

- Noted progress of current statewide projects.
- Noted an update on planning for the 75th Anniversary of the Library Act 1939.

Monday 22 September 2014 at the Pittwater Library, followed by a tour of the library.

At this meeting, the Committee:

- Noted the finalised 2014/15 Public Library Funding Strategy
- Discussed Public Library Funding Model options for the future
- Noted a review of the State Library's Multicultural Services
- Noted the updated Joint Use Libraries Guidelines
- Noted the Learning and Development Strategy
- Noted progress of current statewide projects
- Noted an update on planning for the 75th Anniversary of the Library Act 1939

The Committee's next meeting will be held on 1 December at the State Library and includes the annual combined meeting of PLCC and Library Council.

PLCC meeting minutes are available on the State Library website following their noting by Library Council.

Previous minutes are available at:

http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/services/public_libraries/committees/plcc/minutes.html

SECTION 2 – OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

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 December 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 19 AUGUST 2014

Item Number	Action By	Council Resolution/Action Required	Outcome
Plans for Tourism - 11082014	GM	That Council develop short, medium and long term plans for tourism to align with the Community Strategic Plan.	21/8: AGM drafted information for feedback from SEDTA 25/9: GM to follow up 7/10: VETACW meeting to be held on 11th November 2/12: next VETACW meeting on 9/12 and draft Plan to be submitted
Community Interest in the Visitor Economy & Tourism Advisory Committee of the Whole (VETACW) - 12082014	GM	That members of the community be invited to express their interest in the Committee for the dissemination of information.	21/8: Discussions held with CRO to include in other upcoming community engagement activities 2/9: Engagement Strategy to be discussed at September Workshop 25/9: Engagement Strategy was discussed at September Workshop and is now being implemented 7/10: VETACW meeting to be held on 11th November 2/12: Community Open Forum session to be held at meeting on 9/12

Planning For Impacts That May Occur If The Barrick Cowal Gold Mine Closed - 14082014	GM	1. That a select committee be created comprising of the Bland Shire Council's Mayor; Deputy Mayor; General Manager; Director Assets and Engineering; Director Corporate and Community Services and Barrick Cowal Gold's representative Shane Goodwin. 2. That a Memorandum of Understanding be signed between Bland Shire Council and Barrick Cowal Gold on the commitment of both parties to the committee and its terms of reference.	25/8: letter sent to Barrick 25/9: The advisory committee has been established and met on 18.9.14. A report will be submitted to an Extraordinary meeting of Council on 14.10.14 7/10: next meeting scheduled for 30th October 2/12: committee now meeting in accordance with schedule
Sale Of Lot 6 Calleen Street In The Industrial Estate - 31082014	GM	That Council authorise the General Manager and Mayor to negotiate the offer for the sale of Lot 6 Calleen Street in the industrial estate.	21/8: SEDTA liaising with agent 2/12: no further action taken by interested party at this stage

COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 16 SEPTEMBER 2014

Item Number	Action By	Council Resolution/Action Required	Outcome
Refurbishment of the Perseverance Street Sports Complex Stadium - 22092014	GM	1. That the minutes of the Stadium Steering Committee of 9 September 2014 be received and noted for information purposes; 2. That the list of prioritised works also be received and noted for information purposes at this stage; 3. That the general manager now calls for expressions of interest for the 'design and construct' phase of this project based on, but not limited to, the essential works identified by the steering committee; and 4. That a further report be submitted to council once the expressions of interest have been received and assessed.	19/9: Committee members notified, draft EOI documents to be discussed at the next steering committee meeting on 14/10. 25/9: progress report to be submitted to the October Council meeting 7/10: discussions ongoing, expression of interest for consultant to be progressed, Steering Committee meeting scheduled for 14th October 18/11: report to December Council meeting
Financial Hardship Policy - 27092014	DCCDS	1. That the Council place the Financial Hardship Policy on public exhibition for a period of 28 days. 2. That if no submissions are received, the Council give delegated authority to the General Manager to adopt the Policy.	Policy placed on exhibition 18/11: complete

Tender 2014/02 - Purchase Of Land - 91 Queen Street Barmedman - 33092014	GM	That Council accepts the tender from MC Christman for the purchase of Lot 14, Section 4, DP 758055, 91 Queen Street Barmedman.	19/9: Successful tenderer advised and Solicitors instructed to prepare contract 7/10: arrangements in hand 18/11: complete
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COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 14 OCTOBER 2014

Item Number	Action By	Council Resolution/Action Required	Outcome
Fit for the Future - A Review of Local Government in NSW - 6102014	GM	That Council approach Mr Piccoli and Ms Hodgkinson to seek their position and clarification on the issues of proposed local government boundary changes and mergers.	18/11: visits to West Wyalong planned for 26 and 27 November 2/12: Meetings held, further report to December Council meeting

COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 28 OCTOBER 2014

Item Number	Action By	Council Resolution/Action Required	Outcome
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<p>Local Government General Elections 2016 - 14102014</p>	<p>GM</p>	<p>1 Pursuant to S. 296(2) and (3) of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) ("the Act") that an election arrangement be entered into by contract for the Electoral Commissioner to administer all elections of the Council. 2. Pursuant to S.296(2) and (3) of the Act, as applied and modified by S.18, that a council poll arrangement be entered into by contract for the Electoral Commissioner to administer all council polls of the Council. 3. Pursuant to S.296(2) and (3) of the Act as applied and modified by S.18, that a constitutional referendum arrangement be entered into by contract for the Electoral Commissioner to administer all constitutional referenda of the Council.</p>	<p>18/11: complete</p>
<p>Meeting Arrangements and Council Closure - Christmas/New Year 2014/2015 - 16102014</p>	<p>GM</p>	<p>That Council determine the following meeting arrangements for the 2014/15 Christmas and New Year holiday period: 1. The December meeting of Council be held on Tuesday, 16 December 2014. 2. The December Council Workshop be held on Tuesday, 2 December 2014. 3. The Australia Day Committee meeting be held on Tuesday, 9 December 2014 commencing at 7.00pm following the Visitor Economy & Tourism Advisory Committee of the Whole meeting commencing at 6.00pm. 4. There be no meeting held in January 2015. 5. The Mayor and General Manager be delegated authority, jointly, to deal with matters of an urgent nature between the December 2014 and February 2015 Council meetings and that any matters dealt with under this authority be reported to the first meeting in 2015.</p>	<p>18/11: noted and in hand</p>

Meeting Arrangements and Council Closure - Christmas/New Year 2014/2015 - 17102014	GM	That Council endorse the closure of Council's operations, with the exception of essential services, as follows: • Outdoor Staff Closure: From Friday 19 December 2014 (From 12 noon) through to Friday 9 January 2015 (Resuming on Monday 12 January 2015) • Indoor Staff Closure: from Friday 19 December 2014 (From COB) through to Friday 2 January 2015 (Resuming on Monday 5 January 2015).	18/11: noted and in hand
Strategic Property Purchase - 184 Main Street - 18102014	GM	That Council receive and note the information on the future use of 184 Main Street, West Wyalong and that the building remains empty until at least February 2015 unless an opportunity for a very short term use arises and that the general manager be delegated authority to make this decision.	18/11: noted
Strategic Property Purchase - 184 Main Street - 19102014	GM	That a further report be submitted to the February 2015 Council meeting regarding the future use of this site taking into account the results of the community survey in respect to the establishment of a Visitor Information Centre and that such report also include a detailed analysis of the cost of maintaining the site.	18/11: report to the February 2015 Council meeting
Strategic Property Purchase - 184 Main Street - 20102014	GM	That Council determine that 184 Main Street, West Wyalong be classified as 'operational' for the purposes of any future use of the site and buildings whilst in the ownership of Bland Shire Council.	18/11: noted
End of Year Budget Review 2014 - 23102014	DCCDS	That the requested carry forwards in the amount of \$1,466,013.00 be carried forward to the 2014 - 2015 financial period.	18/11: noted and included in Capital Works Progress Report
Loan Borrowing Policy - 24102014	DCCDS	1. That the Council place the Loan Borrowing Policy on public exhibition for a period of 28 days. 2. That if no submissions are received, the Council give delegated authority to the General Manager to adopt the Policy.	18/11: complete

Appointment of Community Representatives to Committees - 25102014	DCCDS	That the Council make the appointments of Ron Black, Wendy Bowles, Fran Mitchell and Gail Platz to the Access Advisory Committee for the period 2014-2016.	18/11: complete
Appointment of Community Representatives to Committees - 26102014	DCCDS	That the first five (5) nominations received (Janice Wyse, Sandra Austin, Barry Cooper, Terence Butcher, Paul McNeill) be accepted as community representatives to the Cultural Advisory Committee for the period 2014-2016 and that the sixth be drawn by lot. The Mayor then conducted the draw and announced Julia Sutcliffe as the sixth community representative to the Cultural Advisory Committee for the period 2014-2016.	18/11: complete
Appointment of Community Representatives to Committees - 27102014	DCCDS	That the Council make the appointments of Martin Lane, Pam Butcher and Dot Smith to the Heritage Advisory Committee for the period 2014-2016.	18/11: complete
Appointment of Community Representatives to Committees - 28102014	DCCDS	That the Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee be wound up.	18/11: complete
Appointment of Community Representatives to Committees - 29102014	DCCDS	That the Council and Advisory Committee members actively seek additional Community representation and further nominations be presented to Council for appointment.	18/11: complete
West Wyalong Show Day 2015 - 30102014	DCCDS	That the Council make application for a local part day public holiday between the hours of 12noon and 6.00pm for the purpose of the West Wyalong Show on Wednesday, September 2 2015 covering the West Wyalong/Wyalong and Tallimba Town Improvement Districts within the Bland Shire area.	11/14 Application Lodged, awaiting response
Children's Services Policy Adoption - Complaints Policy - 31102014	DCCDS	That the Council adopts the Children Services Unit Complaints Policy as required by the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011.	18/11: complete

Food for Fines Campaign - 32102014	DCCDS	That the library partners with the Salvation Army and St Vincent De Paul to provide hampers for the community using the successful "food for fines" campaign.	18/11: complete
Bland Heritage Strategy 2014 - 2017 - 33102014	DCCDS	That Council endorse the recommendation of the Bland Heritage Advisory Committee and adopt the Heritage Strategy 2014 - 2017, which provides the future direction for heritage initiatives in the Bland Shire over the next three years.	18/11: complete
Grain Harvest Scheme 2015 - 2016 34102014	DAES	1. That Bland Shire Council be part of the Grain Harvest Scheme for the 2014 - 2015 and 2015 - 2016 harvest seasons. 2. That the Grain Harvest Scheme is only to apply for the period between 28 October and 1 March. 3. That all trucks supplying grain to the grain handlers within the Grain Harvest Scheme obey all current conditions of road usage which are applied to B-Doubles using the Bland Shire roads.	18/11: information sent, complete
Uncollectable Sundry Debtor - 37102014	DCCDS	That the outstanding debt amount of \$5,202.51 be written off and Council accounts be adjusted accordingly.	18/11: complete

COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 18 NOVEMBER 2014

Item Number	Action By	Council Resolution/Action Required	Outcome
Financial Assistance - Wyalong Public School - 02112014	DCCDS	That upon receipt of a written application from Wyalong Public School and consent from DEC, that Council donate the cost (approximately \$3,000) for a Tennis gazebo at Wyalong School for the use of the Wyalong community.	27/11 Awaiting lodgement of application. Will approve on receipt. Complete
Rates Donation - Wyalong Motor Sports Club - 03112014	DCCDS	That upon receipt of a written application the Wyalong Motor Sports club be placed on the Rates Donations List.	27/11 Awaiting lodgement of application. Will approve on receipt. Complete

Economic Development Advisory Committee of the Whole - 05112014	GM	That the draft 2014 Economic Development Strategy be reviewed and the statistics and information localised. That the revised draft 2014 Economic Development Strategic Plan be included on the agenda for the next meeting. That other freehold land options be investigated. That the existing Business Assistance policy be provided to the business sector group for comment.	2/12: next meeting scheduled for February 2015
Visitor Economy & Tourism Advisory Committee of the Whole 06112014	GM	That Councillors provide comments on the Visitor Economy & Tourism Strategic Plan to the General Manager.	2/12: no feedback received to date
Fit for the Future - A Review of Local Government in NSW - 09112014	GM	1. That Council confirms that it does not wish to consider a 'merger proposal' at this point in time given the response from our potential merger neighbours. 2. That Council confirms that it will endeavour to complete the 'council improvement' template by the due date of 30 June 2015. 3. That Council awaits the development of the 'Rural Council' template before considering its position on this proposal. 4. That the General Manager continues to provide Council with regular progress reports on the Fit for the Future framework.	2/12: further report to December Council meeting
Proposed Renaming of the Mid Western Highway - 10112014	GM	That Council oppose any change to the naming of the Mid Western Highway in the belief that there are better ways of recognising the Wiradjuri nation.	2/12: letter sent
Official Opening of The Wetlands - 12112014	GM	That an official opening of the wetlands project be organised for early 2015 and that the official name of the project be known simply as 'The Wetlands'.	2/12: bronze plaque and date to be finalised prior to shutdown

Strengthening Communities Grant - Barmedman Development Association - 15112014	DCCDS	That Council approve a Community Groups Assistance Grant of \$2500 for the Barmedman Development Association to assist with the cost of completing plumbing and electrical work to finalise renovations of the Barmedman Coffee Shop.	27/11 Paperwork disseminated. Awaiting return. Complete
Children Services Unit - Bus Transport Policy - 16112014	DCCDS	That the draft Bus and Transport Policy be referred back to staff for further investigation of the options and implications for bus and vehicle transport for the Preschool and Family Day Care.	27/11 staff to revisit in 2015. Complete
Future Airport use - 20112014	GM	That Council commences immediate investigations into the possible rezoning of the airport land to Industrial uses.	2/12: DCCDS investigating planning aspects, DAES investigating CASA requirements, other factors being determined

9.2 Fit for the Future – A Review of Local Government in NSW

Our leadership

Setting a benchmark for community standards

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

DP14.1 Ensure councillors are provided with appropriate support and resources to carry out their civic duties.

Author: General Manager

Officer's Recommendation:

That the information regarding progress with the Fit for the Future framework proposals be received and noted and that the general manager continue to provide monthly progress reports to council on this issue.

Introduction

Council Merger Proposal

Based on advice from the OLG workshop held in Wagga on 18 November 2014 Bland Shire Council is not in a position to even consider the completion of this proposal as you must have the agreement of your neighbouring councils that are to be part of the merger proposal.

I have indicated previously that both the councils of Temora and Coolamon are not interested in discussing any potential merger proposals. A copy of each response is included as an attachment to this report.

Council Improvement Proposal

Again, based on advice from the OLG workshop held in Wagga on 18 November 2014 Bland Shire Council should attempt to complete the council improvement proposal.

Although council will not meet the initial criteria of scale and capacity, to which at this stage there is no definition, council should endeavour to address the various financial benchmarks and where council is below a certain benchmark there should be a comprehensive explanation as to how council intends to aim to meet the benchmark in question.

One such benchmark is for a council to generate at least 60% of its own source income. At present Bland Shire Council generates around 33.7% which is well under this benchmark. Council really only has two immediate options to increase this percentage and that is by increasing all user pay charges as well as considering a special rate variation that would increase rates well above the current rate pegging limit.

The rate pegging limit set for the 2015/16 financial period has just been announced by IPART as being only 2.4%. Once again the rates generated from this mediocre increase will not cover mandatory wage rises or the increase in the cost of materials.

I will be preparing a draft response to the financial benchmarks with the objective of submitting my results to the February 2015 workshop for further consideration. This will go hand in hand with the preparation of the 2015/16 draft budget. I will also be receiving assistance in this area from council's auditors for which I am most grateful.

Rural Council Model

The proposed 'rural council model' will not be available until mid to late January 2015.

Joint Organisations

Council will be aware that REROC has been selected as one of five ROC's to be a 'pilot' Joint Organisation and councillors should have a better understanding of the processes involved in this 'pilot' following the briefing for all REROC councillors and senior staff in Wagga on 15 December 2014.

Again, this would be worthy of further discussion at the February 2015 workshop.

Conclusion

The deadline set for the submission of proposals for the Fit for the Future framework is 30 June 2015.

Financial Implications

Nil to this report.

Bibliography

- September 2014 Ordinary Council Meeting
- October 2014 Extraordinary Council Meeting
- November 2014 Ordinary Council Meeting

Please contact Mr Tony Donoghue
Council Ref. TD:GOB:L.05-05
Your Ref.
7 October 2014



T: 02 6930 1800
F: 02 6927 3168
P.O. Box 101, Coolamon, NSW 2701
E: council@coolamon.nsw.gov.au
W: www.coolamon.nsw.gov.au
ABN: 32 573 173 265

Mr Ray Smith
General Manager
Bland Shire Council
P O Box 21
WEST WYALONG NSW 2671

File:.....	G - Amal: Cncls	Action
Action Officer:.....	GM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
REC'D	10 OCT 2014	
Copy to:.....	Bland Shire Council	

Dear Ray

RE: FIT FOR THE FUTURE – STRONGER, SMARTER COUNCILS

Council is in receipt of your correspondence dated 18 September, 2014 regarding the documents titled "Fit for the Future – Stronger, Smarter Councils".

Whilst we agree with your assessment of the options that have been made available to Councils of our size, Coolamon Shire does not consider that a merger is in the best interest of our residents.

The current information provided by the Department of Local Government does not indicate the exact nature of JO's nor the definition or structure of a Rural Council Model. Accordingly, it is thought that the initial discussion with the Government should be about establishing exactly what these two bodies will look like and what it will mean to those Local Government Areas that join them.

For the Government to set up JO's with the inclusion of Rural Councils and to also push for mergers is considered an each way bet. Therefore Coolamon Shire will be focusing its energy on supporting REROC as the JO Model and establishing the criteria and impact of pursuing the Rural Council Model.

Coolamon Shire is happy to discuss the issues and proposed positions around JO's and the Rural Council Model, but will not entertain any formal discussions about a merger.

Council believes that it is in the best interests of our residents and ratepayers that Coolamon Shire remains as an independent Local Government body whereby it can administer governance and represent its communities on the issues that affect them.

Should you wish to further discuss this matter I am happy to meet informally and explain our position.

Yours sincerely

Tony Donoghue
General Manager



TEMORA SHIRE COUNCIL

Our reference:

GCL:ATR:C/08/01

30 September 2014

Mr Ray Smith
General Manager
Bland Shire Council
PO Box 21
WEST WYALONG NSW 2671

File:.....	G - Amal - Cnel	Action
Action Officer:.....	AM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
REC'D	3 - OCT 2014	
Copy to:.....		
Bland Shire Council		

Dear Ray

Thank you for your correspondence of 18 September 2014 regarding the *Fit for the Future* documents recently released by the State Government.

On initial reading of the documents, we concur with your summary of the options available to Councils of a similar size to Bland & Temora Councils. Hopefully the details regarding the proposals will be clarified, to some extent during the initial meeting with the Office of Local Government.

In relation to discussions regarding the options, Temora Council would be pleased to meet with you to discuss options 1 & 2 and the implementations and opportunities arising from these options.

It should be noted up front however that Council will not discuss or even entertain the concept of a merger as we believe this will be deleterious to our residents. Our position in the structural reform debate has been, and remains, that we believe that our Council have the necessary strength to remain independent and this view was supported by TCorp. We are however strongly committed to the JO concept and the need to achieve independence without the step toward a "Rural Council" concept.

Accordingly it is probably best to meet informally to discuss this matter. If you are travelling through Temora and have some time spare, please give me a call and we will try to meet.

Thank you for contacting Council regarding this important matter.

Yours faithfully

GC Lavelle
GENERAL MANAGER

e-mailed
1 - OCT 2014

Address:
105 Loftus St,
PO Box 262
TEMORA NSW 2666

Telephone: (02) 6980 1100
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DX: 5494 Temora

9.3 Refurbishment of the Perseverance Street Sports Complex Stadium – Consideration of Expressions of Interest

Our infrastructure

Reviewing, renewing & improving our core community assets

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

11.2. In collaboration with users and budgetary constraints provide facilities that are maintained to acceptable standards.

Author: General Manager

Officer's Recommendation:

- 1. That council endorse the actions of the general manager in inviting tenders from suitably qualified applicants to undertake the design and project management of the sports stadium upgrade.**
- 2. That a report be submitted to the February 2015 meeting with details of the tenders received for this project.**

Introduction

Expressions of Interest were invited for architectural design services and a total of 35 information packages were distributed with a total of eight (8) formal Expressions of Interest being received. A further meeting of the Stadium Advisory Committee was held on 20 November 2014 to provide the committee members with an update on the receipt of the EOI's.

An assessment of the eight (8) EOI's was undertaken by council's General Manager, council's Executive Assistant and council's Senior Coordinator – Urban. The assessment was based on a number of factors including previous experience in the design and construction of sporting facilities and evidence of the applicant's ability and understanding of how to achieve council's desired outcome.

Conclusion

The above assessment process identified at least four (4) applicants that would be considered worthy of inviting to a formal tender process.

In an effort to expedite this project the four top assessed applicants have been invited to submit a formal tender to undertake the design and project management of this facility upgrade. There will be a mandatory site inspection on 18 December 2014 as it is hoped that this will then allow the applicants to prepare their tenders by the prescribed closing date.

All tenders received will be submitted to the February 2015 council meeting for determination.

Financial Implications

Nil to this report

SECTION 3 – CORPORATE, COMMUNITY & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

9.4 Financial Statements – November 2014

Our leadership

Setting a benchmark for community standards

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

DP14.4 Ensure the long term financial sustainability of Council through effective and prudent financial management.

Author: Director 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 November, 2014.
2. That Council confirms the payment of accounts, for the period 01 November 2014 to 30 November 2014, summarised in the accounts summary totalling \$1,835,549.43

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

BANK BALANCES AS AT 30 NOVEMBER, 2014

ACCOUNT	BALANCE
General Fund	\$ 1,813,413.37
BCard	\$ 8,791.40
	\$1,822,204.77
Invested Funds	
Fixed Deposits	\$11,000,000.00
Deposits at Call	\$ 1,053,617.51
	\$12,053,617.51
Net Balance	\$13,875,822.28
Percentage of investment to Net Balance	86.87%

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF BLAND HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS WEST WYALONG ON TUESDAY 16 DECEMBER 2014

.....
MAYOR

STATEMENT OF BANK BALANCES AS AT 30.11.14
SUBMITTED TO THE ORDINARY MEETING DECEMBER, 2014

Balance as at 01.11.14 \$ 198,920.74

Add Receipts

For month of November 2014 \$ 3,450,042.06

Includes

Receipt Date.	Receipt No.	Receipt Name	Received Total
18/11/2014		Financial Assistance Grant	\$1,653,188.00
07/11/2014		Block Grant	\$ 249,750.00
06/11/2014		Transfer from Cash at Call	\$ 300,000.00

Less Payments

For month of November 2014 \$1,835,549.43

Includes

Payment Date.	EFT No.	Payee Name	Payment Total
		<i>No payments over \$200,000</i>	

Cash Balance \$1,813,413.37

Limit of Overdraft Arranged with Bank \$350,000.00

ACCOUNTS SUMMARY

The following is a summary of accounts paid for the period November 01, 2014 to November 30, 2014.

I CERTIFY,

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

Fund	Voucher No.s	Total
Cheques	024307 – 024353	\$ 56,909.89
Auto-pay Creditors	E002622 – E002913	\$ 1,207,337.87
Auto-pay Payroll	02/11 – 30/11	\$ 563,430.17
November Bank Charges & Commission etc		\$1,078.31
Direct Debits	Repayments & Vehicle Lease	\$6,793.19
		\$ 1,835,549.43

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

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF BLAND HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS WEST WYALONG ON TUESDAY 16 DECEMBER 2014

.....
MAYOR

CERTIFICATE OF GENERAL MANAGER

This accounts summary, a copy of which was submitted to each member of Council on the 16 December 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

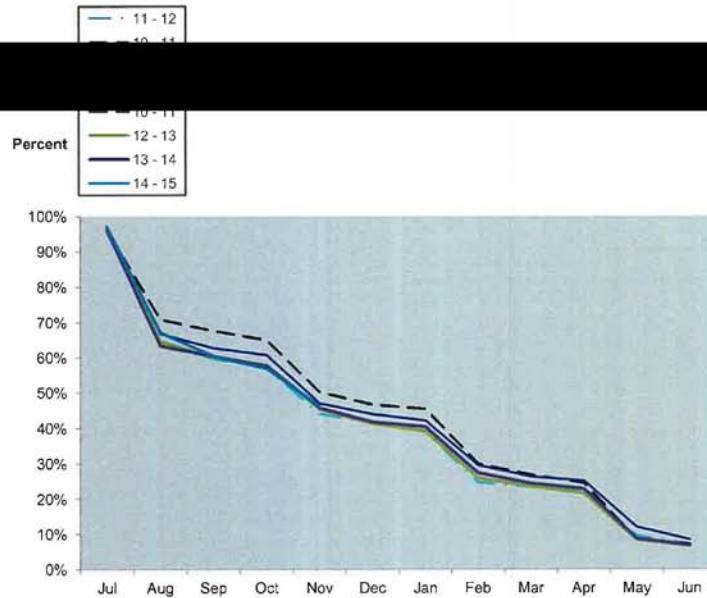
I certify that this accounts summary, covering amounts totalling \$ 1,835,549.43 was submitted to the Ordinary Meeting on the 16 December 2014 and that the amounts are presented to Council for confirmation of payment.

.....
Chairman of Ordinary Meeting

STATEMENT OF RATES AS AT 30 November 2014

RATE	Levy	Arrears	Adjustments	Interest	Total	Pension Rebate	Collections	Balance	2014-15	2013-14
General	\$6,004,291.81	\$353,068.17	\$320.86	\$10,837.02	\$6,368,517.86	-\$77,088.12	-\$3,498,841.58	\$2,792,788.16	44.39%	44.41%
Sewerage	\$1,245,540.00	\$145,938.73	\$1,091.83	\$4,436.86	\$1,397,007.42	-\$36,921.62	-\$650,850.46	\$709,235.34	52.15%	50.58%
Garbage/Services/Legal	\$846,662.00	\$157,784.54	\$19,837.23	\$4,761.78	\$1,029,045.55	-\$47,127.46	-\$481,553.43	\$500,364.66	50.96%	50.38%
Overpayments	\$0.00	\$0.00					-\$17,925.76	-\$17,925.76		
TOTALS:	\$8,096,493.81	\$656,791.44	\$21,249.92	\$20,035.66	\$8,794,570.83	-\$161,137.20	-\$4,648,971.23	\$3,984,462.40	46.15%	45.63%

% of Rates



Debt Analysis	Properties	Balance
Sale of Land	0	\$0.00
Future Sale of Land	51	\$108,069.80
Future Sale of Land	31	\$108,069.80
Arrangements	65	\$66,437.73
Debt Collection	117	\$382,091.57
Centrepay	41	\$53,501.87
Total	274	\$610,100.97

APR 3/12/14
 August 3/12/14

INVESTMENTS

The following table gives details of Council's Funds invested at 30th November 2014. The funds consist of monies from the Bank Accounts of the Trust Funds, Reserve Accounts, Sewerage Fund and Combined General Account.

DATE	INVESTED WITH WHOM	INVESTED AMOUNT	TERM	YIELD	DATE DUE
05-August-2014	Bank of QLD (Floating Rate Note)	1,000,000.00	731 days	0.95% + BBSW	05-August-2016
01-September-2014	ING Bank (Term Deposit)	1,000,000.00	183 days	3.54%	03-March-2015
18-September-2014	ING Bank (Term Deposit)	1,000,000.00	180 Days	3.51%	17-March-2015
04-June-2014	NAB (Term Deposit)	1,000,000.00	183 Days	3.65%	04-December-2014
02-November-2014	NAB (Term Deposit)	1,000,000.00	90 days	3.45%	31-January-2015
02-October-2014	IMB (Term Deposit)	500,000.00	123 days	3.40%	02-February-2015
22-July-2014	NAB (Term Deposit)	1,000,000.00	184 days	3.65%	22-January-2015
18-November-2014	NAB (Term Deposit)	1,500,000.00	182 days	3.57%	19-May-2015
01-August-2014	Westpac (Term Deposit)	1,000,000.00	184 days	3.65%	01-February-2015
14-October-2014	ME Bank (Term Deposit)	1,000,000.00	182 days	3.50%	14-April-2015
30-September-2014	Bank of QLD (Term Deposit)	1,000,000.00	182 days	3.45%	31-March-2015
	ANZ Deposit at Call	50,686.45	Cash at Call		
	CBA Deposit at Call	1,002,931.06	Cash at Call		
	TOTAL:	<u>12,053,617.51</u>			

I certify that the above investments have been made in accordance with Section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993, the Regulation and Council's Investment Policies.

Lehman Brothers Managed Funds 192,000.00 Managed Funds

I certify that the above investment has been reconciled with Council's General Ledger Accounts.

Director Corporate Community & Development Services

9.5 Riverina Regional Library Advisory Committee Delegates

Our people

Our greatest and most important asset

Vision: A strong, healthy, connected and cohesive community

DP4.4 Provide and monitor quality library services to the aged, people with a disability, young people and families.

Author: Director Corporate, Community and Development Services

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council appoint an elected representative, an alternative delegate and the Director Corporate, Community and Development Services to the Riverina Regional Library Advisory Committee as required by the Deed of Agreement.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council determine the elected representative and alternative delegate to the Riverina Regional Library Advisory Committee as required by the Deed of Agreement.

Introduction

The Riverina Regional Library (RRL) Deed of Agreement 2012-2018 requires that member Councils shall appoint delegates to the RRL Advisory Committee.

Delegates advise on matters of library, information management networks, research, records management and archiving policy, including the preparation of policy statements and management plans and strategies for the overall development of library and information management services for RRL.

In accordance with the RRL Deed of Agreement, each member Council shall appoint two persons, one of which must be an elected member, to be members of the committee, as well as one alternate delegate to attend in the absence of appointed delegates.

Delegates shall serve on the committee in line with the quadrennial Local Government elections with the current term being 2012 - 2016. Committee delegates are to be appointed by Council at its Ordinary Meeting and the RRL Advisory Committee notified in writing of the delegates' details. The next meeting of the RRL Advisory Committee will be held on 25 March 2015.

Conclusion

As part of the Riverina Regional Library it is important to be represented and provide input regarding our library and the services it provides.

Financial Implications

Nil.

9.6 Strengthening Communities Grant - Weethalle Showground

Our places

Where our sense of community shines

Vision: Providing great community facilities for everyone to enjoy

DP7.4 Assist community groups to provide activities to the wider community

Author: Community Relations Officer

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council contribute half the cost of the maintenance and repair works at the Weethalle Showground to the value of \$6665 from its Strengthening Communities budget.

Introduction

The Weethalle Show Society has formally approached Council regarding a retrospective contribution towards maintenance and repairs at the Weethalle Showground.

Weethalle Show Society representatives first discussed the work with Council staff in 2013 and were advised to obtain quotes for the work for Council to consider in its 2014-2015 budget deliberations.

As advised, quotes were obtained in February for a total of \$13,330 for works to be carried out to the kiosk, secretary's office, pavilion, luncheon hall and the toilet block.

The Show Society commissioned the work which was carried out in May this year. The Show Society was under the mistaken impression that Council would contribute all or part of the cost despite never making a formal request or application to Council.

After the matter was raised at the Weethalle community forum and following subsequent discussions with staff, Council has received a formal request to contribute half the cost of the works to a total of \$6665.

Conclusion

The Show Society has carried out important maintenance and repair works at the Weethalle Showground which will provide a long term benefit to the community.

The buildings at the Showground, including the kiosk, secretary's office, pavilion, luncheon hall and toilet block are owned by Council.

In its eagerness and enthusiasm to have the work completed prior to the 2014 Show, the Weethalle Show Society commissioned the work with the expectation that Council would contribute all or part of the cost despite never lodging a formal request for consideration in the 2014-2015 budget or through Council's grants programs.

Following recent discussions with Weethalle Show Society representatives, it appears this was a genuine oversight or misunderstanding.

The Weethalle Show Society is prepared to contribute half the cost of the works from its fundraising activities and has asked Council to retrospectively fund the remaining \$6665.

As the request was received after the beginning of the financial year, Council does not have any capital funding allocated to this project in its balanced 2014-2015 budget.

If Council resolves to support the request, it will need to draw the funds from within the existing budget or from its reserves.

Financial Implications

Council currently has \$11,850 available in its Strengthening Communities budget.

9.7 Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Councillor Policy

Our leadership

Setting a benchmark for community standards

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

DP14.1 Ensure Councillors are provided with appropriate support and resources to carry out their civic duty

Author: Director Corporate, Community and Development Services

Officer's Recommendation:

- 1. That the Council place the *Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Councillor Policy* on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.**
- 2. That if no submissions are received, the Council give delegated authority to the General Manager to adopt the Policy.**

Introduction

Council's policy in regard to the payment of expenses and provision of facilities was last adopted by Council in November 2013.

Section 252 (1) of the Local Government Act 1993 requires that after the end of each year (financial), a council must adopt a policy concerning the payment of expenses incurred, or to be incurred by, and the provision of facilities to the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor (if there is one) and the other councillors in relation to discharging the functions of civic office.

Section 253 (1) of the Local Government Act 1993 requires that Council give public notice of its intention to adopt or amend a policy for the payment of expenses and provision of facilities allowing at least 28 days for the making of public submissions.

Section 253 (2) of the Local Government Act 1993 requires that before adopting or amending the policy, the council must consider any submissions made within the time allowed for submissions and make any appropriate changes to the draft policy or amendment

Section 253 (5) states that a council must comply with this Section when proposing to adopt a policy each year in accordance with Section 252 (1) even if the Council proposes to adopt policy that is the same as its existing policy.

Conclusion

The policy has been reviewed in line with Division of Local Government Guidelines for the payment of expenses and the provision of facilities for Mayor's and Councillors in NSW (2009) and current Council practice and operations. There are no changes to the existing policy.

Financial Implications

An annual budget is allocated for the payment of Expenses and the provision of Facilities to Councillors.

POLICY STATEMENT

PAYMENT OF EXPENSES AND PROVISION OF FACILITIES TO COUNCILLORS POLICY

POLICY ADOPTED:

POLICY REVISION DATE: **November 2014**

POLICY OWNER: **Director Corporate Community and Development Services**

Policy Objective

1. Purpose of the Policy

To ensure;

- (a) that there is accountability and transparency in the reimbursement of expenses incurred, or to be incurred by the Mayor and Councillors, and
- (b) that the facilities provided to assist the Mayor and Councillors to carry out their civic duties are reasonable.

2. Objectives and Coverage of the Policy

- 2.1 To provide for the fair and equitable payment and reimbursement of certain expenses not considered to be included in the annual fees payable to Mayor and Councillors, where such expenses are incurred by the Mayor, and Councillors in discharging the functions of civic office; and
- 2.2 To provide adequate facilities for use by the Mayor and Councillors to enable them to discharge the functions of civic office.

3. Making and Adoption of the Policy

This policy is made and adopted in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993, Sections 252 – 254A.

4. Reporting Requirements

- 4.1 Section 428 of the Local Government Act 1993 and requirements under the Integrated Planning and Reporting guidelines, requires Council to include details of the Mayoral and Councillor fees, expenses and facilities.
- 4.2 The public is entitled to inspect the Council's Policy free of charge, and may obtain a copy on payment of reasonable copying charges.

5. Legislative Provisions

This policy is made under Sections 252-254A of the Local Government Act 1993, which requires that the Council must annually adopt such a policy.

6. Other Government Policy Provisions Related to this Policy

- Division of Local Government Guidelines for payment of expenses and provision of facilities
- Model Code of Conduct
- Division of Local Government Circulars to Councils
- ICAC publications

7. Approval Arrangements

All approvals under this Policy shall be made by resolutions of the Council or jointly by the Mayor, or Deputy Mayor and the General Manager or as stated in the policy.

Policy Statement:

PAYMENT OF EXPENSES

8. Annual Fees – Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors

8.1 Fees payable to Councillors

The Council shall, prior to 30 June each year, set by resolution, the annual fees to be paid, monthly in arrears, to a Councillor for the following year commencing 1st July, provided that such fee shall be within the range for the Council determined annually by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal. Such payment shall be subject to Section 254A of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005 and any specific resolution of the Council under Section 254A.

8.2 Fees payable to the Mayor

The Council shall, prior to 30 June each year, set by resolution, the annual fee to be paid to the Mayor for the following year commencing 1st July provided that such fee shall be within the range for the Council determined annually by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal.

8.3 Fees payable to the Deputy Mayor

The Deputy Mayor shall be paid a daily pro-rata fee equivalent to the daily Mayoral fee calculated under Clause 8.2, for the periods of time when the Mayor advises that he/she is prevented by absence, illness or otherwise from acting in, or when the Mayor requests the Deputy to act in, the office of Mayor. The amount of the fee so paid to the Deputy Mayor shall be deducted from the Mayor's annual fee.

8.4 No deduction under this Policy from Fees

Unless otherwise provided, the payment of, or reimbursement of expenses and the facilities which may be provided under this Policy, shall be provided without reduction from the annual fees payable to the Mayor and Councillors, as determined by the Council, under 8.1, 8.2 or 8.3 above.

9. Payment of Expenses Generally

9.1 Allowances and Expenses

No allowances other than those expressly contained in this policy are payable to the Mayor or Councillors.

9.2 Reimbursement and Reconciliation of Expenses

- (a) All reimbursements are subject to the provision of receipts and are on a per Councillor basis.
- (b) Advanced payment must be reconciled by the Councillor and acquitted for by receipts or refund.

- (c) That the following approval processes be followed for approvals of all aspects under the Policy:

Councillor Request



Approval by Mayor or by the Council when expressed under the policy

10. Establishment of Monetary Limits and Standards

Monetary limits or standards of facilities/services where applicable are specified in this policy.

11. Spouse, Partner and Accompanying Persons Expenses

11.1 The Council shall meet the following costs of an accompanying person;

- (a) *Local Government NSW Annual Conference*
The costs of registration and any official conference dinners of the Mayor's or Councillor's accompanying person in attending the annual conference of the Local Government and Shires Associations, but excluding any travel expenses, additional accommodation expenses and any optional personal tours which shall be the personal responsibility of the individual Councillor.
- (b) *Official Council Functions within area;*
Costs incurred by the Mayor or a Councillor on behalf of, or by, an accompanying person in attending official Council functions of a formal and ceremonial nature within the Bland Shire local government area, such as Australia Day awards ceremonies, citizenship ceremonies, civic receptions and Mayoral Receptions and charitable functions formally supported by the Council.
- (c) *Official Local Government functions outside the area;*
Expenses associated with the attendance of the accompanying person of the Mayor, or of a Councillor when they are representing the Mayor, in attending an official function of the Council, or carrying out official ceremonial duties, whilst accompanying the Mayor outside the Bland Shire local government area, but within New South Wales.

11.2 Other Conferences

- (a) Where the Mayor or Councillor is accompanied at a conference, other than the *Local Government NSW Annual Conference* and any other conferences under 11.1 above, all costs for, or incurred by, the accompanying person, including travel, any additional accommodation costs, breakfast, meals, registration and/or participation in any conference programs, are to be borne by the Mayor/Councillor/accompanying person and not by the Council.
- (b) Accompanying person's registration, or accompanying person's program fees, are to be paid to the conference organiser, etc. and paid at time of registration.
- (c) Where the Council meets, on account, any expenditure or cost on behalf of an accompanying person attending a conference, such expenditure must be repaid to the Council by the Mayor or Councillor/accompanying person within seven days of being invoiced for such expenditure.

12. Specific Expenses for Mayor and Councillors Conferences held in Australia

12.1 The Mayor and Councillors may be nominated and authorised to attend conferences by:-

- (a) The Council, through resolution duly passed in open session at a Council Meeting;
- (b) The Mayor or Deputy Mayor and General Manager jointly, acting within any delegated authority during Council recess;

- (c) The Mayor or Deputy Mayor and General Manager jointly, where such conference is for one day or less or does not involve an overnight stay.
- (d) That the Council provide adequate budget amount each financial year to undertake councillors training to assist them to be effective community leaders.

12.2 **Substitute Attendee**

By the adoption of this Policy, authority is hereby delegated to the Mayor or Deputy Mayor and General Manager jointly to nominate and authorise a substitute Councillor to attend any conference in lieu of the Mayor or a nominated and authorised Councillor.

12.3 **What Conferences May Be Attended**

The conferences to which this Policy applies shall generally be confined to:-

- Local Government NSW Annual Conference, Local Government Womens' Association (LGWA), and Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Conferences and special "one-off" conferences called or sponsored by any of those Associations
- Annual conferences of the major Professions in Local Government
- Australian Sister Cities Conference
- Regional Organisation of Councils Conferences
- Conferences, which further training and development efforts of the Council and of Councillors, or which relate to or impact upon the Council's functions
- Conferences or Meetings of Organisations or Bodies to which a Councillor has been elected, or appointed as a delegate or member of the Council, or the LGNSW, LGWA, or ALGA

12.4 **Conference Costs**

The Council shall pay or reimburse the Mayor or a Councillor:-

12.4.1 **Registration**

All normal registration costs, including costs relating to official luncheons, dinners and tours/inspections which are relevant to the interests of the Council.

12.4.2 **Accommodation**

Reasonable accommodation costs including the night before and/or after the conference where that is necessary due to travel and/or conference timetables.

12.4.3 **Travel**

- (a) All reasonable travel costs to and from the conference location and venue by aircraft or suitable Council vehicle or if they are not available, or it is more convenient, by the use of a private vehicle.
- (b) Where travel is by motor vehicle it should be undertaken by Council vehicle, or by private vehicle subject to prior approval jointly by the Mayor and General Manager.
- (c) Where private vehicle is used under (b) above, the Mayor or Councillor may claim the "kilometre" allowance at the date of travel as per Clause 13.2
- (d) Hire cars, taxi fares and parking costs are reasonably required in attending conferences.

12.4.4 **Out of Pocket Expenses**

Reasonable out-of-pocket expenses associated with attendance at a conference upon presentation of a claim and receipts for the following:

- (a) any hotel/motel charges associated with the Conference, other than accommodation
- (b) all telephone or facsimile calls related to Council business
- (c) reasonable lunches, dinners and other meals incurred whilst travelling to or from the Conference and other meals occurring during the Conference but not included in the conference registration fee
- (d) incidental expenses, e.g. parking, taxi fares, motorway or bridge tolls

- (e) any optional activity in a conference program, but excluding any pre or post conference activities.

12.5 Conference Costs - Payment In Advance

- (a) The Council will normally pay registration fees, accommodation costs and airline tickets direct to conference organisers/travel agent in advance. Where this is not possible a cash advance equivalent thereto may be paid in advance to the attendee for payment to the appropriate party.
- (b) Any cash advance must be properly accounted for and reconciled, with receipts, on the prescribed voucher form within one month after such conference.

13. Travel Costs

Councillor's Transport Services

13.1 A Councillor may claim a kilometre allowance in accordance with clause 13.2 for use of a private vehicle in travelling:

- To and from the meetings of Council, or the meetings of any Committee of the Council.
- Upon inspections, provided such inspections are undertaken in compliance with resolutions of the Council or authorised by the Mayor or General Manager.
- To attend conferences, official engagements and functions where the Councillor has been authorised by the Council to do so or is deputising for the Mayor.

13.2 Kilometre rates for use of a private vehicle under this Policy will be paid at the rate set by the Local Government (State) Award, as at the date of travel.

13.3 Payment is subject to a claim on the prescribed claim form being lodged by the Mayor or Councillor, and made no later than three months after the travel occurred. Claims lodged for travel occurring more than months before the claim is lodged shall not be paid.

14. Care and Other Related Expenses

14.1 Child and Carers Costs – Councillor

- (a) Council will reimburse a Councillor's costs to a maximum of \$80 to cover a four hour engagement of a "baby-sitter" or carer where required for other potential dependents including people with disabilities and the elderly to allow the Councillor to attend any Council, Advisory Committee Meeting or a Council workshop (as defined in the Code of Meeting Practice).
- (b) The four hour period shall include the period of 30 minutes prior to and after the conclusion of the meeting or workshop.
- (c) An additional hourly rate of up to \$15 per hour will be paid for meetings and workshops that go beyond the 4 hours engagement period referred to above.
- (d) Reimbursement claims under this clause must be supported by receipts.

15. Insurance Expenses and Obligations – Mayor and Councillors

The Mayor and Councillors will receive the benefit of insurance cover as provided by Council while undertaking civic duties.

16. Legal Assistance for Mayor and Councillors

16.1 Subject to 16.3 below, legal assistance will be provided to the Mayor and Councillors in the event of an enquiry, investigation or hearing, into the conduct of a Councillor.

16.2 Subject to 16.3 below,

- (a) Legal assistance will be provided to the Mayor and Councillors in respect of legal proceedings being taken against them arising out of or in connection with the Mayor

and Councillor's performance of their civic duties or exercise of their functions as a Mayor or Councillor.

- (b) Council by resolution may reimburse the Mayor and such Councillor, after the conclusion of the enquiry, investigation, hearing or proceeding, for all legal expenses properly and reasonably incurred, given the nature of the enquiry, investigation, hearing or proceeding, on a solicitor/client basis.

16.3 Legal assistance and reimbursement as specified above will only be provided upon resolution of the Council and subject to the following conditions:

- the amount of such reimbursement shall be reduced by the amount of any moneys that may be or are recouped by the Mayor or Councillor on any basis;
- the enquiry, investigation, hearing or proceeding results in a finding in favour of the Mayor or Councillor;
- the amount of such reimbursement is limited to the equivalent of the fees being charged by Council's Solicitors.

17. **Additional Mayoral Expenses**

The Mayor shall be entitled to receive the benefit of the following facilities, payment of and/or reimbursement of expenses:

- (a) Office accommodation within the Council Chambers, fully furnished.
- (b) Shared Executive Assistant/Secretarial services
- (c) Office, Council and Committee meetings, and Civic and Mayoral Reception refreshments.

PROVISION OF FACILITIES

Provision of Facilities Generally

18. **Councillors**

Councillors are entitled to payment of expenses or reimbursement of the following expenses, and to receive the benefit of the following facilities generally.

18.1 Reasonable refreshments associated with Council and Council Committee meetings, and meetings of the Mayor or Councillors with Parliamentary representatives, visiting dignitaries and other delegations.

18.2 Councillor name badges, business cards and diaries.

18.3 Council will make an initial contribution of 50% of corporate uniform costs up to a maximum of \$300.00 when purchased from Council's approved supplier(s)

For each subsequent order, Council will make a contribution of 50% of corporate uniforms up to a maximum \$250.00 per annum. Contributions not expended in any year will be forfeited.

Councillor uniform purchases are coordinated by the Executive Assistant.

18.4 Administration services to facilitate the discharge of functions of civic office.

18.5 Councillors will be supplied with a tablet, laptop or similar to assist with the provision of their civic duties and responsibilities.

18.6 An email address will be provided to all Councillors.

19. Provision of Equipment and Facilities for the Mayor

19.1 Council will provide the Mayor with a mobile phone for use in order to carry out the Councillor's civic functions and responsibilities as provided in this Policy and meet the capital, maintenance, and mobile phone plan charges. Call charges for mobile phones associated with private business must be met by the Mayor.

19.2 All equipment provided under Clause 19 shall always remain in the possession of the Mayor during his/her term of office, and shall remain the property of the Council and returned to the Council in good operational order and condition upon ceasing to hold the position of Mayor.

OTHER MATTERS

20. Acquisition and Return of Facilities and Equipment by Councillors

All equipment provided to Councillors under this policy shall remain the property of the Council and be returned in good condition to the Council upon the Mayor or Councillor ceasing to hold civic office.

Appendices:

- a. Claim Form – Expenses for Councillors

Authorisation:

Status	Committee	N/A	
	Manex	N/A	
Owner	Office of the General Manager		
EDRMS Doc. ID	373039		
Superseded Policy	Payment Expenses & Provision of Facilities to Councillors - 2011		
Date of Adoption/ Amendment	Revision Number	Minute Number	Review Date
21 September 2004	0	16/09/04	September annually
November 2005	1	9/12/05	September annually
21 November 2006	2	9/11/06	September annually
20 February 2006	3	6/2/07	September annually
18 September 2007	4	15/9/07	September annually
15 September 2009	5		September annually
17 May 2011	6		September annually
15 November 2011	7		September annually
20 November 2012	8		September annually

Related Council Policy / Procedure
Claim Form – Expenses for Councillors

CLAIM FORM - EXPENSES FOR COUNCILLORS



CLAIMANT DETAILS			
Name:			
Address:			State
			Postcode

The following expenses are claimed in accordance with Council's policy on the *Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Councillors*.

PARTICULARS	AMOUNT
MONTHLY FEE Councillor <input type="checkbox"/> Mayor <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Councillor - \$873.33</i> <i>Mayor - \$1,905.83</i>	
TRAVELLING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Method of Conveyance: Motor Vehicle • Vehicle Capacity: under 2.5L <input type="checkbox"/> or 2.5L + <input type="checkbox"/> <li style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>LG State Award – under 2.5litre = 68c/km or 2.5litre & above = 78c/km</i> • Ordinary Council Meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Month _____ Distance Travelled _____ km • Extra Ordinary Council Meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Month _____ Distance Travelled _____ km • Committee Meeting/s: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meeting _____ Distance Travelled _____ km ▪ Meeting _____ Distance Travelled _____ km ▪ Meeting _____ Distance Travelled _____ km 	
REIMBURSEMENT/S <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet Charges: <i>(Email Address)</i> _____ <i>Contribution to home internet charges for Councillors who choose not to utilise the Ipad provided – currently \$29.95 per month</i> • Other: _____ 	
TOTAL	\$

SIGNATURE	
Claimant:	
Date:	

I hereby certify that:

- I. The computation/s of this account are correct.
- II. The charges are, so far as I am able to ascertain fair and reasonable.

General Manager

OFFICE USE ONLY

ALLOCATION: 10-1020-1602-63203

AMOUNT:

SECTION 4 – ASSET & ENGINEERING SERVICES

9.8 Bland Shire And Heavy Vehicles

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

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

11. Ensure that public places and facilities are well maintained and easily accessible to foster community pride in their infrastructure

Author: Director Asset and Engineering Services

Officer's Recommendation:

1. That Council adopt the following maximum road limits on its roads:
 - a) West of the Newell Highway where only B-Doubles are approved – 62.5 tonnes
 - b) West of the Newell Highway where AA-Double Road trains are approved – 82.5 tonnes.
 - c) East of the Newell Highway where only B-Doubles are approved – 62.5 tonnes
2. That previous delegation resolutions be consolidated and that the Director Asset and Engineering Services be given delegated authority to process and approve/reject all applications regarding use of Council roads by heavy vehicles, including approvals of higher than maximum limits if the roads are upgraded and deemed suitable for short term usage.
3. That the previous resolution regarding support for the Grain Harvest Scheme during its extended trial period still stand.

Background

The general background for this report has its base in other previous reports submitted to the Council on the matter.

Currently the whole of Bland Shire is blanket approved for use by General Mass Limits B-Doubles inclusive of conditions applied for route usage. This approval was issued some years ago and during this period council roads held up reasonably well, even during the harvest.

Since then Bland Shire Council has given additional approval for a number of roads west of the Newell Highway to use "General Mass Limit Road Trains". These roads were selected on the basis of road pavement suitability and safety for use by a standard "Road Train". Besides the farmers requesting these vehicles, the chief reason for supporting this was that the main type of truck being used in the Shire at the time was a "Road Train Short" (around 28m long) with only a few standard size "Road Trains" (36.5m long).

The "Road Train Short" had a lower General Mass than the standard "Road Train". (It should be noted that I have parenthesised the term Road Train above because what was called a Road Train at the time of Council's resolution are now referred to under the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator classifications as an AA-Double Road train; with the generic term Road Train referring to all multi combinations over 19m)

A number of aspects changed quickly after this approval. Firstly, the standard AA-Double road train became the main vehicle transporting within our Shire and the short version is now hardly used. Then the NSW Government brought in Concessional Mass Limits which allowed a carter to cart over a certain period of the year higher masses than the General Mass Limit and, along with this, also issued a covering statement declaring that this would do no further damage to the roads. Thirdly, the NSW Government enacted that, since the configuration of a combination B-Triple is the same as an AA-Double, combination B-Triples could also use all roads approved for AA-Doubles and, in addition, they upped the General Mass Limits of AA-Doubles to match that of B-Triples. Now the NSW Government has brought in the 5% over concession on General Mass Limits as part of the Grain Harvest Scheme.

The upshot of these factors has led to the fact that unless the farmers and carters are very careful of their road use during high use times, Council roads are failing beyond Council's capability to maintain them.

Since the Higher Mass Limit of a B-Double is lower than the General Mass Limit of an AA-Double Road Train, Council has also delegated to the Director Asset and Engineering the power, if felt applicable, to approve Higher Mass Limit B-Doubles on approved sealed AA-Double Routes.

In addition the Director Asset and Engineering has been delegated the power to approve or reject permits for the use of our roads by these vehicles and by over-weight and larger width vehicles.

Above is the current situation regarding heavy vehicle usage within the Shire, but there is a constant demand for longer and heavier vehicles to use Council's roads, especially since the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator will process any permit that is applied for.

The Council is also reminded that the Council's roads are founded on a number of different soils within the Shire and the effect of loading on these roads is different for each type of pavement construction in these areas.

With regard to road maintenance, under the current heavy vehicle approvals and funding arrangements the staff can keep the roads to the conditions outlined in Council's Road Hierarchy under normal usage. However, as stated previously, if the farmers and carters are not careful of their usage at high usage times then staff are fighting a losing battle. Under these conditions it is believed that, in general, Council should not approve of any higher mass limits than are currently used on our roads.

Currently, to the west of the Newell Highway on roads where there is no approval for AA-Doubles, only General Mass Limit (GML) B-Doubles are allowed. These have a GML of 62.5 tonnes. Where General Mass Limit (GML) AA- Doubles are allowed the GML is 82.5 tonnes. (B-Double Higher Mass limits are GML 68t – but they are only approved on sealed roads where there is road train approval which has a GML of 82.5 tonnes.)

Conclusion

That Council adopt the following maximum road limits on its roads:

- West of the Newell Highway where only B-Doubles are approved - equal to the GML for B-Doubles which is 62.5 tonnes
- West of the Newell Highway where AA-Double Road trains are approved – equal to the GML for AA-Double Road trains which is 82.5 tonnes.
- East of the Newell Highway where only B-Doubles are approved – equal to the GML for B-Doubles which 62.5 tonnes

That previous delegation resolutions be consolidated and that the Director Asset and Engineering Services be given delegated authority to process and approve/reject all applications regarding use of Council roads by heavy vehicles, including approvals of higher than maximum limits if the roads are upgraded and deemed suitable for short term usage.

That the previous resolution regarding support for the Grain Harvest Scheme during its extended trial period still stand.

Financial Implications

Nil.

9.9 West Wyalong Main Street

Our infrastructure

Reviewing, renewing & improving our core community assets

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

11. Ensure that public places and facilities are well maintained and easily accessible to foster community pride in their infrastructure

Author: Director Asset and Engineering Services

Officer's Recommendation:

- 1. That the current paved footpath in Main Street remain for the short to medium term.**
- 2. That the asphalt areas between the "nibs" concrete apron and existing pavers be considered for replacement with concrete as part of next year's budget.**
- 3. That the rest of the asphalt strip outside the access to the nibs remain for the foreseeable future.**
- 4. That the banding design and interim replacement methods be adopted in principle, and a trial section be built as part of the 2015 – 2016 budget to see the layout and work on appropriate colours.**

Background

There have been a number of representations from various members of the community regarding the footpath area in Main Street West Wyalong. The main representations received from the general public are trips and level differences where pavers are worn. In addition some shop keepers believe that the pavement is too old and is affecting their businesses because motorists will not stop because of their look. However, it must be pointed out that in comparison with the number the users and the number of businesses that front Main Street, the number of representations have been low.

One main proponents of redoing the footpath is Mr Tony Aberline. The author met with Mr Tony Aberline and conducted an onsite inspection. He believed the general issues that need to be addressed in the short term were: fixing areas that has been left "un-finished" after the construction; the individual degradation of some pavers; the "trips" in some areas especially at the new pedestrian calming "nibs"; and the undulations in some areas. Overall though he believes the existing pavers should never have been laid and Bland Shire Council should replace the whole footpath with a better product.

The "unfinished" construction areas have now been rectified.

With regards to the paving itself. The pavers used were “dumbbell” shaped and are early clay footpath pavers. This type of paver typically had a variation of size and therefore sometimes the gap between them can be larger than with later pavers. However, as far as I am aware, none of the representations refer to these gaps. The other fact about these pavers is that they were fired to make the trafficked surface hard to withstand pedestrian traffic, but once this hard surface was breached the brick below was softer and crumbled quicker. This has occurred in a few of the pavers in Main Street, making the area rough. There have been some representations on these pavers. Overall, though, the majority of the pavers are standing up well to use. As for the total look, when the vehicles are not parked, there is still an aesthetic appeal with lines of medium and dark red running through them. See following photo.



All pavers, due to their nature, do sometimes move away from the horizontal, thus creating differences in level. Bland Shire Council has developed a footpath maintenance procedure that incorporates these matters and this procedure was developed from procedures in other Councils and advice from council insurers. From this procedure the intervention level is above 10mm level difference, with maybe a 5mm-10mm difference treated in a critical area such as prior to entering a road surface.

With regard to Council’s recent traffic calming works. The two main aspects of the work were the provision of concrete “nibs” protruding to the end of the car park space to facilitate easier crossing of the roadway, and lighting within the Main Street. An outcome from the lighting was a grey asphalt strip between the pavers and the concrete “nib” areas or kerb & gutter. The provision of a dark strip at the back of the kerb & gutter to delineate the area where vehicle doors open is common practise (please see photo following).



The asphalt strip has, mainly due to provision of services, sunk in some areas to give a level difference between the asphalt and the pavers and concrete “nibs”.

When paving is laid in an old area it seldom has a straight grade because there are many problems beneath the surface that have to be accommodated. For instance high services, high footings to the awnings, old redundant structures still connected to existing functions, and a difference of levels between different premises adjoining the footpath and the top of the kerb and gutter. This usually means undulations within the laid path. These undulations exist in Main Street, and even though Mr Tony Aberline was concerned with them, they have been there for many years now. Only a very few representations can be linked to these undulations and they were never the only issue.

From these representations and investigations, Council staff developed the following plan of attack.

1. Council currently has a limited supply of the existing pavers in stock. These will be used to replace deteriorating pavers and broken pavers when removing level differences.
2. That the asphalt areas between the concrete apron to the “nibs” and existing pavement be replaced with concrete due to them being high pedestrian areas. The monies for these will be requested as part of the 2015 – 2016 budget.
3. There exists some level differences between the asphalt strip and the pavers in other areas, but to date these have not been identified as a major problem, so in the short term these will be left as they are.
4. That a longer term plan be developed for council regarding the overall footpath within Main Street.

This plan was submitted to the Access Committee and the information that was reported back was that they were happy with the proposed plan of attack.

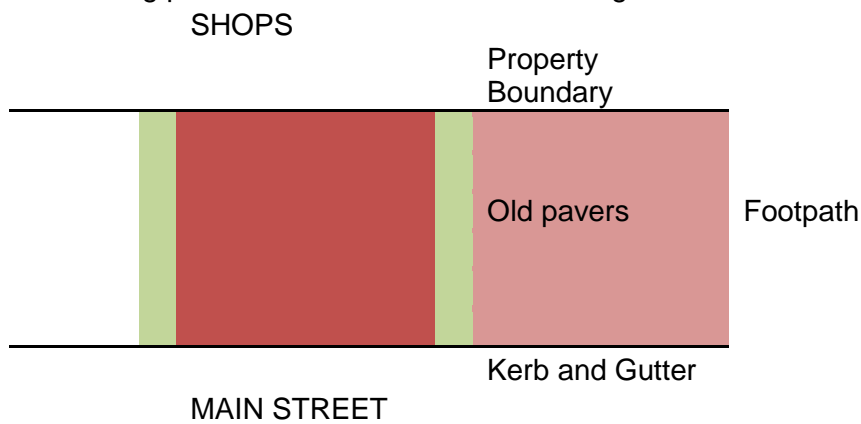
There are two main issues that affect the formulation of a longer term plan for the Main Street footpath and these are a) the current pavers are no longer made and Council has only got a limited supply of them for maintenance and b) there is a need for shops to be able to have disabled access under current Acts and even though the shops will pay for the construction and will endeavour to keep the works wholly within their property there will be a need in the future for Council to allow larger footpath alterations than have occurred to date.

After discussion between the author, the Manager Development Services and council's Heritage Advisor, it was considered the best method forward was to develop a system of panels for Main Street. In this way the Main Street can change slowly from the current look to a new look. The design would look something like below with darker bands and reddish (or earthy coloured) middle to match the existing paving colour. They will be completed in concrete with exposed aggregate similar to that existing outside the Bland Shire Council chambers.



MAIN STREET

In the transition period some will be a bands and exposed aggregate concrete in amongst the existing pavers which would look something like below.



From the Heritage Advisor's report, photos showing the general new look follow:



An example of a traditional footpath with exposed aggregate. The original colour of the cement in this case was standard grey and the aggregates are generally sand stone colours.



A photo of the paving used at the entry to Council showing the use of a range of earth colours plus the concept of a panel with a frame around.

If the plan was adopted then a design can be done for the Main Street with banding at regular intervals. When there was a need to fix an area (i.e. to support the placement of a disabled ramp to an adjoining shop) than the band corresponding to that area will be placed and the relevant pavers removed.

The advantages of this system and design are:

- 1 When a part of the footpath is re-placed, it is replaced to a planned end design.
- 2 The pavers being removed from the areas would go back into Council's stockpile and extend the maintenance life of the existing paved areas.
- 3 Initially the costs will be borne by the shop owners who want disabled access and service authorities who excavate footpath areas.
- 4 Even when Bland Shire has to complete Main Street Footpath major repairs, it only does a panel at a time.

Conclusion

The current paved footpath is in reasonable condition and is still aesthetically pleasing and therefore should remain in the short to medium term. During this time old deteriorated pavers and pavers destroyed during levelling operations will be replaced with pavers from Council's limited stockpile.

That in the budget for next year, the asphalt areas between the "nibs" concrete apron and existing pavers be replaced with concrete. This will remove level differences in high pedestrian areas.

That the rest of the asphalt strip outside the access to the "nibs" remain for the foreseeable future.

That the banding design and interim replacement methods be adopted in principle, and a trial section be built as part of the 2015 – 2016 budget to see the layout and work on appropriate colours.

Financial Implications

Nil. Funding will be allowed for within annual budgets as outlined in the report.

9.10 Land At The Corner Of Crompton Road And Railway Street

Our infrastructure

Reviewing, renewing & improving our core community assets

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

11. Ensure that public places and facilities are well maintained and easily accessible to foster community pride in their infrastructure

Author: Director Asset and Engineering Services

Officer's Recommendation:

That Bland Shire Council inform the Road and Maritime Services that it agrees to take over the surplus land of Lot 1 DP 80008 as Public Road provided it is at no cost to Council and the land is appropriately remediated prior to handover.

Background

A letter has been received from the Road and Maritime Services stating that, as part of their re-alignment of MR 639 (West Wyalong Heavy Vehicle Bypass) at the railway crossing, they are intending to acquire part of Lot 1 DP 80006 (south-east corner of Crompton Road [MR 638] and Railway Street) from Vacuum Oil Company Pty Ltd. The proposed land acquisition and the proposed realignment are shown on the attached map. The Roads and Maritime Services requires only about a third of the land for its road re-alignment however the Vacuum Oil Company Pty Ltd has made a requirement that it will only sell the whole site.

The Roads and Maritime Services states in its letter that it is prepared to explore the purchase of the whole property provided Bland Shire Council is prepared to accept the land surplus to Roads and Maritime Services needs as dedicated Public Road at no cost to Council. Prior to the purchase of the site it has to be remediated, at no cost the purchaser, to those requirements that would meet development approval for the current zoning.

This would mean that the maintenance of this part of the land would then be part of Council's road maintenance budget.

This section of land would be prominent and could be used for advertising Bland Shire or advising to non-truck users that they have missed West Wyalong and should "stop, revive and survive" in West Wyalong. It could also be used for other road related uses such as material stockpiles.

Conclusion

That the cost of looking after the area would not be great and there could be good benefits from having the land.

Financial Implications

Nil.

PARISH WYALONG
COUNTY GIPPS

LEGEND

LAND TO BE ACQUIRED FOR ROAD

PROPOSED ROAD BOUNDARY

Point	Easting	Northing
1	519819.977	6245066.795
2	519836.279	6245084.893
3	519855.403	6245086.538
4	519873.332	6245109.782
5	519819.322	6245101.365

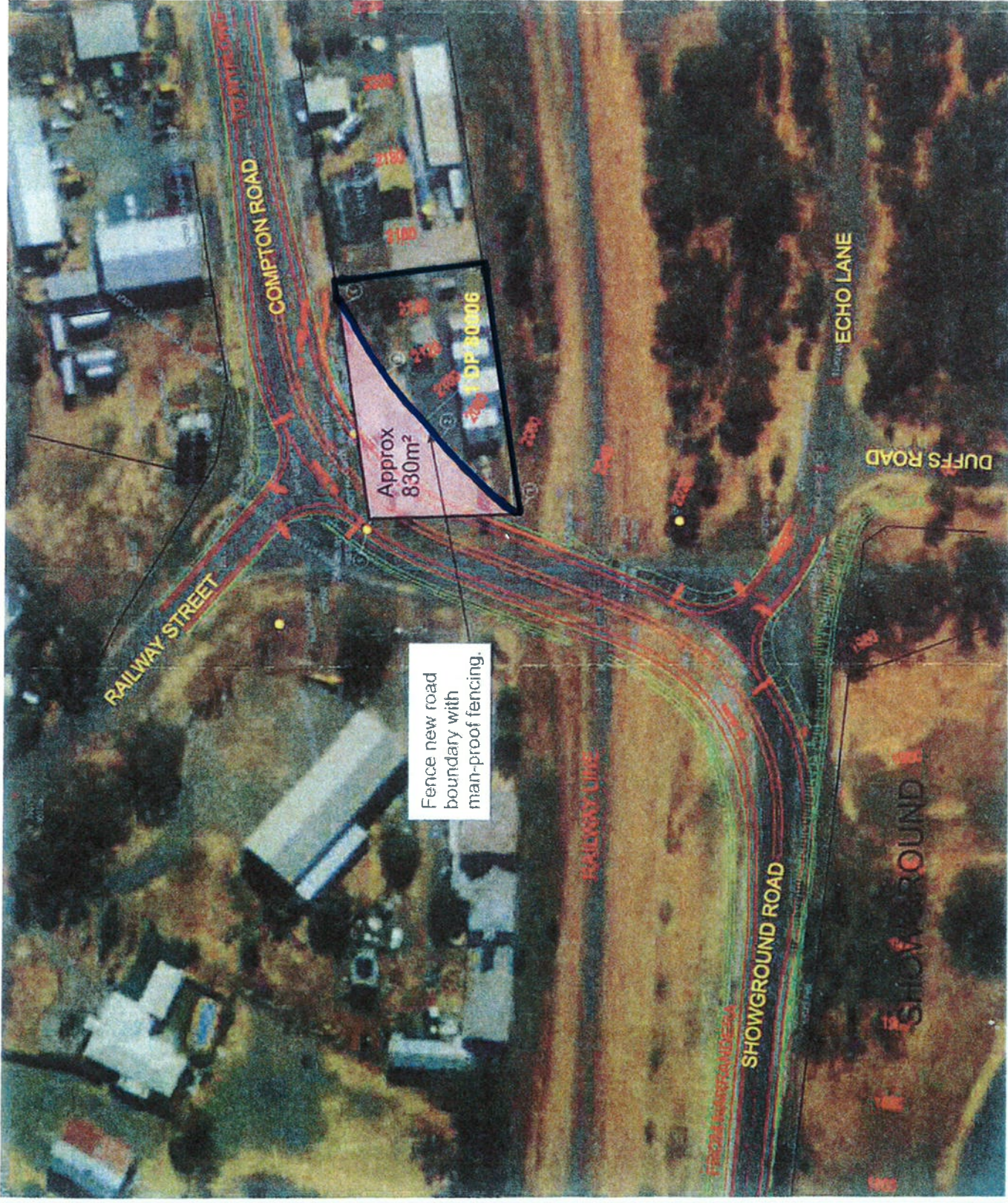
SCALES



MR 639 WEST WYALONG TRUCK
BYPASS 1.85 TO 2.43KM NORTH
OF HW 17 AND SHOWGROUND
ROAD INTERSECTION

Note: Areas and dimensions
are approximate and are
subject to final survey.

SHEET
1



Fence new road
boundary with
man-proof fencing.

Approx
830m²

DP 30806



Transport
Roads & Maritime
Services

Acquisition of land for the West Wyalong
Heavy Vehicle Bypass from Vacuum Oil Pty Ltd

Property acquisition plan WWBP/PACO/VACUUM

BLAND SHIRE COUNCIL

SF2013/163662/1

9.11 Natural Waterway At 4 Welsh Lane West Wyalong

Our infrastructure

Reviewing, renewing & improving our core community assets

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

11. Ensure that public places and facilities are well maintained and easily accessible to foster community pride in their infrastructure

Author: Director Asset and Engineering Services

Officer's Recommendation:

1. That Bland Shire Council decide whether it should fund any works on the watercourse adjacent to numbers 2 and 4 Welsh Lane.
2. That, if Bland Shire Council is supporting the works, Council decide what percentage of cost Council bears and what percentage of cost the owner of the property bears.
3. That, If Bland Shire Council is proceeding with the works, a "Gabion" construction be constructed extending from just downstream of the dam and across the back of both numbers 2 and 4 Welsh Street for an estimated sum of \$98,000.
4. That, since Bland Shire Council has no funds for these works within the 2014 - 2015 budget, Bland Shire Council identify where the funds for the works are to come from.
5. That the owner of 4 Welsh Street be required to stabilise the top of the bank and build a fence between the property and the watercourse as part of these works.

Background

A letter has been received from Brenden Robertson, owner of 4 Welsh Lane, regarding a number of issues including the waterway at the rear of his property. He has built a dwelling on the property and is now voicing his concern regarding the "causeway" at the rear of his property stating it remains a major safety hazard for his children.

Behind the properties 2 and 4 Welsh Lane there exists crown land. The properties and the crown land are affected by a natural waterway (see attachment 1). When a block is affected by any natural occurrence the onus is usually on the developer to build the dwelling in a way that is suitable to the block and incorporates the natural hazard. This is the situation that occurs when blocks are developed on hillsides and in flood plains. When the builder developed number 2 Welsh Lane he did just this. The house and garage were built to suit the block and set away from the natural watercourse. Then a fence was constructed away from the top of the natural watercourse so that there was no danger to the inhabitants.

Then the area between the fence and the edge of the block was battered back so that the watercourse did not affect the block.

When number 4 Welsh Lane was developed, the dwelling took up much of the block which has pushed the rear concrete slab out to near the bank of the natural watercourse and the new children's play equipment is located on top of the current natural watercourse bank. The developer of number 4 Welsh Lane can still construct a fence and bank in the same manner as the neighbour in number 2 Welsh Street, but it would be close to the current building construction (see attachment 2).

A meeting was held on the morning of 25 November, 2014 regarding this matter. Present were Brendan Robertson (owner of the property); Councillor McGlynn; and Council's Director Asset and Engineering Services, Manager Development Services, and the Senior Urban Coordinator.

Brendan Robertson again stated that the close proximity of the watercourse bank to his dwelling was dangerous for his young family. He also believed that, even though some part of the watercourse is on his property, it was Council's responsibility to fix the problem. He obviously wanted the bank pushed back to the property boundary.

Council's Manager Development Services stated that the development met with all the planning guidelines and therefore it was approved accordingly.

Council's Senior Urban Coordinator believed that the current steepness of the bank needed to be addressed in order to stop further erosion.

In general discussion, three courses of action were identified that could achieve what the property owner required and these were a concrete retaining wall; a "gabion" construction (see attachment 3); or the filling and piping of the watercourse. After some discussion it was believed that the "gabion" construction was preferred over the reinforced concrete wall. Brendan Robertson owner of the property stated he was happy with "gabions".

Council staff would prefer "gabions" because their construction will be the least affected if there are storms during the construction period. Other options would tend to be washed out by stormwaters, and would have to be cleaned out and restarted.

It must be stated, however, that, to stop from intruding on the waterway area in the watercourse, the "gabion" construction will intrude into the property of number 4 Welsh Lane. It should also be noted that Council only has to, as part of this process, protect the toe of the bank and not flood the property, so Council would only build a wall of approximately two thirds the height of the bank because after this the floodwaters will enter the crown land area, the rest of the top of the bank will be a matter for the owner.

Due to number 2 Welsh Lane already treating the bank of the watercourse by battering the bank back into their property, this part of the bank would be behind any of these solutions. This would lead to the works being undermined by stormwaters (see attachment 4 and 5) and similarly at the upstream bend at the end of the fence (see attachment 6). Therefore the selected works would have to cover the watercourse bank basically from just after the dam and include both numbers 2 and 4 Welsh Lane.

The cost of providing a "Gabion" wall over this area is estimated at \$98,000 (cost at 4 Welsh Lane estimated at \$26,000) and the cost of a concrete retaining wall over the same distance is estimated at \$130,000 (cost at 4 Welsh Street estimated at \$35,000). It should be noted that it is hard to estimate the cost of the "gabion" construction and it could be slightly less if weather problems and difficulties encountered are at a minimum.

Conclusion

The watercourse is located on Crown Land and on private property. The section on Crown land is under the care and control of Bland Shire Council. The Council should decide if it believes that it should fund works on the private property watercourse.

If Council feel that it should support the works, Council should decide what percentage it splits the cost with the owner of the property. The owner believes that Council should bear the whole cost.

If Bland Shire Council feels that the works should proceed, then it is recommended that a "Gabion" construction be erected, extending from just downstream of the dam and across the back of both numbers 2 and 4 Welsh Street in the sum of \$98,000.

Bland Shire Council currently has no funds for these works. Council will have to identify where the funds for the works are to come from. The author's preference is to include the works in the 2015 – 2016 budget estimates. If the monies are to be provided for this year, the only viable place is from the Community Facilities Reserve which currently does not hold a large amount of money.

Once constructed this would solve the bank stability problem but would not improve the safety aspect for the property, so, as part of the construction, once the gabion wall is finished, the property owner is to stabilise the top of the bank and construct a fence between the property and the watercourse.

Financial Implications

May affect the 2014 -2015 budget if the works are to be completed this financial year.



1
719162

1
338035

2
338035

B
105908

A
105908

MCINERNEY STREET

WELSH LANE

3
1092844

2

4

5
1092844



1382
705301

4
1092844

2

PROPERTY BOUNDARY

POSSIBLE FENCE



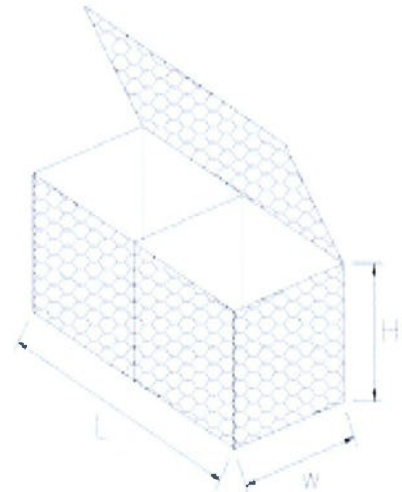
GABIONS

The modern **gabion** is a rectangular woven wire mesh box. Its strength lies in its double twisted hexagonal mesh of steel wire which is reinforced by selvages of heavier wire running along the edges and by transverse diaphragms.

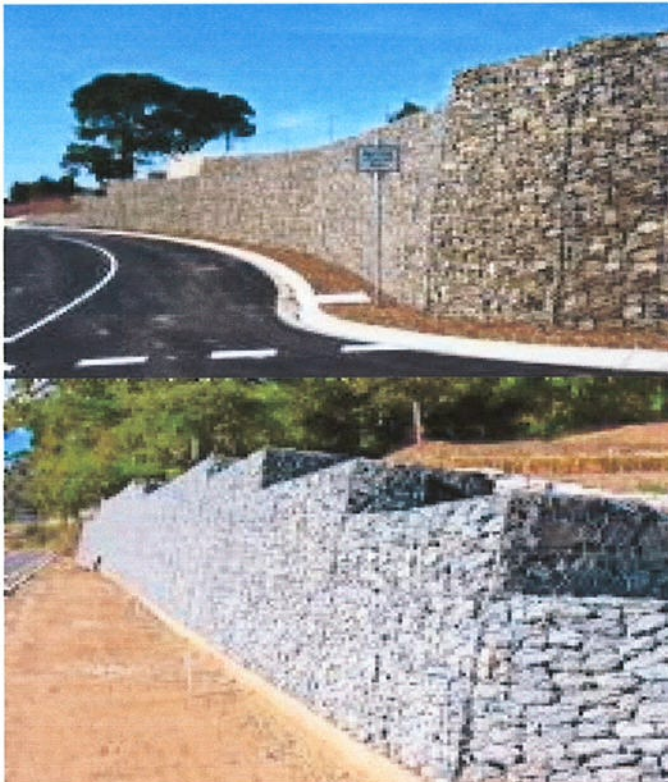
The protective coating is typically either:

- heavily zinc galvanised wire
- as above PLUS heavy duty PVC coating
- galmac (galfan) coated with a 95%Zinc + 5% Aluminium Mischmetal Alloy
- as above PLUS heavy duty PVC coating

These cages are then filled with heavy durable ballast and built like building blocks to arrive at the appropriate height.



Gabion Drawing



4



L-200 Livedayd

5



6

PROPERTY
BOUNDARY



SECTION 5 – REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

Officer's Recommendation:

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

- **9.12 - Engineering Services Report**
- **9.13 - Community Services Report**
- **9.14 - Bland Shire Library Monthly Update**
- **9.15 - Children Services Monthly Update**
- **9.16 - Development Services Activities/Statistics For November 2014**
- **9.17 - Economic Development & Tourism Report - December**

9.12 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 and SH17.
2. **REGIONAL ROADS MAINTENANCE**
Bitumen patching and guide posting carried out on MR 398 West.
3. **LOCAL ROADS CONSTRUCTION - RTR**
Reconstruction of 1.2 km of curves on Kolkilbertoo Road is in progress.

Heavy patching and PolyCom stabilising is in progress in Quandialla Road.
- 4 **SHIRE ROADS MAINTENANCE**
 - Bitumen patching carried out on the following;
 - Quandialla Road
 - Crown Camp Road
 - Euroka Road
 - Paynes Road
 - ByGoo Road
 - Tallimba Road
 - Wamboyne Road
 - Gravel Resheeting FAG
 - Kildary Road 3.9 km
 - Buddigower Road 4.17 km
 - Beckom Road 3 km
 - Sandy Creek Road 3 km
 - South Yalgogrin Road 1 km
 - Bena Road 5.42 km
 - Wet Grading
 - Younga Plains Road
 - Gravel Patching
 - Dalgleishs Lane
 - Naradhan Road
 - Danahers Lane
 - Guideposting 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.

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, Ungarie and Mirrool

Park maintenance

- McCann park, Barnado park and small parks and areas mown, trimmed and maintained
- Council chambers hedges trimmed and lawns fertilised
- McCann and Barnado park summer annuals planted
- H.R gardens new irrigation valves installed
- Ungarie park and show ground irrigation repairs and maintenance carried out
- council chambers and H.A.C.C Maintenance carried out
- Mirrool park irrigation system checked and is working still
- H.A.C.C top dress lawn area

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
- Ovals sprayed with embargo to control summer weeds and wetting agents to slow evaporation
- Ron Crowe oval sprayed for broad leaf weeds and prepared for Barrick Christmas party
- Coinda park tree watering

Town maintenance

- Main street gardens tidied, watered and replanted
- Town areas mown and trimmed
- Town trees trimmed and watered when needed
- Small pot holes repaired in roads
- Clean out town drains
- West Wyalong and Wyalong spraying on nature strips carried out
- Town streets remove trees after storm damage

6. SEWERAGE TREATMENT WORKS - November 2014

No:	Date	Time		Address	Reason
		Start	Finish		
1	4/11/2014	4.30pm	6.00pm	9 Neeld St WW	Blockage Boundary To Main
2	8/11/2014	10.00am	12.00pm	2 Condamine St Ungarie	Blockage Boundary To Main
3	20/11/2014	1.00pm	3.20pm	8 Broad L WW	Blockage Boundary To Main
4	25/11/2014	10.00am	11.30am	44 Russell St WW	Sewer Choke in Main

7. NOXIOUS WEEDS/ENVIRONMENTAL

- Thirteen private property inspections were carried out for the presence of noxious weeds.
- Eight inspections were carried out on Grain Corp sites, John Holland rail, and State Forests.
- Meetings/Workshops attended: Lachlan Valley Weeds Advisory Group, Western Riverina Weeds Advisory Group and Silver Leaf Nightshade workshop at Cowra.
- The following noxious weeds and other controls were undertaken:
 - **Silver Leaf Nightshade** – Bena Road, Crown Camp Road, Alkaville Lane, Ungarie Town Wilga Plains Road, Stidwells Lane, Robbs Lane, Abernathy's Lane, Lake Road, MR57N, Kikoira Road, Dundas Road.
 - **St John's Wort** – Kolkilbertoo Road, Sandy Creek Road, Timothys lane, Pfeiffers Lane, McDermotts Lane, Gunns Road, Bashams Lane, Dalglieshs Lane, Heaths Lane, Stewarts Lane, Russels Lane, Bygoo Road, Popes Lane, Brennans Tank Road, Harts lane, Cattles Lane, Wells Lane, Hilliers Lane, Hatelys Lane, Browns Lane, Fullers Lane, Youngs Lane, Sams Lane, Bolygamy Lane, Greaves Lane, Holmes Lane, Thuloo Road, Brolga Road, Harringtons Lane, Youngs Lane, Gibsonvale Road, Merrengreen Road, Wamboyne Road, Lake Cowal Road, Uncle Bills Road, Blow Clear Road, Bodels Lane, Chanters Lane, Osters Lane, Rutledges Lane, Talleeban Road, Naradhan Road, Dundas Road, Monument Flats Road, Murphy's lane, MR57N, Buddigower Road, Beckom Road, Golden Hills Road, Scotts lane, Mandamah Forest Road, Newell Highway, McCrones Lane, Euroka Road, Morangorell Road, Mary Gilmore Way, Grahames Lane, Goldfields Way, Alleena Road.
 - **Spiny Burr Grass** – Pre-emergent control – Cottingleys Lane, Goldfields Way, McDermotts Lane, Gunns Road, Dalglieshs lane, Yalgogrin Hall, Koops Lane, Hatelys Lane, Wargin Road, West Wyalong town, Yiddah, Ungarie town, Calleen, Girral,
 - **African Boxthorn** – Quandong Lane, Belarwi Road, Wargin Road, Boltes Road, Minogues Lane, Goldfields Way, Merrengreen Road, Alleena Road, Ungarie Town,
 - **Mexican Poppy** – Lake Road.
 - **Bathurst Burr** – Lake Road.
 - **Nagoora Burr** – Lake Road.
 - **Galvanised Burr** – Alleena Road.
 - **General Weed control** – West Wyalong – Lawn Cemetery, Herridge Park, Drains, lanes, Treatment Works; Barmedman – Drains.
 - **Shoulder vegetation control (mowing/spraying)** – Brolga Road, Dundas Road, Paynes Road, Wargin Road, Belarwi Road, Buralyang Road, Merrengreen Road, Lake Road, Belarwi Road, Quandialla Road, Williams Crossing, Bena Road, Euroka Road, Mary Gilmore Way, Goldfields Way, Wamboyne Road, MR 57N, Kikoira Road, Mandamah Forest Road, Blow Clear Road, Hatelys Lane, Paynes Road, Buralyang Road, Bygoo Road, Lonergans Lane, Bonehams Lane, Clear Ridge Road.
 - **Hazard reduction mowing** – Calleen, Girral, Ungarie, Yalgogrin, Weethalle, Tallimba.
 - **Contract Work** – Mow AWB access

9.13 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 Development Officer

International Day of People with Disability celebrations and Access Awards



International Day of People with Disability (IDPwD) is a United Nations sanctioned day, celebrated on December 3 that aims to increase public awareness, understanding and acceptance of people with disability and celebrate the achievements and contributions of people with disability. IDPwD is an opportunity for the community to come together and reflect on barriers to accessibility and work towards making positive changes to the lives of 4 million Australians.

This is an annual event that is celebrated on a global level each year, and one that is embraced by the Bland Shire community. This year the IDPwD celebrations and the presentation of the Bland Shire Access Awards were held at cafe Peckish. Bland Shire Access Advisory Committee chairperson Wendy Bowles was Master of Ceremonies.

The Weethalle Country Club and Cut 'N' Curls were recipients of the Bland Shire Access Awards. A number of representatives of the Weethalle Country Club were on hand to accept their award and noted their gratitude at being selected as recipients.

Local mother Alison Wason was this year's guest speaker and gave a wonderful and inspirational speech on her personal experiences, with her 13 year old son Jack having being diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy in 2010. Alison touched on the life changes she and her family have endured, accessibility issues, and how she remains positive in the face of the changes experienced by her family. Lots of positive feedback was received regarding the event and particularly of Alison's touching and uplifting speech. Following the formalities, morning tea was served to the 50 community members in attendance.

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF BLAND HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS WEST WYALONG ON TUESDAY 16 DECEMBER 2014

.....
MAYOR

Winter Wonderland event

On Thursday December 4 Bland Shire Council held its Winter Wonderland Extravaganza event to coincide with the Business West Wyalong late night shopping event. A number of children’s activities were held in the street between Thom Dick and Harry’s and the NAB including a jumping castle, character performers, glitter tattoos and balloon modelling. Performances by the St Mary’s school choir and the Ungarie town band also proved to be hugely popular. Community members and children engaged well with all activities with a large number of community members attended the evening’s festivities despite the inclement weather conditions.



A winter wonderland was also constructed at 184 Main Street, with a snow machine, Santa photos and face painting on offer, as well as free Christmas show bags for the kids. Both events were very well attended and proved to be hugely successful with parents and children alike.



End of year pool party

Bland Shire Council will be supporting an end of year pool party that will be held at Holland Park Swimming Pool on December 17 to mark the end of the school year. This event will run from 8pm – 10pm with young people between the ages of 10 – 18 able to attend the event. As well as normal pool activities, there will be a disco and other festivities happening on the night.

Holiday activities

As part of the upcoming holiday program, Bland Shire Council will be offering a number of activities in the January school holidays. On January 15 we will head to the Star Bowling and Cinema complex in Griffith for a jam packed day of movie and bowling fun. Attendees will have the choice between two movies to watch and will get to have a game of bowling as well. As part of the package young people are provided with lunch at the complex as well as snacks to munch on while watching their movie of choice. Following the days activities there will be a short stop at McDonald's so that people can grab a treat before heading home. This is always a popular excursion, and we are expecting to have good numbers in attendance.

On January 23 we will be venturing to Wagga to attend the ever popular Jump 'n' Putt complex. Jump 'n' Putt is an activity complex that offers the Riverina's only indoor and air-conditioned trampoline park and mini golf course.

Following our stop at Jump 'n' Putt, it's off to KFC for lunch before heading home via Junee to make a stop at the Junee Licorice and chocolate Factory. As well as a tour of the factory, young people will get to try their hand at freckle making and licorice bowling. This is sure to be a hugely enjoyable and delicious activity for those who attend.

Souther Phone Grant Scheme

As part of the Southern Phone company grant program, Community Service staff have been working with a number of organisations from around the Shire including the Barmedman Community Centre, West Wyalong Swimming Club, the Mirool Silo Kick Committee, the West Wyalong Show Society, the Barmedman Mineral Pool and the West Wyalong Bowling Club in the hopes of securing these organisations some much needed funds to assist with the costs of implementing a number of required initiatives. It is hoped that these organisations will be able to obtain the funds to deliver some very vital improvements and activities to the local community.

9.14 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: Senior Library Assistant

Summer Reading Club

The library has had a phenomenal start to its Summer Reading Club with over 140 children registering, including a record number of secondary students, and a further 50 registrations are anticipated. A variety of activities have been organised for SRC members to be held throughout the school holidays. This response is a direct result of the senior library assistant visiting the school and informing them of the Summer Reading program.

Food for Fines

The library has been overwhelmed by the generosity of residents with all donated food and gifts going towards the local St Vincent de Paul Society and Salvation Army Christmas Appeal.

Library Funding Action Day

A statewide day of action was held on Friday 5 December 2014. The day was organised by the NSW Public Libraries Association in response to the State Government's inadequate and inequitable funding for public libraries. Cr McGlynn, Dot Smith and Senior Library Assistant Cathy Lange represented Bland Shire Council in a show of support by petitioning residents in the Main Street and at the library.

Computer usage

Computer usage increased significantly in November compared to previous months and November last year. There has also been a significant increase in people through the door. However, this could be attributed to increased participation regarding school visits, Summer Reading Club and after school activities.

Storytime

The final storytime session for 2014 was held on Thursday 11 December with a special visit from Santa. The library also held a final storytime for Family Day Care on the Tuesday 9 December.

Christmas Craft

The library held an after school Christmas craft session Thursday 11 December at 4 pm which was well attended.

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

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF BLAND HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS WEST WYALONG ON TUESDAY 16 DECEMBER 2014

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MAYOR

9.15 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: CSU Coordination Staff

Mobile Resource Unit:

Playgroups

Playgroup has commenced the summer routine and attendance numbers are steady at most venues. Weethalle playgroup venue is being revised for 2015 as the CWA hall has gone into recession and has been closed.

Ungarie Preschool

Preparations for the upcoming Christmas festivities are under way; the children and staff are working hard for the end of year concert. Enrolments are being returned with 14 children currently being enrolled for 2015.

Vacation Care

The proposed January Vacation Care program and dates have been discussed and planned. The program will be distributed early December.

Family Day Care

Family Day Care has been celebrating Christmas this month with preparations underway for our end of year parties. The children have been making Christmas crafts and have created a photo frame to be used for a special Christmas photo to be presented to their parents.

Coordination Unit staff and educators have been busy confirming placements for care in 2015. There are currently vacancies in West Wyalong, Temora and Aria Park.

It Takes a Village

The ITAV program is finishing up the year with Christmas feast at each venue. All participants are contributing recipes to create a booklet to share. Everyone has brought along a plate to share and have been enjoying a social end of year gathering.

Some venues for 2015 are still to be confirmed at this time, with Tallimba and Naradhan definitely running and Corinella's venue still to be confirmed.

Preschool

Enrolments are finalised for 2015 with all classes full across the rooms and week.

Bland Preschool held many family events over the year, including a disco, an art show, family morning tea, and the fete that was held in October. Each event had a great number of families attend and participate. We would like to thank all families that have supported the Preschool in these events. Thank you also to the support you have given to staff.

We would like to extend a big THANK YOU to the Preschool Parent Committee of 2014 for their effort and contributions to the Preschool. The Parent Committee have organised the Easter Disco, raffles, the fete and worked hard at getting the end of year DVD's ready for Christmas.

Bland preschool have had many visiting shows and excursions around the local community. The children have had visits to and from the local schools, as well as Little Wattle Childcare Centre, the library and the emergency services. We are looking forward to becoming more involved in community events and businesses in 2015.

9.16 Development Services Activities/Statistics For November 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

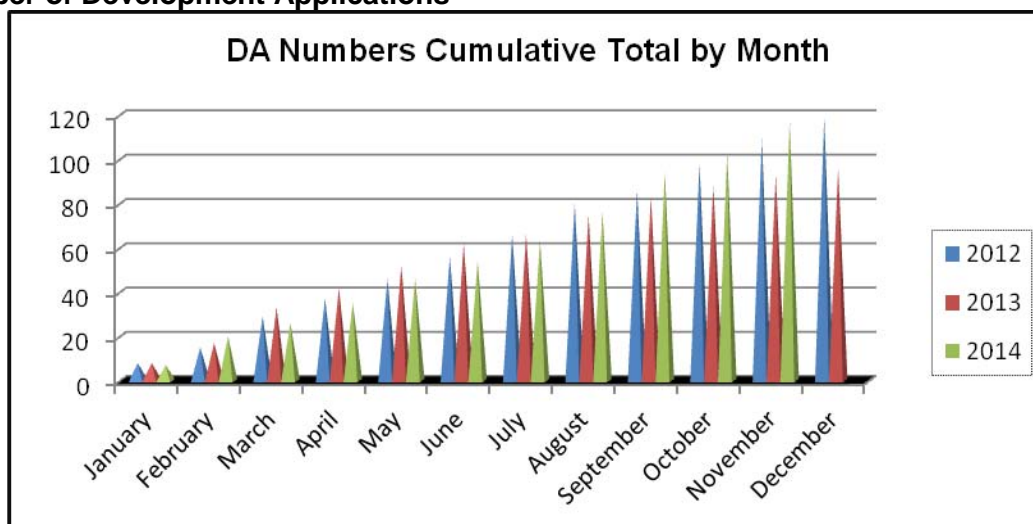
Author: Manager Development Services

Development Applications

The value of development applications received by Council during November is detailed in the following table.

Development Type	Current Year			
	October		Year to Date 1.01.14 – 30.11.14	
	Number	Value \$	Number	Value \$
Residential	9	271,394	49	2,282,590
Industrial	0	0	3	39,750
Commercial	4	38,760	22	794,640
Rural Residential	0	0	7	660,232
Subdivisions	1	0	6	Nil
Other	0	0	30	415,130
TOTAL	14	310,154	117	4,192,342

Number of Development Applications

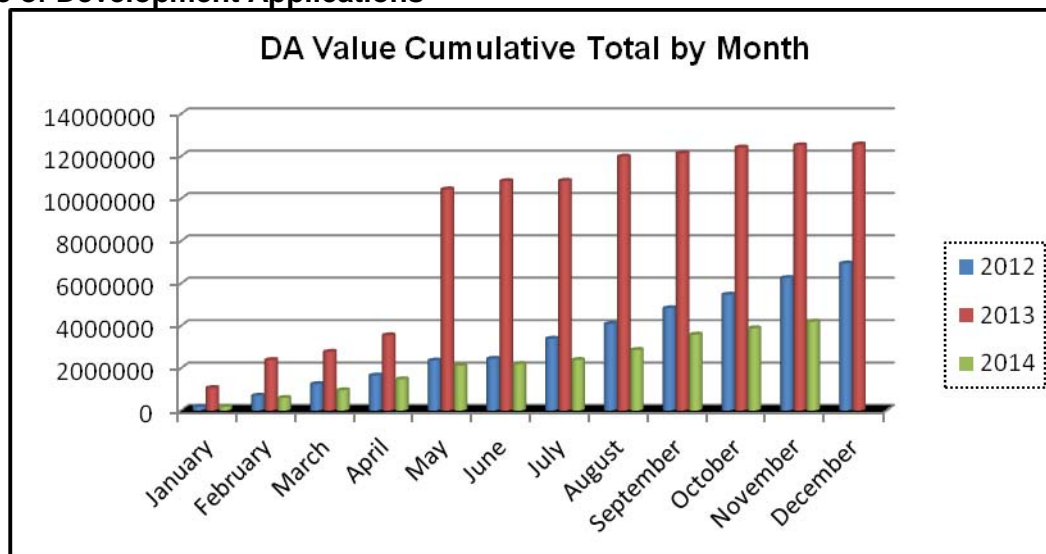


This graph details the cumulative number of development applications received by month comparing 2012 to 2014.

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF BLAND HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS WEST WYALONG ON TUESDAY 16 DECEMBER 2014

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MAYOR

Value of Development Applications



This graph details the cumulative value of development applications received by month comparing 2012 to 2014.

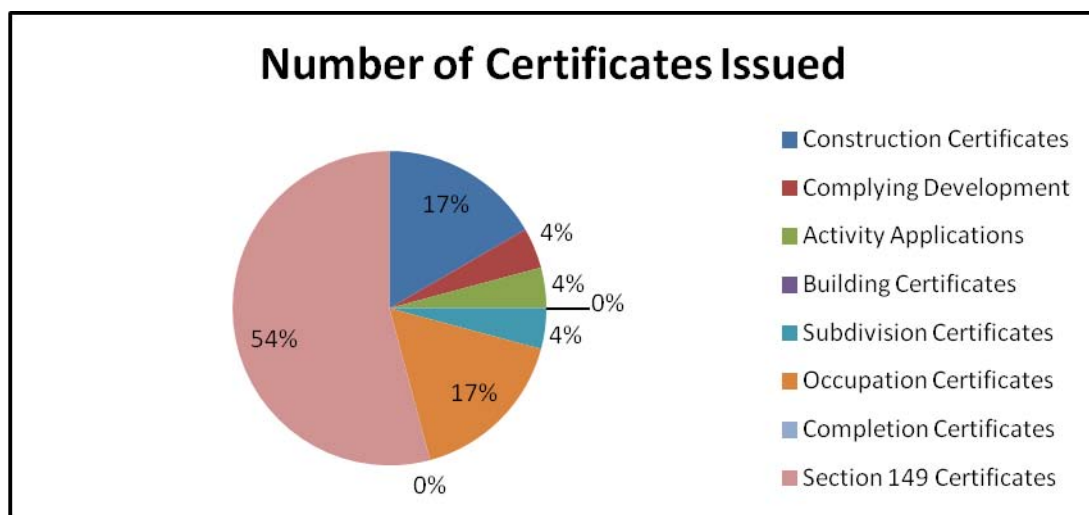
The following Development Applications were determined all by approval during November:

App No.	Property	Development
DA/2014/083	56 Main Street, West Wyalong	Stage one extension of existing smoking area and the provisions of the rear garage and adjoining brick wall
DA/2015/034	Condobolin Road, Ungarie	Subdivision - Creation of an additional Lot
DA/2015/042	4 Old Hospital Road, West Wyalong	New dwelling
DA/2015/043	24 Grenfell Road, West Wyalong	Storage shed
DA/2015/045	15 Quota Drive, West Wyalong	Tree removal (1)
DA/2015/046	16 Victory Street, West Wyalong	Tree removal (1)
DA/2015/047	16 Bellarwi Road, West Wyalong	Storage shed
DA/2015/048	7 – 9 Queen Street, Barmedman	Tree removal (1)
DA/2015/049	10 Conway Street, Wyalong	Tree removal (1)
DA/2015/050	53 Wollongough Street, Ungarie	Demolition of residential dwelling and associated structures
DA/2015/051	Adjacent to 149 Main Street, West Wyalong	Use of footpath – “A” frame advertising sign
DA/2015/053	Adjacent to 295 Neeld Street, West Wyalong	Use of footpath – “A” frame advertising sign

DA/2015/054	Adjacent to 62 Main Street, West Wyalong	Use of footpath – “A” frame advertising sign
DA/2015/056	Adjacent to 80 Main Street, West Wyalong	Use of footpath – “A” frame advertising sign

Certificates issued during November:

Certificate Type	Number Issued
Construction Certificates	4
Complying Development Certificates	1
Activity Applications	1
Building Certificates	0
Subdivision Certificates	1
Occupation Certificates	4
Completion Certificates	0
Section 149 Certificates	13



Public Health Activities Update

Food Shop Inspections Undertaken in November – Nil

- Number Compliant – Nil
- Number Non-compliant – Nil

No. of “I’m Alert Online Interactive Food Safety Program Users for November- Nil Total - 495

Swimming Pool Inspections Undertaken in November – 4

- Number Compliant – 2
- Number Non-compliant – 2

In accordance with Council's Swimming Pool Inspection Policy these inspection have been carried out on rural properties – Quandialla / Naradhan / Weethalle / Ungarie. Most of the pools inspected were not listed in Council's records prior to the introduction of the NSW Swimming Pool Register in 2013.

Heritage Grant Information – 1/01/2014 – 30/11/2014

Grant No.	Address	Description	Grant Value	Date Completed
HER/2014/006	93-95 Main Street West Wyalong	Repair and alter awning and restore leadlighting	\$10,582.00	
HER/2014/007	93-95 Main Street West Wyalong	Painting of building facade above the awning and verandah	\$7,397.00	
HER/2014/008	169 Main Street West Wyalong	Painting of building facade above the awning and the verandah	\$6,418.50	17/06/2014
HER/2015/001	23 Church Street West Wyalong	Painting of front facade of building and signage	\$2,204.00	
HER/2015/002	176 Main Street West Wyalong	Painting of front facade of building	\$1625.00	

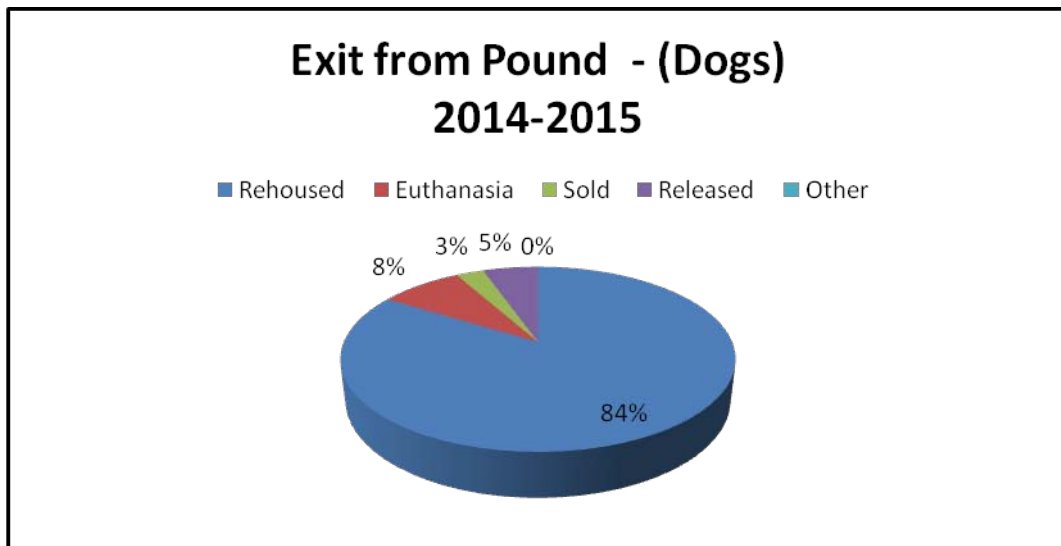
Companion Animal Activities

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

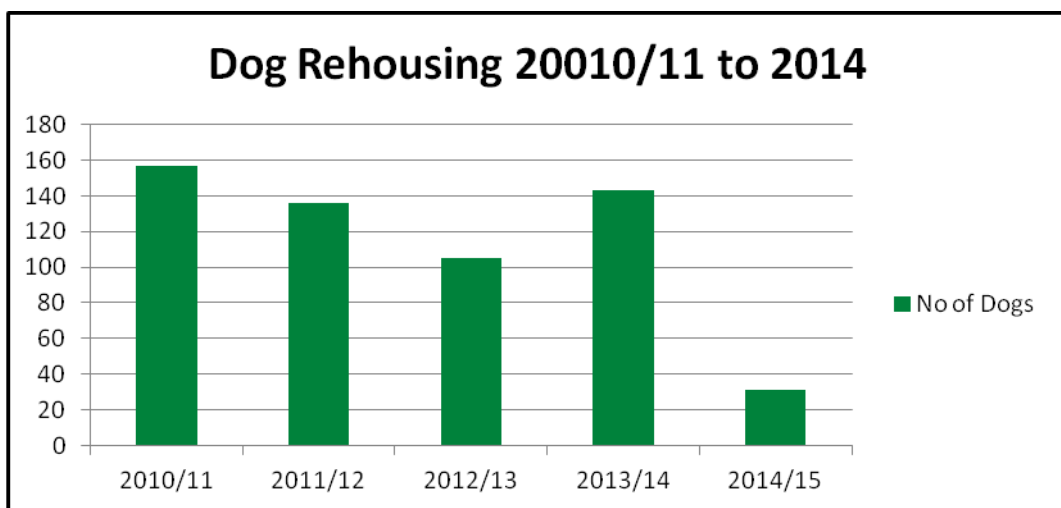
Animals into Pound -
Monthly Cumulative Totals

	Dogs	Cats
Seizure Activities:		
Seized	3	3
Returned to Owner	0	0
Transferred to Pound from Seizure Activities	3	3
Animals in Pound at start of Month	0	4
Dumped	1	2
Surrendered	3	0
Total Animals in Pound	7	9
Released to Owner	0	0
Euthanased	0	8
Sold	1	0
Stolen from Pound	0	0
Escaped	0	0
Died at Pound	0	0
Rehoused	5	0
Total Animals Leaving Pound	6	8
Animals in Pound at end of Month	1	1

Month	Dogs	Cats
July	9	0
August	17	6
September	27	8
October	31	16
November	38	21
December		
January		
February		
March		
April		
May		
June		



This chart summarises the methods in which companion animals (dogs) exited the pound for the period 1/7/2014 to 30/11/2014.



This chart summarises the annual rehousing statistics from 2010/11 to 30 November 2014:

Break In Figures at Pound

- November - 0

No. of "I'm Alert Online Responsible Dog Ownership Users for November – Nil Total - 61

9.17 Economic Development & Tourism Report - December

Our prosperity

Ensuring a vibrant and sustainable future

Vision: Growing our population and jobs

DP15.0 The proportion of residents satisfied with the level of economic development support Council provides to the business community

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

DP19.1 Work with business and property owners to rejuvenate their businesses and shop fronts and encourage the maintenance of buildings with character

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

DP20.0 Plan for a range of industries that build on the strengths of the Bland Shire to stimulate investment and employment

DP20.1 Encourage and actively seek out business and industry to relocate within the shire

DP20.2 Have ongoing engagement and communication with the shire's existing and prospective industry and business including diversification into alternate industries/businesses

DP20.3 Actively promote the Business Development Assistance to new and existing businesses

Author: Senior Economic Development & Tourism Advisor

SpeedWeek

23 speed week participants enjoyed their time in West Wyalong last week even though the gliding conditions were not the best.



The Hon. Katrina Hodgkinson, MP

The Hon. Katrina Hodgkinson, MP visited the Bland Shire on Thursday 27 November 2014 and toured the Barrick Cowal Gold Mine and met with representatives from:

- Barrick Cowal
- GrainCorp
- Plains Water
- Halal Meats Australia
- Bland Shire Council
- Lake Cowal Foundation



The Backing The Bush \$3.7 Billion for Regional Roads

The General Manager and the Senior Economic Development & Tourism Advisor attended the Backing The Bush media release in Parkes on Wednesday 26 November 2014. The media release was attended by the Deputy Premier Troy Grant, Minister Duncan Gay, Andrew Gee MP the Member for Orange and Ken Keith the Mayor of Parkes and Chair of the Newell Highway Task Force. As mentioned in the following media releases Deputy Premier Troy Grant and Roads Minister Duncan Gay visited the Newell Highway at Parkes which will be a centrepiece of the \$3.7 billion for regional roads as part of the Rebuilding NSW infrastructure plan.

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF BLAND HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS WEST WYALONG ON TUESDAY 16 DECEMBER 2014

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 MAYOR

\$2 billion will go towards a Regional Road Freight Corridor Program for upgrades on the Newell, Golden, New England and Great Western Highways.

Over \$500 million is earmarked for the Newell for additional overtaking lanes, upgrades between Narrabri and Moree, Mungleback Creek to Boggabilla, widening between Coonabaran Narrabri, bypasses for Parkes and Coonabarabran and other works.

The Fixing Country Roads and Bridges for the Bush programs will be expanded with another \$700 million boost.



Pictured at Backing The Bush media release are from left, Ron Penny (Forbes Mayor), Tim Reardon (Transport for NSW Deputy Director General), Roads Minister Duncan Gay, Doug Moore (Senior Network and Corridor Planner, RMS), Deputy Premier Troy Grant, Cr Bob Haddin, Cr George Pratt, Andrew Gee (Member for Orange), Ken Keith (Parkes Mayor), Jeff Stien (Bland Shire Council), Phil Standen (RMS Western Region Manager), Cr Michael Greenwood, and Kent Boyd (Parkes Shire General Manager). Photo courtesy of the Parkes Champion Post.



MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 25 November 2014

BACKING THE BUSH: \$3.7 BILLION FOR REGIONAL ROADS

Deputy Premier Troy Grant and Roads Minister Duncan Gay have today visited the Newell Highway at Parkes which will be a centrepiece of the \$3.7 billion for regional roads as part of the Rebuilding NSW infrastructure plan.

"The NSW Liberals & Nationals are ensuring regional NSW gets its fair share," Mr Grant said.

"We have put communities across regional NSW in the driving seat of our government, investing in the areas that need it most.

"They have told us, the key to ensuring growth is building and upgrading country roads, so \$2 billion will go towards a Regional Road Freight Corridor Program for upgrades on the Newell, Golden, New England and Great Western Highways.

"More than \$500 million is earmarked for the Newell for additional overtaking lanes, upgrades between Narrabri and Moree, Mungleback Creek to Boggabilla, widening between Coonabaran Narrabri, bypasses for Parkes and Coonabarabran and other works.

"Better roads are safer roads and for too long our communities have had to put up with substandard roads," Mr Grant said.

Mr Gay said improving productivity in our regional economies, especially our agricultural and resources sectors, will improve job security.

"This is about planning for the future with the amount of freight travelling in NSW almost set to double by 2031," Mr Gay said.

"I'm thrilled we're also expanding the highly successful Fixing Country Roads and Bridges for the Bush programs with another \$700 million boost which will see far reaching benefits across our great state," Mr Gay said.

Member for Orange Andrew Gee said the investment in critical roads was about building for the future of regional NSW.

"Communities in my electorate have been crying out for better roads and we have delivered more than \$11.4 billion for roads, bridges and culverts since coming into office but more needs to be done.

"With significant upgrades now underway or on the books for the Newell, Great Western and Mitchell Highways and a boost in funding for council controlled roads this is a great time to live and work in the Central West," Mr Gee said.

ENDS

**Media: Blake Hardy 0413 378 770 (Deputy Premier)
Siobhan McCarthy 0407 791 802 (Minister Gay)
Orange Electorate Office 6362 5199 (Andrew Gee)**

NEWELL HIGHWAY TASK FORCE
M E D I A R E L E A S E

MEDIA RELEASE :

\$500 million announced for the Newell Highway

The NSW State Government today announced more than \$500 million in funding for the Newell Highway. The announcement was made today in Parkes, home of the National Logistics Hub, by the Deputy Premier, Hon Troy Grant MP and the NSW Roads and Freight Minister, Hon Duncan Gay MLC. The funding announced for the Newell Highway is part of a promised \$3.7 billion for regional roads which forms part of the Rebuilding NSW infrastructure plan.

Minister Gay announced the \$500 million will be earmarked for priority upgrade works along the Newell Highway including additional overtaking lanes, upgrades between Narrabri and Moree, and Mungleback Creek to Boggabilla, widening between Coonabarabarra Narrabri, bypasses for Parkes and Coonabarabarra. These works were identified as priorities under the Governments' Newell Highway Strategy.

Chairman of the Newell Highway Taskforce, Cr Ken Keith OAM, Mayor of Parkes and Taskforce Secretary, Jeff Stien Bland Shire Council were on hand to formally thank the Minister and Deputy Premier for their commitment to the Newell Highway, which is the third largest freight corridor in NSW.

Mayor Cr Ken Keith said, "At a recent meeting in Narrandera, the Taskforce began to set priorities based on Newell Highway Corridor Strategy. The Strategy identifies the need for additional overtaking lanes, heavy vehicle bypasses, heavy duty pavement and a role out of the centreline separation of traffic. Works needed to accommodate High Productivity Vehicles have also been identified in the freight strategy for the Newell".

Cr Keith went on to say, "Over the last five years the Newell Highway taskforce, which consists of representatives from Council's along the Newell highway, together with transport industry bodies such as the NRMA and NATRoad, as well as the RMS have worked together to successfully lobby Government regarding the importance of the Newell Highway. Today the Minister for Roads described the Newell Highway as the backbone of the NSW transport system and recognised its importance to tourism, regional economies and also the state and the nation, as it is a major transport and logistics artery.

Cr Keith said " I welcome this announcement which will enable mixed traffic of cars, caravans and trucks along the Newell Highway to safely coexist. This is especially important as freight is set to double over the next 20 years, we need to find ways to accommodate this growth and the announcement by the Minister today will absolutely start to address this challenge. "

"Investment in our roads means better and safer roads for our communities. By improving the flow of freight we are increasing our local productivity which is especially important for our agricultural sector, which puts money back into our local communities and adds to the sustainability of regional NSW" concluded Cr Keith.

END OF RELEASE

Precis or Summary:		<u>\$500 million announced for the Newell Highway</u>	
Authorised By:	Ken Keith Newell Highway Task Force	Contact:	Ken Keith Newell Highway Task Force 0428 669 482
		Embargoed Until:	Nil.
Distribution: Task Force members to distribute to respective local media			

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The Rabbits Foot

The Rabbits Foot film crew and cast were in the Bland Shire filming from Thursday 20 November until Saturday 22 November and appreciated the welcome and support that the Bland Shire gave them: www.facebook.com/TheRabbitsFootShortFilm



MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF BLAND HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS WEST WYALONG ON TUESDAY 16 DECEMBER 2014

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MAYOR



The New South Wales Free Flight Society New Year celebrations and Open Days
The New South Wales Free Flight Society (NSWFFS) New Year celebrations and Open Days will be held at the AB Field at West Wyalong.

The Event: New Year celebrations and Open Days

Location: The AB Field located on Clear Ridge Road West Wyalong

Dates: 30 Dec 2014 to 1 Jan 2015

Times: 7.00am and 1.00pm

Visitors: The NSWFFS invites West Wyalong residents to visit the site between 7.00am and 1.00pm, to watch and fly all types of flying models.



The Small Biz Bus

The Small Biz Bus will be returning to West Wyalong on Friday 30th January 2015 and will be located at 174 Main Street West Wyalong.

