



# Agenda

Ordinary meeting to be held in the Administration  
Centre, Bedourie on  
Monday, 18 September 2023 at 9:00am

## **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

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**1. Opening of Meeting**

**2. Acknowledgement Of Country**

'I would like to begin by acknowledging the Wangkamadla people, Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today, and pay my respects to their Elders past and present. I extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today.'

**3. Apologies and Leave of Absence**

**4. Condolences**

**5. Presentations and Deputations**

**6. Declarations of Interests in Matters on the Agenda**

**7. Confirmation of Minutes**

7.1 Minutes of Ordinary Meeting 21 August 2023

**8. Mayors Business**

**9. Business Outstanding – Including Conduct Matters and Matters Laying on The Table to Be Dealt With**

**10. Notices of Motion**

- Nil

**11. Officers Reports**

- 11.1 Chief Executive Officer Report
- 11.2 Sale of Birdsville Lodge
- 11.3 Corporate Services Report
- 11.4 Financial Performance Report – August 2023
- 11.5 Fees and Charges Schedule 2023/2024
- 11.6 Community and Economic Development Report
- 11.7 Infrastructure Report
- 11.8 Engineering Report
- 11.9 Birdsville Cooling Pond
- 11.10 Birdsville Footpath Project
- 11.11 Bus Stop Bore
- 11.12 Concept Design

**12. Confidential Matters**

- 12.1 Birdsville Housing Tender
- 12.2 Gravel Crushing and Stockpile Tender

**13. Late Agenda Items**

- Nil

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## 11.1. Chief Executive Officer Report

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Author: Mike Hayward | Interim Chief Executive Officer

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### Summary

The purpose of this report is to update Council on matters that do not require a separate or comprehensive report for consideration. Current operational and strategic matters and upcoming matters that may be raised at future meetings are detailed.

### Recommendation:

*That Council receive the Interim Chief Executive Officer Report and that those matters not covered by resolution be noted.*

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## MATTERS FOR COUNCILS' INFORMATION

### 1. Calendar of Events:

| Date       | Event                  | Representatives                            | Comment                                                                   |
|------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 18 Sept    | Ordinary Meeting       |                                            | Bedourie                                                                  |
| 26-28 Sept | WQAC Conference        | Mayor,<br>Dep Mayor,<br>Cr Pursell         | Accommodation has been booked and travel arrangements have been confirmed |
| 9 Oct      | Ordinary Meeting       |                                            | Bedourie                                                                  |
| 16-18 Oct  | LGAQ Annual Conference | Mayor,<br>Dep Mayor,<br>Cr Rowlands<br>CEO | Accommodation has been booked and travel arrangements have been confirmed |
| 20 Nov     | Ordinary Meeting       |                                            | Birdsville Wirrarri Centre                                                |

### 2. Delegations

During the month, the CEO exercised the following delegated powers under section 194 of the *Local Government Act 2009*:

| Organisation           | Type    | Description                                                          | Value      |
|------------------------|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Long Drive for Drought | In-Kind | Camping Fees (Birdsville Tourist Park Western Overflow) & Table hire | \$2,501.00 |
|                        |         |                                                                      |            |

### 3. 2024 Revaluation Program

Correspondence has been received from Department Resources advising that Diamantina Shire council will be one of the 20 LGAs included in the 2024 revaluation program.

New land valuations will be issued by 31 March 2024 and will take effect for local government rates purposes from 30 June 2024.

Copy of correspondence and list of local governments included in 2024 revaluation program are attached.

## **MATTERS FOR COUNCILS' CONSIDERATION**

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### **4. Resolutions Register:**

The register of outstanding council resolutions is attached for councilors information and comment.

At the August 2023 Ordinary Meeting, council resolved that all elected members review the Resolutions Register to identify any actions that have been completed or are no longer required; and to give the CEO a list of any identified resolutions for presentation to the October 2023 ordinary meeting for a formal resolution to remove them from the register.

At the time of preparation of the September 2023 meeting agenda, only Cr Pursell has provided a list of identified resolutions. The matters identified by Cr Pursell have been updated in the register.

### **5. Staff Christmas Party**

Council has adopted a Human Resources Policy (Policy No. 21) which includes a provision for an annual Staff Christmas Party.

The policy provides that:

- Council will host a staff Christmas party every year on a day agreed by Council.
- The day of the Christmas party will be considered a normal work day and staff will be entitled to claim ordinary days pay. Prior supervisor approval must be obtained for any claims above the ordinary hours of 7.63hrs or 8hrs.
- All Council staff must attend unless they are on approved leave. Non-attendees will be considered to be on leave without pay and will not receive a gift.
- Staff may leave the party after speeches and gifts have been presented.
- The immediate family of the employee are invited to attend. Immediate family will include children, siblings, parents and grandparents.
- Contractors who have regularly worked with staff are invited to attend.
- The following staff are eligible to receive a gift to the value of approximately \$100:
  - permanent fulltime or part-time; and casuals, if they have worked over 100 hours during the current calendar year, regardless of whether they are currently engaged. Other Casual staff are not eligible to receive a gift.
  - part-time or full-time Maximum Term staff, if they have worked during the current calendar year regardless of whether they are currently engaged.
- Eligible staff must attend the Christmas party or be on authorised leave to receive a gift

Whilst the policy states that council will host a staff Christmas Party every year and sets out various criteria in relation to attendance, gifts etc, the policy is silent on the formation of a working group to organize the Christmas party and associated gifts.

It is understood that each year a staff notice is circulated calling for members of staff to nominate to be on the Christmas Party working group.

Cr Pursell has advised that council discussed last year's Christmas party in January 2023 with the then Interim CEO due to various issues identified at last year event.

Cr Pursell has further advised that it was noted that this matter be revisited at the September 2023 meeting. A review of the January 2023 agenda and minutes does not record any discussion on the matter.

It is noted that the Human Resources Policy was last reviewed in December 2021 and was scheduled for review in March 2023. There is no record that this policy has been reviewed since December 2021.

At the August 2023 Ordinary Meeting, council resolved to establish a Policy Working group (resolution 202.08.21-OM-08) to review all council corporate and statutory policies. The Human Resources Policy is a corporate policy and as such is captured under this resolution and given that this policy is currently overdue for review, the opportunity exists for council to discuss changes to the policy and to have the policy working group review and present the Human Resources Policy to the October 2023 council meeting which should allow sufficient time to prepare for the 2023 staff Christmas party.

**Attachments:**

[Resolutions Register](#)

[Correspondence – 2024 Revaluation Program](#)

[Local governments areas included in the 2024 revaluation program](#)

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## 11.2. Sale of Birdsville Lodge

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer  
Author: Mike Hayward | Interim Chief Executive Officer  
Link to Corporate Plan: 

- Long-term financial sustainability

  
Consultation: Cr Rob Dare | Mayor

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### Summary

The purpose of this report is to confirm if council still wishes to offer the Birdsville Lodge for sale

### Officers Recommendation

|                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------|
| That council authorize the Mayor to make enquiries |
|----------------------------------------------------|

### Relevant Policy/Legislation

- *Local Government Regulation – Chapter 6 Division 2 [Entering into particular contracts]*

### Background Information

Council has signed a Head Funding Deed of Agreement with the State of Queensland, acting through the Department of Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience, relating to financial assistance available under Departmental Grant Funding programs.

The Head Agreement records the terms and conditions under which the relevant organisation (Council) will accept grant funding offered to it by the Department pursuant to a Sub-agreement.

Under the terms of the Head Agreement:

- The organisation acknowledges that receipt and retainment of any Approved Funds is conditional upon the organisation:
  - a) Expending the approved funds on the approved project only;
  - b) Using the approved funding only for eligible expenditure
  - c) Not be in in breach on any other funding arrangement with the department
  - d) Complying with all clauses of the head agreement; and
  - e) Complying with all requirements and **Special condition in a Sub-agreement.**
- the organisation must ensure that property in an Approved Project(s), any plant, equipment, materials and other supplies purchased or otherwise acquired or constructed by the Organisation for the purposes of an Approved Project, **vests irrevocably in the Organisation.**
- **The Organisation must ensure that the intended purpose of the Approved Project(s) continues in operation or use for a period of ten (10) years after the Project Completion Date unless specified in a Sub-agreement(s).**
- **The Head Agreement further stipulates that unless otherwise provided for in this Head Agreement, no Party will assign, novate, transfer, encumber or subcontract any or all of its rights or obligations under this Head Agreement or a Sub-agreement without the prior written consent of the other Party.**

Council entered into a Sub-agreement on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015 for funding under the 2015-16 Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program for the construction of Birdsville Short Stay Accommodation Village (Birdsville Lodge).

The Sub-agreement had Compulsory Special Conditions in relation to

- Project Management
- Tendering and Quotations
- Construction and contracting, and
- Financial Acquittal

The Sub-agreement also contained Negotiated Special Conditions relating to:

| Element                  | Obligations                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sub-agreement            | The Organisation agrees to return a signed copy of this Sub-agreement to the Department by the agreed date of 15 November 2015.                                                                                                                     |
| Land Tenure              | Where applicable, the Organisation must provide written evidence that it has freehold tenure, a leasehold arrangement for a minimum of three (3) years or permission from the State Government for land owned or held in Trust by Local Government. |
| Funding Contribution     | If applicable the Organisation agrees to provide a written statement of funding required to cover project costs over and above the Approved Funding amount to complete the Approved Project.                                                        |
| Project Progress Reports | The Organisation agrees to provide monthly project progress reports as requested by the Department.                                                                                                                                                 |

## Report

At the ordinary meeting of council held 17 April 2023, council resolved to list the Birdsville lodge for sale, with the listing price set at \$3,000,000 negotiable.

A search of council's records indicates that no action has been taken in relation to this resolution, despite previous administration stating that a proposal was being put together for prospective real estate agents to quote and market the Birdsville Lodge.

Under the terms of the Head Agreement and the subsequent Sub-agreement for the funding provided for the construction of the Birdsville Lodge, council cannot dispose of the facility without first getting written consent from the Department.

Further, if written consent is given by the Department, then council still has to ensure that the intended purpose of the approved project (Birdsville Lodge) continues in operation or use for a period of ten (10) years after the project completion date.

The Sub-agreement identifies that the project completion date is 12 months from the date the last party executes the agreement. Council executed the agreement on 14 November 2015 which means that, subject to prior written approval from the Department, council may be able to dispose of the facility and not be subject to any of the terms of the Head Agreement after 14 November 2025.

The purpose of Funding as stated in the Sub-agreement is:

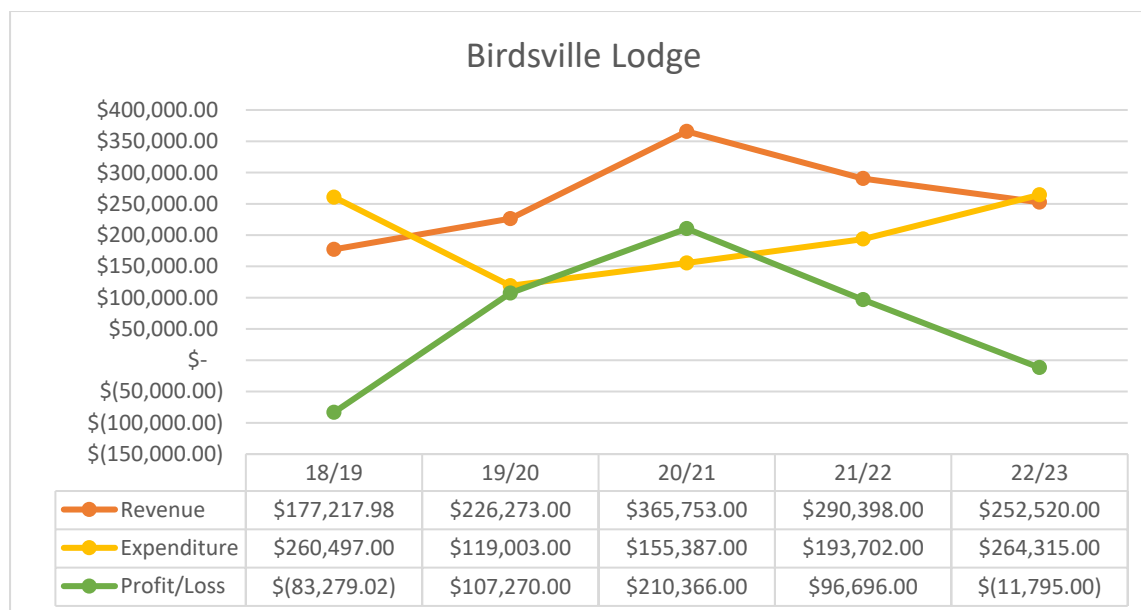
*Funding has been approved for construction of nine, six room accommodation units plus disabled units, male/female amenities, outdoor kitchen/dining and laundry to provide short term accommodation for 50 people including event volunteers, event participants, conference attendees and tourists in Birdsville.*

The wording of the purpose of the funding is ambiguous its relation to the extent that accommodation for the nominated people must be provided. A clear understanding of the purpose of the funding should be sort from the Department prior to any dealing in relation to disposal of the facility.

It is also recommended that council seek further advice in relation to the condition that the organisation must ensure that property in an Approved Project(s), any plant, equipment, materials and other supplies purchased or otherwise acquired or constructed by the Organisation for the purposes of an Approved Project, **vests irrevocably in the Organisation.**

## Financial Implications

The graph below shows the operating position of the Birdsville Lodge over the last 5 financial years.



Over the past 3 financial years, revenue has been trending down whilst expenses have continued to increase, resulting in a decline in profit with last financial year delivering a net loss on operations.

## Conclusion

Operating results from the Birdsville Lodge have been trending down over the past three (3) years and an analysis of the Birdsville Caravan Park have also shown net losses over the past four (4) years.

An in-depth analysis is yet to be undertaken to align operating revenues with the booking system and to review operating expenses. It is understood that there are several operating deficiencies that are contributing to the increase in expenses.

If council wishes to continue to operate either of the Birdsville Lodge or Caravan Park, then significant changes will need to be made to the way they are currently being operated.

It has also been reported that during the off-tourist season, Birdsville VIC staff have had to pick up the running of both facilities which has resulted in an increase in staff workload.

Given the matters identified in relation to the conditions of the funding provided for the construction of the Birdsville Lodge, the decrease in profitability and the impact on staff, it is recommended that council give consideration to negotiating either the sale or lease of the facility.

It is also recommended that council seek advice in relation to the specific conditions identified in Funding Agreements, prior to any negotiations to sell or lease the facility.

Council has previously offered the Birdsville Lodge for sale and received only one (1) offer. The mayor was authorized to negotiate that sale with the tenderer however no agreement was reached at that time.

## Attachments

Nil



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### 11.3. Corporate Services Report

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Author: Michelle Harrison | Director Corporate Services

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#### Summary

This monthly report provides an update from the corporate services area of council on activities for the information and attention of Council that do not require a decision of Council (items requiring a decision of Council will be reported separately).

#### Recommendation:

*That Council receive the Corporate Services Report and that those matters not covered by resolution be noted.*

## 6. Corporate Services

### Finance

Key activities included:

- Fees & Charges have been reviewed and a separate report has been prepared for councils consideration and adoption
- Preparations commenced for upcoming final audit in September

### Debtors Summary

| Debtors Category | Current             | 30 Days          | 60 Days          | 90 Days            | Balance             |
|------------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Sundry Debtors   | \$321,812.78        | \$4,854.00       | \$1,993.60       | \$34,195.62        | \$362,856.00        |
| Housing          | \$2,191.80          | \$1,058.00       | \$1,091.60       | \$2,458.60         | \$6,800.00          |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>\$324,004.58</b> | <b>\$5912.00</b> | <b>\$3085.20</b> | <b>\$36,654.22</b> | <b>\$369,656.00</b> |

### Grants

- An updated Table on Council grant applications is attached to this report.

### Human Resources

Key activities for August included:

- Skye Allard appointed as a backfill for Fleet Administration Officer
- Cherokee Crombie appointed as Safety & Quality Officer to replace Ameya Deshmukh
- Caleb Allard appointed as casual Town Services Officer in the town services team at Birdsville
- Infrastructure team annual reviews still underway
- Vicki Thiel – Interim Director Corporate Services, final work day was 31 August

A spreadsheet is attached with staff demographics breakdown for August

### Training

- 35 Staff completed 4WD training.
- Playground Safety Inspection Training was completed by Town Services team
- TMR traffic management training (working in proximity to traffic)

## **7. Governance**

### **Policy**

- Nil

### **Town Planning**

- A table on Development Applications is attached to this report.

### **Environmental Health**

- Food Licences register audit is attached

### **Property Development**

- Nil

### **Attachments:**

[Employee Breakdown](#)

[Food Licences](#)

[Development Applications](#)

[Grant Reports](#)

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## 11.4. Financial Performance Report – August 2023

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer  
Author: Michelle Harrison | Director Corporate Services  
Link to Corporate Plan: • Long term financial sustainability  
Consultation: Nil

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### Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide a monthly update on Council's overall financial position in accordance with Section 204 of the Local Government Regulation 2012.

This report summarises the financial performance and position of the Diamantina Shire Council to provide a snapshot on Council's financial performance to the end of the month prior to the meeting.

While this report complies with statutory obligations, it is also intended to provide additional information to keep Councilor's informed in relation to relevant financial matters of Council.

### Officers Recommendation:

*That Council receive the Financial Performance Report for the period 1 August 2023 to 31 August 2023.*

### Relevant Policy/Legislation

- Local Government Regulation 2012 – Section 204 [Financial Report]

### Background Information

Section 204 of the Local Government Regulations 2012 requires:

1. The local government must prepare a financial report
2. The Chief Executive Officer must present the financial report –
  - a) If the local government meets less frequently than monthly – at each meeting of the local government; or
  - b) Otherwise – a meeting of the local government once a month
3. The financial report must state the progress that has been made in relation to the local governments budget for the period of the financial year up to a day as near as practicable to the end of the month before the meeting is held.

### Report

This report presents the financial performance of Council for the month ended 31 August 2023.

The Financial Report compares actual performance to date with Council's 2023-24 Budget Documents and identifies, for Councilor's information, significant variances, or areas of concern.

This report also provides information about additional areas of financial interest to Council.

The financial statements provided within this report are based on presently entered financial data. They are subject to adjustments and are not the final copy of the statements to be provided for audit

### Attachment:

[Financial Performance Report – August 2023](#)

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## 11.5. Fees and Charges Schedule 2023-2024

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer  
Author: Michelle Harrison | Director Corporate Services  
Link to Corporate Plan: • Long-Term Financial Sustainability.  
Consultation: Internal Consultation

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### Summary

The purpose of this report is to propose the adoption of the Schedule of Fees and Charges for the 2023/24 financial year.

### Officers Recommendation

That pursuant to section 97, 98 and 262 of the Local Government Act 2009; Council adopt the proposed Fees and Charges Schedule 2023-2024, as presented, with effect from 1 October 2023

### Relevant Policy/Legislation

- *Local Government Act 2009 – Section 97 [Cost-recovery fees]*
- *Local Government Act 2009 – Section 98 [Register of cost-recovery fees]*
- *Local Government Act 2009 – Section 262 [Powers in support of responsibilities]*

### Background Information

The Local Government Act 2009 provides that a local government may, under a local law or a resolution, fix a cost-recovery fee.

A cost-recovery fee must not be more than the cost to the local government of taking the action for which the fee is charged.

A local government must keep a register of its cost-recovery fees

The Local Government Act 2009 also provides that if a local government is required or empowered to perform a responsibility under a Local Government Act, the local government has the power to charge for a service or facility, other than a service or facility for which a cost-recovery fee may be fixed.

### Report

Under the provisions of the Local Government Act 2009, council is empowered to set fees and charges.

Fees and Charges are defined under two (2) separate types:

- Cost-recovery fees; and
- Charges for a service or facility.

A cost-recovery fee is a fee for—

- (a) an application for the issue or renewal of a licence, permit, registration or other approval under a Local Government Act (an application fee); or
- (b) recording a change of ownership of land; or
- (c) giving information kept under a Local Government Act; or
- (d) seizing property or animals under a Local Government Act; or
- (e) the performance of another responsibility imposed on the local government under the Building Act or the Plumbing and Drainage Act.

A Charge for a service or facility is where council is required or empowered to perform a responsibility under a Local Government Act. In this case council may charge for a service or facility, other than a service or facility for which a cost-recovery fee may be fixed.

Council is also required to keep a register of its cost-recovery fees.

The register must state

- (i) the relevant paragraph of section 97 of the Local Government Act under which the cost-recovery fee is fixed;
- (ii) Also, the register must state the provision of the Local Government Building Act or the Plumbing and Drainage Act under which the responsibility is imposed.

Whilst the Act is silent on the need to keep a register for charges levied for a service or facility, Council traditionally keeps a single register which includes both Cost-Recovery Fees and Charges for Services or Facilities.

## **Financial Implications**

Nil

## **Conclusion**

It is proposed that the 2023/24 Schedule of Fees and Charges take effect from 1 October 2023. This is to allow for circulation of the new schedule within the organisation as well as review of any published fees and charges on council's website.

Ideally the schedule of fees and charges should be adopted prior to the commencement of the financial year to better reflect estimated revenue generated from fees and charges in the budget. It is proposed that all future fees and charges be reviewed prior to the commencement of the next financial year. Ideally council should consider reviewing and adopting fees and charges in April of each year with the fees and charges being effective from 1 July.

## **Attachments**

[Schedule of Fees and Charges 2023/2023](#)

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## 11.6. Community and Economic Development Report

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Author: Matt Allard | Director Community and Economic Development

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### Summary

This monthly report provides an update from the community and economic development services area of council on activities for the information and attention of Council that do not require a decision of Council (items requiring a decision of Council will be reported separately).

### Recommendation:

*That Council receive the Community and Economic Development Report and that those matters not covered by resolution be noted.*

### Community

#### Library and Childrens Services

The "First Five Forever" program, now delivered by our dedicated Library and Children's Services Officers in both Bedourie and Birdsville. The program is a vital initiative focused on nurturing early literacy and language development in children aged from birth to five years. This family-centered program actively engages parents and caregivers in their children's literacy journey, providing age-appropriate activities, storytelling sessions, and reading programs that instil a lifelong love for learning. By fostering language-rich interactions, "First Five Forever" strengthens family bonds, enhances community engagement, and equips young children with the foundational skills needed for successful education and personal growth.

### Tourism

#### 2023 Simpson Desert Racing Carnival

The 2023 Simpson Desert Racing Carnival exceeded all expectations, emerging as a resounding success that left a lasting impression on attendees and the local community. This achievement was a testament to the careful planning and coordination that underpinned the event. Months of meticulous preparation went into refining race tracks and ensuring the safety of participants, ensuring a seamless and enjoyable experience for all.

Central to the event's triumph was the unwavering dedication of Council staff, race organizers, and volunteers. Their tireless efforts behind the scenes ensured that every aspect of the carnival ran smoothly. From managing race registrations to coordinating the entertainment, their dedication was unwavering and played a pivotal role in the event's overall success.

Strong community support further solidified the event's impact. Local residents and businesses came together, offering their services, sponsorships, and volunteering their time. This collective effort not only bolstered the event but also highlighted the power of community unity in creating memorable experiences.

While the 2023 Simpson Desert Racing Carnival was undoubtedly a remarkable success, it's worth noting that attendance numbers at each event appeared to be down from previous years. This observation suggests that various factors, including potential external influences or changing preferences, might have contributed to slightly lower turnout compared to previous years. Nevertheless, this provides an opportunity for organizers to reflect on these trends and consider strategies for future events to potentially enhance attendance.

Additionally, it's important to highlight that the septic system in Birdsville faced challenges in keeping up with the demand, primarily due to the substantial volume of people using the shower block and facilities at the Wirrarri Visitor Information Centre. This strain on the septic system indicates a need for a thorough review and potential infrastructure improvements to ensure it can adequately support the

growing number of visitors during major events and peak tourist seasons. Addressing this issue will be crucial to maintaining the overall quality of visitor services in the region.

In conclusion, the 2023 Simpson Desert Racing Carnival was a well-coordinated and successful event, showcasing the region's best while uniting the community in a memorable celebration. Additionally, the challenges faced serve as a reminder of the need for ongoing infrastructure improvements to ensure the region can accommodate the influx of visitors during major events. These combined insights from the event's success and infrastructure considerations will play a vital role in shaping future endeavors and maintaining the region's reputation as a premier destination.

### **Birdsville and Bedourie Visitor Information Centres**

During August, both the Wirrarri and Bedourie Visitor Information Centres (VICs) played vital roles in welcoming visitors and promoting our region. They each recorded substantial engagement through phone calls, email inquiries, and onsite visitors. However, notable differences and trends emerged when examining their visitor distribution and the impact of the Simpson Desert Racing event.

#### **Visitor Contact Summary**

|                       | <b>Wirrarri Visitor Information Centre</b> | <b>Bedourie Outback Visitor Centre</b> |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>Phone</b>          | 427                                        | 529                                    |
| <b>Email</b>          | 116                                        | 56                                     |
| <b>Total Visitors</b> | 3,339                                      | 2,956                                  |

#### **Visitor Distribution**

|                      | <b>Wirrarri Visitor Information Centre</b> | <b>Bedourie Outback Visitor Centre</b> |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>QLD</b>           | 1061                                       | 638                                    |
| <b>NSW</b>           | 926                                        | 471                                    |
| <b>VIC</b>           | 631                                        | 494                                    |
| <b>TAS</b>           | 102                                        | 136                                    |
| <b>SA</b>            | 263                                        | 265                                    |
| <b>WA</b>            | 130                                        | 130                                    |
| <b>NT</b>            | 26                                         | 151                                    |
| <b>ACT</b>           | 53                                         | 10                                     |
| <b>Local</b>         | 112                                        | 87                                     |
| <b>International</b> | 35                                         | 19                                     |

#### **Trends**

**Total Visitors:** The Wirrarri Visitor Information Centre recorded a higher total number of visitors (3,339) compared to the Bedourie Outback Visitor Centre (2,956). This difference could be attributed to several factors, including their proximity to a major event and marketing efforts.

**Impact of Local Races:** Both VICs benefited from local racing events. The Betoota Races and Bedourie Races each attracted small crowds of people, highlighting their significance as regional attractions. However, the Wirrarri Visitor Information Centre saw a substantial increase in visitors, likely to be influenced by its proximity to the Birdsville Races, which drew visitors from across Australia and even internationally.

**International Visitors:** The Wirrarri Visitor Information Centre also saw a higher number of international visitors (35) compared to the Bedourie Outback Visitor Centre (19). The Birdsville Races likely played a significant role in drawing international tourists to the region, showcasing its appeal as a premier event destination.

**Local Engagement:** Both VICs reported local visitor numbers, with the Wirrarri Visitor Information Centre hosting 112 and the Bedourie Outback Visitor Centre having 87 local visitors. This suggests that the centers are successful in engaging with the local community, serving as valuable resources not only for tourists but also for residents seeking information and support.

**Diverse Geographic Origin:** Both the Wirrarri Visitor Information Centre and Bedourie Outback Visitor Centre welcomed visitors from various states and territories of Australia, showcasing the broad geographic appeal of the region. Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria were among the top contributors to visitor numbers. This diversity indicates that the region attracts tourists from across the country.

**International Appeal:** The Wirrarri Visitor Information Centre recorded a higher number of international visitors (35) compared to the Bedourie Outback Visitor Centre (19). This highlights the region's international appeal, potentially influenced by events like the Birdsville Races. It underscores the significance of promoting the region as an attractive destination for tourists from around the world.

**Marketing and Event Impact:** The Wirrarri Visitor Information Centre's higher total visitor count may be attributed to its proximity to the Birdsville Races, a major event that drew visitors from across Australia and internationally. This indicates the substantial impact that major cultural and sporting events can have on regional tourism. Effective marketing and event promotion strategies appear to have played a crucial role in attracting visitors.

**Email and Phone Engagement:** Both VICs received a notable number of phone calls and email inquiries, highlighting the importance of offering multiple communication channels for visitor assistance. This suggests that visitors and potential tourists appreciate the convenience of seeking information through these channels.

**Tasmanian and South Australian Interest:** The data shows a notable number of visitors from Tasmania and South Australia, indicating a growing interest in the region from these states. Understanding the specific attractions that draw visitors from these areas can help tailor marketing efforts.

While both the Wirrarri Visitor Information Centre and Bedourie Outback Visitor Centre played vital roles in promoting the region, the Wirrarri Visitor Information Centre experienced a higher influx of visitors, particularly due to its proximity to the Birdsville Races. This event significantly impacted tourist attendance and international recognition, demonstrating the potential for major cultural and sporting events to boost regional tourism. Further analysis can help refine strategies for future events and visitor engagement, considering regional dynamics and event appeal.

**Attachments:**

Nil



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## 11.7. Infrastructure Report

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer  
Author: Bob Stephen | Infrastructure Director  
Jodie Girdler | Facilities and Town Services Manager

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### Summary

This monthly report provides an update from the Infrastructure Services department on activities for the information and attention of Council (items requiring a decision from Council will be reported separately)

### Recommendation:

*That Council receive the Infrastructure Report and that those matters not covered by resolution be noted.*

### Facilities

#### General

Contractor Builder, Bill Knight is back in the Shire and is completing some outstanding tasks

Jason Doyle - Facilities Coordinator is starting to feel his way around and completing some outstanding tasks

It is with mixed feelings that I inform you of Wayne Morrows (Council Plumber) departure from Council to retire.

Wayne has been an exceptional asset to Diamantina Shire Council in the past 8 years and 2 Months of his employment with Council if we could have cloned him we would have. But on a positive note his retirement is well deserved and we wish him well.

#### Housing

Lee Trask has almost completed all the Bedourie Housing inspections with only 2 to go, we are looking at dates to go to Birdsville in the next month to complete the inspection there. All maintenance has been put in the system for the Jason Doyle to coordinate completion of works.

#### Aerodromes

REX ground control Bedourie, operation as per usual.

We are still waiting on the results for the CASA Audit but I can inform you the auditor did say in his visit there was not going to be too much.

On completion of the Birdsville races, we held a DSC Working Group meeting, this highlighted the issues with the cracking and hollows in the Birdsville runway, to put in prospective the dirt runway was better to drive on than the sealed runway.

The new FOD BOSS for the aerodrome is a very successful purchase as it is keeping out runways nice and clean of FOD.

A copy of the Airport Working Group minutes is attached.

#### Town Services – Bedourie

Bedourie Town Services are continuing with general maintenance, Weed spraying, Street sweeping, Fertilising, Cleaning Town facilities and Spa units that have been very busy over the event season including auditors etc. Slashing, Mowing and Gardening

Staff are receiving a lot of compliments on the tidiness and green scape of the town and the cleanliness of the public facilities.

Swimming Pool maintenance as per usual, usage of the pool and spa has increased as it is a very popular spot for visitors to Bedourie.

All the races are done and dusted for 2023. We still have the postponed Camp draft and Rodeo and the Channel Country Ladies Day to come for major events.

Well done Bedourie Town Services Team for the Prep of the race track facilities prior to the recent races well done team.

New Snake Gaiters are here and been distributed to staff. This was bought up in a safety meeting as a guard against snake bite when working out and about especially in long grass.



### **Town Services – Birdsville**

Birdsville Town Services are continuing with general maintenance, Weed spraying, Street sweeping, Cleaning of council housing that were rented out over the races and town facilities, Mowing and Gardening.

Again I would like to say that the Birdsville Town Services Team along with the Civil Crew have done an exceptional job with catering to the influx of visitors over the Birdsville Races. Well done team amazing effort without these teams the events and town would not be able to run successfully.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of August we had Australia Porsche want to use the Birdsville Aerodrome to do some filming of the electric Porsche, our ARO was on site to ensure everything went well and as safely as possible. A NOTAM was issued to advise aircraft of the usage of the runway for a special event.



The new tennis court was installed successfully and the end result is very impressive.

You can also use it for Net ball, Basket Ball, Badminton and Pickle Ball.

Civil crew put up all new signage up in the Caravan Park so all completed is there.



## **Project Management**

### **Gravel Quarry Status**

Please find attached current status of our Gravel Pits, all Green stars on attached document is where we have access to extract gravel, all others Yellow, Orange and Red require further certification before we can extract any gravel from these pits. This will not be a short process, and may take 12 months or more, GBA are currently working on the approval process.

Currently we are having to haul gravel further distances, resulting in longer timeframes and higher costs to complete the projects.

We are currently working three areas with gravel haulage issues. Adria downs access road, we have been hauling gravel 90+ KM, resulting in extra cost and time, there are two pit on Adria downs road waiting on Sales permit approval. Coorabulka to Boulia boundary and Griffiths tank Road we have six pits in this area waiting on sales permit approval, resulting in heavy formation grading being carried out rather the gravel resheeting.

Sandringham Bedourie road and Sandringham Ethabuka Road have four gravel pits, but they require CH-Env and sales permit before we can use them, again resulting in 100+ KM haul, we will be doing heavy formation grade on these roads rather than import gravel.



## Road Construction and Maintenance

### Construction crew

The crew has completed the emergent work on the Bedourie / Windorah from Monkira to the Boundary, and back to the sealed section heading to Bedourie, they have now moved camp to Coorabulka to commence flood damage works in this area, this work will take them through to the Christmas break



### Patrol Crew

Grader Crews completed the works on the Birdsville to Windorah after the Big Red Bash, and in preparation for the Birdsville Races

The crew has now moved camp and are carrying out flood damage works on Cacoory – Stoney crossing road, and then on to Adria Downs Road

### **Contractors**

Dale Contracting has been doing shoulder grading on Eyre Development road between Cuttaburra and Bedourie and Diamantina Development road north of Bedourie. Flood damage works on Kamaran Downs access road.

G & T Contracting has been carting gravel to Adria Downs road in preparation for the grader crew,



### **Civil Crew**

Civil Crew has been busy erecting new signs and guide posts on various roads in the shire. They have also been busy preparing for the Betoota and Birdsville races.





## Plant

All the new small trucks that were ordered by past staff have now arrived.

We are currently working on the tenders for the new stock needed from the plant replacement list



We have recently received the new Split Body Tipper which arrived this month

## Workshop

- General maintenance of all vehicles is being continued.
- Numerous other repairs on varying pieces' plant

## Attachments:

[Airport Working Group Minutes](#)

[Quarry Pits](#)

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## 11.8. Engineering Report

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Author: Stuart Bourne | Civil Engineer (George Bourne & Associates)

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### Summary

The purpose of this report is to update Council on matters that do not require a separate or comprehensive report for consideration. Current operational and strategic matters and upcoming matters that may be raised at future meetings are detailed.

### Officers Recommendation:

*That Council receive the Engineering Report and that those matters not covered by resolution be noted.*

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## ROAD MAINTENANCE PERFORMANCE CONTRACTS

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### RMPC Contract 2022/23

Final claim submitted for additional emergency works completed at Cuttaburra & Monkira to Shire Boundary \$587,181.19.

### RMPC Contract Value for 2023/24

| Item                                    | Contract              | Amount Claimed | Cost to Complete | Comment                                              | Timing                            |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Base Allocation                         | \$2,041,406.00        | \$0.00         | \$0.00           |                                                      | Must be completed by 30 June 2024 |
| Herbicide Spot Spraying Declared Plants | \$15,000.00           | \$0.00         | \$0.00           |                                                      |                                   |
| Gravel Resheeting                       | \$1,328,800.00        | \$0.00         | \$0.00           | 81A Ch 31.3km – 41.4km<br>80A Ch 138.44km – 144.95km |                                   |
| <b>Total (Approved)</b>                 | <b>\$3,385,206.00</b> | <b>\$0.00</b>  | <b>\$0.00</b>    |                                                      |                                   |

### RRUPP Resheeting 80A:

| Scope                                                                                                     | Value       | Spent        | Funding Source                                                                                                                                        | Progress | Comment                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 192.8km – 210.1km (17.3km) West of Cuppa Creek past working west past the Carcoory Stony Crossing Turnoff | \$1,100,000 | \$0.00       | RRUPP                                                                                                                                                 |          | RRUPP funding of \$1.6million including \$200k contingency with an additional co-contribution from DTMR of \$400k Gravel crushing procurement documents being drafted. |
| 215.2km – 219.92km (4.72) Roseberth West towards Birdsville                                               | \$300,000   | \$0.00       | RRUPP                                                                                                                                                 |          |                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 129.4km – 137.46km (8.06km)                                                                               | \$600,000   | \$577,843.55 | DTMRs Co-contribution towards RRUPP funding (\$400k) & \$200k contingency from RRUPP if not required. \$400k contribution claimed under 2022/23 RMPC. | Complete | This section is a stretch goal if additional funding is not required to complete the original RRUPP scope                                                              |

|                                     |                    |                       |              |          |  |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------|----------|--|
| 119.4km – 129.4km<br>(10km)         | \$600,000          | \$514,111.21          | RMPC 2022/23 | Complete |  |
| <b>Total Approved<br/>(40.08km)</b> | <b>\$2,600,000</b> | <b>\$1,091,954.76</b> |              |          |  |

Gravel crushing tender for the remaining resheeting released 19<sup>th</sup> July closing 2pm 18<sup>th</sup> August – refer to Council Report.

### Main Roads Minor Works Performance Contracts

| Item                                                   | Contract       | Amount Claimed | Cost to Complete | Comment                                                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Old Roseberth South Pave & Seal Ch 136.4km – 146.207km | \$3,493,136.78 | \$3,489,090.13 | \$0.00           | All Works Complete                                                  |
| Bedourie – Birdsville, Pave and Seal. Allans Yards.    |                |                |                  | \$2.5m scheduled via the ORRTG in 2025/2026. Scope to be confirmed. |

### Future Unfunded Works

| Location                                                                            | Estimate    | Comments                                                                                | Cost To Complete                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Allans Yards/ Cuttaburra 31.3 - 41.4 (10.1km)                                       | \$5.5m      | Design nearly complete - DTMR.                                                          |                                 |
| Bedourie – Windorah Pave and Seal, 93C Ch 330.63 - 336.37, 5.74km approx.           | \$3m        | Design complete - DTMR.                                                                 |                                 |
| Birdsville – Windorah overtaking opportunity, 80A Ch 199.3 - 204.3, 5km             | \$2.5m      | Previously tentatively funded by Federal Road Safety but now withdrawn. Design Complete |                                 |
| Birdsville – Windorah overtaking opportunity, 80A Ch 261.3 – 263.634, 2.4km         | \$1.2m      | Design by DTMR.                                                                         |                                 |
| Cluny Sandhills – Batter and Drainage Improvements Ch 386.818, 362.89, 358.0, 356.1 | \$2,174,700 | Submitted to TMR                                                                        |                                 |
| Farrars Creek Betterment                                                            | \$2,665,867 | TMR have lodged Betterment application with QRA – Design complete & sent to TMR         |                                 |
| Diamantina Channels – Birdsville Culvert Upgrade Betterment                         | \$1,834,776 | TMR have lodged Betterment application with QRA – Design complete                       |                                 |
| Gumbrie Pave and Seal 80A                                                           |             | Design pending, survey scheduled for mid – late September                               | \$50k, requires prioritization  |
| 80A Shallow Lakes/ Durrie Realignment                                               |             | Design pending, survey required                                                         | \$100k, requires prioritization |
| 93C Mimosa/ Monkira Sandhills Realignment                                           |             | Design pending, survey required                                                         | \$150k, requires prioritization |

### FLOOD DAMAGE WORKS

Shire Roads Flood Damage – November 2021 'Central, Southern and Western Queensland Rainfall and Flooding, 10 November – 3 December 2021' was superseded by the January 2022 event and therefore no submission was lodged for November 2021.

January 2022 'Western Queensland Low Pressure Trough, 19 January – 4 February'. Submission has been approved. \$7,046,714.67. Works to be completed 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

| Asset name                | Value           | Percentage Complete to Date |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Adria Downs Access Road   | \$ 2,120,194.36 | 50%                         |
| Betoota - Mooraberee Road | \$ 284,656.40   | 100%                        |



| Asset name                                    | Value                  | Percentage Complete to Date |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Betoota Access Road                           | \$ 88,346.74           | 100%                        |
| Cacoory - Stony Crossing Road                 | \$ 530,015.09          | 100%                        |
| Coorabulka - Shire Boundary Road              | \$ 250,280.46          |                             |
| Coorabulka - Springvale Road                  | \$ 454,995.60          |                             |
| Cordillo Access Road                          | \$ 151,535.60          | 100%                        |
| Davenport Downs - Diamantina Lakes Road       | \$ 17,828.96           |                             |
| Diamantina Lakes - Winton Shire Boundary Road | \$ 3,488.40            |                             |
| Griffiths Tank - Coorabulka Road              | \$ 468,815.58          | 10%                         |
| Kamaran Downs Access Road                     | \$ 13,353.87           | 25%                         |
| Lake Machattie Detour                         | \$ 408,113.06          | 100%                        |
| Sandringham - Bedourie Road                   | \$ 651,497.01          |                             |
| Sandringham - Ethabuka Road                   | \$ 577,311.20          |                             |
| Springvale - Boulia Shire Boundary Road       | \$ 184,243.77          |                             |
| Springvale - Diamantina Lakes Road            | \$ 335,911.29          |                             |
| Investigations & Project Management           | \$ 506,127.28          | 50%                         |
| <b>Total</b>                                  | <b>\$ 7,046,714.67</b> |                             |

2023 – Northern and Central Queensland Monsoon and Flooding, 20 December 2022 – 30 April 2023

Activation requests were submitted for January 2023 & March 2023 flooding events. QRA rolled both into a single event and the activation was extended to cover 20 December 2022 – 30 April 2023.

Damage evidence collection and assessment has been completed and submission has been lodged to QRA. The submission value for the event is below and have now been approved by QRA. Works are due to be completed prior to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

Emergency works and Counter Disaster Operation submissions have been lodged.

| Asset name                                    | Value           | Percentage Complete |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Betoota - Mooraberee Road                     | \$ 252,020.83   |                     |
| Betoota Access Road                           | \$ 19,552.69    |                     |
| Cacoory - Stony Crossing Road                 | \$ 279,665.03   |                     |
| Coorabulka - Shire Boundary Road              | \$ 142,187.38   |                     |
| Coorabulka - Springvale Road                  | \$ 199,633.58   |                     |
| Cordillo Access Road                          | \$ 168,725.98   |                     |
| Davenport Downs - Diamantina Lakes Road       | \$ 454,364.13   |                     |
| Davenport Downs - Palparara Road              | \$ 204,870.44   |                     |
| Deon's Lookout Access Road                    | \$ 148,295.30   |                     |
| Diamantina Lakes - Winton Shire Boundary Road | \$ 509,095.79   |                     |
| Durrie Access Road                            | \$ 15,965.94    |                     |
| Griffiths Tank - Coorabulka Road              | \$ 387,787.98   |                     |
| Inside Track Road                             | \$ 112,581.62   |                     |
| Kamaran Downs Access Road                     | \$ 71,963.80    |                     |
| Lake Machattie Detour                         | \$ 379,787.36   |                     |
| Monkira - Davenport Downs Road                | \$ 1,705,097.14 |                     |
| Roseberth Access Road                         | \$ 65,954.27    |                     |
| Sandringham - Bedourie Road                   | \$ 134,911.06   |                     |
| Sandringham - Ethabuka Road                   | \$ 122,968.10   |                     |
| Springvale - Boulia Shire Boundary Road       | \$ 380,484.72   |                     |
| Springvale - Diamantina Lakes Road            | \$ 404,685.98   |                     |

| Asset name                   | Value                  | Percentage Complete |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Vaughan Johnson Lookout Road | \$ 153,022.68          |                     |
| Project Management           | \$ 514,092.56          |                     |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>\$ 6,827,714.36</b> |                     |

### Shire Roads Betterment Applications

Betterment applications developed and lodged to QRA. Feedback from QRA is that the applications need further development including design work which has now commenced.

Due to feedback from QRA submission was withdrawn with eligible sites to be resubmitted for reconstruction works. Due to January 2023 event this will be rolled over into the new event to allow additional damage to be claimed.

| Location                                                              | Construction Estimate | Comment                                                                                                            | Survey | Design Status | Cost To Complete |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------------|------------------|
| Site 1 - Coorabulka - Springvale Road Ch 44062                        | \$970,153.61          | Current estimate was developed for original QRA submission. Design required to develop detailed estimate for site. | ✓      | 10%           | \$15k            |
| Site 2 - Diamantina Lakes - Winton Shire Boundary Road Ch 4372        |                       | Pending final review                                                                                               | ✓      | 95%           | \$5k             |
| Site 3 - Diamantina Lakes - Winton Shire Boundary Road Ch 4582        |                       | Pending final review                                                                                               | ✓      | 95%           | \$5k             |
| Site 4 - Diamantina Lakes - Winton Shire Boundary Road Ch 4844        |                       | Construction Works Complete                                                                                        | ✓      | 100%          | 0                |
| Site 5 - Diamantina Lakes - Winton Shire Boundary Road Ch 5043        | \$1,097,442.37        | Current estimate was developed for original QRA submission. Pending final review                                   | ✓      | 95%           | \$5k             |
| Site 6 - Diamantina Lakes - Winton Shire Boundary Road Ch 5132        | \$1,233,284.81        | Current estimate was developed for original QRA submission. Design required to develop detailed estimate for site. | ✓      | 5%            | \$20k            |
| Site 7 - Diamantina Lakes - Winton Shire Boundary Road Ch 5240 – 5330 | \$1,757,891.00        | Current estimate was developed for original QRA submission. Pending final review                                   | ✓      | 95%           | \$5k             |
| Site 8 - Diamantina Lakes - Winton Shire Boundary Road Ch 5406        | \$1,331,485.31        | Current estimate was developed for original QRA submission. Design required to develop detailed estimate for site. | ✓      | 5%            | \$20k            |
| Site 10 -Diamantina Lakes - Winton Shire Boundary Road Ch 5521        | \$1,885,885.71        | Current estimate was developed for original QRA submission. Pending final review                                   | ✓      | 95%           | \$5k             |
| Site 11 -Diamantina Lakes - Winton Shire Boundary Road Ch 5566        | \$1,179,624.01        | Current estimate was developed for original QRA submission. Design required to develop detailed estimate for site. | ✓      | 5%            | \$20k            |
| Site 12 -Diamantina Lakes - Winton Shire Boundary Road Ch 5696        | \$1,179,624.01        | Current estimate was developed for original QRA submission. Pending final review                                   | ✓      | 95%           | \$5k             |
| Site 13 - Griffiths Tank - Coorabulka Road Ch 65704                   | \$573,361.51          | Current estimate was developed for original QRA submission. Pending final review                                   | ✓      | 95%           | \$5k             |

| Location                                                                 | Construction Estimate | Comment                                                                                                                                                                                  | Survey | Design Status | Cost To Complete  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------------|-------------------|
| Site 14 - Griffiths Tank - Coorabulka Road Ch 75655                      | \$797,868.57          | Current estimate was developed for original QRA submission. Pending final review                                                                                                         | ✓      | 95%           | \$5k              |
| Site 15 - Monkira - Davenport Downs Road Ch 97488                        |                       | Survey Required                                                                                                                                                                          |        | 0%            | Refer to 23/24/25 |
| Site 16 - Springvale - Boulia Shire Boundary Road Ch 11132               | \$415,922.52          | Current estimate was developed for original QRA submission. Survey & Design required to develop detailed estimate for site.                                                              |        | 0%            | \$25k             |
| Site 17 - Springvale Diamantina Lakes Ch 47015                           | \$1,442,101.18        | Current estimate was developed for original QRA submission. Pending final review                                                                                                         | ✓      | 95%           | \$5k              |
| Site 18 - Springvale Diamantina lakes Ch 47534                           |                       | Pending final review                                                                                                                                                                     | ✓      | 95%           | \$5k              |
| Site 19 - Betoota - Mooraberee Road Ch 290 - 315                         |                       | Design required to develop detailed estimate for site.                                                                                                                                   | ✓      | 5%            | \$20k             |
| Site 20 - Betoota - Mooraberee Road Ch 26100 - 26163                     |                       | Pending final review.                                                                                                                                                                    | ✓      | 95%           | \$5k              |
| Site 21 - Kamaran Downs Access Road Ch 8810 - 8870                       |                       | Design required to develop detailed estimate for site.                                                                                                                                   | ✓      | 0%            | \$20k             |
| Site 22 - Kamaran Downs Access Road Ch 10150 - 10250                     |                       | Pending final review                                                                                                                                                                     | ✓      | 95%           | \$5k              |
| Site 23 - Monkira - Davenport Downs Road Ch 96296 – 96382                |                       | Current estimate was developed for original QRA submission. This only covered constructing concrete apron. Design scope to realignment/ reconstruct existing structure. Survey Required. |        | 0%            | \$100k?           |
| Site 24 - Monkira - Davenport Downs Road Ch 96736 - 96768                |                       |                                                                                                                                                                                          |        | 0%            |                   |
| Site 25 - Monkira - Davenport Downs Road Ch 98918 - 98968                | \$298,346.40          |                                                                                                                                                                                          |        | 0%            |                   |
| Site 26 - Davenport Downs - Diamantina Lakes Road Ch 47421 - 47812       |                       | On hold pending further assessment                                                                                                                                                       | ✓      |               |                   |
| Site 27 - Diamantina Lakes - Winton Shire Boundary Road Ch 26885 - 26900 |                       | Survey Required                                                                                                                                                                          |        | 0%            | \$25k             |
| Site 28 - Griffiths Tank - Coorabulka Road Ch 93704 - 93729              |                       | Pending Final Review                                                                                                                                                                     | ✓      | 95%           | \$5k              |
| Site 29 - Springvale - Boulia Shire Boundary Road Ch 5860 - 5900         |                       | Survey Required                                                                                                                                                                          |        | 0%            | \$25k             |
| Site 30 - Springvale - Boulia Shire Boundary Road Ch 6460 - 6500         |                       | Survey Required                                                                                                                                                                          |        | 0%            | \$25k             |

| Location                                                                                                                                                   | Construction Estimate | Comment         | Survey | Design Status | Cost To Complete |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------|---------------|------------------|
| Site 31 - Springvale - Boulia Shire Boundary Road Ch 7488 - 7520                                                                                           |                       | Survey Required |        | 0%            | \$25k            |
| Site 32 - Springvale - Boulia Shire Boundary Road Ch 28871 - 28919                                                                                         |                       | Survey Required |        | 0%            | \$25k            |
| Site 33 - Springvale - Boulia Shire Boundary Road Ch 28990 - 29010                                                                                         |                       | Survey Required |        | 0%            | \$25k            |
| Site 34 - Springvale - Boulia Shire Boundary Road Ch 31652 - 31695                                                                                         |                       | Survey Required |        | 0%            | \$25k            |
| Site 35 - Springvale - Boulia Shire Boundary Road Ch 38680 - 38720                                                                                         |                       | Survey Required |        | 0%            | \$25k            |
| Site 36 - Springvale - Boulia Shire Boundary Road Ch 42439 - 42595                                                                                         |                       | Survey Required |        | 0%            | \$25k            |
| Site 37 - Springvale - Diamantina Lakes Road Ch 46497 - 46528                                                                                              |                       |                 | ✓      | 0%            | \$20k            |
| Site 38 - Springvale - Diamantina Lakes Road Ch 50608 - 50644                                                                                              |                       |                 | ✓      | 0%            | \$20k            |
| <b>\$321k spent to date on the above design related works</b><br>PM budget for 2022 event is \$506,127.28.<br>PM budget for the 2023 event is \$514,092.56 |                       |                 |        | CTC           | \$570k           |

## OTHER

| Project/ Item                             | Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Visits to the Shire                       | 21 <sup>st</sup> August – Council Meeting<br>7 <sup>th</sup> / 10 <sup>th</sup> / 30 <sup>th</sup> August/ 1 <sup>st</sup> September – Gravel Pit Samples Collection                                                                                                                                                  |
| Bedourie & Birdsville Solar Power Project | SMA have started to action the warranty claim. 2 have been replaced already with another 19 inverters arrived in Toowoomba pending replacement by TSC.                                                                                                                                                                |
| Mode Design                               | Initial concepts for Bedourie Council Office & depot site are being progressed. Birdsville hall initial concept approach commenced early July. Council report has been prepared for all three initial concept reports Birdsville Hall, Bedourie Office & Bedourie Workshop.                                           |
| Birdsville Water Funding Application      | Growing Regions Program EOIs open 5 <sup>th</sup> July – 1 <sup>st</sup> August.<br>Applications 1 <sup>st</sup> November - 12 <sup>th</sup> December.<br>50% contribution required.<br>\$500k - \$15m project sizes.                                                                                                 |
| Big Red Road Pave and Seal                | All construction works completed.<br>Reseal to take place in October.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Gravel pit materials testing              | Samples taken from pit required for RRUPP gravel resheeting.<br>Material samples to be taken progressively over the next few months. All pits on Birdsville – Windorah and Bedourie – Birdsville have been sampled waiting on results for about half. Samples on Bedourie – Windorah to commence in the coming weeks. |

**Attachments**

[2022 Flood Damage – Western Qld Low Pressure Trough](#)

[2023 Flood Damage – Northern and Central Qld Monsoon and Flooding](#)

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## 11.9. Birdsville Cooling Pond

|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Responsible Officer:    | Chief Executive Officer                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Author:                 | Stuart Bourne   Civil Engineer (George Bourne & Associates)                                                                                                                                                         |
| Link to Corporate Plan: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Our Infrastructure – Guarantees quality potable urban water supply and waste water treatment.</li><li>• Our Environment – Includes a healthy Great Artesian Basin</li></ul> |
| Consultation:           | Mike Hayward   Interim Chief Executive Officer<br>Andrew McClurg State Government                                                                                                                                   |

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### Summary

This report seeks guidance on the new Birdsville Cooling Pond location

### Officers Recommendation

|                                   |
|-----------------------------------|
| That Council consider the report. |
|-----------------------------------|

### Relevant Policy/Legislation

- Nil

### Background Information

In October 2022 a report was tabled seeking approval to commence planning a second bore for Birdsville along with upgrades to the cooling system. These planning and upgrade works were expected to span over several years.

1. Resume/ Excise the land at the proposed location (Year 1).
2. Drill the new bore (Year 2).
3. Connect the new bore to the existing infrastructure (Year 3).
4. Construct the new cooling pond using existing gravel pit next to the new bore (Year 4).
5. Reconfigure infrastructure to accommodate new bore & cooling pond and decommission old cooling ponds (Year 5).

The following budget estimated costs were tabled:

|                              |               |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Land Purchase                | \$100k        |
| New Bore                     | \$725k        |
| Connect New Bore to existing | \$322k        |
| Construct New Cooling Ponds  | \$352k        |
| Connect New Cooling Ponds    | \$920k        |
| Misc                         | \$840k        |
|                              | <b>\$3.3m</b> |

Council subsequently moved the following motion:

*Minute No. 2022.10.10-OM-07*

*Moved by Cr Rowlands and Seconded by Cr Murray*

*‘That Council agree to the Birdsville Bore Planning proposal, and include this planning in Councils planning documents for the 2023-24 year, and advise RAPADSWA of the project.’*

*Carried 3/0*

During December 2022 – February 2023 significant issues were identified in the Birdsville cooling ponds, resulting in the ponds being drained and repairs to some leaks being undertaken. The condition of the pond pipework was very poor. A report was tabled in the March 2023 meeting to amend a previous resolution to commence planning and design works immediately for the replacement of the ponds.

*Minute No. 2023.03.20-OM-17*

*Moved by Cr Pursell and Seconded by Cr Rowlands*

*'That resolution 2022.20.20-OM-7 is amended to bring forward the investigation and design of new cooling ponds in Birdsville immediately, due to the condition of the existing pond infrastructure.'*

*Carried 5/0*

## Report

Design works are progressing on the cooling pond and the associated pipework. However the land tenure of the old gravel pit has been investigated and found to be town common. Advice from Andrew McClurg at State Government Land and Surveying Services has advised the parcel must be acquired by Council from the State Government and Native Title addressed. This process can take 1-2 years. If Council can identify the project as a priority the Department may be able to prioritize the assessment process.

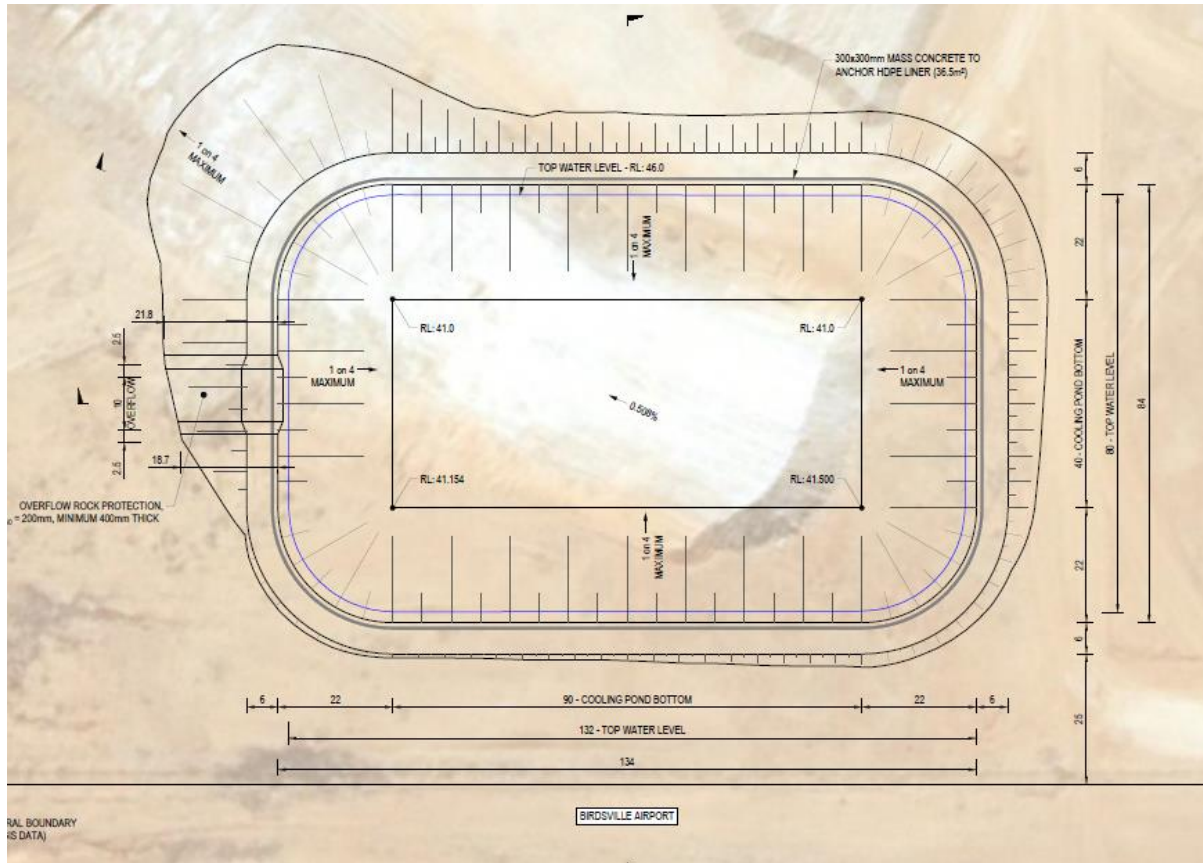
The proposed cooling pond site is the existing gravel pit (Lot 14 SP303311) which has plenty of room for new bore/ heat exchanger and shade structures and the associated pipework required. This site is currently town common and requires excising and purchase from the State Government.

An alternate site exists that may be utilized (Lot 1 SP197783) which is currently freehold however is a smaller site and may not fit the heat exchanger and shade structure and new bore and associated pipework. However as this site is owned by Council works could start immediately.



The alternative site is about 200m x 96m





The current design of the cooling pond is 146m x 96m, which will need to be narrowed to fit the alternative site.

## Financial Implications

The original cost for the Birdsville Cooling Ponds and New Bore Project was estimated at \$3.3m. This estimate will need to be reassessed and may vary significantly if council is forced to look at an alternative site. A copy of the cost breakdown for the project as at October 2022 is attached for councils information.

## Risk Assessment

| Risk Category        | Risk Tolerance | Summary of Risks Involved                                                                  | Risk Rating |
|----------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Financial            | Low            | Changes to scope                                                                           | Low         |
| Legal and Compliance | Low            | The land will require resumption/ excise from town common. If the current site is adopted. | Low         |
| Service Delivery     | Medium         | Existing cooling ponds fail before the new ponds are online                                | Medium      |

The design and construction work on the pond are proceeding as a priority, however the location requires finalization in order to complete the designs

## Conclusion

Given the current situation in relation to land and the significant issues identified in the existing cooling ponds a definitive decision is required on the location for the new cooling pond and timeframe for the commencement of the project. Once a final decision is made, cost estimates can be finalized and revenue source identified.



## **Attachments**

[Email from Andrew McClurg Senior Land Officer](#)

[Birdsville Cooling Pond – Cost Breakdown \(October 2022\)](#)

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## 11.10. Birdsville Footpath Project

|                         |                                                                                                                                                |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Responsible Officer:    | Chief Executive Officer                                                                                                                        |
| Author:                 | Mike Hayward   Interim Chief Executive Officer                                                                                                 |
| Link to Corporate Plan: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Well maintained community assets with additional facilities as appropriate for the communities</li></ul> |
| Consultation:           | Stuart Bourne   Civil Engineer (George Bourne and Associates)                                                                                  |

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### Summary

To endorse the reallocation of 2023/24 Road to Recovery funding to allow for construction of Birdsville Footpath Projects.

### Officers Recommendation

That council reallocate \$100,000 from the 2023/24 Roads to Recovery (R2R) allocation towards construction of Birdsville Priority One (1) Footpath Projects.

### Relevant Policy/Legislation

- Nil

### Background Information

At the ordinary meeting of council held 5 May 2023, council moved the following motion:

*Minute No. 2023.05.05-SM-01  
Moved by Cr Rowlands and Seconded by Cr Pursell  
That Council resolve to allocate remaining Works for Queensland (W4Q) funding and current footpath budget allocations to the construction of the proposed Oval (priority 4) bitumen footpaths, Adelaide/Macdonald St (priority 5) concrete footpaths, and Macdonald Street (priority 1) concrete footpaths.*

*Carried 4/0*

The Department State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government & Planning (DSDILGP) have now approved the reallocation of the remaining W4Q funding (\$70,813) toward the construction of MacDonald Street Footpath.

### Report

Since the adoption of the 2023/34 budget, Council has received additional funding of \$261,527.00 under the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LRCIP).

Council has been allocated \$120,000 under the Roads to Recovery (R2R) program for the 2023/24 financial year. These funds were allocated towards the construction of a spoon drain around the Birdsville Tennis Courts (\$20,000) and Birdsville Town Streets Bitumen Reseals (\$100,000). Council's consulting engineer has advised that Birdsville Town Street Reseal program could be pushed back to the 2024/25 financial year if required.

Total available funding, should council agree to reallocation of the R2R funding would allow a budget of approximately \$432,340 to be utilized towards construction of footpath works in Birdsville.

|              |                  |
|--------------|------------------|
| W4Q          | \$ 70,813        |
| LRCIP        | \$261,527        |
| R2R          | <u>\$100,000</u> |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>\$432,340</b> |

Councils consulting engineers have revised the cost estimates for previously identified priority footpath works based on the following:

- All sections changed to concrete based on feedback (easier to construct, hard to get bitumen trucks to access etc)
- Addition of the Police entrance
- Concrete rate was high so estimates reduced slightly
- Priorities amended in line with council resolution of 5 May 2023.

| New Priority | Old Priority | Description                    | Value                | Comment               |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1            | 1            | Macdonald Street to Courthouse | \$ 114,600.00        | Includes QPS entrance |
| 2            | 2            | Jardine St to Playground       | \$ 45,120.00         |                       |
| 2            | 3            | Graham St to Frew Street       | \$ 89,400.00         |                       |
| 1            | 4            | Oval Bitumen Footpath          | \$ 138,600.00        | Changed to Concrete   |
| 1            | 5            | Adelaide Street to Bakery      | \$ 154,800.00        | Changed to Concrete   |
|              |              | <b>Total</b>                   | <b>\$ 542,520.00</b> |                       |
|              |              | Total New Priority 1           | \$ 408,000.00        |                       |
|              |              | Total New Priority 2           | \$ 134,520.00        |                       |

## Financial Implications

Based on the revised cost estimates, council has sufficient funding to do all priority 1 footpaths (subject to reallocation of R2R bitumen reseal budget).

## Conclusion

If council agrees to reallocate the \$100,000 R2R funds from Birdsville Town Street Reseals to the Birdsville Footpath Program there will be sufficient funds to cover the full costs of priority 1 footpath projects.

It is proposed that council staff will undertake the footpath construction works under the direction of an appropriately qualified training provider.

Work is estimated to take approximately 3 weeks.

## Attachments

[Birdsville Footpath Estimate](#)

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### 11.11. Bus Stop Bore

|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Responsible Officer:    | Chief Executive Officer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Author:                 | Stuart Bourne   Civil Engineer (George Bourne & Associates)                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Link to Corporate Plan: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Our Infrastructure is constructed and maintained in a sustainable manner which meets the community needs.</li><li>• Our organization is recognized as the role road construction provider in the shire</li></ul> |
| Consultation:           | Mike Hayward   Interim Chief Executive Officer                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

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#### Summary

In reference to the Bus Stop Bore located on the Birdsville – Windorah Road at Durrie Station. The arrangements to secure access to the Council owned facility require finalization.

#### Officers Recommendation

That Council consider options to ensure access is maintained for the Bus Stop Bore at Durrie Station.'

#### Relevant Policy/Legislation

- Nil

#### Background Information

At the council meeting dated the 15<sup>th</sup> of November 2021, Council resolved to acquire the land around the Bus Stop Bore on Durrie Station to ensure it remains accessible for Council to use for road maintenance and construction purposes.

*Minute No. 20221.11.15-OM-13*

*Moved Cr Rowlands, Seconded Cr Dare*

*'That Council authorize the Chief Executive Officer to complete all necessary actions to resume from Lot 17 SP263954, approximately 11 hectares of land around the construed bore and associated assets, for road purposes.'*

*Carried 5/0*

#### Report

Previous to this resolution, extensive negotiations were facilitated by McInnes Wilson Lawyers between S Kidman & Co Pty Ltd, Department of Transport and Main Roads and Council in order to reach a cost sharing and access agreement for the new bore which ultimately did not proceed to a signed agreement. The bore was largely funded by DTMR with a small contribution from Council and then constructed in 2019 by Water Drill Australia for a total cost of \$965k.

The resumption has not yet been completed and since this time the ownership of Durrie Station has changed from S Kidman and Co to Appleton Cattle Company. There is an opportunity to re-assess how Council secures access to this facility.

The options are:

- Resume the land as per the resolution which will be an enduring form of access security for the site, however this will take some time to complete the resumption process.
- Alternatively, an access agreement with Appleton Cattle Company may be negotiated to ensure Council maintain access to the facility. This agreement will need to be renegotiated with subsequent owners if the property is sold over time, however the agreement is likely able to be completed relatively quickly.

Should Appleton Cattle Company seek access to the bore the following conditions may be negotiated:

- Annual access fee (due to the salt/ travertine build up in the bore a meter will not be practical)
- No guarantee regarding pressure/ flowrate/ quality/ temperature
- Appleton Cattle Company would gain access to 1 of the 100mm diameter valve access points on the manifold
- Back-to-back conditions in relation to the Development Application approval (ie no open bore drains/ reticulation must be piped to tanks and troughs etc)
- Any installed infrastructure by Appleton Cattle Company shall not interfere with any Council infrastructure
- Council maintains 100% ownership of the bore and associated infrastructure installed by Council

### **Financial Implications**

The cost to resume the land or prepare an access agreement are minor..

### **Conclusion**

An access agreement may be required.

### **Attachments**

[Durrie Bore Proposed Road Reserve Sketch](#)

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## 11.12. Concept Designs

|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Responsible Officer:    | Chief Executive Officer                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Author:                 | Stuart Bourne   Civil Engineer [George Bourne & Associates]                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Link to Corporate Plan: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Well maintained community assets with additional facilities as appropriate for the communities.</li><li>Town Planning scheme which will meet community needs and growth into the future.</li></ul> |
| Consultation:           | Mike Hayward   Interim Chief Executive Officer                                                                                                                                                                                           |

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### Summary

Design evaluation reports provided by MODE for consideration and feedback.

### Officers Recommendation

That the Design Evaluation Reports provided by MODE be considered and feedback be provided.'.

### Relevant Policy/Legislation

- Nil

### Background Information

In August 2023 the tender for Concept Architectural Plans for the Birdsville Town Hall and Bedourie Office was awarded to Mode Deign Corp. Pty Ptd.

*Minute No. 2022.08.15-OM-14  
Moved Cr Cooms, Seconded Cr Murray*

*That the Development of Concept Architectural Plans for Birdsville Town Hall and Bedourie Office be awarded to Mode Design Corp. Pty Ltd*

### Report

Site inspections were delayed until the beginning of 2023 due to flood events and staff turnover.

In April 2023 MODE inspected sites at the Birdsville Hall, Bedourie Council Office and Bedourie Depot to commence conceptual design of these sites.

Design evaluation reports have been provided for the Birdsville Hall and Bedourie Council Office and Bedourie Depot. These reports outline proposed initial concepts for consideration and feedback. The next step after these reports are commented on, is the preparation of the actual Concept Designs.

#### Bedourie Council Office:

The Bedourie office currently considers two locations, one on the empty block next to the existing building and the other on the old Power Station block. The evaluation report outlines positives and negatives for both locations to be considered.

Proposed comments for consideration:

- Remove considerations about rainwater capture, downpipes/ tanks get full of dust
- Avoid box gutters due to sand/ silt build up
- Overhanging roof lines/ walkways if possible to keep sun off walls
- Layout suggestions
  - o Theatre near visitor info area (if required? How often is the theatre in the Birdsville VIC used)

### **Birdsville Hall:**

The Birdsville hall report outlines a concept to refurbish the existing building.

Proposed comments for consideration:

- The scope of the refurbishment should be broadened ie gut the existing building leaving only the structural steel frame which is solid, replace slab on ground which appear to be moving (damaged pipes under the kitchen). The timber hall floor has had white ants and needs to be replaced with concrete.
  - o New slab on ground to toilets and kitchen and hall
  - o Replace all cladding, roofing and insulation
  - o New kitchen
  - o New toilets
  - o New entry area
  - o Replace aircon
  - o Replace audio/ visual/ lighting inc stage lighting etc
  - o Replace all windows and doors

### **Bedourie Depot:**

The Bedourie Depot report considers moving the depot out to the Industrial Yard.

Proposed comments for consideration:

- Option 2 appears to be better suited to cater for carparking

**CEO Note:** the proposed site identified by Mode Design is not owned by council. The land was sold to Dale Davie Construction Pty Ltd in December 2022.

### **Financial Implications**

Concept stage only. Funding sources will be identified in future budgets once council has resolved to proceed with the development and designs have been finalized.

### **Conclusion**

Council feedback required to identify suitable sites for Bedourie Administration Building and Depot.

### **Attachments**

[Bedourie Depot Concept Design](#)

[Bedourie Council Building Concept Design](#)

[Birdsville Town Hall Concept Design](#)

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## 12 Confidential Business – Adjournment into Closed Session

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer  
Author: Mike Hayward | Interim Chief Executive Officer  
Link to Corporate Plan: 

- Best practice Corporate Governance

  
Consultation: Nil

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### Summary

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2009, and the Local Government Regulation 2012, in the opinion of the General manager, the following business is of a kind as referred to in clause 254J(3) of the Regulation, and should be dealt with in a Confidential Session of the Council meeting closed to the press and public.

### Recommendation

That Council adjourn into Closed Session and members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting of the Closed Session, and access to the correspondence and reports relating to the items considered during the course of the Closed Session be withheld unless declassified by separate resolution. This action is taken in accordance with clause 254J(3) of the Local Government Regulation 2012 as the items listed come within the following provisions

#### 12.1 Birdsville Housing Tender

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of clause 254J(3)(g) of the Local Government Regulation 2012, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to negotiations relating to a commercial matter involving the local government for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government.

#### 12.2 Gravel Crushing and Stockpile Tender

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of clause 254J(3)(g) of the Local Government Regulation 2012, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to negotiations relating to a commercial matter involving the local government for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government.