MINUTES – BOURKE SHIRE COUNCIL 24TH OCTOBER 2011

PRESENT

C12.1

Councillors	**17/01**	**21/02**	**28/03**	**02/05**	**23/05**	**20/06**	**25/07**	**22/08**	**26/09**	**24/10**	**28/11**
Cr Andrew Lewis	✓	AP	✓	✓	AP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Cr Robert Stutsel	✓	✓ Chair	✓	✓	✓ Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Cr Victor Bartley	AP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	AP	✓	✓	✓	
Cr Olga Collis-McAnespie	✓	✓	✓	AP	✓	✓	AP	✓	✓	✓	
Cr Sally Davis	✓	9.14am	9.05am	✓	9.43 am	AP	✓	9.04am ✓	✓	✓	
Cr Cec Dorrington	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Cr Lachlan Ford	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	AP	✓	✓	✓	
Cr Barry Hollman	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Cr John Holmes	✓	✓	AP	✓	AP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Cr Wal Mitchell	✓	AP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	AP	AP	

Staff	
Geoff Wise	General Manager
Leonie Brown	Manager of Corporate Services/Minutes
Mark Gordon	Manager of Roads
Peter Brown	Manager of Water & Wastewater Services
Phil Johnston	Manager of Tourism & Development
Dwayne Willoughby	Acting Manager of Environmental Services
Kai Howard	Executive Assistant/Minutes

Opening Prayer

The Mayor opened the Meeting with a prayer.

Remembrances

Council stood in silence in the memory of the following:

George William Johnson
Mary Bryant
Sharon Joyce Hines
Tony Wallace Prince
Ken Gaffney Jnr

Apologies

Resolution

445/2011 Council resolved to note the apologies from Cr Wal Mitchell and Bruce Gray, Manager of Services and that leave be granted.
Moved Cr Holmes Seconded Cr Dorrington Carried

Mayoral Minute

26/09	Council Meeting
29/09	Council discussion on Law & Order
06/10	OROC Dinner in Dubbo
07/10	OROC Meeting in Dubbo
12/10	Meeting at Bourke Police Station with Inspector Tim Chinn and concerned community member in regards to assault at Bourke Public School
19/10	Trip on the Jandra with delegates attending Aboriginal Housing Meeting
20/10	Travelled to Hillston
21/10	Attended meeting of Western Division Councils of NSW Mini Conference - Hillston

446/2011 Council resolved to note the information in the Mayoral Minute as presented to Council on Monday, 24th October 2011.
Moved Cr Lewis Seconded Cr Stutsel Carried

Starring of Items

A number of items have been starred for discussion.
The Mayor will receive requests to star additional items to be discussed.

Resolution

447/2011 Council resolved to approve the un-starred items in the Agenda for the Council meeting on Monday, 24th October 2011.
Moved Cr Davis Seconded Cr Collis-McAnespie Carried

Confirmation of the Minutes

Resolution

448/2011 Council resolved to confirm the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting and the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on the 26th September 2011 as a true and correct records.
Moved Cr Dorrington Seconded Cr Davis Carried

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Month/Year	Meeting Date	Reason
2011		
November	2nd	Draft Water Sharing Plan Meeting (TBA)
	3rd	LMWUA - Dubbo
	5th	9.00am Meeting with Sport & Rec – Council Chambers
	8th	LRC & LEMC MEETING - 5.30PM
	9th	9.00am – Traffic Committee
		11.00am – Roads Committee, Council Chambers
		12.00 midday – Towns Committee, Council Chambers
	18th	Mining & Agriculture Forum - Narrabri
	22nd	WLAC Meeting – Cobar - Tentative
	28th	Council Meeting - 5th Monday merge with December Meeting
	30th	10.00am - OH&S Committee, Council Chambers
		11.00am – Consultative Committee, Council Chambers
December	3rd Dec	Market Day at the Wharf
2012		
January	1st	New Years Day
	2nd	New Years Day Public Holiday
	16th	Council Meeting - 3rd Monday 4th is for Australia Day
		Motions for Western Division AGM to January Meeting
	26th	Australia Day
February	20th Tentative	Council Meeting – 3rd Monday to allow for the Western Division Shires Ass AGM
	26th – 28th	Western Division Shires Ass – AGM – Broken Hill
March	26th	Council Meeting - 4th Monday
April	6th April	Good Friday
	9th	Easter Monday
	23rd	Council Meeting - 4th Monday
	25th	ANZAC Day
May	28th	Council Meeting - 4th Monday
June	11th	Queen's Birthday
	18th	Council Meeting - 3rd Monday to allow for end of year finance reporting
July	23rd	Council Meeting - 4th Monday
August	27th	Council Meeting - 4th Monday
September	24th	Council Meeting - 4th Monday
October	1st	Labour Day
	22nd	Council Meeting - 4th Monday
	28th	Council Meeting - 4th Monday Merged with December Meeting
December	25th	Christmas Day
	26th	Boxing Day

ENGINEERING SERVICES REPORT

File No:	**W2.2.9**
Report:104/2010	**Walkdens Bore-Water Supply Approval**
Responsible Officer:	**Peter Brown, Manager Water & Wastewater Services**

Background
In December 2010 Bourke Shire Council made a request for the compulsory acquisition of Lot 2370 DP 1129053 being part Tank Lease and Public Watering place 237 and part stock and camping reserve 19967 at Bourke. The request was made by Bourke Shire Council to secure the town's water supply with an alternate water supply in times of drought

Report
Council must now agree to the above conditions and finalize an application for a Combined Water Supply Works and use approval under the Water Management Act 2000.

In order to finalise the matter the Common Seal of Council is required to be affixed and the Mayor and General Manager are required to sign the documents.

Resolution

449/2011 Council resolved to sign for a combined Water Supply Works and use approval under the Water Management ACT 2000 for Bourke water supply and affix Council's Seal.
Moved Cr Stutsel Seconded Cr Hollman Carried

File No:	**F3.1**
Report: 105/2011	**Delivering fuel to Council Fuel Trailers**
Responsible Officer:	**Mark Gordon Manager Roads**

Introduction
This report is to notify Council of the problems currently being experienced through our bulk fuel delivery to road maintenance crews.

Background
Over the past eight months, Council road crews have been continually inconvenienced and delayed by lack of fuel being delivered to their fuel trailers. Staff have been continually returning to town to fill the support tank on their crew trucks daily, causing considerable downtime and a reduction in productivity.

Continued discussions with Caltex staff have revealed the problem to be internal within their organisation and in my opinion they have no incentive to eliminate the problem in the near future.

Some Council's (Walgett & Warren) have purchased their own bulk storage diesel tanks. Walgett Shire have informed me this is working well and hope to pay their tank off over the next eighteen months through a purchasing deal with their supplier. At present Council is investigating similar options through the Regional Procurement tender process where we already purchase our fuel.

The tanks are 60,000 litre above ground self-bunded tanks that can be located anywhere at the depot as long as they are on level ground. They don't require a concrete slab underneath, only a small slab to catch spilt fuel from refuelling from the bowsers. However, the purchase of a bulk fuel tanker and storing it at the depot will not eliminate the problem of getting the fuel to the Road Maintenance crews. To eliminate this problem council needs to purchase its own demountable 6,000 litre tank to mount on our bridge truck to transport fuel to its Road Maintenance Crews. The current bridge truck will have to be modified to cater for the extra load to carry the diesel. Council has currently two employees with dangerous goods licences to carry out these deliveries and the potential to plan the training for further staff members.

Financial
Council is currently paying approximately 0.20/litre on top of its fuel cost to get the diesel delivered to the road maintenance crews. With a six thousand litre tank this amounts to approximately $1,200.00 per delivery. On Council's current rates, we can match this cost or at best make some savings, therefore making it productive.

Discussions with Walgett Shire and Regional Procurement have identified that the supplier may pay for the 60,000 Litre tank for Council and let Council pay it off through their fuel purchasing at a nominated cent /litre basis. Therefore, Council would have no outlay to pay for the Bulk 60,000 litre tank only for the 6,000 litre demountable tank and the modification to the current bridge truck.

Investigation by Council's Plant Supervisor has identified the cost to complete the modifications on the truck to approximately $20,000.00 and the cost to purchase the demountable 6,000 litre diesel tank approximately further $20,000.00.

The cost to modify the current bridge truck can be absorbed out of council's Plant Maintenance and Repair budget. The cost to purchase the 6,000 litre demountable tank can be potentially funded with left over funding from Council's 2011/2012 Plant Replacement Program.

Resolutions

450/2011 Council resolved:-

- **to purchase the 6,000 litre demountable tank through Council's 2011/2012 Plant Replacement Program to address the short-term problem**
- **to complete the modifications to its current bridge truck through the Plant Maintenance and Repair Budget**

- **for Management to pursue negotiations with Regional Procurement to purchase a 60,000 litre diesel tank to store at Council's depot under an amortise agreement.**

Moved Cr Hollman Seconded Cr Stutsel Carried

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORT

File No:	**DA 2011/0027**
Report: 212/2011	**Development Application Lot 3 DP 753570 Extension/Addition to Existing Dwelling**
Responsible Officer:	**Dwayne Willoughby, Acting Manager Environmental Services**

Discussion
Council are in receipt of a development application for an extension/addition to an existing dwelling on the River Rd Bourke.

The applicant has submitted a detailed set of plans and statement of environment effects report for the development. The proposed development is on land that is flood prone land.

Access
The access to the existing dwelling is not protected from the 1 in 100 year flood. The Council owned River Road goes under in several areas in a flood event.

The owner of the property, in the application, has advised in their statement of environmental effects that in the event of a flood and the road being unpassable, that they will relocate into the township at no cost to council.

Councils Development Control Plan 3, Development on Flood Prone Land, states that *'a dwelling shall not be erected in a location that does not have direct access from the dwelling to a public road where both the access and public road remain trafficable to light vehicles during a flood'.*

This ensures all new dwellings on undeveloped holdings are required to have access, however as this development is for an extension to an existing dwelling this section of the development control plan does not apply.

Conclusion
The development application is presented to Council with a recommendation for approval subject to the conditions as attached.

Legal Implications
Nil foreseen

Financial Implications
Nil Foreseen

Recommendation: That Council approve the development application submitted for the extension/addition to the existing dwelling on Lot 3 DP 753570, subject to the following conditions –

1) The development, the subject of this consent, shall be carried out in accordance with the approved plans and specifications, in accordance with any conditions of this consent and in accordance with the provisions of Bourke Local Environmental Plan 1998, the *Local Government Act 1993* and *Regulations* and the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979* and *Regulations*.
***Reason**: to ensure that the development is carried out in accordance with the terms of Council's approval*.

2) All building work shall be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the *Building Code of Australia* in force at the time of Construction Certificate Issue.
***Reason**: to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (as amended) and Regulations.*

3) The applicant is to supply Council with a Registered Surveyor's report certifying that the finished floor level of the dwelling will be a minimum 300 mm above the 1 in 100 year flood level for that area.
***Reason**: to ensure compliance with Development Control Plan 3 – Development on Flood Prone Land*.

4) The applicant is to submit detailed plans of the proposed sewerage management system for separate approval by Council.
***Reason**: to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (as amended) and Regulations.*

5) Runoff and erosion controls are to be installed where necessary to prevent soil erosion, water pollution, the discharge of loose sediment onto surrounding land; to divert uncontaminated runoff around cleared or disturbed areas; erection of a silt fence if required to prevent debris escaping into drainage systems or waterways; prevent tracking of sediment by vehicles onto roads; ensure adequate measures are in place to prevent pollution from any stockpile, excavated material, construction and landscaping supplies and debris within the site. Suitable measures are to be maintained until the completion of those works. Council may issue infringement notices where measures are not provided or maintained.
***Reason**: to ensure the protection of the stormwater system and waterways.*

6) Before any site or building works is started, the applicant or builder must notify Council of the name, address, phone number and license number of the builder; erect a sign at the front of the property with the builder's name license number, site address and consent number.
***Reason**: to ensure compliance with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

7) The use or occupation of the approved development shall not commence until such time as all conditions of this development consent have been complied with and the Principal Certifying Authority has issued an Occupation Certificate.
***Reason**: to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (as amended) and Regulations.*

8) At the time of flooding the owner and not Council accepts responsibility that the owner/resident may be land locked.
***Reason**: The owner takes the responsibility*

Resolution

451/2011 Council resolved to approve the development application submitted for the extension/addition to the existing dwelling on Lot 3 DP 753570, subject to the following conditions –

1) The development, the subject of this consent, shall be carried out in accordance with the approved plans and specifications, in accordance with any conditions of this consent and in accordance with the provisions of Bourke Local Environmental Plan 1998, the *Local Government Act 1993* and *Regulations* and the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979* and *Regulations*.
***Reason: to ensure that the development is carried out in accordance with the terms of Council's approval*.**

2) All building work shall be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the *Building Code of Australia* in force at the time of Construction Certificate Issue.
***Reason: to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (as amended) and Regulations*.**

3) The applicant is to supply Council with a Registered Surveyor's report certifying that the finished floor level of the dwelling will be a minimum 300 mm above the 1 in 100 year flood level for that area.
***Reason: to ensure compliance with Development Control Plan 3 – Development on Flood Prone Land*.**

4) The applicant is to submit detailed plans of the proposed sewerage management system for separate approval by Council.
***Reason: to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (as amended) and Regulations*.**

5) Runoff and erosion controls are to be installed where necessary to prevent soil erosion, water pollution, the discharge of loose sediment onto surrounding land; to divert uncontaminated runoff around cleared or disturbed areas; erection of a silt fence if required to prevent debris escaping into drainage systems or waterways; prevent tracking of sediment by vehicles onto roads; ensure adequate measures are in place to prevent pollution from any stockpile, excavated material, construction and landscaping supplies and debris within the site. Suitable measures are to be maintained until the completion of those

works. Council may issue infringement notices where measures are not provided or maintained.
Reason: to ensure the protection of the stormwater system and waterways.

6) Before any site or building works is started, the applicant or builder must notify Council of the name, address, phone number and license number of the builder; erect a sign at the front of the property with the builder's name license number, site address and consent number.
Reason: to ensure compliance with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

7) The use or occupation of the approved development shall not commence until such time as all conditions of this development consent have been complied with and the Principal Certifying Authority has issued an Occupation Certificate.
Reason: to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (as amended) and Regulations.

8) The owner accepts that at the time of flooding the site may be landlocked and the owner takes full responsibility for any actions and associated costs which may result from that eventuality.
Reason: The owner takes the responsibility
Moved Cr Dorrington Seconded Cr Hollman Carried

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

File No:	**D5.2**
Report: 346/2010	**Donations to Schools**
Responsible Officer:	**Geoff Wise, General Manager**

Background:

- Historically, Council is requested by most local schools for donations towards end of year speech ceremonies.
- Council routinely donates $100 to each school.

Financial Implications:

- The funds would need to be attributed to the Community Contributions vote.
- Total commitment: $900

Resolution

452/2011 Council resolved to donate $100 to each school in the Bourke Shire as contributions towards their Presentation Day ceremonies at the end of this school year, with funds attributed to the Community Contributions vote.
Moved Cr Dorrington Seconded Cr Ford Carried

File No:	**A3.10**
Report: 347/2010	**Council Business Closures for the Christmas Period**
Responsible Officer:	**Geoff Wise, General Manager**

Background
It has been the practice to close the Council businesses, RTA and Library between Christmas and New Year.

For this year, this includes three workdays 28th -30th December 2011. As Christmas Day and New Years Day fall on a Sunday, Monday, 26th & Tuesday, 27th December and Monday, 2nd January 2012 are designated public holidays.

There is little business transacted during this period and many indoor staff members will be unavailable to work due to family commitments.

The Exhibition Centre will be closed 24th December 2011 to 3rd January 2012.

The Waste Depot will be closed Sunday, 25th December for Christmas Day and Sunday, 1st January 2012 for New Year's Day but otherwise business as usual.

The Water & Wastewater team can be contacted for emergencies on the public holidays by calling the Duty Officers phone 0419722055.

All outdoor staff work with a skeleton crew during this period.

Resolution

453/2011 Council resolved that:

- **The Council offices, Library, RTA and the Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre be closed during the Christmas and New Year period from 4.30pm, 23rd December 2011, and reopen Tuesday, 3rd January 2012.**
- **The Waste Depot be closed on Christmas Day and New Years Day.**

Moved Cr Davis Seconded Cr Collis-McAnespie Carried Unstarred

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File No:	**E2.1, E2.3, E2.3.4**
Report: 348/2011	**2012 Local Government Elections**
Responsible Officer:	**Geoff Wise, General Manager**

Summary:

Unless Council determines by Wednesday, 30th November 2011 to engage the NSW Electoral Commission to conduct the 2012 Local Government Election the legislation makes the Council General Manager totally responsible for the conduct of the Election.

Background:

The NSW Minister for Local Government has announced the Government's commitment to the option of returning to Councils the responsibility for conduct of their elections. Councils however will continue to have the option to engage the NSW Election Commission (NSWEC) to conduct their elections.

The Presidents of the Local Government and Shires Associations met with both the Premier and the Minister for Local Government during September 2011 particularly to raise issues associated with next year's Local Government Elections.

The Presidents expressed concern about the lack of assistance being offered to Councils by the State Electoral Commission where Councils wished to undertake their own elections. The Presidents drew attention to the fact that a 30th November deadline for Councils to make a binding decision was unrealistic, and sought an extension of this deadline until 31st March 2012 to enable Councils to pursue tenders and to otherwise evaluate their situation. An exemption from the tendering requirements of the Local Government Act due to extenuating or other circumstances was also sought.

The Presidents received a good hearing from the Premier, but are yet to receive any response. The Presidents have been publicly critical of the lack of response by 10th October.

References:
Section 296, Part 6 of the Local Government Act, 1993 describes how elections are conducted.

Further relevant information is available in the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Division of Local Government Circular 11-11 – Conduct of Election by Councils – Amendment to the *Local Government Act 1993*.

The Department of Premier and Cabinet, Division of Local Government issued Circular 11-22 Guidelines for Council Administered Elections 2012.

The NSWEC has issued a checklist for the 2012 Local Government Elections and the NSWEC's 2012 Local Government Elections Service Charter.

The Mayor, Deputy Mayor, several Councillors and Council Officers met with NSWEC Officers on the 15th September 2011.

Options for Council:

1. Engage NSWEC
Council must make a decision by Wednesday, 30th November 2011 to engage the NSW Electoral Commission to conduct the 2012 Local Government Election if this option is to be chosen.

If the NSWEC is engaged the only matter the General Manager becomes responsible for is the roll of non-resident owners of rateable land and the roll of occupiers and rate-paying lessees.

The NSWEC proposes to provide a very similar election service as occurred in 2008, including the option of a shared Regional Returning Officer most probably including Bourke, Cobar and Brewarrina Shire Councils, and most likely based in Cobar.

The NSWEC have advised that there is a slight possibility they may consider a part time Returning Officer (e.g. 5weeks) for this Regional Area instead of someone being required full time (10 weeks).

The same polling places at Enngonia, Louth, Wanaaring and Byrock are proposed for Bourke Shire in 2012. There is a possibility that the process adopted for the 2010 By-Election in which Council worked with the NSWEC to maintain effectiveness but minimise costs associated with the villages may be available again in 2012.

2. Not Engage NSWEC
If the NSWEC is not engaged the NSWEC will still undertake the following work with costs passed on to Councils:

- provision of rolls (scanned);
- will provide the template for ballot boxes and voting screens but nothing physical;
- check of nominees/nominates information;

- details of registered political parties;
- details of general postal voters;
- blanket election advertising (general) for the election;

The General Manager will be responsible and need to ensure the following actions are undertaken:

- preparation of budget;
- engagement of a suitably qualified and experienced Returning Officer, Substitute Returning Officer, Polling Place Managers and Election Staff;
- determining the fees payable for Election Staff;
- training of staff;
- provision of electoral material;
- provision of electoral manuals and procedures;
- appointing the polling places and the necessary arrangements;
- provision of privacy protection;
- approving registrations;
- provision of advice to the Returning Officer;
- registering how to vote material;
- necessary arrangements to enable pre-poll, declared institution, postal and election day counting;
- arranging storage and destruction of ballot papers and voting related material;
- candidate help desk;
- extensive reporting to Parliament and the Joint Standing Committee if required;
- provision of names of person who appeared to have not voted at the election;
- determination of 'excused' persons.

Importantly, Council will need to have specifically designed software to count and distribute preferences that needs to be certified that it meets the legislative requirements.

If the NSWEC is not conducting the election they will provide very little help to Council. It seems that it is no longer a public service organisation.

Alternatives

The Local Government and Shires Association have advised that if the Premier agrees to extend the deadline for determination of whether Council is to engage the NSWEC or not, **Local Government Procurement** (LGP) may be in a position to assist Councils with their tendering requirements for the work, or undertake a group tender on behalf of interested Councils, however LGP will not be in a position to assist unless the date exemption is granted due to time constraints.

The **Australian Electoral Commission** has advised that they are not in a position to commit to assisting with the 2012 Local Government Elections.

Both the Associations and Council has been contacted by the **Australian Election Company**. The Association's Executive were impressed with the presentation provided by the Australian Election Company and believes that they can provide a further choice for Council. The Australian Election Company positively promotes their financial resourcefulness, without any definitive quote or comprehension of the difficulty of obtaining locally based suitable casual employees.

Considerations:
Much of the argument relating to the NSWEC over the years has concerned the high cost. However, it is believed that the NSWEC does conduct elections very professionally, with the 2008 experience with the shared Returning Officer employed in this region being an exception.

The Orana Regional Organisation of Councils (OROC) Board met on Friday 7th October 2011 and noted the advice of the General Managers Advisory Committee that upon reviewing the Guidelines the General Managers consider them to be unworkable and unreasonable; and noting the onerous nature of the requirements for an individual Council and the General Manager's responsibility in preparing for and conducting the election; it is considered that, based on the information currently available, Councils would be best served by utilising the services of NSW Electoral Commission to conduct the 2012 local government elections.

Financial Implications
In 2008 the cost of the Bourke Shire Local Government Election was $23,806.

NSWEC costs are still indicative but the estimated cost will be between $35,000 and $40,000. The increase is significant due to Council now only sharing a Returning Officer with Cobar and maybe Brewarrina. An increase of $10,000 was allocated on top of the already increased wages to accommodate this cost.

The Electoral Commission are not prepared to provide a definitive quote for the election cost. They have advised:

1. Wage costs increasing in the Public sector of 4 years x 4% cumulative (i.e. 17.0%);
2. Other operational costs increasing by 4 years CPI (estimated at 12.8% cumulative);
3. Number of electors being serviced, e.g. a 2% increase in roll numbers will deliver a similar cost increase; and
4. Some 'economy of scale' loss may be inevitable with a reduced number of councils electing to use NSWEC services for the 2012 Local Government Elections. At this stage it is not possible to quantify any impact

Indicative estimates are that if Council does not engage the Electoral Commission the cost to Council may well equate to the cost of engagement of the NSWEC due to:
-the need to cost the time inputs of every employee involved
-the need for significant additional staff training
-the need for purchasing specialist computer software programs which will have no other effective use

-the loss of productivity of staff from undertaking their normal duties

Council will be required to allocate an estimate of $35,000 to $40,000 in the 2012/2013 budget for the 2012 Bourke Shire Local Government Election.

Resolution

454/2011 Council resolved to delegate to the Council Executive to monitor and evaluate all new information in relation to the conduct of the 2012 Local Government Election and to make a final decision before 30th November 2011 regarding the choice of who to engage to conduct the 2012 Bourke Shire Council Local Government Election based on any new information, but in the absence of any new information then Council is to engage the New South Wales Electoral Commission for the conduct of the 2012 Bourke Shire Council Local Government Election.
Moved Cr Davis Seconded Cr Collis-McAnespie Carried Unstarred

File No:	**I1.1**
Report: 349/2011	**ICAC Public Inquiry**
Responsible Officer:	**Geoff Wise, General Manager**

The following report is proposed to be held in Closed Session under Personal matters concerning particular individuals , (Section 10A(2)(a)) of the Local Government Act, 1993 personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer, as the report only deals with alleged events which have not been verified.

Resolution

455/2011 Council resolved to discuss the ICAC Public Inquiry in the Closed Session of Council.
Moved Cr Davis Seconded Cr Collis-McAnespie Carried Unstarred

File No:	**R6.9.2-R6.9**
Report: 350/2011	**Water Sharing Plan for the Barwon- Darling**
Responsible Officer:	**Geoff Wise, General Manager**

The draft Water Sharing Plan for the Barwon-Darling Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2011 has now been released. A copy of the draft plan has been issued to Councillors for comment and discussion.

The plan outlines that:

> "More than 50 water sharing plans have already commenced in NSW, bringing sources under the management and licensing provisions of the Water Management Act 2000, now accounting for over 90% of water extracted in the state.

> These plans protect the health of our water sources while also providing water users with access licences, equitable conditions, and increased opportunities to trade water through separation of land and water".

Importantly the plan outlines the rules for managing access licences and sets annual and daily extraction limits.

The Water sharing plan is now on public exhibition for comment. A public exhibition session will take place in Bourke at noon on the 2nd of November at the Bourke Oxley Club

Resolution

456/2011 Council resolved that the report in regards to the Water Sharing Plan for the Barwon-Darling Rivers presented at the October 2011 Council meeting be noted.		
Moved Cr Bartley	**Seconded Cr Holmes**	**Carried**

457/2011 Council resolved to seek an extension of time for the Draft Water Sharing Plan for the Barwon-Darling Rivers.		
Moved Cr Stutsel	**Seconded Cr Dorrington**	**Carried**

458/2011 Council resolves to seek improvements in the Draft Water Sharing Plan regarding conditions for access to water for licence holders who only hold small total licence volumes.		
Moved Cr Stutsel	**Seconded Cr Holmes**	**Carried**

Open Forum

10.05am - Open Forum of Council

459/2011 Council resolved to suspend Standing Orders to conduct Open Forum		
Moved Cr Bartley	**Seconded Cr Dorrington**	**Carried**

Cr Bartley left the meeting at 10.06am to participate in Open Forum

Lisa Harrison – Support for Reclaim the Night White Ribbon Day
Victor Bartley – Disposal of Needles

10.17am

460/2011 Council resolved to resume Standing Orders		
Moved Cr Dorrington	**Seconded Cr Stutsel**	**Carried**

10.17am - Cr Bartley returned to the Meeting

461/2011 - Council resolved to arrange a meeting of Health Service providers to address the problems relating to needle access, usage and disposal.		
Moved Cr Bartley	**Seconded Cr Hollman**	**Carried**

CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT REPORT

File No:	**F1.1**
Report: 464/2011	**Bank Reconciliation & Statement of Bank Balances**
Responsible Officer:	**Leonie Brown, Manager Corporate Services**

Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 30.9.2011

Balances as per Bank Statement	766,028.83
Plus: Deposit not shown	15,407.25
Less: Unpresented Cheques	98,138.85
Less: Unprocessed EFTPOS	233.25
Balance as per Cash Book	**683,063.98**

Reconciled Ledger Accounts as at 30.9.2011

Fund or Account	Current Balance	Overdraft Statutory Limit
General	4,051,410.28	5,345,500.00
Water	1,943,646.71	
Sewer	2,213,182.28	
Trust	33,911.66	
Total Funds	**8,242,150.93**	

Investments as at 30.9.2011

National Australia Bank	502,141.10	5.59%	90 Days	A1+
National Australia Bank	1,014,054.80	5.64%	90 Days	A1+
National Australia Bank	301,284.66	5.81%	90 Days	A1+
National Australia Bank	608,373.70	5.81%	90 Days	A1+
National Australia Bank	312,698.65	5.81%	90 Days	A1+
National Australia Bank	830,793.51	5.7%	90 Days	A1+
National Australia Bank	428,389.64	5.75%	92 Days	A1+
National Australia Bank	942,956.37	5.75%	90 Days	A1+
National Australia Bank	811,342.47	5.77%	91 Days	A1+
National Australia Bank	507,052.05	5.85%	91 Days	A1+
National Australia Bank	1,300,000.00	5.83%	150 Days	A1+
Total Investments	**7,559,086.95**			

In accordance with Clause 212 of the Local Government Act (General) Regulation 2005 is certified that the above investments have been made under Sec 625 of the Local Government Act and Council's Investment Policy.

Reconciliation at 30.9.2011

Balance as per cash book	**683,063.98**
Investments	**7,559,086.95**
Total, equalling Reconciled Ledger	**8,242,150.93**

	Balance	Transaction	Balance
	31.8.2011		**30.9.2011**
General Fund	2,833,344.07	1,218,066.21	4,051,410.28
Water Fund	1,909,560.69	34,086.02	1,943,646.71
Sewer Fund	2,149,645.48	63,536.80	2,213,182.28
Trust Fund	33,752.16	159.50	33,911.66
Investments	-6,240,692.43	-1,318,394.52	-7,559,086.95
Totals	**685,609.97**	**-2,545.99**	**683,063.98**

Balance of all Funds as at 31.8.2011 **685,609.97**

Add Receipts for	
(a) Rates	477,461.43
(b) Other Cash	2,491,616.72
Deduct payments for	
(a) Paid since last meeting	1,653,229.73
(b) New Investment	1,318,394.52
Balance as at 30.9.2011	**683,063.87**

Resolution

462/2011 Council resolved that the Certificate of Reconciliation of the Cash Book for all funds of the Council and the Statement of Bank Balances as at 30.9.2011 be noted.
Moved Cr Dorrington Seconded Cr Bartley Carried

Leonie Brown
Leonie Brown
MANAGER OF CORPORATE SERVICES

File No:	**F1.1**
Report:465/2011	**Investment Report as at 30th September 2011**
Responsible Officer:	**Leonie Brown, Manager Corporate Services**

Introduction
Under the Local Government Act 1993 and Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, the Responsible Accounting Officer is required to report on Council's Investment portfolio on a monthly basis.

Background
The format of the report has been updated to incorporate the requirements of Investment Guidelines released by the Division of Local Government on the 25th May 2010 and incorporate the new corporate reporting format.

Issues

- Investments are in accordance with Division of Local Government Guidelines and Council's Investment Policy
- Statutory obligations are being met
- Councillors roles as resource allocators and policy directors are satisfied

Assessment

1. **Legal Implications Including Directives and Guidelines**
   Local Government Act 1993
   Local Government (General) Regulation 2005

   The management of Council's investments is delegated by the General Manager to the Manager of corporate Services.

2. **Financial Implications/Consideration**
   The revised 2011/12 Budget estimates the total investment revenue as $200,000 which represents an estimated return of 2%. This revenue is split proportionally across General, Water and Sewer Funds and changes on a monthly basis in accordance with cashflow requirements.

   The market value of Council's Investments held as at 30th September 2011 is $7,559,086.95.

3. **Policy Provisions – Council Policy and Procedure**
   Policy 1.8.10 – Investment Policy adopted 29th November 2010.
   Ministerial Investment Order – 12th January 2011

4. **Strategic Implications – Implications For Long Term Plans/Targets**
   Funds are invested in accordance with identified cash flow requirements

Investment Portfolio

Council's current Investment Portfolio is as follows:-

Term Deposits

National Australia Bank	502,141.10	5.59%	90 Days	A1+
National Australia Bank	1,014,054.80	5.64%	90 Days	A1+
National Australia Bank	301,284.66	5.81%	90 Days	A1+
National Australia Bank	608,373.70	5.81%	90 Days	A1+
National Australia Bank	312,698.65	5.81%	90 Days	A1+
National Australia Bank	830,793.51	5.7%	90 Days	A1+
National Australia Bank	428,389.64	5.75%	92 Days	A1+
National Australia Bank	942,956.37	5.75%	90 Days	A1+
National Australia Bank	811,342.47	5.77%	91 Days	A1+
National Australia Bank	507,052.05	5.85%	91 Days	A1+
National Australia Bank	1,300,000.00	5.83%	150 Days	A1+
Total Investments	**7,559,086.95**			

Percentage of Total Portfolio 100 %
Average Investment Yield 5.75%

Portfolio Performance
The 90 day BBSW (Bank Bill Swap Rate) as at the 30th September 11 was 4.82%.

Certification – Responsible Accounting Officer
I hereby certify that the investments listed in the attached report have been made in accordance with Section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993, clause 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 and Council's Investment Policy.

Resolution

463/2011 Council resolved: **1. That the report regarding Council's Investment Portfolio as at 30th September 2011 be received and noted.** **2. That the Certificate of the Responsible Accounting Officer be noted and the report adopted.** **Moved Cr Dorrington Seconded Cr Bartley Carried**

File No:	**O2.1**
Report: 466/2011	**Work Health and Safety Legislation**
Responsible Officer:	**Leonie Brown, Manager Corporate Services**

Summary:
New Work Health and Safety Legislation will come into effect from 1 January 2012. Five staff from Bourke Shire Council travelled to Cobar to attend a workshop on the new Legislation on 12th October 2011. The workshop was a joint initiative of Local Government and Shires Association, Work Cover NSW and State Cover Mutual Limited.

B**ackground:**
Under the new work health and safety (WHS) laws, effective from 1 January 2012, the term 'employers' will be replaced by 'persons conducting a business or undertaking' (PCBU) a PCBU includes corporations, associations, partnerships, labour hire business and franchisees and 'employees' will be replaced by 'workers' a worker includes employees, independent contractors, apprentices, outworkers, trainees, work experience and volunteers

Object of the WHS Act 2011 include:
- Secure the health and safety of workers and workplaces
- Elimination or minimisation of risks
- Fair and effective representation, consultation, co-operation and issue resolution
- Encourage PCBU'S, workers and industry groups to play a constructive role
- Provision of advice, information, education and training
- Effective and appropriate compliance and enforcement measures

Some key changes:

- Primary duty expanded: imposed beyond 'employers' and is owned to all workers not only 'employees'
- New positive duty of care for "Officers", with due diligence defined
- Expanded consultation obligations between duty holders and Health and Safety Representatives (HSRs) for work groups
- Increased penalties and broader compliance such as enforceable undertakings
- Changes to power of union officials

Who is an Officer of a PCBU

- An officer within the meaning of s9 of the Corporations Act 2001 'a person who makes or participates in making decisions that affect the whole or substantial part of the organisation'
- But will **exclude**:
    - Ministers of the Crown
    - Elected members of local authorities (Councillors)
    - Partners in a partnership

Penalties for Breaches of Duties

Category 1	Corporation: $3m Individual as a PCBU or an officer: $600k / 5 years jail Individual e.g. worker: $300k / 5 years jail	Exposure to risk with death or serious injury
Category 2	Corporation: $1.5m Individual as a PCBU or an officer:$300K Individual e.g. worker: $150k	Possible risk causing death or serious injury
Category 3	Corporation: $500k Individual as a PCBU or an officer: $100k Individual e.g. worker: $50k	Breaches Without exposure to death or serious injury

Your responsibilities as an officer

As an officer of a corporation, you must exercise due diligence to ensure the corporation complies with its OHS duties. These duties include:

- General duties relating to health, safety and welfare at work
- Consultation
- Notifying workplace incidents
- Other relevant provisions in the regulations. (none prescribed at this stage)

Due diligence means taking reasonable steps to ensure compliance mechanisms are in place that enables a corporation to meet its OHS responsibilities.

What should Council do?

- Identify the officers of the Council
- Ensure they have training in due diligence requirements
- Establish a due diligence framework for the Council

Management will be required to review all Policies and ensure the safety of all workers

Consideration of Councillors includes:

- Impact of policy making, decision making and strategic functions of WH&S
- Impact of decisions made by members of Committees formed under section 355 of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)
- Capacity for surcharging under section 435 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW)

Financial Implications:
Council will need to take all reasonable steps to ensure the safety of all employees. Estimates for training are included in current and future budgets and have been taken into account within the Integrated Planning and Reporting document.

Resolution

464/2011 Council resolved to note the report on the new Work Health and Safety Legislation.
Moved Cr Stutsel Seconded Cr Holmes Carried

File No:	**P4.2**
Report: 467/2011	**Council properties for Sale – Amendment to Management Plan**
Responsible Officer:	**Leonie Brown**

Council has previously resolved that the following properties be offered to the community for sale as they are considered surplus to Council requirements and to be advertised in the Public Notice of the Management Plan in May and June 2011. This report was omitted from the current Management Plan and not advertised.

Management have recently advertised the properties for sale for the 28 day advertising period. During the period no submissions were received from the Public.

No	Property	Address	Zoning	Title
7	Vacant	19 Adelaide St, Bourke	2t Township	Lot 1DP 758144
8	Vacant	13 Adelaide St, Bourke	2t Township	Lot 2, Sec 95 DP 758144
9	Vacant	20 Adelaide St, Bourke	2t Township	Lot 1, DP 392429
17	VRA Shed	69 Darling St, Bourke	2t Township	Lot 2 DP 510411
23	Girl Guide Hall	71 Hope St, Bourke	2t Township	Lot 4, Dp 528580
24	Vacant	1 a Hope St, Bourke	2t Township	Lot 2, DP 508326
27	Vacant	10 Meek St, Bourke	2t Township	Lot 1, DP 506438
32	Vacant	5 Mertin St, Bourke	2t Township	Lot 1, DP 387739
36	Vacant	105 Mitchell St, Bourke	2t Township	Lot 14, DP 36335
37	Vacant	103 Mitchell St, Bourke	2t Township	Lot 13 DP 36335
38	Vacant	101 Mitchell St, Bourke	2t Township	Lot 12 DP 36335
39	Vacant	99 Mitchell St, Bourke	2t Township	Lot 11, DP 36335

40	Vacant	97 Mitchell St, Bourke	2t Township	Lot 10, DP 36335
41	Vacant	95 Mitchell St, Bourke	2t Township	Lot 9, DP 36335
42	Vacant	93 Mitchell St, Bourke	2t Township	Lot 8, DP 35739
43	Vacant	91 Mitchell St, Bourke	2t Township	Lot 7, DP 35739
47	Vacant	78 Mitchell St, Bourke	2t Township	Lot 1, DP 35797
48	Vacant	80 Mitchell St, Bourke	2t Township	Lot 2, 35797
49	Vacant	82 Mitchell St, Bourke	2t Township	Lot 3, DP 35797
50	Vacant	84 Mitchell St, Bourke	2t Township	Lot 4, DP 35797
51	Vacant	88 Mitchell St, Bourke	2t Township	Lot 6, DP 35797
52	Vacant	90 Mitchell St, Bourke	2t Township	Lot 7, DP 35797
53	Vacant	92 Mitchell St, Bourke	2t Township	Lot 8, DP 35797
54	Vacant	94 Mitchell St, Bourke	2t Township	Lot 9, DP 35797
55	Vacant	96 Mitchell St, Bourke	2t Township	Lot 10, DP 35797
56	Vacant	18 Mooculta St, Bourke	2t Township	Lot A, DP 412968
64	Vacant	6 Yanda St, Bourke	2t Township	Lot 1, DP 508326
70	Vacant	Bourke St, Byrock	2v Village	Lot 1, DP 183201
74	Vacant	Aubrey Street, Fords Bridge	2v Village	Lot 7, Section 30, DP 758419
76	Vacant	Howard St Fords Bridge	2v Village	Lot 7&8, Section 29 DP 758419
77	Vacant	Howard St Fords Bridge	2v Village	Lot 9&10, Section 44, DP 758419
78	Vacant	Ross St Fords Bridge	2v Village	Lot 18, 19&20, Section 43 DP 758419
88	Vacant	Macquarie St, North Bourke	5a Special Uses	Lot 6&7, Section 6, DP 758781
89	Vacant	Macquarie St, North Bourke	2v Village	Lot 5&6, Section 11 DP 758781
97	Vacant	2 Tudor St	2t Township	Lot 1&2, DP 390952
112	Vacant	49 Mitchell Hwy	2t Township	Lot 152 Dp 1068536
	Vacant	Bryant Way, North Bourke	4a Industrial	Lot 101, DP 1049207.
	Vacant	Bryant Way, North Bourke	4a Industrial	Lot 100, DP 104927
	Vacant	Bryant Way, North Bourke	4a Industrial	Lot 11, DP 1041841

Resolution

465/2011 Council resolved to note the information contained in the sale of Council properties report and endorse the inclusion of Council Properties for sale in the current Management Plan.
Moved Cr Dorrington Seconded Cr Bartley Carried

MANAGER OF TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT

File No:	**L8.20**
Report: 403/2011	**Integrated Planning and Reporting**
Responsible Officer:	**Phil Johnston**

The draft Bourke Shire Council Community Strategic Plan is now available for public comment. The draft has been developed in consultation with over thirty community groups who attended a number of public meetings. Overall the attendance and feedback has been excellent and has provided us with a clear view of the community's wishes for the Shire.

The objectives of the Bourke Shire Community Strategic Plan fall into four main categories. These are:

- Working effectively to ensure a harmonious and sustainable community
- Ensure the long term sustainability of residents and businesses within the Shire
- Sustaining the environmental qualities of the Shire
- Working effectively with our community to achieve our long term vision.

Councillors will recall that once the draft plan is adopted the plan will need to be prioritised to include a 4 year delivery plan out of which our yearly operational plans will be developed.

The timing's to complete the planning process is:

Action	Date
Draft Bourke Shire Strategic Plan presented to Council and approved for public exhibition	24th October 2011
Public submissions process ends	25th November 2011
Councillors review public submissions and adopt Bourke Shire Community Strategic Plan Councillor workshop held to prioritise action items for the development of 4 year delivery plan	28th November 2011 28th November 2011
Delivery plan and resourcing strategy presented to Council for adoption	27th February 2012

The Bourke Shire Community Strategic Plan 2012-2022 is now presented to Councillors for discussion prior to being distributed to the public for further comment.

Resolution

466/2011 Council resolved that the draft Bourke Shire Community Strategic Plan 2012-2022 be placed on public exhibition for comment until the 25th November 2011.
Moved Cr Bartley Seconded Cr Hollman Carried

Resolution

467/2011 Council resolved to acknowledge the excellent work done by Phil Johnston, Manager of Tourism & Development and Letiticia Tiffen, Community Governance Officer in the development of the Integrated Planning & Reporting process.
Moved Cr Bartley Seconded Cr Hollman Carried

DELEGATES REPORT

File No:	**R11.1**
Report: 614/2011	**Regional Development Australia Summit 6th October 2011**
Responsible Officer:	**Geoff Wise, General Manager**

- The General Manager attended a workshop convened by Regional Development Australia, Orana Region (RDA), in Dubbo on 6th October, , involving approximately 50 people from across the Orana Region.
- The object of the workshop was to identify potential large, strategic, sustainable infrastructure projects for the Orana Region for which expressions of interest for funding may be made to the Commonwealth and State Governments. Ideally, projects of $100 million or more in value were sought.
- Infrastructure categories were divided into Transport, Water, IT/Telecommunications, Energy and Other.
- Over twenty "collectives" of projects were identified, with many of these being composed of multiple components. A general prioritisation was carried out.
- The next step is for the Board of RDA to review the outcomes from the workshop and to prioritise more formally.
- From a Bourke perspective, examples of infrastructure proposals which potentially are "on the list" include:
    - Increasing town water storage by raising the weir
    - The Barwon Electorate Roads project, including sealing the regional roads, particularly the Bourke to Wanaaring Road, and timber bridges replacement program.
    - Development of heavy vehicle access routes around many towns
    - A new abattoir
    - A new Indigenous Cultural Centre
    - Improved mobile phone coverage and internet access and speed.
    - A regionally based weather radar station.
    - Local medium sized solar powered electricity generation capable of supplying the average daily town energy usage.

Resolution

468/2011 Council resolved to note the delegate's report of the General Manager's participation in a Regional Development Australia Summit held in Dubbo on 6th October 2011.
Moved Cr Davis Seconded Cr Collis-McAnespie Carried Unstarred

File No:	**D4.7**
Report: 615/2011	**Orana Regional Organisation of Council's Board Meeting 7th October 2011**
Responsible Officer:	**Geoff Wise, General Manager**

- Mayor Andrew Lewis and General Manager attended the Board Meeting of the Orana Regional Organisation of Council (OROC) Board Meeting in Dubbo on 7th October.
- Key agenda items applicable to Bourke Shire Council include:
    - Councils within OROC propose to develop a regional approach to lobby Governments for systemic structural reforms associated with welfare, social management and economic development in less advantaged communities across NSW.
    - OROC will make recommendations through the Shires Association of NSW proposing amendments to the administration of natural disaster emergency assistance provisions.
    - All Councils are experiencing similar concerns regarding the available information to allow for informed decisions as to who should be responsible for running the 2012 Local Government Elections.
    - OROC is acting on behalf of all Councils in the Orana Region to obtain the best information to allow the best decisions to be made regarding a proposal by Essential Energy to upgrade the streetlights across the region.

Resolution

469/2011 Council resolved to note the report of the Mayor and General Manager's participation in the Orana Regional Organisation of Council's Board Meeting on 7th October 2011.		
Moved Cr Stutsel	**Seconded Cr Ford**	**Carried**

Resolution @ 11.07am Standing Order

470/2011 Council resolved to suspend Standing Orders		
Moved Cr Ford	**Seconded Cr Stutsel**	**Carried**

Darling River Local Area Command
Superintendent Michael Thomas
Inspector Tim Chinn

Resolution @ 11.44am

471/2011 Council resolved to resume Standing Orders.		
Moved Cr Holmes	**Seconded Cr Dorrington**	**Carried**

Cr Ford left the meeting @ 11.44am

File No:	**R7.1**
Report: 616/2011	**Barwon Electorate Strategic Roads Project Meeting 30th September 2011**
Responsible Officer:	**Geoff Wise, General Manager**

- The General Manager participated in a meeting of the Barwon Electorate Regional Roads Project held in Nyngan on 30th September 2011.
- The aim of the project is to identify over $100 million worth of road improvements needed across the Barwon Electorate to allow for an application for a funding grant under Infrastructure NSW.
- Bourke's initial submission includes:
    - Corner Country Highway Seal to Wanaaring $50 million
    - Coonbilly Bridge Replacement $600,000
    - Regional Roads Bridges Upgrade $30 million
- Due to the inputs from other Councils, Bourke was encouraged to add the following:
    - Complete sealing of all Regional Roads in the Bourke Shire, which includes from Bourke to Shire boundaries beyond Louth, and Bourke to Hungerford.
    - Be part of a general submission for heavy vehicle access routes bypassing towns.
- Councils across the Barwon Electorate have engaged Jillian Kilby to coordinate development of a submission aimed to be sent to the NSW Government.
- Councillor Mike Montgomery, from Moree, has agreed to be the voluntary Chair for the development of the project.

Resolution

472/2011 Council resolved to note the report of the General Manager's participation in the Barwon Electorate Strategic Roads Project Meeting at Nyngan on 30th September 2011.
Moved Cr Davis Seconded Cr Collis-McAnespie Carried Unstarred

Cr Ford returned to the meeting @11.54am

File No:	R11
Report: 617/2011	Western Division Councils of NSW Mid Year Conference Hillston, 21st October 2011,
Responsible Officer:	Geoff Wise, General Manager

Mayor Andrew Lewis and General Manager drove to Hillston on 20th October to attend the Western Division Group of Council's Mid Year Conference, Hillston, on 21st October 2011.

Approximately 35 representatives attended.

Main agenda actions included:

- Resolution to increase annual subscriptions from $1600 to $1900.
- Most if not all Western Division Councils anticipate using Electoral Commission for 2012 Elections.
- Possibility of Bourke Council sharing a Returning Officer with Cobar, Bogan, Brewarrina and Walgett to save costs.
- Expectation that the Western Group of Shires will remain a strong force irrespective of the expectation of a move towards "One Association".
- The Destination 2036 strategic meeting of all Councils was an initiative of the Director General, and not of the Minister. The three key components are:
    - Seeking a review of the Local Government Act
    - Seeking more viable financial support for Local governments
    - Amalgamations only if voluntarily requested from "the bottom up", and mainly focused on Sydney Councils.
- Eagerness for the current arrangements with Rural Fire Services to be changed to allow Councils to have greater involvement from a business perspective.
- A delegation to approach Premier seeking shortening of daylight saving periods.
- Resolution seeking to allow National Parks to be commercialised and to pay rates.
- Seeking sponsorship for road signage at each major entrance to the Western Division.
- Resolution that the Western Division Group of Councils write to the Premier, NSW Ombudsman, LGSA and the Commonwealth & State members of Parliament serving the western division;
    - Endorsing the ombudsman conclusion that there is a "need to do things differently" in communities with significant numbers of Aboriginal people, and
    - Offering for our Council's to work cooperatively with both the recently appointed Ministerial Taskforce for Aboriginal Affairs and with Governments to address Aboriginal Issues differently.
- Next year's annual conference will be held in Broken Hill from 26th to 28th February 2012.

Resolution

473/2011 Council resolves to note the late report from the General Manager regarding the Mayor and General Manager's attendance at the Western Division Councils of NSW Mid Year Conference, in Hillston, on 21st October 2011.
Moved Cr Dorrington Seconded Cr Stutsel Carried

Resolution

474/2011 Council resolved to write to the Premier, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, NSW Ombudsman, LGSA and the Local Commonwealth & State members of Parliament;

- **Endorsing the Ombudsman conclusion that there is a "need to do things differently" in communities with significant numbers of Aboriginal people, and**
- **Offering for our Council to work cooperatively with both the recently appointed Ministerial Taskforce for Aboriginal Affairs and with Governments to address Aboriginal Issues differently.**

Moved Cr Dorrington Seconded Cr Stutsel Carried

Cr Holmes left the meeting at 12.35pm

PRÉCIS OF CORRESPONDENCE

File No:	**D5.2**
Report: 937/2011	**Community Contribution – Enngonia & District Field Day**
Author:	**Kim Smith, Secretary - Enngonia & District Field Day**

Requesting Council support in the amount of $3,000 to assist with start up costs for Field Day e.g. advertising and insurance. To be held at Enngonia during 2012 to raise money for the RFDS and the community.

Recommendation:
For Council's consideration

Resolution

475/2011 Council resolved to advise the Enngonia & District Field Day Committee that Council will be a silver sponsor with $300 cash and $700 in-kind support.
Moved Cr Davis Seconded Cr Stutsel Carried

2.08pm - Cr Victor Bartley, Geoff Wise, General Manager, Leonie Brown, Manager of Corporate Services and Phil Johnston, Manager of Tourism & Development declared an interest and left the room.

File No:	**D5.2**
Report: 938/2011	**Community Contribution – Bourke Rotary Club**
Author:	**Geoff Wise, Bowelscan Coordinator – Rotary**

Background:

- The Rotary Region 9670 which covers this region has been participating in an annual program to conduct Bowel Scans, utilising the support of local Pharmacists.
- Last year, 49 people in western towns were detected with indicators of early signs of cancer through this program. These people are now having further investigations.
- Rotary has requested support from all Councils in the region to print a one page standard promotional flyer for the program and to distribute the flyer with the January 2012 rate notices.

Financial implications:

- The estimated cost to Council is $180 for the supply of the flyer.
- Members of the Bourke Rotary Club will voluntarily provide labour for the project.
- Funding requested from Community Contributions vote, with application and copy of flyer attached.

Recommendation:
For Council's consideration

Resolution

476/2011 Council resolved to donate printing of the Bowelscan flyer to the cost of $180
Moved Cr Ford Seconded Cr Dorrington Carried

2.15pm - Cr Victor Bartley, Geoff Wise, General Manager, Leonie Brown, Manager of Corporate Services and Phil Johnston, Manager of Tourism & Development returned to the meeting.

File No:	**M2.2- G2.2 – C11.12**
Report: 939/2011	**Invitation – Remembrance Day Ceremony**
Author:	**RSL & Bourke Bowling Club**

Inviting representatives from Bourke Shire Council to attend the Remembrance Day Ceremony to be held in Bourke on 11th November 2011 at the Cenotaph by 10.45am.

Recommendation:
For Council's consideration

Resolution

477/2011 Council resolved that representatives from Bourke Shire Council attend the Remembrance Day Ceremony to be held in Bourke on the 11th November 2011.		
Moved Cr Dorrington	**Seconded Cr Ford**	**Carried**

File No:	**D3.1**
Report: 940/2011	**Teacher Housing – Green Street**
Author:	**Phillip Shelley, General Manager – Teacher Housing**

Advising that the Green Street Teacher Housing units will be vacated at the end of this school year and that the authority will be arranging for their demolition soon after.

Recommendation:
For Council's consideration

Motion

/2011 Council resolved to offer for sale suitable housing blocks to the Department of Education for Teacher Housing.		
Moved Cr Stutsel	**Seconded Cr Hollman**	**Lost**

Resolution

478/2011 Council resolved to note receipt of the letter from the Teacher Housing and that Council encourage that the flats be rebuilt and be retained by Teacher Housing.		
Moved Cr Ford	**Seconded Cr Dorrington**	**Carried**

Cr Stutsel requested that his vote be recorded against the motion.

File No:	**D5.2**
Report: 941/2010	**Cunnamulla Fella Festival and PBR Challenger Series Bull Ride – Mayors Challenge**
Author:	**Cr Jo Sheppard, Mayor – Cunnamulla Fella Festival 2011**

Inviting Bourke Shire Council to once again participate in the Cunnamulla Fella Festival and PBR Challenger Series Bull Ride.

Financial Implications:
Nomination of rider is $150

Recommendation:
For Council's consideration
Resolution

479/2011 Council resolved to participate in the Cunnamulla Fella Festival and PBR Challenger Series Bull Ride – Mayors Challenge and pay the nomination of $150.00.
Moved Cr Bartley Seconded Cr Collis-McAnespie Carried

File No:	**R7.5.4**
Report: 942/2011	**State Highway 7 – Mitchell Highway, Roadside Vegetation**
Author:	**Peter Dearden, Regional Manager Western, RTA**

Thanking Council for their letter regarding the maintenance on the Mitchell Highway between Byrock and Nyngan and that they will continue to work closely with all Councils in the Western Division to ensure that ongoing roadside vegetation is appropriately managed.

Resolution

480/2011 Council resolved to note the information regarding roadside vegetation on the Mitchell Highway.			
Moved Cr Davis	**Seconded Cr Collis-McAnespie**	**Carried**	**Unstarred**

File No:	**S6.12**
Report: 943/2011	**Proposed Council Amalgamations & Representation on the Implementation Steering Committee**
Author:	**Graeme Kelly, General Secretary – United Services Union**

Expressing concerns regarding the push by the Sydney Business Chamber to see the amalgamation of 41 metropolitan Councils into 10 and challenging their assertions that the recent Destination 2036 forum called for the amalgamations of Councils.

Recommendation:
For Council's consideration

Resolution

481/2011 Council resolved to note the information regarding the proposed Council amalgamations.		
Moved Cr Ford	**Seconded Cr Hollman**	**Carried**

File No:	**S5.1-G4.9**
Report: 944/2011	**Transition of the Far West Academy of Sport**
Author:	**John Egan, Acting General Manager – Office of Communities – Sport & Recreation**

Advising that the Office of Communities has commenced preparations for the transition of the Far West Academy of Sport from a business unit of the Sport & Recreation Division to that of an independent community based incorporated organisation. They anticipate that they will be in the Bourke Shire on 5 December 2011 and would appreciate a meeting with Councillors and General Manager

Resolution

482/2011 Council resolved to note the information regarding the Transition of the Far West Academy of Sport and agree to meet with representatives on 5th December 2011 for a meeting.
Moved Cr Dorrington Seconded Cr Ford Carried

File No:	**G4.1**
Report: 945/2011	**Distribution of Financial Assistance Grants**
Author:	**The Hon. Don Page, MP – Minister for Local Government**

Responding to the Western Division Group of Councils of NSW query on the distribution of Grants by the NSW Local Government Grants Commission.

Resolution

483/2011 Council resolved to note the information from the Minister for Local Government on the distribution of Financial Assistance Grants.
Moved Cr Davis Seconded Cr Collis-McAnespie Carried Unstarred

BOURKE SHIRE COUNCIL

Activity Reports

Council Meeting, Monday, 24th October 2011

ENGINEERING SERVICES DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY REPORT

File No:	**E7.1**
Report: 110/2011	**Works Completed**
Responsible Officers:	**Bruce Gray Manager of Services, Mark Gordon Manager of Roads, Peter Brown Manager of Water & Wastewater**

1. PARKS & GARDENS – Terry Rankmore/Team Leader

Location	Work Carried Out
General	• All parks and gardens regular mowing and maintenance carried out • Sporting grounds mown • Sporting grounds facilities cleaned and maintained • Public Toilets cleaned and maintained • General graffiti removal carried out on Council Facilities
Cemetery	• Assist with graves:- 27/9/2011 3/10/2011
Small Plant	• Maintenance and service carried out on all ground plant
Works Requests	• Actioned and ongoing
Renshaw Complex	• Regular mowing and maintenance carried out, facilities cleaned and maintained
Davidson Oval	• Removal of dirt from cricket pitch

2. BUILDING SERVICES – Paul Faulkner/Team Leader

Location	Work Carried Out
Work Requests	• Actioned and ongoing
Caravan 80	• Installation of awning to complete
North Bourke Bridges	• Slashing around guard rails
Dr Housing 70 Mertin St	• Replacement of locks after break in
Signs	• Replace speed limit signs
Plant	• #38 to 40 vehicle change over • #221 Sign trailer- remove mesh floor install aluminium floor • #91 Caravan install new kitchen tap
PCYC	• Repairs to air conditioner and duct work
Renshaw complex	• Boarder door after break in
Council Office	• Repair front door lock • Install new air conditioner in computer room
Airport	• Removal of crashed helicopter from airstrip
Belalie Culvert	• Stage 1 completed- completion of footings
Staff Training	• Environmental

3. TOWN SERVICES – Troy Hayman/Team Leader

Location	Work Carried Out
Works Requests	• Daily, actioned and ongoing
Cemetery	Graves dug: • 27/9/2011 • 3/10/2011
Rest Areas	• Weekly removal of rubbish and cleaning of rest areas
Graffiti Removal	• Ongoing
Staff Training	• Nil
Sundry Debtors	• 920407- Cherry Picker 27/9/2011 • 920408- Cherry picker 5/10/2011

General	• Gravel holes in doctors laneway 27/9/2011 • Erect NO HORSES - MOTORBIKES signs on levee banks 27/9/2011 • Lift pump out at Pool 28/9/2011 • Erect 2 x town centre signs in Oxley Street 27/9/2011 • Street Sweeper Beemery Bridge Brewarrina Road removal of water 29/9/2011 • Erect signs for Exhibition Centre 28/9/2011 • Town trees pruning ongoing • Red sand to footpaths ongoing • Gravel town streets ongoing • Crane water works for plumbing concrete pipes 29/9/2011 • Pick branches up after (wind storm) 29/9/2011 • Clean drains 29/9/2011 • Erect new chevron Short Street 7/10/2011 • Remove sand from Davidson Oval 10/10/2011 • Clean up rubbish behind old Shell Depot 11/10/2011 • Clean up rubbish Brewarrina road for aggregate stock pile 11/10/2011 • Level up concrete blister's in Oxley Street for work's program Police Station 11/10/2011

4. WORKSHOP – Joel Parnaby/Acting Plant Foreman

Plant No	Rego	Description	Work Carried Out
134	YDA 082	Caterpillar 950 G	• Replace lift ram seals
135		2009 Volvo G 940	• Repair step and replace fan belt
140	AK 24 LO	Caterpillar 12 H	• Replace radiator hose • Adjust park brake • Replace cabin head lights • Adjust park brake • Replace door mirror
36	BF 16 WE	2010 Isuzu D/Max	• Replace canopy window
50		Ford PJ Ranger	• Replace rear tail light
232	N 92511	1990 Home Made Fuel Trailer HT 2	• Replace brake linings and RHM spring
44	R 71381	2007 Moore Roadtrain Dolly	• Replace lights • Adjust brakes • Replace rocker box
47	R 71368	Moore Tipper	• Adjust brakes • Repair lights
76	P 95814	2004 Moore Roadtrain Tipper	• Adjust brakes • Weld up cracks • Repair side lights
171	YDT 863	2002 Isuzu 1400 FY FVZ	• Replace driving lights • Replace bolts on rear broom • Fix fan motor bracket
41	BH 31 WN	2010 Mitsubishi Fuso	• Replace RHR axle seal, shoes and wheel bearings
60	AV 25 YJ	2008 Freightliner Columbia	• Replace fan belts • Fix coolant leak

			• Adjust brakes • Lower turntable
79	XZB 229	Freightliner	• Engine service and replace hydraulic couplings
85	AW 57 TO	2008 Isuzu 450 NQR Crew Cab	• Replace front shocks • Replace rear brake linings • Regas air conditioner • Replace fuel tank bracket
97	YUB 437	2003 Isuzu 900 F3 FTR	• Replace hydraulic hose on crane
14		2010 Isuzu D/Max	• Repair leaking fuel tank
130	YWE 633	2003 Case 75 XT	• Replace flashing light • Regas air conditioner • Replace cabin gas lift strut

5. Water and Wastewater – Shane Hopley/Acting Team Leader

Location	Work Carried Out
Job Requests	Actioned and ongoing
Risk Assessments	Completed with every job
Hydrants	Flushed and painted ongoing
Villages	• Louth – fixed hot water system
Water	• Dig up filtered main 42 Richard St • Dig up filtered main 115 Oxley St • Di g up raw main 22 Hope St • Dig up raw main 5 Warrego St • Dig up raw 6 Culgoa Street • Dig up raw main at cemetery • A number of raw taps and services attended to • New 50ml raw service bob fruits • Replace raw pump Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre • Take core samples from weir • Read water meters • A number of water meters replaced • Clean sludge pond at Water Treatment Plant
Sewer	• Shift transportable toilet at pool • New sewer boundary at 8 Becker St • New sewer boundary at 42 Mitchell St • New sewer boundary at 78 Tudor St • A number of sewer mains cleared with SECA machine and plunger
Training	• Nil
Maintenance	General clean up of sewer treatment plant

Resolution

484/2011 Council resolved to note the Engineering Services Department Activity Reports as presented to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday, 24th October 2011.
Moved Cr Davis Seconded Cr Collis-McAnespie Carried Unstarred

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

File No:	**D3.2**
Report: 210/2011	**Developments Approved Report**
Responsible Officer:	**Dwayne Willoughby, Acting Manager Environmental Services**

Delegated Authority or Council	Consent Type & Consent No.	Subject Land	Nature of Development
Delegated	**DA 2011/0026**	**Lot 2299, DP 764511 Maureenjoy Station, Bourke**	**Install Transportable Dwelling**

Total value of Approved works for September 2011 = $165,000
No. of Development Application Approvals for September 2011 = 1
No. of Complying Development Application Approvals for September 2011 = 0

File No:	**A8.1**
Report: 210/2011	**Animal Control/Environmental Issues Report**
Responsible Officer:	**Dwayne Willoughby, Acting Manager Environmental Services**

Bourke Shire Council Holding Facility	Dogs	Cats
Animals in Pound beginning of September 2011	0	0
Seized	1	0
Surrendered	2	0
Dumped	0	0
Total	**3**	**0**
Euthanased	1	0
Returned to Owner	0	0
Released from Pound	0	0
Re-housed	0	0
Died in Pound	0	0
Escaped from Pound	0	0
Animals Remaining at End of Month	2	0
Total	**3**	**0**
Micro-chip Implantations	0	0
Infringement Notices	0	0
Wandering Stock	0	
Stock Rested in Stock Yards	0	
Shopping Trolley Impounded	0	

Orders

Orders Served	Address	Reason Why	Works Required	Status	Action Taken
Emergency Order	62 Tudor St	Danger to Public	Demolition of Burnt Dwelling	Expires 27/10/11	
Cease use of temporary Building	2 Darling St, North Bourke	Not Complying with Conditions of Development Consent	Cease use of temporary Building	Expires 03/11/11	

- Attended complaints in regards to dogs causing trouble to the general public
- Ongoing patrols of the township enforcing the Companion Animal Act
- Water sampling for the township, villages and Darling river
- Patrol's of Councils Reserves

File No:	**S10.2.1**
Report: 210/2011	**Swimming Pool Report**
Responsible Officer:	**John & Tanya Milgate, Pool Managers**

Attendance for

Season Ticket Holders		Non- Season Ticket Holders	
Adult & Pensioners	**Child**	**Adult & Pensioners**	**Child**
37	238	25	62
These figures include school groups			

All jobs were completed during the winter season such as:-

- Emptied and clean both small and large pool,
- Retiled approximately 50 tiles in the large swimming pool and 12 tiles in the small swimming pool;
- Maintain the lawn and the gardens around the swimming pool grounds
- Spread red sand around the grounds to fill holes caused by the trucks cutting the trees down
- Repaired the kiosk floor, Put together five new tables to replace broken tables.

The season has started off very slow due to the cooler weather with water temperatures as low as 17 degrees on some days.

Children are still enjoying the pool being open and are well behaved.

Five staff at the Bourke Swimming Pool completed the yearly lifeguarding course and now has five fully trained lifeguards for the Bourke Swimming Pool.

Schools have started to book their swimming carnivals for 2012. All carnivals will be held in February 2012. Bourke Public School will be running Active After School care at the Swimming Pool every Wednesday for Bourke Public School students to attend. Active after school care runs from 3pm-5pm. Students will participate in swimming activities as well as general sports around the pool grounds.

Swimming Club will start on the 13th October 2011 being the first club night of the season. Bourke Swimming Club is fortunate enough to be selected to hold the Western Districts Swimming Carnival in February 2012. This carnival will be held over two days. Approximately 250-300 swimmers from the western area such as Coonamble, Dubbo, Wellington, Cobar, Nyngan, Trangie and many more small towns will be participating in this carnival.

Bourke Swimming Club's annually inter-town carnival will be held in November 2011. The inter-town carnival will also see many swimmers participating in this carnival.

Resolution

485/2011 Council resolved to note the information in the Environmental Services Activity Report as presented to Council on Monday 24th October 2011.		
Moved Cr Stutsel	**Seconded Cr Hollman**	**Carried**

Cr Davis left the meeting at 3.08pm

GENERAL MANAGER'S ACTIVITY REPORT

File No:	**G2.1**
Report: 310/2011	**"From the GM's Desk"**
Responsible Officer:	**Geoff Wise, General Manager**

6th October 2011

The reasonably general rainfall across a large part of NSW was of significant value to most areas. At this time of the year, receiving a decent rainfall event before the first onset of sustained hot windy weather conditions is a far better option than suffering the early summer onset without rain. Obviously, follow up rainfalls will be required to have any real benefit in the pastoral areas or for river flows, but the first rainfalls must come before a second can follow, so let's monitor future events with interest.

The falls upstream in the catchment of the Darling River system should ensure that the Darling will maintain a flow, no matter how small, into the early summer. This will allow Council to maintain normal water access without the need to introduce town water restrictions for several months. Despite this, it does not remove the benefits of responsible and efficient water usage, such as only watering during the cooler periods of the day, and checking to avoid all leaking taps and other plumbing.

At this time of the year, as soils vary more rapidly in the natural levels of soil moisture, soil movement and tree root invasions are a common cause of damages to underground pipes. On Tuesday this week, roots from a lemon scented gum tree fractured a filtered water main pipe, resulting in significant water loss and the necessity of the whole town filtered water distribution needing to be turned off to allow for repairs. On this occasion, Council used for the first time a newly developed "warning system" to most business houses advising of the imminent disconnection. The system involved a text message being distributed simultaneously to cooperating businesses. This warning complements warnings issued on local radio.

Coinciding with the imminent onset of summer has been the commencement of fire restrictions in open spaces. From 1st October, restrictions have commenced for burning household waste, routine agricultural purposes, vegetation burning, burning of firebreaks and of other waste products, as well as lighting fires in the open to cook food. Further information can be obtained from the Rural Fire Services personnel. The potential for major fires is far greater this year than for many previous years due to the huge build-up of dry vegetative fuel.

Motor vehicle drivers are again warned to be prepared for delays and the need to drive slowly on some highway sections when travelling towards Brewarrina, Nyngan and Cobar over coming weeks. Commencing next week, heavy patching will be undertaken on the highways towards both Brewarrina and Nyngan. Apart from short term delays where the road works are being carried out, drivers should slow down when passing any oncoming vehicles where heavy patching has recently been completed, to minimise the risk of windscreen damage from loose stones.

Once the heavy patching has been completed, shoulder widening will occur on the three highways. This will include from the southern edge of town towards the Louth Road and waste depot turnoffs on the Kidman Way, between Byrock and the shire boundary on the Mitchell Highway towards Nyngan, and at a number of locations on the Kamilaroi Highway towards Brewarrina. Whilst all the shoulder widening will provide overall improvements for driver safety, travelling delays will occur as the work is being undertaken.

The first stages of commencement of the new Bridge across the Bogan River between Bourke and Brewarrina will be noticed next week, with the contractor, Nelmac, mobilising to the site, and with pile driving commencing on Monday 17th October. Fortunately there should not be any travelling traffic delays during the bridge construction, but added caution is needed due to the proximity of the local work site and to the cross traffic of the construction crews.

To the west, Council has acquired a tractor for location at Fords Bridge to assist the local community in carrying out basic village maintenance programs, including maintenance of the sporting grounds and other public spaces. The value of community participation in the care, maintenance and beautification of our local environs is an outstanding local trait, which enhances the overall reputation of the region. On Tuesday, this week I received more highly favourable comments about the cleanliness and visual appeal of Bourke from two widely travelled Sydney visitors.

Last week Mayor Andrew Lewis, Deputy Mayor Bob Stutsel, their wives, and other Councillors and staff participated with local Police and various community representatives in the National Police Remembrance Day Service conducted in Bourke. This is a very special day celebrated to remember those serving Police Officers who have been killed or died in the course of duty. Regrettably, this includes Police killed serving in the Bourke district many years ago. Service personnel from all disciplines deserve special appreciation for their commitment to fulfilling their duties for our public benefits despite the risks involved.

Recently Mayor Andrew Lewis, Deputy Mayor Bob Stutsel and Council staff attended a meeting regarding telecommunications and the national broadband network (NBN). This government inquiry was instigated to review existing services and to gauge opinion on the potential of the NBN. Those at the meeting spoke of the need to continue to upgrade existing services such as mobile coverage and Internet speeds and reliability. No timetable has yet been given in regards to the delivery into Bourke of the NBN and questions remain as to the design and the numbers of homes that might be connected directly to the fibre. Council will continue to lobby to obtain the best available service for this region.

The ongoing efforts of Bourke and Walgett Councils working with Local Member Kevin Humphries to re-establish commercial air services to our region are slowly moving forward, with the expectation that a report will be prepared and taken to State Cabinet seeking special arrangements to allow services to be recommenced. This will inevitably be a slow process.

It is with sad regret that I report the recent death of Mary Bryant, wife of Peter Bryant. Peter served as a Councillor on Bourke Shire Council for 27 years, including significant periods as Deputy Mayor.

This week in history:
The Western Herald was established on 1st October 1887, (congratulations for 124 years of information sharing!), and on 1st October 1918 the Bourke Banner amalgamated with the Western Herald.
What happened in October 1868 which is linked to the information in the above column?

Antoine de Saint-Exupery quotes: *"**Transport** of the mails, **transport** of the human voice, **transport** of flickering pictures-in this century as in others our highest accomplishments still have the single aim of bringing people together."*

Cheers for now,
Geoff

13th October 2011

This week I am sharing a number of relatively unrelated topics to touch on the diversity of activities, which regularly come through the doors of Council.

A number of people have recently commented on the intermittent strong smells near the river around North Bourke. Investigations have indicated that there are two different contributing causes.

One is that the recent rains have disturbed the dead fish, and reactivated the putrefaction of these carcases. The recent rains have been the first significant rainfalls since the massive fish kill in March/April this year, and the first rainfall since many fish died when stranded in receding billabongs.

Secondly, the relatively stagnant river has recently experienced large green slime on the surface. This slime intermittently releases a pungent odour. Water sampling is routinely undertaken to indentify the actual contaminations within the weir pool. To the time of preparing this article there has been no evidence that the slime is a toxic algae.

The safety of our town water quality is assured for a number of reasons irrespective of the water quality in the river. The water is extracted from a deep hole in the bottom of the river, which is metres below the surface contamination. Within the water treatment plant, special treatment regimes are applied to filter out all impurities. Additional carbon treatment has been introduced specifically as an extra precaution against all algal contamination.

Council staff are frequently requested to pick up what appears to be an increasing number of syringes and needles disposed of in numerous public places. Apparently, community health policies allow for ready access to a supply of free needle packs at any time of day or night to assist drug users from developing contagious diseases through needle swapping. However, the apparent irresponsible disposal of these needles exposes the wider community members to greater risk of them innocently becoming victims of cross contamination. Information provided to me suggests that this complex issue requires well considered whole of community consideration. Personally, I do not believe that Council should be left solely responsible for having to pick up the waste from such antisocial practices.

On a positive note, I have been pleased to receive complementary remarks regarding the outstanding condition of the grounds of Davidson Oval. The benefits of the recently installed automatic irrigation system are now visually evident, with an increase in the frequency of routine mowing being necessary. Importantly, as summer approaches, more efficient water usage practices will be possible by watering the oval at night, rather than the previous necessity of inefficient daytime watering.

Another positive story relates to the success of the 28th Annual Bourke Police and Community Outback Trek, which was concluded last weekend. Bourke Council has proudly facilitated these annual events, which now attract participants from interstate and from many points across NSW. This year also saw international participants.

Bourke Shire Council is cooperating with a team of employees from Gilgandra Shire Council for the heavy patching program currently being undertaken on highways in our Shire; Gilgandra Council has specialist large plant, which complements the plant routinely used by our Council to allow for a most efficient and effective quality repair program to be carried out.

People ready to enjoy relaxation and fitness are encouraged to use the facilities of the Bourke War Memorial Swimming Pool, which is now open for the summer season. During the off-season, the Pool Manager has undertaken various repairs and maintenance, kept the grounds in good condition for the convenience of patrons and ensured that five people are appropriately trained for any emergencies. The season has commenced slowly due to the appreciated cooler weather, but no doubt, this will change sooner than we would prefer. Each summer the swimming pool is one of the main public attractions for the local community, and no doubt, this year will be no exception. Over the last couple of years, Council has undertaken major improvements to the pool by adding the shades and by reducing massive water wastage problems.

Last week Mayor Andrew Lewis and I participated in a Board meeting of the Orana Regional Organisation of Councils. This group gains financial and political leverage through working closely together for matters of interest across the Orana Region. Bulk purchase of electricity across all Councils has been one example of massive financial savings. Following a presentation to last week's meeting by Government representatives involved with natural disasters, the Group has agreed to compile a number of recommendations to reduce the financial and man-power impacts on Councils at the time of natural disasters. The group has also agreed to work collectively to develop advice to the Commonwealth and State Governments on potential ways of improving the quality of life and reducing anti social behaviour in less advantaged communities.

Last week I also participated in a summit arranged by the Orana Region of Regional Development Australia focused on large-scale strategic infrastructure opportunities to enhance regions. Whilst this is no more than compiling a wish list at present, examples put forward include sealing the Wanaaring Road, replacing numerous bridges across our Shire, raising the Bourke weir, and adding a Cultural Centre to the Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre.

This week in history:
Captain Starlight, alias Rutherford, alias Pearson, shot Constable McCabe in October of 1868. McCABE died of his wounds on 1.11.1868. On the 4th January 1869, the bushranger appeared before the Bourke Court on a charge of murder.

What significant event occurred in Bourke on 18th October 1896?

In the eighteenth century, Samuel Johnson quoted: *"Life affords no higher pleasure than that of surmounting difficulties, passing from one step of success to another, forming new wishes and seeing them gratified."*

Cheers for now,
Geoff

Resolution

486/2011 Council resolved to note the information in the General Manager's Activity Report as presented to Council on Monday 24th October 2011.			
Moved Cr Davis	**Seconded Cr Collis-McAnespie**	**Carried**	**Unstarred**

CORPORATE SERVICES ACTIVITY REPORT

File No:	**L4.1**
Report: 410/2011	**Library Manager's Report**
Responsible Officer:	**Leonie Brown, Manager of Corporate Services**

The following items for the month September 2011 are presented for your information:

1. Circulation statistics for September 2011:

Audio Visual	304
Adult Fiction	403
Non-Fiction	126
Junior Fiction	216
Magazines	57
Interlibrary Loans	2
Total	**1108**

During the same period in 2010, the figures were as follows:

Audio Visual	396
Adult Fiction	430
Non-Fiction	157
Junior Fiction	248
Magazines	40
Interlibrary Loans	2
Total	**1273**

2. There were a total of 12 new memberships: 8 adults, 2 juniors, and 2 temporary borrower. The internet/wordprocessing facilities were used 127 times. This compares to the previous years figures of 12 new memberships in September 2010, with 9 adults, 1 junior, 2 temporary borrowers, and 1 institution joining. In the same period, 173 people used the internet/word processing facilities.

3. A major weed of library stock was carried out during September. Titles not in demand have been removed from the collection and a book sale will be held next month.

4. We have rearranged books to make better use of available space and the new shelving.

If there are any questions about these items, or any library issues, please do not hesitate to contact the library.

Jodi Hatch
LIBRARY MANAGER

Resolution

487/2011 Council resolved to note the information in the Corporate Services Department Activity Report as presented to Council on Monday, 24th October 2011.
Moved Cr Davis Seconded Cr Collis-McAnespie Carried Unstarred

TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGER'S ACTIVITY REPORT

File No:	**T4.3**
Report: 510/2011	**BOBEC and VIC September 2011 Activity update**
Responsible Officer:	**Phil Johnston, Manager Tourism and Development**

During the month of September, 4295 people visited the Tourist Centre, with 1411 cruising on the Jandra and 1251 coming through the Exhibition Centre.

To the end of September, 21,719 visitors have visited the information centre this year since March 1, 2011. Visitation to the PV Jandra in September 2011 continues the upward trend for passenger numbers in September and in early October we surpassed the total number of passengers that cruised during 2010. Also significant for the Jandra is that September has been its busiest month for the year. To the end of September the Jandra had cruised for 177 days.

Graph below showing the number of visitors per month to the Exhibition Centre

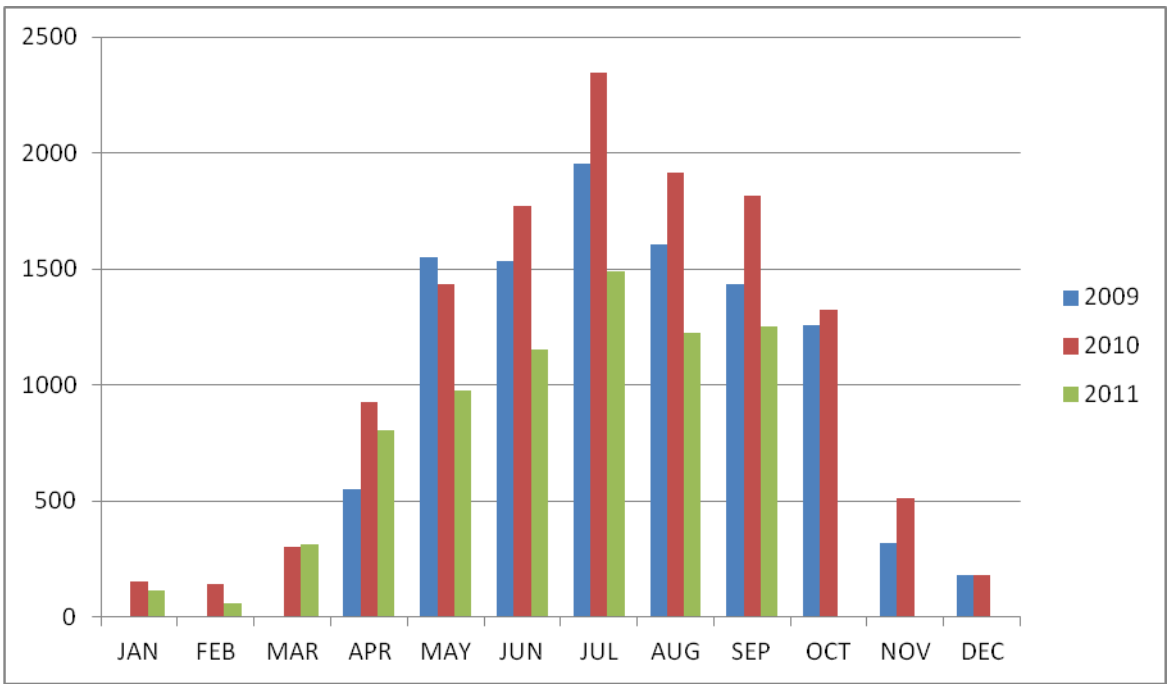

Table showing the number of visitors per month to the Exhibition Centre

Month	2009	2010	2011
January		154	113
February		139	60
March		304	312
April	551	925	807
May	1551	1433	974
June	1535	1769	1154
July	1951	2345	1489
August	1607	1916	1225
September	1433	1816	1251
October	1259	1325	
November	320	512	
December	180	182	

Table showing the number of visitors per month on the Jandra

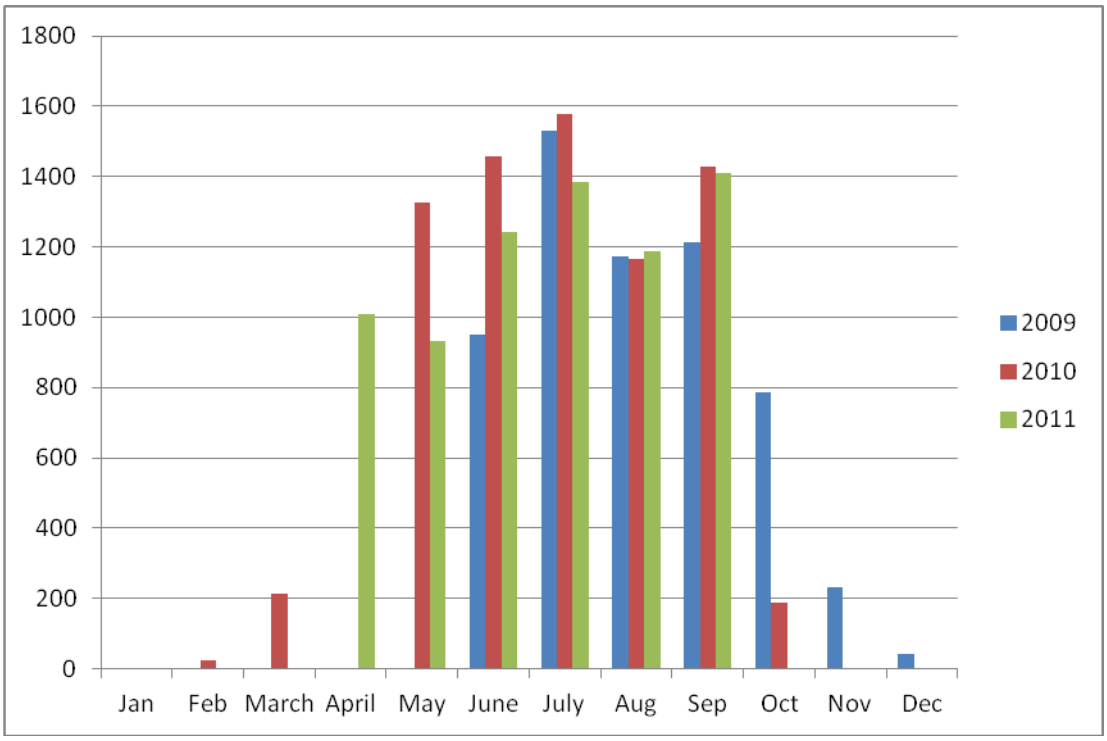

Table showing the number of visitors per month to the PV Jandra

Month	2009	2010	2011
January	Not Cruising	Not Cruising	Not Cruising
February	Not Cruising	25	Not Cruising
March	Not Cruising	213	Not Cruising
April	Not Cruising	Not Cruising	1008
May	Not Cruising	1325	932
June	949	1459	1241
July	1532	1578	1386
August	1174	1165	1186
September	1212	1429	1411
October	788	188	
November	233	Not Cruising	
December	42	Not Cruising	
Total	5930	7382	

Negotiations are continuing with a potential new tenant for the Cafe. Discussions are at an early stage. Councillors should also note that an alternative plan is being developed should a tenant not be found.

Phil Johnston
Manager of Tourism & Development

Resolution

488/2011 Council resolved to note the information in the Tourism and Development Manager's Activity Report as presented to Council on Monday, 24th October 2011.
Moved Cr Dorrington Seconded Cr Stutsel Carried

Cr Ford left the meeting at 3.35pm

Resolution

489/2011 Council resolved to thank all staff involved for the luncheon today for the Carers and Councillors.
Moved Cr Bartley Seconded Cr Collis-McAnespie Carried

Closed Session of Council

Resolution @ 3.36pm

490/2011 Council resolved to move into closed session of Council.
Moved Cr Dorrington Seconded Cr Hollman Carried

Cr Ford returned to the meeting at 3.38pm

Resolution @3.51pm

491/2011 Council resolved to return to Open Council.
Moved Cr Dorrington Seconded Cr Stutsel Carried

Resolution

492/2011 Council resolved to note and make public the resolutions from the Closed Session of Council.
Moved Cr Dorrington Seconded Cr Stutsel Carried

File No:	**I1.1**
Report: 349/2011	**ICAC Public Inquiry**
Responsible Officer:	**Geoff Wise, General Manager**

Resolution from Closed Session of Council

493/2011 Council resolved to note the matter of public interest in relation to a Public Inquiry currently being held under the initiative of the Independent Commission Against Corruption.
Moved Cr Dorrington Seconded Cr Bartley Carried

There being no further business the meeting closed at 3.51pm