to make themselves aware of these requirements.

Any gifts or benefits should be declined where possible, however should Councillors receive a gift or benefit, you must notify the General Manager promptly and the details recorded in the Gifts and Benefits Register in accordance with the attached process chart.

**Conclusion**

This report and the attached procedure are provided to outline the arrangements for the declaration of ***all and any, gifts and benefits, offered*** to Council officials (employees and Councillors).

**Financial Implications**

Nil to this report

## PROCEDURE

### Disclosure of Gifts and/or Benefits

**PROCEDURE ADOPTED:** 19<sup>th</sup> March 2014

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**Procedure Objective:**

The objective of this procedure is to ensure written disclosure of all offers of gifts and benefits regardless of their value and whether or not the gift or benefit was accepted or refused.

**Procedure Statement:**

This procedure relates to the process in regard to the declaration of gifts and benefits offered to Council employees and Councillors. This procedure should be read in conjunction with Council's Code of Conduct.

**Responsibilities:**

This procedure applies to all staff and Councillors.

**Recommended Practices:**

The Model Code of Conduct details the requirements of staff and councillors in relation to gifts and benefits. In summary:

You must not:

- Seek or accept a bribe or other improper inducement
- Seek gifts or benefits of any kind
- Accept any gift or benefit that may create a sense of obligation on your part or may be perceived to be intended or likely to influence you in carrying out your responsibilities
- Accept any gift or benefit of more than token value
- Accept an offer of money, regardless of the amount
- Accept gifts and benefits of any kind, regardless of the value, if the person giving the gift is seeking a Council decision, or has done so within the last 12 months

You may however accept a token gift such as:

- Free or subsidised meals or drinks provided in conjunction with a work function such as training or community celebration
- Invitations and tickets to local events
- Gifts of reasonably priced alcohol, chocolates, flowers, diaries, ties, scarves, coasters and tie pins
- Prizes of token value

Council officials must not accept gifts and benefits of value such as:

- Tickets to, or corporate hospitality at, any major sporting events (state, national or international)
- Discounted or free products and services for personal use
- Gift vouchers for personal use

You must also ensure that your family members or friends do not receive gifts or benefits because of your position with Council.

Any gifts or benefits should be declined where possible, however if you receive a gift or benefit, you must notify your supervisor promptly and the details recorded in the Gifts and Benefits Register in accordance with the attached process chart.

This register is located within the Office of the General Manager and can be accessed by contacting:

- Executive Assistant, Julie Sharpe
- General Manager, Ray Smith
- Director Corporate, Community & Development Services, Adele Casey
- Director Asset & Engineering Services, Will Marsh
- Human Resources staff
- Records staff

The electronic copy of the Gifts and Benefits Register, located with InfoXpert, is to be updated annually by the Executive Assistant.

On occasions where a “cash-like gift” such as a gift voucher, credit/debit card, prepayment or entitlements to discounts are received and cannot reasonably be refused or returned, this must be disclosed promptly in the Register in accordance with this procedure. The original voucher/card is to be stored in the vault and a copy placed in the EDRMS InfoXpert (Gifts Register, Folder Id: 60897).

**References:**

Model Code of Conduct 2013

**Appendices:**

Appendix A – Gift and/or Benefit Declaration Process

**Authorisation:**

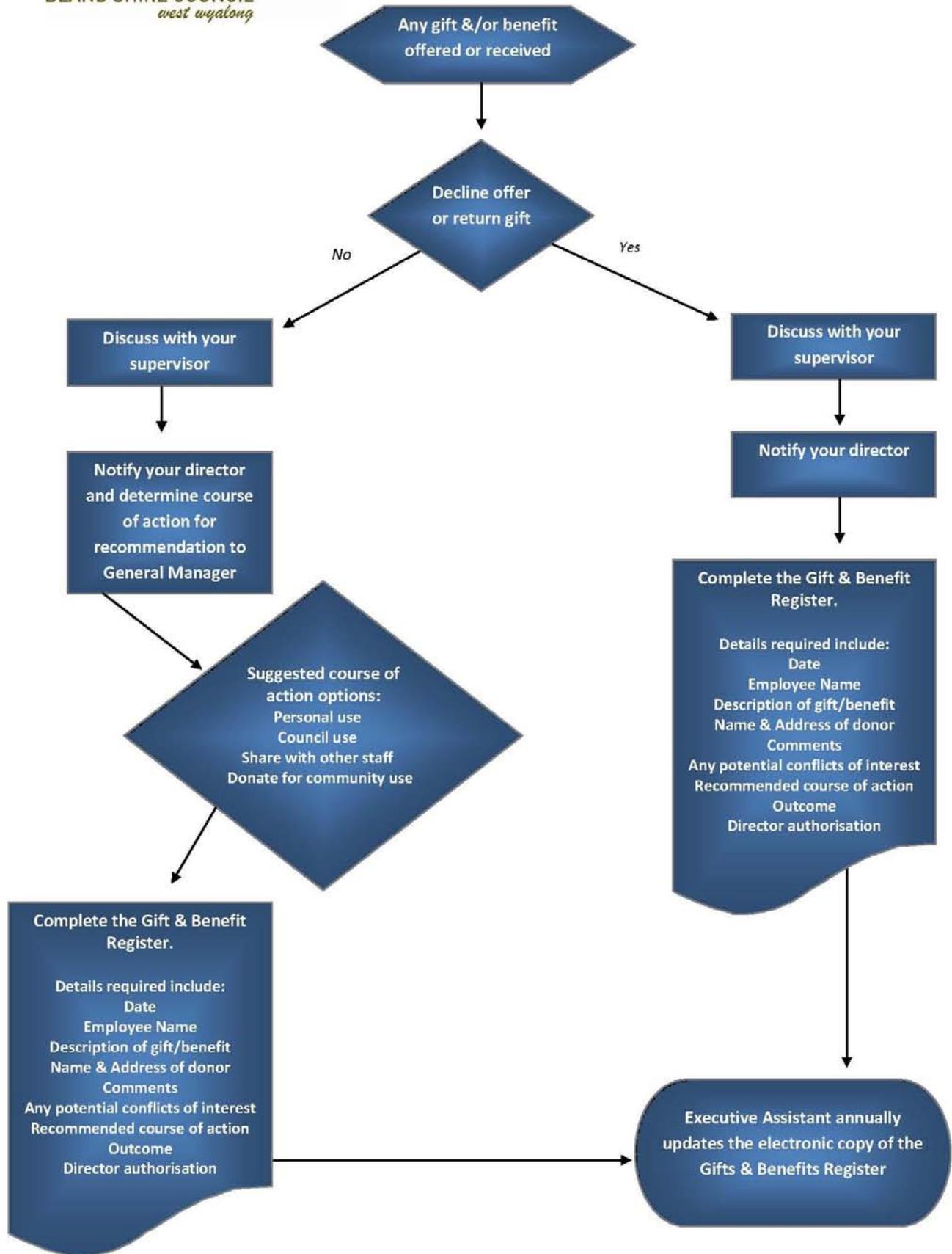
<b>Status</b>	<b>Committee</b>	N/A	
	<b>Manex</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> March 2014	
<b>Owner</b>	<b>General Manager</b>		
<b>EDRMS Doc. ID</b>			
<b>Superseded Procedure</b>			
<b>Date of Adoption/ Amendment</b>	<b>Revision Number</b>	<b>Minute Number</b>	<b>Review Date</b>

<b>Related Council Policy / Procedure</b>
<i>Model Code of Conduct 2013</i>

**Appendix A – Gift and/or Benefit Declaration Process**



**Gift and/or Benefit Declaration Process**



## 9.4 Integrated Planning And Reporting Framework – Adoption Of Draft Documents

*Our leadership*

*Setting a benchmark for community standards*

*Vision: A well run council acting as the voice of the community*

*15 – To provide quality leadership, governance and management.*

**Author:** Director Corporate, Community and Development Services

**Officer's Recommendation:**

1. That the Council endorse the changes as shown on the attached amended pages of the Community Strategic Plan 2012 – 2023 and Delivery Program 2013-2016 to reflect the inclusion of the proposed Indoor Multi Purpose Facility into the 2014-2015 draft budget.

**Officer's Recommendation:**

2. That the following DRAFT documentation be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days, commencing 16 April 2014, in accordance with the legislative requirements of the Local Government Act 1993:
  - Community Strategic Plan 2012-2023
  - Delivery Program 2013 - 2016
  - Operational Plan 2014/15, including Budget & Revenue Policy 2014/15
  - Long Term Financial Plan 2014/15
  - Workforce Assessment Plan & Strategy 2014-2018
  - Asset Management Plan 2014

**Officer's Recommendation:**

3. That all public comments, submissions and input from staff and councillors be provided to the Council meeting scheduled for 20 May 2014.

**Officer's Recommendation:**

4. That all staff involved in the preparation of these documents be congratulated for a job "well done".

**Officer's Recommendation:**

- 5. That council take no further action in relation to the calling of Expressions of Interest to run a Visitor Information Centre.**

**Officer's Recommendation:**

- 6. That council decline the request for funding to undertake a Visitor Information Study.**

**Introduction**

The Integrated Planning and Reporting framework for NSW local government was implemented at Bland Shire Council in July 2012. In accordance with the legislative requirements the IPR suite of documents were reviewed and endorsed by the newly elected Council in 2013.

The Community Strategic Plan was developed after extensive consultation across the Shire. The purpose of the Community Strategic Plan is to identify the community's main priorities and aspirations for the future.

The Delivery Program must be prepared and adopted by 30 June in the year following a local government general election. It must identify the principal activities that the Council will undertake over the life of the Program and must be reviewed each year when preparing the Operational Plan. If a significant amendment is proposed to the Delivery Program, the program must be re-exhibited for public comment for a minimum of 28 days and the submissions received must be considered before the final program is adopted.

The Operational Plan, including the draft budget and statement of Revenue Policy, is an annual plan that must be adopted before the beginning of each financial year. It outlines the activities to be undertaken that year as part of the Delivery Program. The draft Operational Plan must be publicly exhibited for public comment for a minimum of 28 days and the submissions received must be considered before the final program is adopted.

Highlights included in the Draft Operational Plan for 2014/15 include:

- A Rate Pegging Limit (RPL) of just 2.3%
- A balanced Budget for the 2014/15 financial year
- The inclusion of \$200,000.00 for annual asset renewal
- Minor increases in waste and sewer charges

- Major Capital items within the Draft Budget include:
  - \$5.4 Million for an Indoor Multi Purpose Facility
  - \$350,000 for Flood Proofing the Ungarie Sewer System
  - \$120,000 for new dome Aerodrome Lighting
  - \$50,000 towards the refurbishment of Topy Hall
  - \$30,000 towards new beams in the Lawn Cemetery
  
- Minor Capital items in the Draft Budget include:
  - Landscaping at the Children Services Unit
  - Disabled/Pram ramps in Ungarie
  - Concrete Floor - Weethalle Tidy Towns Shed
  - Fencing of Mirrool Sunshine Park
  - Dump Point – Cooina Park
  - Funding for a Feasibility study of a Recreational Lake
  
- Recurrent Capital items in the Draft Budget include:
  - Plant and Equipment
  - Library books and Audio Visual items

The Long term Financial Plan must be for a minimum of 10 Years. The plan must include models relevant to different scenarios that could impact on the Council's finances and must be used to inform decision making.

The Workforce Assessment Plan & Strategy must be developed to address the human resourcing requirements of the Council's Delivery Program and it must be prepared for a minimum 4 year period.

The Asset Management Strategy and Asset Management Plan must be developed to support the Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program. Council must account for and plan for all of the existing assets under its ownership, and any new asset solutions proposed in its Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program. The Asset Management Plan must encompass all the assets under council's control, must identify asset service standards and must contain long term projections of asset maintenance, rehabilitation and replacement costs. Councils must report on the condition of their assets in their annual financial statements in line with the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.

### **Conclusion**

Councillors will recall discussion at the workshop in relation to the calling of EOI's to run a Visitor Information Centre and the request for funding to undertake a Visitor Information Centre Study. The recommendations above reflect the outcome of these discussions.

Councillors will have further opportunity to comment on the draft documents during the public exhibition period up until Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May, although councillors are encouraged to put forward their comments well prior to this deadline.

A copy of each document is provided under separate cover.

### **Financial Implications**

The draft documents detail all of the financial implications to be considered by council.

## Who

## How

## What

		Social	Environment	Economic	Civic Leadership
<b>8. Work in partnership with key stakeholders to improve road infrastructure for vehicle and pedestrian access</b>	<p>8.1 Lobby Government for additional funding to ensure roads are maintained at an acceptable standard throughout the Shire</p> <p>8.2 Continued membership of the Newell Highway Task Force</p> <p>8.3 Lobby Government to improve conditions on the By-Pass</p> <p>8.4 Maintain and improve general vehicle and pedestrian access within the Shire</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>9. Manage waste and recycling to improve the utilisation of existing resources, including exploring new technologies</b>	<p>9.1 Continued monitoring of viable recycling options</p> <p>9.2 Consult with the community and relevant stakeholders regarding waste management options throughout the Shire</p> <p>9.3 Research alternate technologies relating to waste management</p> <p>9.4 In consultation with relevant communities, implement and monitor Council's waste management strategy to increase the life of existing resources</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>10. Manage stormwater and sewerage resources</b>	<p>10.1 Investigate and manage local flooding issues</p> <p>10.2 Ensure adequate water storage and management for future use within Council's community facilities</p> <p>10.3 Identify funding opportunities to maximise future water storage options</p> <p>10.4 Effectively manage and maintain stormwater infrastructure</p> <p>10.5 Effectively manage and maintain sewerage infrastructure</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>11. Ensure that public places and facilities are well maintained and easily accessible to foster community pride in their infrastructure</b>	<p>11.1 Ensure users of Council's facilities enter into agreements</p> <p>11.2 In collaboration with users and budgetary constraints provide facilities that are maintained to acceptable standards</p> <p>11.3 Facilitate access for the community and visitors to all public places and facilities</p> <p>11.4 Maintain parks, ovals and recreation facilities to approved standards and budget</p> <p>11.5 Effectively manage and maintain cemeteries within the Shire</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>12. Review Council's building assets to meet the needs of the community</b>	<p>12.1 Complete a building review to determine if community needs are being met</p> <p>12.2 Develop a maintenance program to ensure the integrity of Council's buildings</p> <p>12.3 Use planning and heritage policies and controls to protect and improve the unique built environment</p> <p>12.4 Manage Council's Facilities to meet health and safety expectations</p> <p>12.5 Responsibly manage asset renewal and maintenance</p> <p>12.6 Determine community need and develop design for indoor multi-purpose facility</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>13. Develop, implement and monitor appropriate programs, schedules, plans and budgets for the effective and efficient management of Council's assets and infrastructure</b>	<p>13.1 Implement and monitor a street cleaning program</p> <p>13.2 Works programs are developed, reviewed and implemented in accordance with road hierarchy and budget allocations</p> <p>13.3 Maintain street trees to approved standards and budget</p> <p>13.4 Kerb and Guttering programs are developed and implemented in accordance with budget</p> <p>13.5 Effectively manage and maintain town and village upkeep throughout the Shire</p> <p>13.6 Airport facilities are maintained to approved standards and budget</p> <p>13.7 Effectively manage and maintain Council's Works Depots</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Delivery Program Strategies	Performance Target				Responsible Officer
	2013 /14	2014 /15	2015 /16	2016/17	

**CSP Objective: 12. Review Council’s building assets to meet the needs of the community**

12.1 Complete a building review to determine if community needs are being met	Asset register updated annually	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DES DCDS DCORP GM
12.2 Develop a maintenance program to ensure the integrity of Council’s buildings	Annual maintenance program and budget	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
12.3 Use planning and heritage policies and controls to protect and improve the unique built environment	Annual policy review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
12.4 Manage Council’s facilities to meet health and safety expectations	Annual inspections	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
12.5 Responsibly manage asset renewal and maintenance	Annual maintenance program and budget	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
12.6 Determine community need and develop design for indoor multi-purpose facility	Community opinion sought and suitable facility concept finalised	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

## 9.5 Employee's Council Agreement - 2014

*Our leadership*

*Setting a benchmark for community standards*

Vision: A well run council acting as the voice of the community

*DP14.3 Ensure the General Manager takes on a high level role in implementing the Community Strategic Plan and associated documents*

**Author:** General Manager

### **Officer's Recommendation:**

- 1. That Councillors provide feedback to the General Manager on the proposed additions and deletions for the proposed Employee's Council Agreement for 2014 – 2017 by no later than 30 April 2014.**
- 2. That the General Manager provide a separate report to the May meeting of Council in respect to the introduction of a 9 day fortnight for all indoor staff.**
- 3. That the General Manager, after final consultation with the relevant Unions, provide a 'draft' Employee's Council Agreement to the May meeting of Council for further consideration.**

### **Introduction**

The current Employee's Council Agreement expires on 14 May 2014.

Under the Local Government (State) Award 2010 the following provisions apply to all parties to such Agreements:

### **37. COUNCIL AGREEMENTS**

*(i) The parties agree to review operations at the council level on an ongoing basis with a view to providing enhanced flexibility and efficiency and to meet the particular working needs of the council and its employees.*

*(ii) The terms of any agreement reached between the parties shall substitute for the provisions of the Award provided that:*

*(a) the extent of the agreement shall be limited to the Award's Clause 9, Performance Evaluation and Reward; Clause 11, Payment of Employees; Clause 14 subclauses (x) and (xi), Travelling and Camping Allowances; Clause 17, Hours of Work; Clause 18, Overtime, Clause 19, Holidays; Clause 23, Part time Employment; and Clause 25, Job Share Employment.*

*(b) the agreement does not provide less than the entry level rates of pay;*

*(c) the agreement is consistent with the Industrial Relations Act 1996 (NSW) and current wage fixing principles; and*

*(d) the agreement shall be processed in accordance with subclause (iii) of this clause. Provided further that, where the agreement proposes to vary award provisions other than those nominated in paragraph (a) above, the agreement shall be processed in accordance with the Enterprise Arrangement Principle.*

*(iii) A Council Agreement shall be processed as follows:*

*(a) the unions shall be notified prior to the commencement of negotiations;*

- (b) the agreement has been genuinely arrived at by negotiation without compulsion;*
- (c) the agreement shall be committed to writing and shall include a date of operation and a date of expiration;*
- (d) the council and the appropriate union(s) shall sign the agreement and a copy sent to the Association;*
- (e) Any party to a Council Agreement may at any stage during the above process refer the matter to the Industrial Relations Commission of NSW.*

There has been extensive consultation with all staff including a comprehensive staff survey, individual staff meetings and input as well as liaison with the relevant unions. Based on this consultative process there has been general consensus in respect to additions and deletions from the existing Agreement that, if adopted by Council, will form the basis of a new Agreement.

The financial impact of the proposed additions and deletions are covered later in this report.

A copy of the existing Agreement is included as an attachment to this report.

The proposed additions are as follows:

- 9 Day Fortnight. There would be no additional cost to Council – the main concern would be for the uninterrupted provision of services)
- Increase in core hours (This would go hand in hand with a 9 day fortnight)
- Cover for travel to and from work Members of the USU have this cover, however, all non union members are not covered by insurance for travel to and from work.

The proposed deletions are as follows:

- Sick leave bonus (Clause 10.1)
- Afternoon Tea for indoor staff (Estimated actual extra work hours – 1200 p.a.)(Not actually a part of the current agreement but identified by staff as a trade- off).

All other current inclusions would be maintained including the provision for one (1) additional week's annual leave (Clause 12).

The issue of the introduction of a 9 day fortnight for indoor staff will require further consideration and the presentation to council of specific details including operational implications and any logistical issues. It should be noted also that all outdoor staff already enjoy a 9 day fortnight, a provision that has been in place for many year and a current practice that has little or no adverse affect on council operations.

### **Conclusion**

The basis of this Agreement is to provide both staff and council with a means of improving productivity and customer service. There will always be a defined cost to Council but it is difficult in identifying a specific savings to council as increased staff morale, resulting in increased productivity and performance is hard to measure in dollar terms.

There is no doubt that council staff are receiving an increasing amount of complimentary and congratulatory letters and e-mails for their attitude and commitment to the tasks and responsibilities and this can certainly be linked to the generous benefits available to the staff.

**Financial Implications**

The sick leave bonus arrangements, which will expire with the current Agreement, has represented a cost to council of \$18,700.00 for the 2012/13 financial period and it is expected that it will be a similar amount for the 2013/14 period.

The estimated cost to council for the insurance cover for staff travelling to and from work is \$4,000.00 p.a.

Given that all other inclusions in the current Agreement are retained the net effect of the additions and deletions being put forward by the staff would result in a savings of approximately \$14,000.00 pa or \$42,000.00 over the 3 year life of any new Agreement.



# **Employee's Council Agreement**

**2011**

**1. TITLE**

1.1 This Agreement shall be known as the Bland Shire Council Employee's Council Agreement.

**2. PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT AND COVERAGE**

2.1 The parties to this Agreement are the Bland Shire Council (hereinafter referred to as the Council), the United Services Union and DEPA.

2.2 This Agreement covers all employees employed by the Council under the Local Government (State) Award 2010.

2.3 The parties confirm that this Agreement was not entered into under duress.

**3. PURPOSE OF AGREEMENT**

3.1 To provide a framework for management and employees to work together towards improving the image of Bland Shire Council through increasing productivity, competitiveness, job satisfaction and morale of Council's employees.

3.2 The shared aims of this Agreement are to provide benefits to:

- Council, by producing a more competitive, innovative, flexible and productive organisation through ongoing modernisation of existing work practices and arrangements.
- Employees, through improved salaries and conditions to make Council an employer of choice.
- Community, through a greater focus on service delivery, increased value for money and a more productive and effective Council.

3.3 All Council staff work collectively for the Shire and as such as staff should aim to work as a cohesive group to meet the needs of the community.

3.4 The parties to the Agreement agree to working towards meeting the goals and targets identified in Council's Strategic and Management Plans.

3.5 A number of key performance indicators have been developed for the purposes of demonstrating the effectiveness of this agreement which will be provided to Manex, Council and the Consultative Committee on at least a 6 monthly basis. These are:

- *Absenteeism* – 20% reduction of the one and two day absences over the life of the agreement.
- *Annual Leave* – average annual leave taken per FTE to be 148.5 hours per year. This would ensure that the annual leave liability to Council is not increased.

- *Community Satisfaction* – an increase of 10% of the average rating from employee performance appraisal element “put the community first” over the life of the agreement.
- *Job satisfaction and morale* – an increase of 10% of the average rating from employee performance appraisal elements “work together as a committed team, respect and value each other and have open and honest two way communication” over the life of the agreement.
- *Staff Turnover* – 10% reduction in turnover over the life of the agreement.

#### **4. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER INDUSTRIAL INSTRUMENTS**

- 4.1 This Agreement has been developed, having regard to the Local Government (State) Award 2010. The employees are covered by the Local Government (State) Award 2010 or any subsequent relevant Award or Agreement for any provisions not specifically covered by this Agreement.
- 4.2 Should the Local Government (State) Award 2010 or its replacement provide additional entitlements above the current Local Government (State) Award 2010 and this Agreement the higher Award entitlement will apply.

#### **5. DATE AND PERIOD OF OPERATION**

- 5.1 This Agreement shall operate from ..... 2011 and shall remain in force for a period of three years.

#### **6. FLEXIBILITY OF TASKS AND USE OF SKILLS**

- 6.1 The parties recognise that there are opportunities for gains in efficiency, productivity and economy in the provision of Council services by increased flexibility in the workplace.
- 6.2 Job satisfaction and career opportunities will improve by continually introducing work practices, job redesign and working arrangements whereby the full range of an employee's skills can be used provided the employee is competent and it is legal, safe and practical to do so. The parties agree that work will be performed subject to the following:
- The employee possessing any required licences or certificate
  - An employee's competence to perform such work
  - That the work can be performed safely, having regard to the individual and the organisation as a whole; and
  - All employees with certified training and work experience will undertaken the main tasks which are incidental, peripheral, practical and appropriate to their main task
  - Council may direct an employee to carry out such duties as are within the limits of the employee skill, competence and/or experience

**7. PAYMENT OF EMPLOYEES**

7.1 Employees will be paid weekly. Council may explore changing the pay period from weekly to fortnightly during the operation of this agreement.

**8. ALLOWANCES Starting on the Job**

8.1 Employees who are required to start and/or finish at a location away from the Council Depot Workshop (or other agreed starting point) will be paid the travel allowance for both to and from the job site. On those occasions where either start or finish is not on site and one journey is in Council's time then the travel allowance as per the award will be paid.

8.2 The driver of the transport vehicle will be paid overtime at the rate of time and half for transporting staff to and from the job site (in lieu of the travelling allowance).

8.3 Where passenger type vehicles are provided for travel to and from the job site, the driver responsible for the vehicle that week will clean the vehicle over the weekend or on an rdo, for which they will be reimbursed 1 hours overtime at the rate of time and a half.

**9. OVERTIME**

9.1 Overtime or time in lieu must be approved by the relevant supervisor prior to the time being worked (except in an emergency situation). The payment of time in lieu instead of overtime is only by agreement with the employee.

**10. SICK LEAVE**

**10.1 Sick Leave Bonus**

10.1.1 In order to promote productivity and encourage staff to reduce their sick leave absenteeism levels, employees who have used 42.5 hours or less sick leave (including carer's leave) (pro-rate for part time and new staff) over the past 12 months (1 July – 30 June) will be paid the following on the fourth pay period of July each year with the first eligible payment on 28 July 2011:-

Sick Leave Taken	Hours of Ordinary Pay
34.1 – 42.5 hours	5
25.6 – 34 hours	6
17.1 – 25.5 hours	9
8.6 – 17 hours	12
8.5 hours or less	15

10.1.2 The intention of this clause is not to encourage staff to attend work when they have an illness or injury which would normally prevent attendance at work.

## **10.2 Sick Leave Credit to Annual Leave**

10.2.1 Employees who have been incapacitated during periods of annual leave, may claim a credit for that annual leave from their sick leave entitlements, provided that they produce an original copy of a signed medical certificate from a duly qualified Medical Practitioner stating the nature, as well as the duration of the incapacity and covers a minimum of five consecutive normal working days for that employee. Where this occurs the employee's annual leave entitlement and sick leave entitlement will be adjusted accordingly.

10.2.2 This clause will not apply if the illness was caused, or contributed to, by the employee's own negligence or their participation in sport, games, secondary employment or other activities in respect of which such employee receives any payment by way of fee or bonus.

## **11. CARERS LEAVE**

### **11.1 Use of Sick/ Carers Leave for Non Urgent Medical Appointments**

11.1.1 Council is committed to supporting employees to manage their and their immediate family's health. Further, Council acknowledges that some medical services are not available in West Wyalong and employees must travel to attend appointments.

- (a) It is expected that employees will, where possible, arrange non urgent medical appointments (where there is no illness or incapacity preventing attendance at work) outside work hours.
- (b) In recognition that this is not always possible, an employee is entitled to utilise up to three single days of available sick leave (non-cumulative) or carers leave to attend non urgent medical appointments in a service year for themselves or immediate family member, including travel to and from appointments.
- (c) Applications for sick leave/ carer's leave for non urgent medical appointments should be made in advance, as sick leave, with an appropriate note indicating that the absence was due to a medical appointment.

## **12. ANNUAL LEAVE**

12.1 An employee is entitled to five weeks annual leave in a twelve month period at ordinary pay with accrual for the additional weeks leave commencing the first full pay period in March 2011.

12.2 Staff are required to take the additional weeks annual leave each year.

**13. RDO**

13.1 An employee may be required to work on their rostered day off. If reasonable notice is given, an employee required to work on their rostered day off by agreement shall not be entitled to receive penalty rates of payment for the time so worked. (Reasonable notice is agreed to be as soon as possible after the occurrence of the event requiring the day to be so worked and in any case no later than noon of the day preceding the rostered day off). The employee shall be allowed to take the next available working day as their rostered day off. Where applicable, penalty rates shall be paid in accordance with the relevant industrial instrument.

**14. PART TIME**

Except as otherwise provided part time staff will receive pro rata entitlements.

**15. REVIEW**

This Agreement will be subject to review, within the limits of its term of three years, whenever a request is made by any party to the Agreement, provided that such request is based upon:-

- A major change in the technology available,
- A major change in the funding or financial arrangements supporting operations covered under this Agreement,
- Amendments to any part of this agreement during its nominal term will only be made by agreement between the parties. On expiry of the Agreement, the parties expect to have negotiated an extension/replacement of the Agreement. However, this agreement shall remain in force beyond its nominal expiry date if it is not replaced or rescinded. Rescission of this agreement can only occur once it has exceeded its nominal expiry date by either party giving 6 months notice of its proposal to terminate the agreement.



## 9.6 Request For Extended Aerodrome Hanger Lease

*Our infrastructure*

*Reviewing, renewing & improving our core community assets*

*Vision: Maintaining and improving the Shire's assets and infrastructure in a changing climate*

*DP11.1 Ensure users of Council's facilities enter into agreements*

**Author:** General Manager

**Officer's Recommendation:**

1. That Council agree to grant leases for aircraft hangars at the West Wyalong Aerodrome for a period of 25 years upon receipt of written requests and those requests are reported to council for determination.

**Officer's Recommendation:**

1. That Doctor (Councillor) Lincoln Pike be granted a 25 year lease, on part of Lot 2 DP 608408, shown as space 2 on the draft concept plan, for use as an aircraft hangar;
2. That the lease fee commences at \$200.00 per annum and is subject to annual CPI increases;
3. That there be a provision in the lease that any request to sub lease be determined by Council;
4. That there be a further provision in the lease that requires the lessee to construct a hangar within an 18 month period from the commencement of the lease;
4. That the General Manager be authorised to execute the necessary lease documents on behalf of council.

**Officer's Recommendation:**

1. That all other existing aircraft hanger lessees be advised of the option to extend their current leases to a 25 year period subject to the same conditions outlined above.

**Introduction**

Council is in receipt of a written request from Doctor (Councillor) Lincoln Pike for council to consider granting a 25 year by 25 year lease for space at the West Wyalong Aerodrome for use as an aircraft hangar.

Doctor Pike has indicated that the current practice of council in granting only 5 year leases is not financially viable given the cost involved in constructing a suitable hangar. In order to attract future potential development at the aerodrome a lease arrangement of at least 25 years by 25 years would be within reasonable parameters.

**Conclusion**

Bland Shire Council is the owner of the subject land and is therefore at liberty to consider any length of term for such leases. It is not uncommon for similar leases to be over a 20-25 year period. However, I believe that granting a further 25 year option binds council for a total of 50 years which may hamstring future development at this site.

**Financial Implications**

The existing aircraft hangar leases have an annual lease fee of just \$100.00. If Council is to provide the security of tenure by extending the term of these leases it is only fair that the lease fee be increased accordingly. A lease fee of \$200.00 p.a. is still very reasonable.

## 9.7 TAFE Riverina Names Bland Shire Council As Employer Of The Year

*Our leadership*

*Setting a benchmark for community standards*

*Vision: A well run council acting as the voice of the community*

*DP15.3 Ensure the General Manager takes on a high level role in implementing the Community Strategic Plan and associated documents*

**Author:** General Manager

### **Officer's Recommendation:**

- 1. That Council's award, from the Riverina Institute of TAFE, for Employer of the Year, be received with appreciation and that Council staff, in particular the Human Resources staff, be congratulated on a great achievement.**
- 2. That Miss Tiarna Robertson also be congratulated on her Award as the Outstanding Student for 2013.**

### **Introduction**

Council has been named as Employer of the Year by the TAFE Riverina Institute for 2014.

Advice from the Institute Director, Kerry Penton, indicates that following a rigorous review of nominations from across the 19 campuses in the Institute, Bland Shire Council was chosen as the winner.

I believe that this award is worthy recognition of council's ongoing commitment to establish a well trained and skilled workforce. It is acknowledgment of the efforts and dedication of council's HR staff to identify, initiate and provide a wide range of training opportunities for our staff. In addition it is also acknowledgment of our staff who has been prepared to avail themselves of these training opportunities and who have diligently completed the various programs and courses.

The award was accepted at a gala function at the Wagga Botanical gardens by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Liz McGlynn as well as council's Human Resource Officer Donna Smith who has been instrumental in achieving this award.

At the same function council staff member, Tiarna Robertson was named as the 'Outstanding Student, across the 19 campuses. This is the second consecutive year that Tiarna has received this Award.

### **Conclusion**

It is always pleasing when council and its staff are recognised for their efforts.

### **Financial Implications**

Nil

## 9.8 Bland – Temora NSW Rural Fire Service - Draft Estimates 2014/15

*Our leadership*

*Setting a benchmark for community standards*

*Vision: A well run council acting as the voice of the community*

*DP15.4 Ensure the long term financial sustainability of council through effective and prudent financial management.*

**Author:** General Manager

### **Officer's Recommendation:**

**That the draft estimates for the 2014/2015 financial period relating to the Bland – Temora RFS Zone, showing a small reduction in council's contribution, be approved in principle.**

### **Introduction**

Council is in receipt of the draft estimates for 2014/2015 relating to the operations of the Bland – Temora RFS Zone. A copy of the draft figures is included as an attachment to this report.

There are still some unknown amounts in which case the figures from last year have been included but based on advice from the Regional manager, these figures are unlikely to increase to any great extent.

It also worthy to note that the estimates make no provision for any new trucks but there has been an increase in the maintenance budget to allow for the refurbishment of up to 10 existing fire trucks.

There is also an allocation for four (4) new fire stations, which are basically stand alone sheds and which are portable, thus allowing for their removal if circumstances so arise.

### **Conclusion**

It is common practice for these draft estimates to be considered up to 12 months prior to adoption by the NSW Rural Fire Service and council is simply being asked to approve the draft figures, in principle.

### **Financial Implications**

It is noted that the draft estimates for 2014/2015 show a reduction in council's annual contribution of approximately \$33,000.00.

**NSW Rural Fire Service 2014/2015 DRAFT ESTIMATES**

	<b>BLAND</b>	<b>TEMORA</b>	<b>ZONE</b>
<b>Annual Repairs and Maintenance</b>			
Maintenance Stations Sheds / Fire Control Centre	\$ 5,638.00	\$ 3,075.00	\$ 8,713.00
Maintenance Vehicles	\$ 68,163.00	\$ 34,850.00	\$ 103,013.00
Maintenance Pumps	\$ 3,075.00	\$ 1,025.00	\$ 4,100.00
Maintenance Radios	\$ 8,713.00	\$ 5,638.00	\$ 14,351.00
Maintenance Petrol & Oils	\$ 5,125.00	\$ 3,075.00	\$ 8,200.00
Maintenance Other: Communication Tower lease	\$ 1,538.00	\$ 1,025.00	\$ 2,563.00
Freight Cartage	\$ 513.00	\$ 513.00	\$ 1,026.00
Telephone Rental	\$ 9,225.00	\$ 6,135.00	\$ 15,360.00
Telephone Calls	\$ 9,225.00	\$ 6,135.00	\$ 15,360.00
Electricity	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 32,000.00
Insurance Stations & Other	\$ 8,850.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 16,350.00
First Aid Training	\$ 5,743.11	\$ 2,208.89	\$ 7,952.00
Training Subsidy	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
Other Total:	\$ 6,600.00	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 11,000.00
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$ 155,408.11</b>	<b>\$ 90,579.89</b>	<b>\$ 245,988.00</b>
<b>Appliances</b>			
	NIL	NIL	NIL
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Other Vehicles (Tanker refurbishment)</b>			
	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 300,000.00
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$ 200,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 100,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 300,000.00</b>
<b>Equipment</b>			
PPE	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
Other Equipment (General equipment for Brigades) **	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 100,000.00
Community Safety **	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00
De Contamination Services **	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00
Defib maintenance	\$ 2,825.00	\$ 2,825.00	\$ 5,650.00
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$ 83,825.00</b>	<b>\$ 53,825.00</b>	<b>\$ 137,650.00</b>
<b>Brigade Stations</b>			
5 Single Bay Brigade Stations @ \$40,000	\$ 160,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 200,000.00
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$ 160,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 40,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 200,000.00</b>
<b>Reimbursable Item</b>			
VASS (2013/2014 FIGURES Bland 67.5 Temora 32.5%) **	\$ 117,489.83	\$ 56,569.18	\$ 174,059.01
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$ 117,489.83</b>	<b>\$ 56,569.18</b>	<b>\$ 174,059.01</b>
<b>Hazard Reduction</b>			
Town & Village proposed HR **	\$ 42,000.00	\$ 28,000.00	\$ 70,000.00
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$ 42,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 28,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 70,000.00</b>
<b>District Staff</b>			
Salaries	\$ 275,316.50	\$ 275,316.50	\$ 550,633.00
Travel **	\$ 2,431.00	\$ 2,431.00	\$ 4,862.00
Telephones **	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 5,000.00
Equipment General **	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Equipment Computers **	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Network Provisions	\$ 3,247.68	\$ 3,247.68	\$ 6,495.36
IS Services	\$ 21,590.52	\$ 21,590.52	\$ 43,181.04
<b>Changeover Cost **</b>	<b>\$ 14,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 14,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 29,000.00</b>
<b>Vehicle Maintenance **</b>	<b>\$ 15,550.00</b>	<b>\$ 15,550.00</b>	<b>\$ 31,100.00</b>
Other Cost GRN	\$ 69,178.05	\$ 46,118.70	\$ 115,296.75
Other Cost Red Fleet Insurance	\$ 47,976.00	\$ 31,984.00	\$ 79,960.00
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$ 462,289.75</b>	<b>\$ 423,238.40</b>	<b>\$ 885,528.15</b>
<b>Estimates Summary: Bland 61% Temora 39%</b>	<b>\$ 1,221,012.69</b>	<b>\$ 792,212.47</b>	<b>\$ 2,013,225.16</b>
<b>Council 11.7% Contribution of Estimate</b>	<b>\$ 142,858.48</b>	<b>\$ 92,688.85</b>	<b>\$ 235,547.34</b>
<b>2014 2015 VOLUNTEER STATE WIDE SUPPORT</b>			
<u>Bland 61% Temora 39% of Estimated Volunteer State Wide**</u>	<b>\$ 1,187,181.39</b>	<b>\$ 759,017.61</b>	<b>\$ 1,946,199.00</b>
<u>11.7% of Estimated Volunteer State Wide Support</u>	<b>\$ 138,900.22</b>	<b>\$ 88,805.06</b>	<b>\$ 227,705.00</b>
<u>PLUS Council 11.7% Contribution of Estimate</u>	<b>\$ 142,858.48</b>	<b>\$ 92,688.85</b>	<b>\$ 235,547.34</b>
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED CONTRIBUTION FOR COUNCIL</b>	<b>\$ 281,758.70</b>	<b>\$ 181,493.91</b>	<b>\$ 463,252.34</b>

## 9.9 Bland Shire 125th Anniversary Report

*Our prosperity*

*Ensuring a vibrant and sustainable future*

*Vision: Growing our population and jobs*

*DP 16.0 Community satisfaction with the quantity and quality of tourist information and resources provided by Council  
19.0 Visitors and tourists are welcomed and make a positive contribution to the community economy  
DP19.2 Work with the tourism industry to identify and develop products and services that appeal to visitors of the Shire  
DP19.3 Visitor information is kept relevant and up to date*

**Author:** Senior Economic Development & Tourism Advisor

### **Visitor Economy & Tourism Advisory Committee's Recommendation:**

**That the Bland Shire start the scoping, planning and costing to hold a 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2019**

### **Introduction**

The Bland Shire held its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 1994, and the Visitor Economy & Tourism Advisory Committee recommends that the Bland Shire hold a 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2019.

### **Conclusions**

That the Bland Shire hold a 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2019 and that a committee be formed to plan and cost a celebration to commemorate the Bland Shire 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

### **Financial Implications**

This will depend on what is decided to incorporate in the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations and once decided needs to be costed and included in the Bland Shire Council budget.

## 9.10 Bland Shire Council Committee Communication Report

*Our prosperity*

*Ensuring a vibrant and sustainable future*

*Vision: Growing our population and jobs*

*DP 16.0 Community satisfaction with the quantity and quality of tourist information and resources provided by Council*

*19.0 Visitors and tourists are welcomed and make a positive contribution to the community economy*

*DP19.2 Work with the tourism industry to identify and develop products and services that appeal to visitors of the Shire*

*DP19.3 Visitor information is kept relevant and up to date*

**Author:** Senior Economic Development & Tourism Advisor

### **Visitor Economy & Tourism Advisory Committee's Recommendation:**

**That each of the committees of the Bland Shire produce a quarterly report to be circulated to each of the committees to improve communication and reduce the potential for duplication of projects and information.**

### **Introduction**

The Visitor Economy and Tourism Advisory committee is concerned that it appears that the committees of the Bland Shire are working in isolation and there is no dialogue between the committees with the potential for duplication of projects and information. It was recommended that each committee produce a quarterly report to be circulated to each of the committees

### **Conclusions**

The each of the committees of the Bland Shire Council prepares a quarterly report to be circulated to each of the Bland Shire Council committees.

### **Financial Implications**

Time and resources will need to be allocated to prepare and circulate the quarterly report.

# SECTION 3 – CORPORATE, COMMUNITY & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

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## 9.11 Financial Statements – March 2014

*Our leadership*

*Setting a benchmark for community standards*

*Vision: A well run council acting as the voice of the community*

*15 – To provide quality leadership, governance and management.*

**Author:** Director Of Corporate, Community & Development Services

**Officer's Recommendation:**

1. That Council receive and note the statement of Bank Balances, Rates Collections and Investments for the month of February, 2014.
2. That Council confirms the payment of accounts, for the period 24 February 2014 to 31 March 2014, summarised in the accounts summary totalling \$5,158,192.97

**STATEMENT OF BANK BALANCES, RATES COLLECTIONS AND INVESTMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH, 2014.**

**BANK BALANCES AS AT 31 MARCH, 2014**

ACCOUNT	BALANCE
General Fund	\$ 591,645.55
Invested Funds	
Fixed Deposits	\$ 11,000,000.00
Deposits at Call	\$ 1,426,444.13
	<b>\$13,018,089.68</b>
Percentage of investment to Net Balance	95.46%

**STATEMENT OF BANK BALANCES AS AT 31.3.14**  
**SUBMITTED TO THE ORDINARY MEETING APRIL, 2014**

Balance as at 24.02.14 \$ 1,808,321.75

**Add Receipts**

For month of March 2014 \$ 3,941,516.77  
Includes

<b>Receipt Date.</b>	<b>Receipt No.</b>	<b>Receipt Name</b>	<b>Received Total</b>
01/03/2014		RMS NATDIS/RMCC Feb 14	\$1,106,215.00
01/03/2014		TFR From Call	\$1,500,000.00

**Less Payments**

For month of March 2014 \$5,158,192.97  
Includes

<b>Payment Date.</b>	<b>EFT/CHQ No.</b>	<b>Payee Name</b>	<b>Paid Total</b>
21/03/2014	EFT 233	ING Investment	\$1,000,000.00
21/03/2014	EFT 348	IMB Investment	\$500,000.00
03/03/2014	CALL0001	TFR to Call	\$2,300,000.00

Cash Balance \$ 591,645.55

Limit of Overdraft Arranged with Bank \$350,000.00

## ACCOUNTS SUMMARY

The following is a summary of accounts paid for the period February 24, 2014 to March 31, 2014.

I CERTIFY,

That the accounts included in the accounts summary and totalling as detailed under:-

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Voucher No.s</b>	<b>Total</b>
General	23853 - 23912	\$92,368.17
Auto-pay      Creditors	E000002-E000348	\$2,310,557.87
Auto-pay      Payroll	02/03 – 23/03	\$432,130.40
March Bank Charges & Commission		\$3,437.09
Loader Repayment	March 2014	\$15,226.69
TFR to Call		\$2,300,000.00
Credit Card Payment	Direct Debit	\$4,472.75
		<b>\$5,158,192.97</b>

1. Are fully supported by vouchers and invoices and have been fully registered.
2. The responsible officer concerned has certified that the goods for which respective accounts are submitted have been rendered to order and/or that the services for which respective accounts are submitted have been rendered according to order.
3. Official orders have been issued for the supply of such goods and services. The goods for which respective accounts are submitted have been checked with the entries in the goods order book.
4. The prices and computations of every account are correct.
5. The prices for the goods supplied or services rendered under the contract or quotation in accordance therewith and in all cases the prices charged are according to order and as far as I am able to ascertain fair and reasonable.
6. The provisions of the Local Government Act, 1993 and Regulations in connection therewith have been complied with.

Further I also certify that the Ledger has been reconciled with the bank statements for the last preceding monthly period.

.....  
Director of Corporate, Community & Development Services

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MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF BLAND HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS WEST WYALONG ON TUESDAY 15 APRIL 2014

.....  
MAYOR

**CERTIFICATE OF GENERAL MANAGER**

This accounts summary, a copy of which was submitted to each member of Council on the 15 April 2014, has been checked and is fully supported by vouchers and invoices. These vouchers have been duly certified as to receipt of goods, the rendition of services, to prices and computations, and to costings.

.....  
General Manager

**CERTIFICATE OF CHAIRMAN OF ORDINARY MEETING**

I certify that this accounts summary, covering amounts totalling \$ 5,158,192.97 was submitted to the Ordinary Meeting on the 15 April 2014 and that the amounts are presented to Council for confirmation of payment.

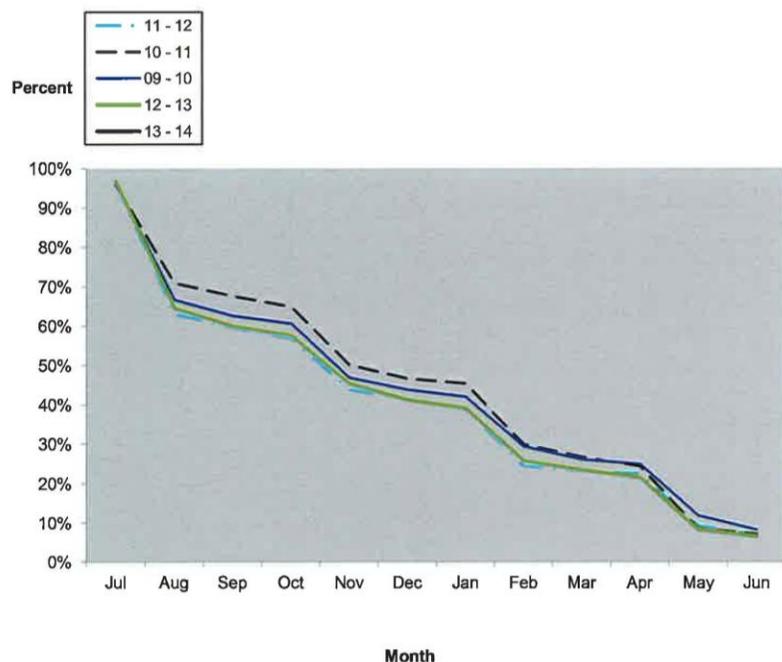
.....  
Chairman of Ordinary Meeting

***Note: This report contains financial transactions from the 24<sup>th</sup> of February to the 31<sup>st</sup> of March due to the period end date cut off associated with the change of financial systems from Practical to TechnologyOne.***

**STATEMENT OF RATES AS AT 31 March 2014**

RATE	Levy	Arrears	Adjustments	Interest	Total	Pension Rebate	Collections	Balance	2013-14	2012-13
General	\$5,867,451.98	\$318,476.59	-\$4,265.65	\$19,877.48	\$6,201,540.40	-\$76,889.59	-\$4,723,900.63	\$1,400,750.18	22.87%	22.07%
Sewerage	\$1,149,328.00	\$134,237.20	-\$7,235.70	\$7,588.78	\$1,283,918.28	-\$37,107.35	-\$881,813.65	\$364,997.28	29.27%	28.47%
Garbage/Services/Legal	\$822,704.00	\$161,241.51	\$55,179.02	\$9,464.17	\$1,048,588.70	-\$46,605.53	-\$683,803.81	\$318,179.36	31.75%	30.97%
Overpayments	\$0.00	\$0.00					-\$50,255.44	-\$50,255.44		
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>\$7,839,483.98</b>	<b>\$613,955.30</b>	<b>\$43,677.67</b>	<b>\$36,930.43</b>	<b>\$8,534,047.38</b>	<b>-\$160,602.47</b>	<b>-\$6,339,773.53</b>	<b>\$2,033,671.38</b>	<b>24.29%</b>	<b>23.56%</b>

**% of Rates**



Debt Analysis	Properties	Balance
Sale of Land	0	\$0.00
Future Sale of Land Arrangements	38	\$52,552.13
Debt Collection	70	\$47,696.78
Centrepay	110	\$356,035.88
	43	\$31,552.12
<b>Total</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>\$487,836.91</b>



## 9.12 Making Of Sewer And Waste Charges 2014/15

*Our leadership*

*Setting a benchmark for community standards*

*Vision: A well run council acting as the voice of the community*

*15 – To provide quality leadership, governance and management.*

**Author:** Director Corporate, Community and Development Services

**Officer's Recommendation:**

**That the Council makes the Sewer and Waste charges for the year 2014/2015 for inclusion in the 2014/15 Budget.**

Pursuant to Section 535 of the Local Government Act 1993 Council must make rates and charges by resolution. Accordingly Council must make the following charges as included within the Draft 2014/2015 Operational Plan.

**RECOMMENDATION 1**

**Officer's Recommendation:**

**SEWER SPECIAL RATE**

**It is hereby RECOMMENDED that a Sewerage Special Rate be now made for the year commencing on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014 subject to a minimum amount of six hundred and Sixty nine dollars (\$669.00) excepting any assessment in respect of the land not built upon nor connected to sewer mains in which case the minimum amount shall be, one hundred and fifty six dollars (\$156.00) and that the charge to be made for non-rateable land provided with sewerage services shall be:**

- (a)** Land defined in Clause 184(1) of former Ordinance 46 under the Local Government Act 1919- \$135.00 for each water closet on the premises and \$70.00 per annum for each cistern serving any urinal on the premises.
- (b)** Land defined in Clause 184(2) of former Ordinance 46 under the Local Government Act 1919- \$135.00 for each water closet on the premises and \$70.00 per annum for each cistern serving any urinal on the premises.

**RECOMMENDATION 2**

**Officer's Recommendation:**

**DOMESTIC WASTE MANGEMENT CHARGE**

**THAT a Domestic Waste Management Charge be now made in respect of Residential premises within the area of the Council of Bland where a domestic waste management services is available, as follows:**

**(a) Land, which is occupied and/or built upon-**

Standard 240L domestic service:

Barmedman	\$ 314.00
Ungarie	\$ 314.00
West Wyalong/Wyalong	\$ 314.00
Weethalle	\$ 314.00

plus \$314 per extra collection.

Standard 120L Domestic Service

West Wyalong/Wyalong	\$255.00
Ungarie	\$255.00
Barmedman	\$255.00
Weethalle	\$255.00

plus \$255 per extra collection.

**(b) Vacant Land able to be built upon** \$26.00

### **RECOMMENDATION 3**

**Officer's Recommendation:**

**TRADE WASTE SERVICE CHARGE**

**THAT an annual charge be made on land categorised as Business Land within the area of the Council of Bland and which is provided by Council with a trade waste removal service as follows:**

Standard 240L Collections

West Wyalong/Wyalong	\$326.00
Ungarie	\$326.00
Barmedman	\$326.00
Weethalle	\$326.00
plus \$326.00 per extra collection	

Standard 120L Collections

West Wyalong/Wyalong	\$266.00
Ungarie	\$266.00
Barmedman	\$266.00
Weethalle	\$266.00
plus \$266.00 per extra collection.	

### **RECOMMENDATION 4**

**Officer's Recommendation**

**Annual Waste Management Charge**

*A charge of \$26.00 per property will apply to all properties not within a serviced area for the DWMS, under Section 501 of the Local Government Act.*

## 9.13 Volunteering – Timebanking Trial

*Our people*

*Our greatest and most important asset*

*Vision: A strong, healthy, connected and cohesive community*

*DP3.1 Encourage and foster a strong spirit of volunteering and community pride.*

**Author:** Community Relations Officer

**Officer's Recommendation:**

**That Council confirm its participation in the NSW State Government's 2014 Timebanking trial.**

**Introduction**

Bland Shire Council has identified the importance of fostering volunteers in its Integrated Planning and Reporting documentation, including the Community Strategic Plan, and in its annual planning.

Council and the community maintain a strong reliance on volunteers to assist with numerous events and projects within the Shire. Council has noted an aging volunteer force within our community and as such, is seeking new and innovative ways to foster and support existing volunteers and engage new volunteers.

In November 2012, the New South Wales Government commenced trialling a new volunteering initiative, Timebanking, in the Hunter and Central Coast. In December 2013, the Minister for Citizenship and Communities announced an extension of the trial incorporating 30 new NSW communities in 2014.

Council staff attended an information session about Timebanking in Wagga Wagga in December 2013 expressing an interest in the initiative and an enthusiasm to learn more.

In essence, Timebanking is a modern form of the community volunteer register. It is a community program that facilitates the voluntary exchange of services between members.

All members who give an hour to help another member earn an hour of time credits in return which can be used to receive services that are of personal value such as dog walking, ironing, community gardening, massage, vehicle repair, painting, administrative assistance or even driving lessons. The hour given in return does not have to be from the same person, it can be from any member of Timebanking allowing for increased flexibility and versatility of service. Members can also donate their time credits to a community group or organisation they support.

The evaluation report into the initial trial conducted in the Hunter and Central Coast claims that Timebanking has broadened the scope of volunteering within NSW communities. While the essence of Timebanking is to connect support to those who need it, the trial has seen the spirit of giving grow to include more than services. The evaluation says that Timebanking has forged healthier, happier and more productive individuals and communities. Through refinement and further innovation, Timebanking can continue to increase and enhance volunteering and redefine the process and meaning of volunteering in new and novel ways into the future.

Following ongoing discussions between his office and Council staff, the Minister for Citizenship and Communities has formally invited Bland Shire to be part of the extended trial, which is scheduled to commence in late April-early May.

The State Government has offered to provide Council staff with training, tailor a unique webpage with local photos and content and provide support in undertaking local project planning.

### **Conclusion**

After the successful implementation in the USA and UK over recent years and more recently the Central Coast and Hunter in Australia, Timebanking has made a notable impact on volunteering at a grassroots level.

It is a different approach to volunteering, one that is relatively new to Australia and an opportunity for Bland Shire to be a regional leader in this area.

The concept of timebanking aligns closely with the initiatives outlined in Council's Community Strategic Plan documents and has the potential to have a positive impact on volunteering and the community in general.

An evaluation summary of the trial conducted in the Hunter and Central Coast accompanies this report.

### **Financial Implications**

There is no financial outlay required of Council to participate in the trial. However, Council participation will absorb considerable staff time to get the initiative up and running and small costs associated with promotion and a potential launch. These costs can be absorbed within Council's operational budget.



## **TIMEBANKING TRIAL – EVALUATION SUMMARY**

**March 2014**

The Timebanking initiative in NSW is one of the largest in the world. The trial commenced in November 2012 and was funded by the NSW Office of Communities. It has broadened the scope of volunteering within NSW communities. While the essence of Timebanking is to connect support to those who need it, the trial has seen the spirit of giving grow to include more than services. The evaluation has demonstrated that Timebanking has forged healthier, happier and more productive individuals and communities. Through refinement and further innovation, Timebanking can continue to grow volunteering and redefine volunteering and what it means to be a volunteer in new ways into the future.

### **KEY FINDINGS FROM THE TIMEBANKING TRIAL**

From the start of the Timebanking trial in November 2012, to December 2013, a total of 4,004 people registered and 1,261 trades took place over 13 months, resulting in 8,000 banked hours. This amounts to 322 full days of volunteering. In total, 227 users were offering volunteer services, 136 were requesting support and 52 were offering and seeking support.

By March 2014, 4,181 Timebanking members have made 1,573 trades, resulting in 9,600 banked hours, and 209 people have offered services since January 2014. This indicates that as users become accustomed to the reciprocal relationships at the heart of Timebanking, their participation and trading increases. Opportunities exist not just for individuals to participate in Timebanking, but also for community based organisations, schools, councils and local businesses to become involved. The trial has seen more than 350 organisations join as members.

Analysis of the trial shows that Timebanking works best at a grassroots level — it is more productive to operate several local sites where neighbours are helping neighbours, than one all-encompassing organisation across a large area. Such local scale is more able to seamlessly contribute to local communities and meet local needs. One third of Timebanking members were new to volunteering which means it attracts new people to giving in this way.

Research suggests that engagement with members who have expressed interest in trading their time but have not yet done so is a vital step towards supporting them to become active members of the Timebanking community. To further extend reach and appeal and to reinforce Timebanking, social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook were harnessed. The indications are that establishing an overarching social media presence, as well as web pages for individual Timebanking pilot sites, will play an integral role in promoting this new form of volunteerism to a generation of digital natives through 2014 and beyond.

Through the trial, it has become evident that Timebanking provides pathways to individuals that may not previously have felt they have a contribution to make in volunteering programs. Those from backgrounds of disadvantage can find opportunities to engage more fully within the community through Timebanking - so that they can discover valued and productive contributions to society. For example - 15% of evaluation survey respondents had found paid

employment through their participation in the Timebanking trial. This establishes the power of Timebanking as a valuable driver of employability and participation.

## **CHARACTERISTICS OF SUCCESSFUL TIMEBANKING**

Through our review of the Australian and international literature, we have discovered several crucial factors that contribute to successful Timebanking. These include dedicated members, outreach to build and sustain new relationships, and effective management. Timebanking can be adapted to suit many settings and circumstances in local communities.

The literature indicates that reciprocity and co-production distinguish Timebanking from traditional modes of volunteering. Reciprocity is mutual sharing of time, care, skills and knowledge, and co-production is the sense of community and mutual support that results from the combined effort of neighbours and local community members. Put simply, Timebanking relies on taking and giving. Without the symbiosis of the two, the system would fail to sow the benefits that make it unique: community self-help, greater social inclusion and increased civic engagement. The labour that people invest in Timebanking contributes to the creation and sustainability of community support systems and social networks that cannot easily be created in other ways. The ability to give, as well as receive from others, creates new relationships of trust.

Effective outreach and management in the form of a broker is useful to Timebanking growth and success. As well as building confidence and credibility, the broker can recruit new members; match the needs of members with the skills of others; build relationships of trust; and weave the social fabric of relationships in Timebanking. The evaluation demonstrates that Timebanking was best managed on a local scale and many brokers were volunteers who supported this management.

Timebanking has the potential to not only establish co-production of new futures in communities, but also other valuable positive economic, social and health-related outcomes. The evaluation indicates that results of this kind depend on the participation of the community in which Timebanking is embedded and so no single formula can be applied consistently across all Timebanking to achieve success.

The Timebanking trial demonstrates that it can be a powerful mechanism for community engagement and increasing volunteering. There is an appetite for such innovation in volunteering that must be further nurtured for its potential to be fully realised. The indications are that the Timebanking trial has successfully furthered all of the NSW Volunteering Strategy strategic directions, particularly in making volunteering more accessible, and broadening the base of volunteers in our communities. Rather than competing with existing volunteering, it extends, strengthens and complements previous approaches. We expect that further Timebanking pilots will evolve community perceptions of volunteering towards a more reciprocal model, that is open to more people, and that fosters the benefits that flow from this innovative approach.

Author: Professor Max Smith, Timebanking evaluation team, Universities of Newcastle and Wollongong

[www.timebanking.com.au](http://www.timebanking.com.au) [www.volunteering.nsw.gov.au](http://www.volunteering.nsw.gov.au)



## 9.14 Community Groups Assistance Grant – West Wyalong Camp Draft Association

*Our places*

*Where our sense of community shines*

*Vision: Providing great community facilities for everyone to enjoy*

*DP8.5 Assist Community groups to provide activities to the wider community*

**Author:** Community Development Officer

### **Officer's Recommendation:**

**That Council approve a Community Groups Assistance grant of \$2265 for the West Wyalong Camp draft association to assist with the cost of running a charity camp draft event.**

### **Introduction**

The West Wyalong Camp Draft Association has applied for a Community Groups Assistance Grant to assist with the costs of holding a three day charity Camp draft event. The West Wyalong Charity Camp draft is held annually in September at the West Wyalong Showgrounds in the Camp draft arena.

The event is expected to attract 200 plus competitors and their families to West Wyalong from all over NSW and VIC for the three days that the event will run. This is also a great opportunity to showcase the outstanding facilities that West Wyalong has to offer in the hope of attracting future equine sporting events.

The Camp Draft Association is seeking a grant from Council to assist with the cost of running the event, particularly the \$8100 cost of transporting cattle to and from the draft.

### **Conclusion**

The West Wyalong Camp Draft charity event will attract tourists to town, provide new opportunities for local competitors, and provide a source of entertainment for the local community. Local businesses will benefit from the influx of visitors, including local fuel stations, food outlets, and hospitality outlets. This request meets the objectives set out in Council's Community Strategic Plan.

### **Financial Implications**

Council has \$3165.30 available in its Community Groups Assistance Grant fund. There is also a request before the meeting from Tallimba Hall for a \$900 Community Groups Assistance Grant which, if approved, would leave a balance of \$2265.30.

## 9.15 Community Groups Assistance Grant – Tallimba Public Hall

*Our places*

*Where our sense of community shines*

*Vision: Providing great community facilities for everyone to enjoy*

*DP8.5 Assist Community groups to provide activities to the wider community*

**Author:** Community Development Officer

### **Officer's Recommendation:**

**That Council approve a Community Groups Assistance grant of \$900 for Tallimba Public Hall to assist with the purchase of 50 new chairs.**

### **Introduction**

Tallimba Public Hall has applied for a Community Groups Assistance Grant to assist with the cost of purchasing new chairs for the hall. The Hall provides a local venue for community members and groups to hold meetings and events and assists in maintaining social cohesion and community interaction. The chairs that the Hall currently has are old and damaged. Repair is not an option. The chairs are also made available for private hire providing an important source of income for the Hall.

Tallimba Public Hall is seeking a Grant of \$900 from Council to assist with the \$1800 cost of the chair replacement project.

### **Conclusion**

The purchase of chairs will assist to generate income for the hall and allow for community events and meetings to be safely held at the venue. This will in turn assist with the maintenance of a connected community. This request meets the objective of set out in Councils Community Strategic Plan of providing great community facilities for everyone to enjoy.

### **Financial Implications**

Council has \$3165.30 available in its Community Groups Assistance grant fund. There is also a grant application before the meeting from the West Wyalong Charity Camp Draft Association.

## 9.16 Access Incentive Grant – Weethalle Country Club

*Our people*

*Our greatest and most important asset*

*Vision: A strong, healthy, connected and cohesive community*

*DP3.5 Implement and review recommendations contained in the community plan*

**Author:** Community Relations Officer

### **Officer's Recommendation:**

- 1. That Council approve an Access Incentive Grant application from the Weethalle Country Club for \$4000 towards the purchase and installation of automatic doors.**
- 2. That the funds for the project be sourced from the Strengthening Communities fund.**

### **Introduction**

The Weethalle Country Club has applied to Council for an Access Incentive Grant to install automatic doors.

The club is considered by many as the hub of the Weethalle community and is used by people of all ages, including the elderly and disabled, to attend community events and meetings as well as golf and bowls.

With an aging population in Weethalle, the Country Club executive has identified the need to improve access to the premises. The proposal will facilitate improved access to the premises for the disabled and the elderly.

The Country Club has received a quote for the work of \$10,654.44 including \$7882.44 for the purchase of the doors and \$2772 for all other work including installation, electrical, painting and the purchase and installation of the bulkhead.

The club is seeking a grant from Council for up to half the total cost (\$5327.22) and has committed to fund the remaining balance of the work from its own reserves.

The club hopes to commence work on the project by the end of April-early May.

### **Conclusion**

The aim of the Access Incentive Scheme is to:

- Provide financial assistance to improve access to and within buildings
- Encourage the development of partnerships between local businesses, community organisations/services, local governments and the general public
- To encourage a greater awareness of access issues in the community

The application meets all requirements within the Access Incentive Grant Policy aim, objectives and guidelines.

The application is comparable in value and scope to a \$4000 grant allocated to Cuts and Curbs at Council's February meeting through the Strengthening Communities program. It is recommended that Council also consider a grant for \$4000 in this case.

**Financial Implications**

Council's Access Incentive Scheme budget is fully expended for 2013-2014. However, Council may also consider funding the request from its Strengthening Communities fund which has a balance of \$9000. The applicant has a second major access project in the pipeline for 2014-2015 (the upgrade/installation of access friendly/disabled toilets) and has asked Council to consider its application in the current financial year to enable it to make a subsequent application for the toilet project in 2014-2015 in accordance with Council's Grants and Donations Policy.

## 9.17 Local Approvals Policy 2014

*Our leadership*

*Setting a benchmark for community standards*

*Vision: A well run council acting as the voice of the community*

*DP18.1 Develop, implement and promote best practice governance policies and procedures*

**Author:** Manager Development Services

**Officer's Recommendation:**

**That Council;**

- a. **Adopt the Bland Shire Local Approvals Policy.**
- b. **In accordance with section 162 of the Local government Act 1993, write to the Director General of the Division of Local Government seeking approval for exempt provisions within the policy.**
- c. **Give public notice of adoption of the Bland Shire Local Approvals Policy on receipt of approval for the exemptions from the Director General of the Division of Local Government**

**Introduction**

In accordance with Council's resolution No.20022014, the draft Local Approvals Policy was placed on public exhibition for a period of 42 days.

Council did not receive any comments in regard to the policy and as such it is recommended that the policy be adopted as written. Council must now seek approval from the Director General of the Division of Local Government for the exempt provisions within the policy in accordance with Clause 162 of the Local Government Act 1993.

On receipt of the Director General approval, a public notice that Council has adopted the Bland Shire Council Local Approvals policy must be given.

**Conclusion**

That Council adopts the policy as written and seeks approval from the Director General of the Division of Local Government for the exempt provisions within the policy and give notice of adoption on receipt of approval for the exemptions from the Director General of the Division of Local Government

**Financial Implications**

Nil

## **SECTION 4 – REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

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**Officer's Recommendation:**

**That the following reports, provided for information only, be received and noted:**

- **9.18 - Engineering Services Report**
- **9.19 – Community Services Report**
- **9.20 – Bland Shire Library Monthly Update**
- **9.21 – Children Services Monthly Update**
- **9.22 – Development Statistics – March 2014**
- **9.23 – Ranger Activities**

## 9.18 Engineering Services Report

*Our infrastructure*      *Reviewing, renewing & improving our core community assets*

*Vision: Maintaining and improving the Shire's assets and infrastructure in a changing climate*

13. Ensure that public places and facilities are well maintained and easily accessible.

**Author:** Director – Engineering Services

The following work was carried out:-

**1. NATIONAL AND STATE ROAD MAINTENANCE**

Routine maintenance as per single invitation contract carried out on MR57 South & SH17.

**2. REGIONAL ROADS MAINTENANCE**

Bitumen patching and guide posting carried out on MR57 north MR231 and MR398. Heavy patching has been completed on MR231 and MR57 north.

**3. SHIRE ROADS MAINTENANCE**

Bitumen patching carried out on the following;

- Crown Camp Road
- Clear Ridge Road
- Lake Cowal Road

**Gravel Resheeting FAG**

Rutledges lane 3.5 km

**Kirpy**

Bonehams Lane

**Flood Damage**

Patons Lane 5.08 km

Clear Ridge Road 1.16 km

Merrengreen Road 2.7 km

Merrengreen Road 6.7 km

Warners Lane 1.8 km

Bradburys Lane 1.5 km

Thompsons Lane 1.04 km

Meaghers Lane 0.93km

Dalys Lane 1 km

**Wet Grading**

Ariah Park Road

Kildary Road

**Heavy Patching**

Crown Camp Road has been completed.

Dundas Road has been completed.

- Lake Cowal rehabilitation with the funding from Barrick Gold Mine is in progress with the two major curves on Stage 1 to have bitumen placed on them on 10 April weather permitting.
- Drainage pipes have been placed in Naradhan Road.
- Shoulder repair has been completed on Dundas Road.
- Guide posting has been done on a number of rural sealed roads, minor gravel patching has been done on a number of unsealed roads within the Shire, slashing of sealed road shoulders is in progress and sucker spraying is in progress on various sealed roads within the shire.

#### 4. NOXIOUS WEEDS/ENVIRONMENTAL

- Council Noxious Weeds Staff attended The Lachlan Valley and Western Riverina Noxious Weeds Advisory Group meetings.
- A Crown Land funding application for noxious weed control work for 2014/15 was lodged.
- Council has just received \$4000.00 from Crown Lands for work this 2013/14 year.
- Twenty three private property inspections were carried out for the presence of noxious weeds.
- Inspections were carried out on rail corridors, Graincorp and AWB storage sites for Spiny Burr Grass infestations. Council carried out contract control work for the AWB.
- The following noxious weeds and other controls were undertaken:
  - **Spiny Burr Grass** – Lone pine Race Track, West Wyalong rail corridor, Wilsons Lane, Lonergans Lane, MR 57N, Girral Grain Corp area, Clear Ridge Road, Goldfields Way, Yiddah Road, Ungarie rail corridor, Kolkilbertoo Road, Dundas Road, Kikoira Road, Bena Road, MR 371.
  - **Silver leaf Nightshade** – MR 231, Kikoira Road, Bena Road, Crown Camp Road, Wilga Plains Road, Alkaville Lane, Abernathys Lane, Stidwells Lane.
  - **Bathurst Burr – Morangorell** Road, Warbilla Road.
  - **Prickly Pear** – Bellarwi Road, Alleena Road, Wargin Road.
  - **Khaki Weed** – Goldfields Way.
  - **Johnson Grass** – Newell Highway.
  - **African Boxthorn** – Hatelys Lane, Wyrra Lane, Worners Lane, Yiddah Road, Fullers Lane, Back Creek Road, Ditchfields Lane, Collins Lane, Wells Lane, Merringreen Road, Rootes Lane, Hilliers Lane, Calleen.
  - **Galvanised Burr** – Weethalle landfill lane.
  - **General Weed control (Catheads and Khaki Weed)** – ,Wyalong, West Wyalong, Ungarie, Barmedman, Weethalle, West Wyalong drains, Ungarie drains
  - **Sight distance safety control work** – Kikoira Road.

#### 5. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

- All parks mown and tidied
- Village main streets swept and rubbish removed
- Trees trimmed and fallen branches picked up
- Village entrances and streets mown and trimmed
- All village park play grounds inspected for safety
- Irrigation checks carried out at Barmedman, Tallimba and Ungarie

**6. PARK MAINTENANCE**

- McCann park, Barnado park and small parks and areas mown, trimmed and maintained
- Barnado park hedges trimmed
- Irrigation maintenance carried out in small parks
- Reg Rattey drive garden plants replaced and gardens mulched
- Small parks broad leaf sprayed
- Work carried out at wet lands board walk

**7. OVALS MAINTENANCE**

- Maintenance to sporting ovals and surrounds
- Maintenance to lawn and monument cemetery
- Maintenance to Herridge park, Coinda park, Rotary park and Wyalong court house
- Line marking carried out for athletics, soccer, cricket, Australian rules, touch football and rugby league
- Ron Crowe oval over sown with rye grass seed, fertilised and banks sprayed with round up
- McAlister oval goal posts re installed
- Irrigation checks carried out on all ovals
- Rough areas sprayed for broad leaf

**8. TOWN MAINTENANCE**

- Main street gardens tidied, watered
- Town areas mown and trimmed
- Town trees trimmed and watered when needed
- Clean out town drains
- Wetlands work carried out
- Stump grinding in town carried out

## 9. Sewerage Treatment Works - February / March 2014

No:	Date	Time		Address	Reason
		Start	Finish		
1	7/02/2014	8.00am	9.00am	Barmedman Public Toilets	Toilet Block Sewer Choke
2	10/02/2014	4.00pm	5.00pm	White Tank Ln WW	Sewer Choke in Main
3	13/02/2014	4.30pm	9.00pm	8 Wootten St WW	Blockage Boundary To Main
4	14/02/2014	10.00am	12.00pm	Barmedman Toilets	Blockage in Floor Waste
5	25/02/2014	1.00pm	2.30pm	39 Quota Dr WW	Sewer Choke in Main
6	26/02/2014	6.00pm	8.30pm	Cooinda Public Toilets	Toilet Block Sewer Choke
7	27/2/2014	11.00am	12.00pm	Ron Crowe Oval	Toilet Block Sewer Choke
8	4/03/2014	1.00pm	3.30pm	Tallimba Public Toilets	Toilet Block Sewer Choke
9	5/03/2014	1.30pm	2.30pm	16 Wootten St WW	Blockage Boundary To Main
10	6/03/2014	4.30pm	6.00pm	Topyy Public School	Blockage Boundary To Main
11	10/03/2014	2.00pm	3.30pm	13 Wootten St WW	Blockage Boundary To Main
12	10/03/2014	1.00pm	2.00pm	16 Wootten St WW	Sewer Choke in Main
13	14/03/2014	2.00pm	4.00pm	Weethalle Toilets	Toilet Block Sewer Choke
14	14/03/2014	2.30pm	4.30pm	8 Wootten St WW	Blockage Boundary To Main
15	21/03/2014	3.30pm	6.00pm	Weethalle Toilets	Toilet Block Sewer Choke
16	23/03/2014	8.30am	10.00am	Barnado Park Toilets	Toilet Block Sewer Choke
17	24/03/2014	10.00am	11.30am	Neeld St Lane	Sewer Choke in Main
18	25/03/2014	4.30pm	10.00pm	Caroon St Ungarie	Sewer Choke in Main
19	26/03/2014	10.00am	3.30pm	Caroon St Ungarie	Sewer Choke in Main
20	27/03/2014	3.00pm	5.00pm	155 Railway Rd WW	Sewer Choke in Main

## 9.19 Community Services Report

*Our people*

*Our greatest and most important asset*

*Vision: A strong, healthy, connected and cohesive community*

*DP3. Nurture a strong sense of community and enrich the cultural life for the residents of the Bland Shire*

**Author:** Community Relations Officer

### **Tallimba First Aid course**

As part of the It Takes a Village (ITAV) Program a highly successful First Aid course was held at Tallimba Hall on Wednesday March 26. After consultation with the community it was noted that the residents were interested in a course being run locally. Due to the rural location of the community and the distance to the nearest hospital and health services, it was considered a very worthwhile option to run a course in Tallimba. Council partnered with the TAFE to deliver the course to the community which was booked to capacity. As a result of the overwhelming response received for the initial course, Council partnered with TAFE once again to deliver another course to the Tallimba community on Thursday, April 10 which has also generated a lot of interest.

### **The Mobile Youth Van**

Council has organised for the Mobile Youth Van to visit West Wyalong on Thursday, April 24. The van will be set up in Main Street in the car park between Aberline's Ford and Wendy's Embroidery. The Mobile Youth Service aims to overcome the social isolation of marginalised young people in regional, remote NSW by using multi-media, audio-visual and other youth-friendly platforms to engage young people in creative, recreational, life skills and health activities. The Mobile Youth Service, otherwise known as the Mobile Youth Van provides a non-threatening space for young people to meet, experiment with modern technologies, learn new skills and through positive health workshops, improve their mental and physical well-being. M.Y.Van offers a positive alternative to apathy and anti-social behaviour, gives young people information on training and employment opportunities and allows them to connect with others through technology. Those who attend will have the option to utilise numerous forms of social media and audio-visual equipment that is not readily available in the local community.

### **Asset Based Community Development Workshop**

An Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Workshop will be held on May 1, 2014 at the West Wyalong Sports Club. These workshops demonstrate a powerful approach to community development that focuses on discovering and mobilising the resources that are already present in communities. ABCD recognises that people learn best how to build 'community partnerships that work' successfully by learning from their own experience, by having clear principles of practice and by learning from the experience of other community builders. This workshop is targeted mainly at village community members and those who are interested in building the capacity of their community such as young people, farmers, RFS volunteers, men's shed leaders, community group members, and progress association members.

### **The Big Air School**

The Big Air School is scheduled to be held at the West Wyalong Skate Park on Sunday, April 6. In addition to a DJ and numerous scooter, skate, and BMX workshops and competitions, there will be frequent endorsement of the dos and donts of online activity. Other positive messages such as anti-cyber bullying will also be actively promoted throughout the event.

### **Beauty demonstration**

As part of an action packed Youth Week in 2014 Bland Shire Council will be collaborating with a local beauty therapist to bring a make-up and beauty demonstration to teenage girls within the local community. The event incorporates tasteful day and night wear make-up demonstrations as well as some handy hints and tips of make-up application and a pedicure demonstration. This event will be held in the West Wyalong High School library on Tuesday 8th April from 5 – 8pm.

### **Teen Supreme Chef Competition**

Also in Youth Week, Council is planning to hold a Teen Supreme Chef competition for the up and coming chefs within the local community. Young people between the ages of 12 – 18 will be permitted to participate in the showdown which will be held at the West Wyalong High School Hospitality room on Friday, April 11. The dishes will be judged by Council staff and a community member on the day with great prizes on offer for the dish of the day.

### **April School holiday program**

As part of its April school holiday program, Bland Shire Council has a number of engaging activities planned for youth within the community. On Monday, April 14, Council will lead a group to Altina Wildlife Park in Darlington Point for a jam packed safari adventure. Numerous native and exotic animals can be observed roaming open styled enclosures situated on the banks of the Murray River.

On Tuesday, April 15, Council will lead a group to Narrandera fisheries centre to attend a freshwater fishing clinic. The fishing workshops will impart responsible fishing knowledge and practices to participants while offering an enjoyable, practical and educational experience. Participants will develop a knowledge and awareness of fishing rules and regulations, safe and responsible fishing practices, fish anatomy, habitat and fishing skills (baiting, rigging and casting). Participants will further be provided with a rod/reel, tackle kit, hat and t-shirt to take home from the workshop.

Claire Cumming from the local Splatter Art Gallery will host and facilitate an Urban Art workshop on Tuesday April 22. The workshop will involve instruction from Claire around an Urban Art theme, with participants able to take their masterpiece home upon completion of the workshop.

NRMA driving instructors will be on hand in West Wyalong on April 23 to deliver driving lessons to local youth within the community. NRMA Safer Driving School is at the forefront of safer driver training with only the highest quality driving instructors on hand to deliver the lessons. The best practice curriculum maintains a focus on low risk driving techniques to assist students in becoming safer drivers for life.

### **Heart Foundation Heartmoves**

The Heartmoves gentle exercise program has commenced with overwhelming interest. As of the beginning of April, 40 individuals had registered their involvement in the program. Heartmoves is a gentle physical group activity program suitable for anyone who hasn't done any exercise in a while and is designed to be safe for people with long term health conditions.

With funding from Barrick Cowal, Heartmoves is facilitated by accredited exercise professional Kathryn Currey, who is specifically trained in managing safe, low to moderate intensity physical activity programs.

### **Royal Far West Bike Ride**

Approximately 50 riders and support crew from the Royal Far West charity bike ride enjoyed an overnight stopover in West Wyalong on Tuesday, March 18. With the assistance of Council, a mallee root throwing competition was organised for participants as a unique form of local entertainment. The competition was conducted by Pat O’Kane with assistance from Ron Pilon, Mark Giffin, John Kelly and Bland Shire Council’s Community Relations Officer and left a lasting impression. The ride raised approximately \$100,000 for the Royal Far West.

### **Sweden in the West exhibition**

A digital photography exhibition featuring images from the successful Sweden in the West community festival, plus a sneak peek ahead to Mexico in the West in 2014, was held in the Bland Shire Library from April 2-9.

### **Computing and Social Media for Seniors**

Bland Shire Council in partnership with West Wyalong TAFE Campus held a highly successful internet, email and social media workshop for seniors on March 19. The session was booked out within three days and as a result a second session was scheduled for Wednesday, April 2 which was also booked out. The sessions were warmly received by participants who were each provided with their own email address and a specially prepared booklet guiding them through the process.

### **Volunteers**

Council has been in discussions with both REROC and the office of the New South Wales Minister for Citizenship and Communities about two new volunteering initiatives. Council has been offered a place in the extended Timebanking pilot program for 2014. Meanwhile, Council has aligned with REROC to take part in a new youth volunteering initiative in conjunction with Events West Wyalong.

## 9.20 Bland Shire Library Monthly Update

*Our people*

*Our greatest and most important asset*

*Vision: A strong, healthy, connected and cohesive community*

*DP 3.4 Monitor and provide up to date and relevant resources and programs within the library  
DP 4.4 Provide and monitor quality library services to the aged, people with disability, young people and families*

**Author:** Manager Library and Children Services

### **April School Holiday Program**

The April school holiday program has been confirmed and the library will be running a range of short workshops for school aged children. The children will be able to participate in a craft morning, button jewellery making workshop and a chocolate making workshop. Author, Caroline Tuohey, from Darlington Point will be conducting a storytelling session on the last Thursday morning of the school holidays and in the afternoon will run a short writing workshop for children aged 10 years and older showing the skills needed to write a picture book. A total of 5 holiday activities have been planned for the April school holidays.

### **Knit and Knatter**

This April, Knit and Knatter will celebrate its second birthday. The library will be hosting an exhibition of the group's knitted projects during the month of April. On 22nd of April the library will host an open day at which interested members of the public can come along and meet the members of the group, knitting and spinning demonstrations have also been planned for the day. A special afternoon tea has been planned for the afternoon.

### **Photo display**

During the first week in April a special digital photographic display of last year's Sweden in the West with a few promotional images for Mexico in the West was on display in the library. Also on display were press clippings and other items from the festivities. The photographic montage was collated by Charles Kingston, a member of Events West Wyalong.

### **Military History workshop**

Due to unforeseen circumstances the April military history workshop was postponed. It is planned to conduct the military workshop in June.

### **Conclusion**

The Library team continue to provide quality services meeting both the requirements under the NSW Library Act, Council's policies and procedures and Integrated Planning and Reporting outcomes.

### **Financial Implications**

Nil

## 9.21 Children Services Monthly Update

*Our people*

*Our greatest and most important asset*

*Vision: A strong, healthy, connected and cohesive community*

*DP 4.5 - Provide quality and affordable Family Day Care, Mobile Resource Unit, Vacation Care and Preschool services*

**Author:** Manager Library and Children Services

### **Preschool**

Term 1 has been very busy with the children participating in a range of educational activities. The last day of term will be Friday the 11<sup>th</sup> of April. Preschool children will return on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> of April.

### **Work Experience**

The preschool currently has one work experience student who will be completing 20 hours of work experience.

### **Events**

The Preschool Family Disco was a huge success with over 135 children attending.

### **MRU Playgroup**

Playgroup numbers have continued to increase this term. The West Wyalong play group has the largest numbers attending and the other locations continue to have smaller but consistent attendance.

### **Ungarie Pre School**

Term 1 has been very busy with the children preparing for Easter celebrations the last couple of weeks. The last day of term will be Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> of April and children will return on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> of May.

### **It takes a village (ITAV)**

The collaboration with the Community Development staff has assisted to gain a wider range of services for community members. Staff have organised Senior First Aid Training at Tallimba and Coronella and are investigating offering it at Kikiora.

The communities have also show an interest in gardening with sessions also being arranged to run.

### **Family Day Care**

Play groups continue to be held monthly and are well attended at both West Wyalong and Temora. As a result of staff's recruitment efforts one educator will be commencing in Temora.

### **Conclusion**

The Children Services team continue to provide quality services meeting both the requirements under the NSW Regulation and Council's policies, procedures and Integrated Planning and Reporting outcomes.

## 9.22 Development Statistics – March 2014

*Our leadership*

*Setting a benchmark for community standards*

*Vision: A well run council acting as the voice of the community*

*DP17. Lead the community by example with sustainable, effective, efficient and customer focused practices*

**Author:** Development Services Officer

### Development Applications

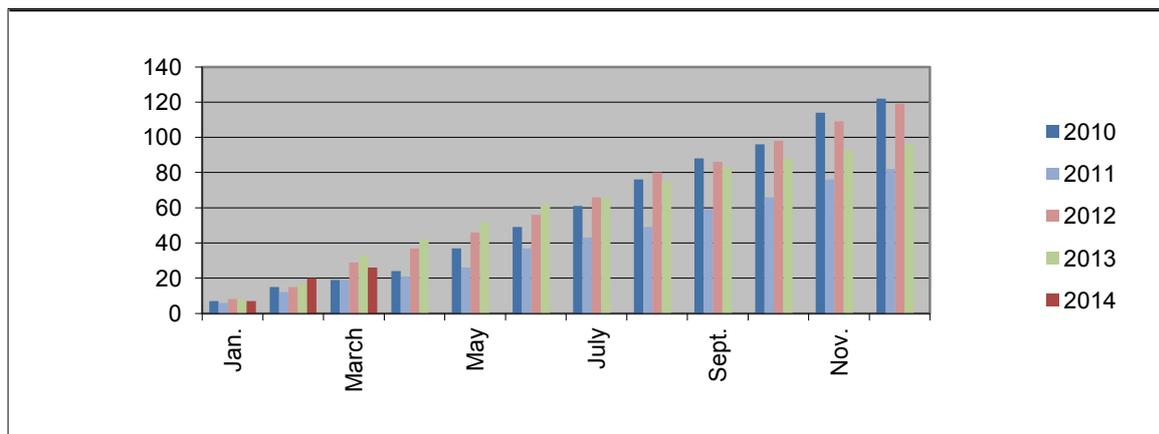
The following table details the number and value of development applications received by Council, during March 2014.

Development Type	Current Year			
	March		Year to Date 1.01.14 – 31.03.14	
	Number	Value \$	Number	Value \$
Residential	4	361,000	9	660,600
Industrial	0	Nil	0	Nil
Commercial	1	Nil	7	129,120
Rural Residential	0	Nil	3	94,250
Subdivisions	0	Nil	0	Nil
Other	1	Nil	7	67,830
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>361,000</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>951,800</b>

The one Commercial application was for an 'A' framed advertising sign while the Other application was for a tree removal. Neither of these applications adds any value.

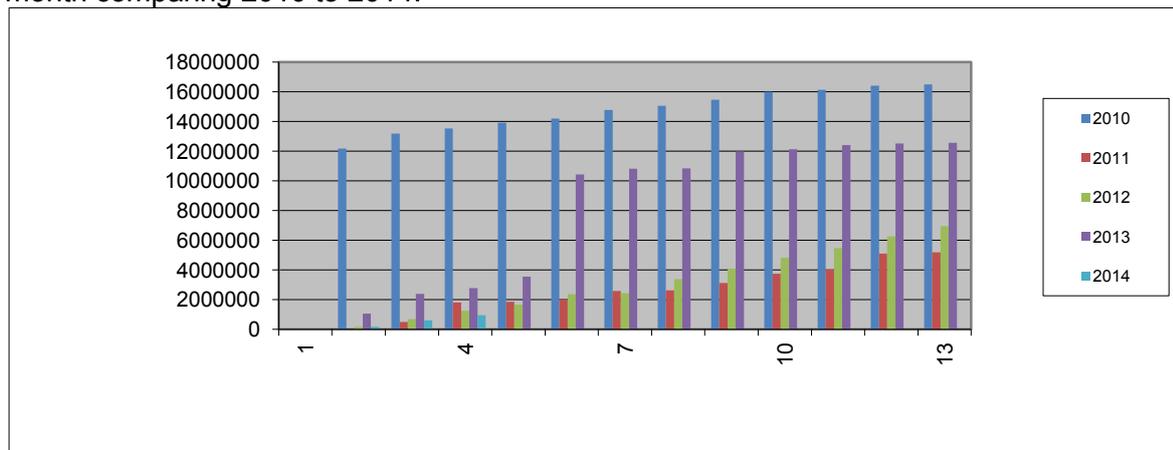
### Number of Development Applications

The following graph details the cumulative total number of development applications received by month comparing 2010 to 2014.



## Value of Development Applications

The following graph details the cumulative value of development applications received by month comparing 2010 to 2014.



**Note:** Seniors Living Development on Ungarie Road, contributed to the spike in value of development applications January 2010.

## Summary – March 2014

The following Development Applications were determined all by approval during March 2014:

App No.	Property	Development
DA/2014/045	Ungarie Street, Ungarie	Change of use from a School to a Residence and Conversion of the Storeroom into a Bathroom
DA/2014/047	33 Maitland Street, West Wyalong	Demolition of a Tank Stand and Toilet facility and the construction of two (2) new Carports
DA/2014/048	1390 Clear Ridge Road, West Wyalong	Development and Use of land for a Model Aircraft Flying Facility
DA/2014/051	13 Lady Mary Drive, West Wyalong	New Dwelling and Storage Shed
DA/2014/052	16 Park Street, West Wyalong	New Storage Shed
DA/2014/053	125 Operator Street, West Wyalong	Removal of one (1) Tree
DA/2014/054	2 Monash Street, West Wyalong	Concrete Deck
DA/2014/055	46 Wootten Street, West Wyalong	New Storage Shed

- Construction Certificates issued - Six (6)
- Complying Development Certificates issued – Nil (0)
- Activity Applications issued - One (1)
- Building Certificates issued - Nil
- Subdivision Certificates issued - One
- Occupation Certificates issued - Nil
- Completion Certificates issued- Nil
- Section 149 Certificates issued - Thirty-Two (32)

## 9.23 Ranger Activities

*Our leadership*

*Setting a benchmark for community standards*

*Vision: A well run council acting as the voice of the community*

*DP17. Lead the community by example with sustainable, effective, efficient and customer focused practices*

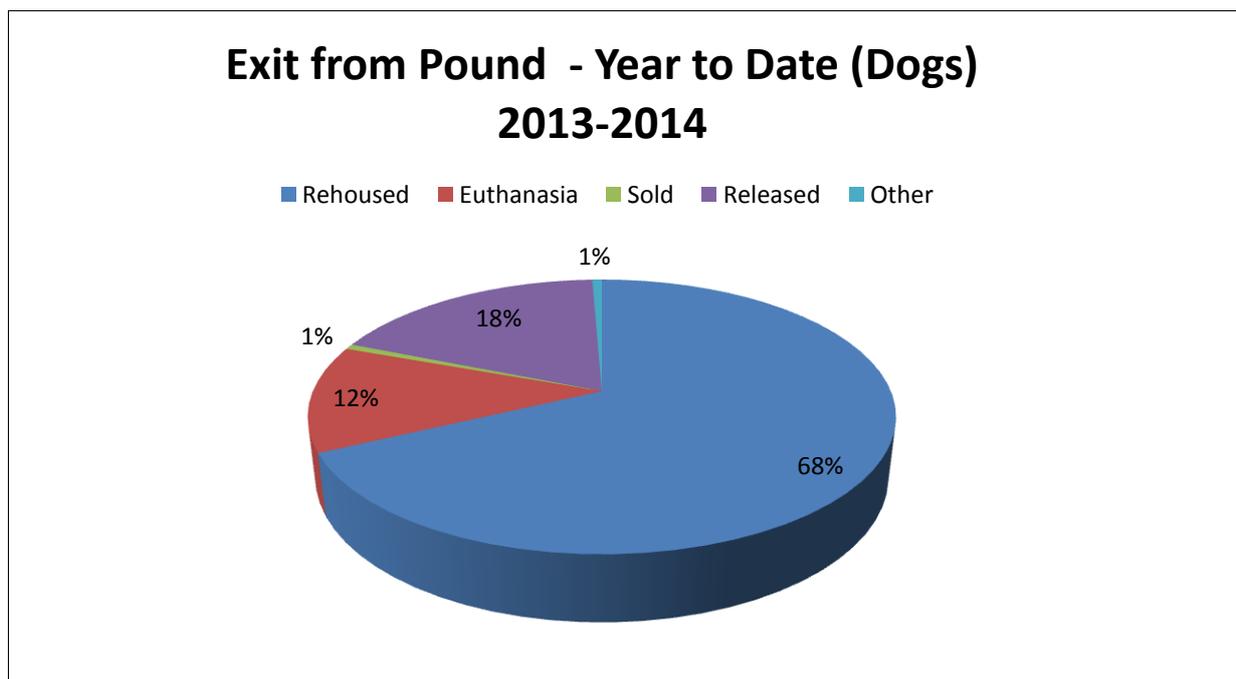
**Author:** Development Services Officer

### COMPANION ANIMAL ACTIVITIES

The following table summarises the management of companion animals during the month of March 2014:

	Dogs	Cats
<b>Seizure Activities:</b>		
Seized	5	3
Returned to Owner	0	0
<b>Transferred to Pound from Seizure Activities</b>		
Animals in Pound at start of month	2	0
Dumped	5	0
Surrendered	0	0
<b>Total Animals in Pound</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Released to Owner</b>		
Euthanased	0	3
Sold	1	0
Stolen from Pound	0	0
Escaped	0	0
Died at Pound	0	0
Rehoused	4	0
<b>Total Animals Leaving Pound</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Animals in Pound at end of month</b>		
	3	0

The following chart summarises the methods in which companion animals (dogs) exit the pound:



The following chart summarises the rehousing statistics from 2006 to 31 March 2014:

