



SUSTAINABLY DEVELOPING THE OUTBACK

Agenda

Ordinary meeting to be held in the Birdsville Wirrarri
Centre on
Monday, 20 November 2023 at 9:00am

ORDER OF BUSINESS

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 9 October 2023 2023

8. Mayors Business

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

9.1 Birdsville Housing Tender Report

10. Notice of Motion

- Nil

11. Officers Reports

- 11.1 Chief Executive Officer Report
- 11.2 2024 Council Meeting Dates
- 11.3 Central West Hospital & Health Service – Transfer of Ownership Bedourie and Birdsville Health Clinics
- 11.4 Sustainable Communities
- 11.5 Council Land Held for Resale
- 11.6 Corporate Services Report
- 11.7 Financial Performance Report – October 2023
- 11.8 Request for Support – Bedourie Camel Races
- 11.9 Request for Support – Bedourie Race Club
- 11.10 Request for Support – Bedourie Sporting Shooters Association
- 11.11 Request for Support – Desert Rivers Development Board
- 11.12 Request for Support – Birdsville Dunes Golf Club
- 11.13 Community and Economic Development Report
- 11.14 Infrastructure Report
- 11.15 Engineering Report

12. Confidential Matters

- Nil

13. Late Agenda Items

13.1 Organisational Structure Review

9.1 Birdsville Housing

Responsible Officer:	Chief Executive Officer
Author:	Stuart Bourne Civil Engineer [George Bourne & Associates]
Link to Corporate Plan:	- Well maintained community assets with additional facilities as appropriate for the communities - Town Planning scheme which will meet community needs and growth into the future.
Consultation:	- Mike Hayward Interim Chief Executive Officer - Bob Stephen Director of Infrastructure Services - Cr Rob Dare Mayor

Summary

This report discussed the option of amending the design intent of the four one-storey dwellings in Birdsville into two-storey houses.

Officers Recommendation

That the report be considered and advise on how Council wish to proceed with the construction of either single storey or two-storey houses in Birdsville.

Relevant Policy/Legislation

- Local Government Act 2009*
- Local Government Regulation 2012*

Background Information

The request for tender for the Design and Construction of Four, Two-Bedroom Houses was initially released in 2022 and received poor responses due to the elevated housing market and builders' availability at that time. Two companies submitted responses, which were Ausco Modular Pty Ltd and Tyrrell Builders Pty Ltd. Ausco Modular tendered at a price of \$3.4M including a 20% contingency applied, due to numerous exclusions in their pricing. Historically, units delivered by Ausco Modular have had defects that require remedial works. Tyrrell Builders provided a non-conforming submission. As a result, Council resolved to delay the project until market condition improved.

Minute No. 2022.07.18-OM-13

Moved Cr Rayment, Seconded Cr Rowlands

'That the tender is not awarded to any tenderer, and that the construction of any additional Council housing be temporarily put on hold until market conditions are considered more favourable.'

Carried 5/0.

Report

The request for tender was published on VendorPanel again on 26 May 2023 and closed on 24 July 2023. The tender was viewed by 104 companies through VenderPanel and the tender was also mailed to the attached list of building contractors in the region and a flyer advertising the tender was displayed throughout Diamantina. There were 7 companies that submitted their tender responses, and one declined the tender invitation due to the large amount of onsite work involved. The 7 tenderers were:

1. Auzscot Constructions Pty Ltd
2. D&M Bowden Construction Pty Ltd
3. Kent Construction
4. Oly Homes
5. OTB Group
6. Jenko and Sons Pty Ltd
7. Dream Modular Homes Pty Ltd

The top 3 tender responses are from D&M Bowden Construction, Kent Construction and Jenko and Sons. A tender clarification was sent out to the three tenderers on 28 August 2023 to request pricing and layouts for both a two-bedroom and three-bedroom house.

MOTION:	Moved: Cr Dare	Seconded: Cr Rowlands
That the matter lay on the table for further consideration at the September 2023 ordinary meeting and		
That Jenko and Sons, Kent Constructions and D&M Bowden Constructions be requested to provide revised pricing for 4 x 3-bedroom houses based on the following tender amendments:		
i. Removal of Gravel Pads		
ii. Removal of Shed / Carport		
iii. Removal of Fencing		
iv. Removal of Driveways, Footpaths and Clothesline		
v. Main bedroom to be a minimum of 18m ²		
vi. Amend the floorplan to extend the living by approximately 20m ²		
Minute No:	2023.08.21-OM-25	Carried: 5/0

During the meeting held on September 2023 to discuss the amended scope of works and associated pricing, the option of two-storey houses was tabled.

The two storey option is to include:

- laundry and 2nd toilet downstairs;
- allowance for car parking and storage under the building; and
- increase in the living area upstairs by removing the laundry and the ensuite from the original design.

The following resolution was adopted at the September 2023 Council meeting pending response to the two-storey house queries sent to Kent Construction.

MOTION:	Moved: Cr Pursell	Seconded: Cr Rowlands
The Design and Construction of Four Three Bedroom Houses tender be awarded to Kent Construction Pty Ltd in the amount of \$2,217,320.00, excluding GST.		
Minute No:	2023.09.18-OM-24	Carried: 4/0

This motion was then Repealed in the October 2023 meeting:

MOTION:	Moved: Cr Dare	Seconded: Cr Murray
That motion 2023.09.18-OM-24, adopted at the ordinary meeting of council held on 18 September 2023, be repealed.		
Minute No:	2023.10.09-OM-03	Carried: 4/0

Kent Construction advised that the cost to construct a two-storey house would be a minimum increase of 50% compared to a single storey house due to the increase in materials, labour, additional safety considerations required when working at heights and the increased difficulties in achieving required energy efficiency. Based on this information the below comparison was completed:

	Single Storey House (3 br)	Two Storey House (3 br)*
1 x 3 BR House	\$554,330	\$831,495
Ancillaries (gravel pad/ shed/Carport/ fencing/ footpaths/ clothesline)	\$184,390	\$92,490 (shed/ carport removed)
Total	\$738,720	\$923,985
Total Area inc storage/ carport ex eaves	150.4m ² house plus 72m ² for carport 222.4m ²	150.4m ² top floor, 150.4m ² ground floor, 300.8m ²
\$/m ²	\$3,322/m ²	\$3,072/m ²

The 2 storey house pricing is estimated based on feedback from Kent Constructions, formal pricing has not been received.

Revised floor plans of the proposed two-storey three-bedroom house concept are attached in this report.

Financial Implications

Budget allocation \$1.25m plus addition \$1m borrowing (total allocation of \$2.25m).

Initial revised pricing from Kent Construction Pty Ltd for single storey dwelling (excluding ancillaries) was within the original budget estimate.

Based on the revised pricing for a 2 story building, total cost for 4 dwellings (excluding ancillaries) would be \$3.326m resulting in a budget overrun of more than \$1m.

Risk Assessment

Risk Category	Risk Tolerance	Summary of Risks Involved	Risk Rating
Financial	Low	Two-storey dwellings will cost more than one-storey dwellings.	Medium
Legal and Compliance	Low	Close-out of the previous tender should be carried out properly to avoid any legal implications.	Medium
Workplace and Public Safety	Low	Regular maintenance for a 2-storey house will have additional WH&S requirements to be completed safety. ie cleaning gutters etc	Low
Service Delivery	Medium	Delay in the completion of construction of the houses is to be expected.	Low
Reputation	Medium	Re-tendering may result in frustration among the previous tenderers, resulting in low tender responses.	Low

Conclusion

Given the substantial price variation from the original resolution and also that the design concepts currently being discussed vary significantly from the original tender documentation, it would be prudent to retender the works.

Attachments

[Revised two-storey floor plans](#)

11.1 Chief Executive Officer Report

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Author: Mike Hayward | Interim Chief Executive Officer

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 Chief Executive Officer Report and that those matters not covered by resolution be noted.

MATTERS FOR COUNCILS' INFORMATION

1. Calendar of Events:

Date	Event	Representatives	Comment
19 Nov	Public Meeting		Birdsville Hall
20 Nov	Ordinary Meeting		Birdsville Wirrarri Centre
15 Dec	Ordinary Meeting		Bedourie Administration 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
Nil			

Acts currently under review to identify potential Delegation of Powers to CEO:

- *Local Government Act 2009*
- *Local Government Regulation 2012*

MATTERS FOR COUNCILS' CONSIDERATION

3. Mode Concept Design Project

Council have engaged Mode Designs to provide concepts for the Bedourie Administration Office, Bedourie Works Depot and the Birdsville Town Hall.

Mode designs have recently provided updated concept drawings for the Bedourie Administration Building. The revised drawings appear to be based on design ideas considered by council at the September 2023 council meeting.

At the October ordinary meeting, Council discussed the three projects and during discussions it was identified that the Bedourie Administration Office project was not considered to be a high priority at present and there was some suggestion that the project could be put on hold for further consideration at a later date, and that priority be given to the Birdsville Town Hall and the Bedourie Works Depot projects.

Should council decide not to proceed with the Bedourie Administration Project in the immediate future, then council may wish to give consideration to the costs being incurred with proceeding with concept designs for projects that are not considered to be high priority.

Given the discussions from the October meeting regarding prioritization of the projects, does council wish to consider a formal resolution

4. State Valuation

The Valuer-General has decided to undertake an annual valuation for the Diamantina Shire Council. The valuations will have effect from 1 July 2024.

As part of the revaluation process a meeting of the Valuation Consultative Group is being held to discuss and obtain feedback from council on the proposed valuation changes by the State Valuation Service for the area covered by the Diamantina Shire Council.

The Valuation Consultative Group will be in Bedourie on Thursday 23 November 2023 to meet with Council and various other community members. The Valuation Consultative Group have made provision to meet with council representatives at 9:00am.

Does Council wish to nominate a council representative to meet with the consultative group.

5. Change of Meeting Date – December 2023

At the November 2022 ordinary meeting, council adopted a schedule of dates for council meetings during the 2024 calendar year.

The date for the December 2024 meeting was scheduled for 13 December 2024. This date was set taking into account the workforce work roster of 10 days on and 4 days off which normally resulting in the last working day of the shift being a Wednesday.

Council is currently being investigated for breach of Fatigue Management regulations which has resulting in the workforce work roster being changed to 5 days on and 2 days off which has resulted in the last working day of the shift now being a Friday.

The date for the Council Christmas Party has been set for Friday 15 December 2024.

As December council meeting has traditionally been held on the same day as the Christmas Party a resolution is required to change the advertised meeting date from 13 December to 15 December.

Recommendation:

That the December 2024 ordinary meeting of council be changed to Friday 15 December 2024, commencing at 8:00am; and

That in accordance with section 254B(4) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, notice of the change of meeting date be published on councils website.

6. Australia Day Policy

At the October 2024 ordinary meeting, council resolved that an Australia Day Policy be drafted for councils' consideration.

Upon investigation, it is noted that council adopted an Australia Day Policy on 20 April 2020. The policy is scheduled for review in March 2024.

A copy of the current adopted policy is attached for Councils information.

MATTERS FOR COUNCILS' INFORMATION

7. Public Holiday 2024

At the July 2023 ordinary meeting, council resolved to apply for a special holiday for 2024.

Correspondence has been received from Office of Industrial Relations advising that the Minister has approved councils request and that Tuesday 5 November 2024 has been gazetted as a public holiday for the Sire of Diamantina for the purpose of the Melbourne Cup Day.

8. 2024 Local Government Elections

The 2024 local government elections will be held on 16 March 2024.

During the 6 months before nominating, all candidates (*including sitting councillors*) must complete a mandatory training course conducted by the Department State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning.

9. Caretaker Period

The caretaker period for a local government is the period during an election for the local government that:

- a) Starts on the day when public notice of the holding of the election is given under the Local Government Electoral Act, section 25(1); and
- b) Ends at the conclusion of the election.

The following indicative dates have been taken from the Electoral Commission Queensland (ECQ) website [[2024 local government elections | Electoral Commission of Queensland \(ecq.qld.gov.au\)](#)].

- Notice of election – Monday 29 January 2024
- Election day – Saturday 16 March 2024
- Close of return of postal votes – Tuesday 26 March 2024

Based on the indicative dates identified on the ECQ website, the caretaker period will commence on Monday 29 January 2024 and end on or soon after Tuesday 26 March 2024.

A local government must not make a **major policy decision** during a caretaker period; however, if the local government considers that, having regard to exceptional circumstances that apply, it is necessary to make the major policy decision in the public interest, the local government may apply to the Minister for approval to make the decision.

A major policy decision made during a caretaker period is invalid.

A major policy decision is defined in Schedule 4 of the Local Government Act 2009. The definition of a major policy decision includes a decision:

- (a) About the appointment of a chief executive officer of the local government;
- (b) About the remuneration of the chief executive officer of a local government; or
- (c) To terminate the employment of the chief executive officer of the local government; or
- (d) To enter into a contract the total value of which is more than the greater of the following—
 - I. \$200,000;
 - II. 1% of the local governments net rate and utility charges as stated in the local governments audited financial statements included in the local governments most recently adopted annual report;

Attachments:

[Outstanding Actions Register](#)

[Australia Day Policy](#)

[Correspondence – Public Holiday](#)

11.2 2024 Council Meeting Dates

Responsible Officer:	Chief Executive Officer
Author:	Michael Hayward Interim Chief Executive Officer
Link to Corporate Plan:	Effective Community Engagement
Consultation:	Cr Dare Mayor Diamantina Shire Council

Summary

The purpose of this report is to consider and adopt the schedule of dates and venues for the holding of council meetings in the 2024 calendar year.

Officers Recommendation

Council resolves, for the purposes of the Local Government Regulation 2012, section 254B, to adopt the following dates, times and locations for the Diamantina Shire Council ordinary meetings to be held during the 2024 calendar year:

Date	Time	Location
15 January	9:00am	Bedourie
19 February	9:00am	Bedourie
18 March	9:00am	Bedourie
15 April	9:00am	Bedourie
20 May	9:00am	Birdsville Wirrarri Centre
17 June	9:00am	Bedourie
15 July	9:00am	Bedourie
19 August	9:00am	Bedourie
16 September	9:00am	Bedourie
21 October	9:00am	Bedourie
18 November	9:00am	Birdsville Wirrarri Centre
16 December	9:00am	Bedourie

Relevant Policy/Legislation

- Local Government Regulation 2012 – Section 254B [Public notice of meetings]*
- Local Government Regulation 2012 – Section 257 [Frequency and place of meetings]*

Background Information

Section 254B of the Local Government Regulation 2012 requires that a local government must, at least once in each year, publish a notice of the days and times when -

- Its ordinary meetings will be held; and
- The ordinary meetings of its standing committees will be held.

The notice must be published on the local government's website and other ways the local government considers appropriate.

Section 257 of the Local Government Regulations 2012 requires that a local government must meet at least once in each month; however, the Minister may, after written application by a local government, vary the requirement for the local government.

Report

The Local Government Regulation 2012 requires council to hold a meeting at least once a month and to publish a notice at least once a year, of the days and times when the meetings will be held.

Meetings are required to be held at 1 of council's public offices.

Council endeavors to hold at least 2 ordinary meeting a year in Birdsville

Council has traditionally held its meetings on the third Monday of each month, except where public holidays or conference attendance cause conflict.

The following 2024 dates have been taken into consideration when setting the proposed meeting dates:

- Friday 26 January - Australia Day
- Monday 1 April - Easter Monday
- Thursday 25 April - Anzac Day
- Monday 6 May - Labour Day
- Monday 7 October - Queen's Birthday
- Monday 21 - LGAQ Annual Conference
- Thursday 12 December- Council breakup day.

The following schedule of dates is presented for councils' consideration:

Date	Time	Location
15 January	9:00am	Bedourie
19 February	9:00am	Bedourie
18 March	9:00am	Bedourie
15 April	9:00am	Bedourie
20 May	9:00am	Birdsville Wirrarri Centre
17 June	9:00am	Bedourie
15 July	9:00am	Bedourie
19 August	9:00am	Bedourie
16 September	9:00am	Bedourie
14 October	9:00am	Bedourie
18 November	9:00am	Birdsville Wirrarri Centre
12 December	8:00am	Bedourie

Financial Implications

- Nil.

Conclusion

Notice of meeting dates are published in the Desert Yarns publication as well as on council's website.

The December meeting date is a Thursday as it is anticipated that following the reintroduction of the 10/4 roster the 4-day break will be taken from Friday to Monday inclusive to allow for access to current REX flight schedule.

Attachments

Nil

11.3 Central West Hospital & Health Service – Transfer of Ownership Bedourie and Birdsville Health Clinics

Responsible Officer:	Chief Executive Officer
Author:	Michael Hayward Interim Chief Executive Officer
Link to Corporate Plan:	The Central West Hospital and Health Board owns and operates medical facilities in Birdsville and Bedourie
Consultation:	- Cr Dare Mayor Diamantina Shire Council - Joseph Byrne Executive Director, Finance Infrastructure & Support

Summary

The purpose of this report is for council to consider a proposal from Central West Health to take over ownership of the Bedourie and Birdsville Health Clinic.

Officers Recommendation

1. Council resolves, for the purpose of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Section 236(b), to enter into a contract with Central West Hospital & Health Service for the transfer of ownership of the Bedourie Health Clinic and the Birdsville Health Clinic from Diamantina Shire Council to Central West Hospital & Health Service.
2. Council resolves to authorise the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to negotiate the terms of the contract for the transfer of ownership of the Bedourie Health Clinic and the Birdsville Health Clinic to Central West Hospital & Health Service.

Relevant Policy/Legislation

- *Local Government Regulation 2012 – Chapter 6, Part 3 [Default contracting procedures]*

Background Information

Section 224(7) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* defines a valuable non-current asset as:

- (a) Land; or
- (b) Another non-current asset that has an apparent value that is equal to or more than a limit set by the local government.

A limit set by the local government cannot be more than \$5,000 for plant or equipment and not more than \$10,000 for another type of non-current asset.

Section 227 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* prohibits a local government from entering a valuable non-current asset contract unless it first:

- (a) Invites written tenders for the contract; or
- (b) Offers the non-current asset for sale by auction

Section 236(b) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* allows a local government to dispose of a valuable non-current asset other than by tender or auction if the valuable non-current asset is disposed of to a government agency; or a community organisation.

Report

Diamantina Shire Council owns and maintains both the Bedourie Health Clinic and the Birdsville Health Clinic.

Central West Health (CWH) partnered with the Diamantina Shire Council several years ago to take over the running of these clinics and the delivery of health services, whilst Diamantina Shire Council has retained the ownership of the buildings and responsibility for maintenance.

Following a recent health accreditation review by CWH and separate facility condition assessment, it was identified that several upgrades were needed to the infrastructure at these two clinics to enable CWH to continue to deliver care in the Birdsville and Bedourie communities.

The cost of the upgrades represents a material capital investment and is not something that CWH can invest in a building that they do not own.

CWH is committed to delivering services in Birdsville and Bedourie, and have been looking at ways that can support the delivery of these upgrades.

Central West Health have proposed that the ownership of the two clinics be transferred from Diamantina Shire Council to CWH. If the proposal is accepted by council this would result in:

- CWH would own the two clinics.
- CWH would take on all responsibility for building maintenance.
- CWH would continue the current contracts with Diamantina Shire Council for services such as cleaning.

The benefits of transferring ownership of the two clinics would be to:

- Enable upgrades and capital investment at these PHCs.
- Support the continued delivery of health services in Birdsville and Bedourie.
- Reduce ongoing maintenance and overheads for Diamantina Shire Council.

Financial Implications

CWH has estimated the value of investments required at:

	Bedourie	Birdsville
Improvements in staff safety	\$224,098	\$244,519
Estimated maintenance within 3 years	\$61,480	\$61,150

In the financial year 2022/2023 Council spent a total of \$132,650.86 on operating and maintenance costs for both clinics. These costs included a total of \$109,616.78 in depreciation expense.

Asset valuation as at 30/06/2023 for the both clinic buildings were:

	Bedourie	Birdsville
Historical Cost (Acquisition)	\$2,201,213.99	2,168,802.13
Written Down Value	\$1,436,263.52	\$1,415,115.90

Conclusion

CWH has secured funding for a staff safety and security project across our health service and would like to expand this to the PHC's at Birdsville and Bedourie. Ideally, CWH would like to be able to deliver these upgrades by Quarter 2, 2024.

The two houses adjacent to the PHC at Birdsville will remain with Diamantina Shire Council and CWH will continue to lease these houses.

Attachments

[Letter – Qld Health](#)

11.4 Sustainable Communities

Responsible Officer:	Chief Executive Officer
Author:	Michael Hayward Interim Chief Executive Officer
Link to Corporate Plan:	Nil
Consultation:	- Tim Cronin External Auditor PKF - James Neilsen King & Co Solicitors

Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek councils' approval to enter into a Sustainable Communities Deed and Mortgage arrangement with the Department of Housing to provide assistance equivalent to the Contingent Liability that would have been payable under the Capital Funding Agreement entered into in 2003 between council and Queensland Housing Commission.

Officers Recommendation

1. Council resolves, for the purposes of the *Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982*, section 61A, to apply for the Treasurer's approval, to enter into each of the type 2 financial arrangement identified as granting financial accommodation by or to a person, whether or not the person is a party to the arrangement and, for the arrangement, the creation of an encumbrance, and in particular, a mortgage.
2. Council resolves, in the event that the Treasurer grants the Treasurer's approval in respect of the financial arrangements referred to above, to enter into each of the Sustainable Communities Deed and the Mortgage in the form specified in the report to Council of which this resolution form's part.

Relevant Policy/Legislation

- *Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982*

Background Information

1. Council entered a Capital Funding Agreement with The Queensland Housing Commission (acting through the Department of Housing) in 2003. The Agreement provided for Council to receive financial assistance from the Queensland Housing Commission in the amount of \$2,766,246 for the construction of 13 dwellings/units. Council was obliged to spend the funding in accordance with the Agreement and use the properties listed in the Agreement for community housing.
2. The agreement provided for a contingent liability equal to the Market Value of the properties, less a discount of 2% per annum for an initial period of 50 years.
3. Under the Agreement, if Council paid the Department the contingent liability for a property, the property was released from the program and Council was no longer required to use the property for community housing.
4. In 2018, Council elected to leave the community housing program. The Department prepared a Sustainable Communities Deed and Mortgage for both parties to enter into to formalise Council's departure from the program. The terms of the Deed and Mortgage were agreed between the parties at that time.
5. The Department has agreed to provide assistance to Council under the Deed, equivalent to the contingent liability that, but for the terms of the Deed, would otherwise have been payable by Council to the Department upon termination of the Agreement. To secure Council's obligations under the Deed, Council will need to grant a mortgage to the Department over the properties that remain subject to the program.

Report

6. The object of the *Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982* (SBFA Act) is to provide for the efficient and effective management of the powers of statutory bodies to enter into financial

arrangements. The object is achieved, in part, by guarantees the Treasurer may give, for the State, for financial arrangements entered into by statutory bodies under this Act or another Act.

7. The Act identifies a local government as being a statutory body.
8. Under the provisions of the Act, the Deed is considered to be a type 2 financial arrangement and, Council requires the approval of the Treasurer to proceed.
9. A type 2 financial arrangement as an arrangement, that provides for, relates to, is directed towards, or includes, granting financial accommodation by or to a person, whether or not the person is a party to the arrangement.
10. The *Local Government Act 2009* contains no express power to enter this type of financial arrangement and create an encumbrance, so Council's powers are limited to those contained within the SBFA Act.
11. A statutory body that does not possess power to enter a given type 2 financial arrangement under its authorising Act or another Act, must first obtain Treasurer approval to enter the arrangement.

Financial Implications

12. There is no immediate financial impact on council by entering into the Deed and the creation of a Mortgage over the properties. The amount of the contingent liability is held on council's balance sheet and only that portion of the liability is payable if and whenever council decides to sell one or more of the properties.
13. The contingent liability is calculated on Market Value at the time of sale, less 2% reduction per annum, calculated from 2003, that being the date of the original funding agreement.
14. The calculated contingent liability for the purposes of the proposed deed is \$1,531,338.

Conclusion

15. Council will need to seek the following approvals from the Treasurer:
 - (a) approval under SBFA Act section 61A for Council to enter a type 2 financial arrangement; and
 - (b) approval under SBFA Act section 35(3)(a) for Council to grant a mortgage.
16. A copy of the draft Sustainable Communities Deed and Mortgage is enclosed for councils' information and consideration.

Attachments

[Draft Deed](#)

[Draft Mortgage](#)

[Contingent Liability Calculations](#)

11.5 Council Land Held for Resale

Responsible Officer:	Chief Executive Officer
Author:	Michael Hayward Interim Chief Executive Officer
Link to Corporate Plan:	Private home ownership continues to increase
Consultation:	- Cr Dare Mayor Diamantina Shire Council - Cr Murray Deputy Mayor Diamantina Shire Council

Summary

The purpose of this report is to identify council owned vacant land that is surplus to councils needs and to consider offering the identified land for sale by tender or auction

Officers Recommendation

For councils' consideration.

Relevant Policy/Legislation

- Local Government Regulation 2012 -*

Background Information

Council holds various parcels of vacant land in Bedourie and Birdsville. These parcels have been offered for sale by auction on several occasions over the past 7 years.

The latest auctions for the sale of vacant Residential and/or Industrial land were held on 22 November 2019 and 20 November 2020.

Subsequent to both auctions, council resolved to apply the exception under section 236(1)(a) of the Local Government Regulation 2012, to those parcels of land that were not sold at auction.

Section 236(1)(a) allows council to dispose of a valuable non-current asset other than by tender or auction if the asset has previously been offered for sale by tender or auction but not sold, and is sold for more than the highest tender or auction bid that was received.

In February 2022, council resolved to withdraw all vacant residential land in Birdsville from sale with the exception of 4 Mickerie Street, 6 Mickerie St and 42 Jardine Street.

In March 2023, council resolved that all vacant land in Birdsville (both industrial and residential) be taken off the market, and that a housing strategy be developed. All vacant land in Bedourie (both residential and industrial) remained on the market.

Report

At the October 2023 meeting, during discussions in relation to Birdsville Housing Tender, Council identified the need to identify those parcels of vacant council land, in both Bedourie and Birdsville, that need to be held for future council housing needs.

A special meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 24th October 2023 for the purpose of reviewing all council owned land suitable for resale and to identify those parcels of land that council wished to keep for future development and what other parcels of land that council was prepared to offer for resale.

Due to the unavailability of some elected members on the day of the special meeting, a quorum was not able to be established and subsequently the special meeting was cancelled.

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor were in attendance, and due to the cancellation of the special meeting a decision was made to workshop the land review and to prepare a report for the November meeting.

The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer reviewed all vacant council owned land, including all residential and industrial land.

A list of land considered to be suitable for resale was compiled and the list is attached to this report.

Financial Implications

Due to the length of time since the last auction (November 2020), council may not be able to rely on the highest bid received as being a true reflection of valuation of land in today's market. Therefore, disposal of vacant land may need to be reoffered for sale by tender or auction.

The Valuer General is scheduled to undertake a new valuation of all land in the shire in early 2024 and council may wish to consider deferring a decision to offer land for sale until after valuations are received. Anticipated date for issue of new valuations is April 2024.

Conclusion

A list of land considered suitable and available for resale has been compile and a decision of council is required to identify those parcels that council wishes to keep for future development.

A decision is also required in relation to offering the balance of the vacant land for sale by tender or if council wish to proceed to auction.

A decision in relation to a reserve price for each parcel will also need to be taken into consideration if decides to proceed to offer the land for sale by auction.

Attachments

[List of Vacant Council Owned Land \(Industrial and Residential\)](#)

11.6 Corporate Services Report

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Author: Michelle Harrison | Director Corporate Services

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.

Finance

Key activities included:

- 22/23 Audit still progressing applied for an extension

Debtors

Debtors Category	Current	30 Days	60 Days	90 Days	Balance
Sundry Debtors	\$711,412.92	\$73,245.00	\$4,767.00	\$36,189.22	\$825,614.14
Housing	\$289.69	\$1,352.00	\$1,352.00	\$2,688.60	\$5,682.29
Total	\$711,702.61	\$74,597.00	\$6,119.00	\$38,877.82	\$831,296.43

Grants

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

Human Resources

Key activities for October included:

- 1 Resignation – P & G Birdsville
- Interviews conducted to fill key Infrastructure positions

Training

- 4 Staff completed Snake Catcher Training
- Playground Safety Inspection Training was completed by Town Services team

Governance

Town Planning

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

Environmental Health

- Final Audit on food licenses delayed due to staffing will be finalised in November

Property Development

- Attached as part of the Development Application breakdown

Attachments:

- Nil

11.7 Financial Performance Report – October 2023

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer
Author: Philip Bakker | Finance Coordinator
Link to Corporate Plan:

- Long term financial sustainability

Consultation: Nil

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 Councillors informed in relation to relevant financial matters of Council.

Officers Recommendation:

That Council receive the Financial Performance Report for the period 1 October 2023 to 31 October 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 October 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 –October 2023](#)

11.8 Request for Support – Bedourie Camel Races

Responsible Officer:	Chief Executive Officer
Author:	Michael Hayward Interim Chief Executive Officer
Link to Corporate Plan:	Financially viable and strongly supported traditional social events
Consultation:	Nil

Summary

The purpose of this report is to consider a request from Bedourie Race Club for in-kind support to hold the 2024 Annual Bedourie Camel Races.

Officers Recommendation

Council resolves to approve the in-kind support request for the 2023 Bedourie Camel Races.
--

Relevant Policy/Legislation

- *Community Grants Policy*

Background Information

Councils Community Grants Policy outlines Councils role in supporting the community.

The purpose of the policy is to extend the community's capability to conduct activities, create opportunities for community capacity building, develop and maintain sustainable community infrastructure and to build strong partnerships for community benefit.

To be eligible for a grant under the policy, an applicant must:

- operate within the Diamantina shire or be able to demonstrate that the project is in the public interest a, and provide local community benefits within Diamantina Shire.
- applicants may be individuals, business or not for profit organization.

The policy also outlines project eligibility criteria and lists expenditure that are ineligible.

Report

The Bedourie Camel Races has previously been organized and run by the Bedourie Golf & Social Club. Following the loss of key executive officers, the Bedourie Golf & Social Club was not in a position to organize the 2023 Camel Races and subsequently the Bedourie Race Club agreed to assist with the running of the event and helped to facilitate the 2023 Camel Race meeting.

The Bedourie Race Club has advised that they will facilitate the running of the 2024 Camel Races and have requested that council assist through the provision of in-kind support for this event.

The 2024 Annual Bedourie Camel Races is scheduled to be held on Saturday 6th July 2024 and the Bedourie Race Club is seeking in-kind support through the provision of the following council facilities:

- Bedourie Race Track & Kitchen
- Tables/Chairs
- Marquees
- Lighting Towers
- Portable Sound System
- Accommodation for Race Officials
- Community Bus
- Photocopying/Printing

Financial Implications

The cost of in-kind support is estimated at \$13,283.60. This amount has been calculated in accordance with councils 2023/24 fees and charges.

Conclusion

The application meets the criteria for assistance under councils Community Grants Policy

Attachments

[In-Kind Support Request](#)

11.9 Request for Support – Bedourie Race Club

Responsible Officer:	Chief Executive Officer
Author:	Michael Hayward Interim Chief Executive Officer
Link to Corporate Plan:	Financially viable and strongly supported traditional social events
Consultation:	Nil

Summary

The purpose of this report is to consider a request from Bedourie Race Club for in-kind support to hold the 2024 Annual Bedourie Race meet.

Officers Recommendation

Council resolves to approve the in-kind support request for the 2023 Annual Bedourie Race Meet.

Relevant Policy/Legislation

- *Community Grants Policy*

Background Information

Councils Community Grants Policy outlines Councils role in supporting the community.

The purpose of the policy is to extend the community's capability to conduct activities, create opportunities for community capacity building, develop and maintain sustainable community infrastructure and to build strong partnerships for community benefit.

To be eligible for a grant under the policy, an applicant must:

- operate within the Diamantina shire or be able to demonstrate that the project is in the public interest a, and provide local community benefits within Diamantina Shire.
- applicants may be individuals, business or not for profit organization.

The policy also outlines project eligibility criteria and lists expenditure that are ineligible.

Report

The Bedourie Race Club hold an annual race meet. Historically, council has provided in-kind support for this event.

The 2024 Annual Bedourie Race Meeting is scheduled to be held on Saturday 14th September 2024 and the Race Club is seeking in-kind support through the provision of the following council facilities:

- Bedourie Race Track & Kitchen
- Tables/Chairs
- Marquees
- Lighting Towers
- Portable Sound System
- Accommodation for Race Officials
- Community Bus
- Photocopying/Printing

Financial Implications

The cost of in-kind support is estimated at \$14,075.10. This amount has been calculated in accordance with councils 2023/24 fees and charges.

Conclusion

The application meets the criteria for assistance under councils Community Grants Policy

Attachments

[In-Kind Support Request](#)

11.10 Request for Support – Bedourie Sporting Shooters Association

Responsible Officer:	Chief Executive Officer
Author:	Michael Hayward Interim Chief Executive Officer
Link to Corporate Plan:	Financially viable and strongly supported traditional social events.
Consultation:	Nil

Summary

The purpose of this report is to consider a request from Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (Bedourie Branch) for assistance to source a shipping container to place at their Bedourie facility.

Officers Recommendation

For councils' consideration

Relevant Policy/Legislation

- Nil

Background Information

The Bedourie Sporting Shooters facility is located on land described as Lot30/SP112842, and is part of the Bedourie Town Common.

The land is a Reserve for Pasturage Purposes, under the trusteeship of the Diamantina Shire Council.

The Bedourie Sporting Shooters do not hold any formal tenure over the land.

Report

The SSAA (Bedourie Branch) is seeking council assistance to source a 20ft shipping container to place at the Bedourie facility.

The club propose to place the container next to existing container and erect a shade structure between the two containers.

The club have enquired if council has a 20ft container that may be obsolete to council purposes and that council is prepared to donate to the club or if council would consider selling any spare shipping containers to the club.

Council does not currently have any shipping containers that are not being utilised.

Financial Implications

A second hand/ used 20ft (6 meter) shipping container are valued between \$3,000 and \$4,000 depending on condition. This cost does not include transport to Bedourie.

Conclusion

The Bedourie Sporting Shooters Association meets the applicant criteria under councils Community Grant Policy and technically would meet the criteria under the project criteria. Under the provisions of the policy a project must have the approval of the landholder. As council is the trustee of the land council would need to grant approval for the project to allow the application to proceed.

Attachments

[Letter – Sporting Shooters Association of Australia](#)

11.11 Request for Support– Desert Rivers Development Board

Responsible Officer:	Chief Executive Officer
Author:	Michael Hayward Interim Chief Executive Officer
Link to Corporate Plan:	Financially viable and strongly supported traditional social events.
Consultation:	Nil

Summary

The purpose of this report is to consider a request from Desert Rivers Development Board for reimbursement of expenses paid in relation to Third Party Public Liability Insurance.

Officers Recommendation

1. Council resolves, in accordance with resolution 2019.04.16-OM-18, to reimburse the Desert Rivers Development Board the amount of \$1,145.47, being the amount of costs incurred in relation to public liability insurance for the period 14/05/2023 to 14/05/2024.
2. Council resolves, to review the Community Grants Policy and include a provision to allow Not-for-Profit clubs to be reimbursed for public liability insurance premiums associated with running a community event.

Relevant Policy/Legislation

- *Community Grants Policy*

Background Information

Council has previously reimbursed not-for-profit clubs for public liability insurance and rider personal insurances.

At the ordinary meeting held 16 April 2019, council moved the following resolution:

Minute No. 2019.04.16-OM-18

Moved Cr Cooms, Seconded Cr Cramer

“That Council:

1. **Write to all local clubs to advise that Council will reimburse not for profit clubs within the Shire for public liability insurance costs associated with running a community event to a maximum amount of \$3,000 per event, on receipt of a tax invoice without the need to apply under the community grants program;**
2. **Approve a grant allocation of \$7,000 from 2018-19 RADF to the Bedourie State School for the Splash’n’Arts camp 2019 on the condition that the school seek a funding contribution from Barcoo Shire Council and that they provide evidence of appropriate insurance to cover the event activities;**
3. **Approve a grant allocation of \$5,300 from the 2018-19 RADF to the Betoota Race Club for the Betoota Races entertainment;**
4. **Advise the Betoota Social Club to seek a letter of support from Bev Morton to use the Health Trust fund to reimburse the ambulance fees upon presentation of a tax invoice to Council together with the suppliers tax invoice the club has paid; and**
5. **Advise the Birdsville State School that their application for \$4,840 has not been approved and provide information on alternative funding opportunities.’**

Carried 4/0.

Report

Desert Rivers Development Board has provided details of their public liability insurance cover and are seeking reimbursement of the premium amount of \$1,145.47 in line with council resolution 2019.04.16-OM-18.

Part 1 of Resolution No: 2019.04.16-OM-18 identified that council would reimburse all not-for-profit clubs within the shire for public liability insurance costs, up to a maximum of \$3,000 per event and that the clubs would not be required to make application under council's community grants policy.

The resolution implies that the practice of reimbursing public liability insurance costs for not-for-profit organisation is an ongoing commitment; however, the removal of any clear policy guidelines in relation

to these reimbursements is considered not good practice and gives rise to the potential of reimbursements not being aligned with current and or future councils' intent.

Since the resolution in 2019, Council has continued to reimburse not-for-profit clubs for public liability insurance, however there is no administrative mechanism, apart from corporate knowledge, that recognizes and aligns these payments with the 2019 resolution.

In addition, there is no clear guideline in relation to the number of events per annum council is prepared to cover, or any requirement to provide proof that the insurance has actually been paid.

Financial Implications

Nil

Conclusion

Section 194 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 provides that a local government may give a grant to a community organisation only-

- a) If the local government is satisfied-
 - a. The grant will be used for a purpose that is in the public interest; and
 - b. The community organisation meets the criteria stated in the local governments community grant policy; and
- b) In a way that is consistent with the local governments community grants policy.

There appears to be some conflict between the requirements under the local government regulations and resolution 2019.04.16-OM-18 in that the resolution does not require an organisation to apply under the community grants program, yet council is reimbursing the insurance premiums and listing them as a community donation in the financial statements.

It is recommended that the Community Grants Policy be amended to identify councils' position in relation to reimbursement of public liability insurance to provide clear guidelines in relation to the reimbursements and to delegate authority to make reimbursements to the Chief Executive Officer.

Attachments

[Letter - Desert Rivers Development Board](#)

11.12 Request for Support– Birdsville Dunes Golf Club

Responsible Officer:	Chief Executive Officer
Author:	Michael Hayward Interim Chief Executive Officer
Link to Corporate Plan:	Financially viable and strongly supported traditional social events.
Consultation:	Nil

Summary

The purpose of this report is to consider a request from Birdsville Dunes Golf Club for a remission of rates or a donation equal to the net value of rates levied.

Officers Recommendation

Council resolves, for the purpose of Section 122 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, to grant to the Birdsville Dunes Golf Club a concession in the amount of \$3,335.10 being the full amount of rates and charges outstanding in relation to land described as L17/SP226890 (Assessment A538).

Relevant Policy/Legislation

Chapter 4, Part 10 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (the **Regulation**) gives a local government the power to grant a concession for rates or charges for land.

The local government may only grant a concession if it is satisfied, amongst other things, that:

- The land is owned by an entity whose objects do not include making a profit;
- The payment of the rates or charges will cause hardship to the land owner

Section 121 of the Regulation restricts the type of concession to the following types:-

- (a) A rebate of all or part of the rates or charges;
- (b) An agreement to defer payment of the rates or charges
- (c) An agreement to accept a transfer of unencumbered land in full or part payment of the rates or charges

Background Information

1. The Diamantina Shire Council is the trustee of a Recreation Reserve on land described as Lot 17/SP226890.
2. In May 2022 Council resolved to offer the Birdsville Dunes Golf Club a trustee lease over part of the Recreation Reserve (L17/SP226890). The lease was executed on 5th August 2022.
3. Clause 2.2(b) of the Lease provides that:
The lessee shall be responsible for the payment of local government rates and charges, such as State Fire Levy and Local government utility charges such as water, sewerage and waste if levied over the land.
4. In February 2023, Birdsville Dunes Golf Club applied to council for a donation to cover the cost of rates levied on the land. Council resolved to accept the Birdsville Dunes Golf Clubs request and granted the club a donation in the amount of \$2,725.82.

Report

5. Correspondence has been received from the Birdsville Dunes Golf Club requesting that council give consideration to either granting a remission on their rate assessment or consider granting a donation equivalent to the net amount of rates owing, being \$3,335.10.
6. The club has advised that they are striving to be compliant in all aspect of Council's requirements for the Lease Holding. The club operates as a Not-for-Profit organisation and is still in its infant development stage with very limited sources of income.

Financial Implications

Nil

Conclusion

7. The Birdsville Dunes Golf Club is a Not-for-Profit organisation and hold a lease over the relevant land. Under the terms of clause 2.2(b) of the lease, the club is responsible for the payment of rates and charges levied against the land.
8. The Birdsville Dunes Golf Club meet the relevant requirements under the Local Government Regulation 2012 to be granted a concession in the form of a rebate of all or part of the rates and charges levied.

Attachments

[Letter – Birdsville Dunes Golf Club](#)

11.13 Community and Economic Development Report

Responsible Officer: Mike Hayward | Interim Chief Executive Officer

Author: Matt Allard | Director Community and Economic Development

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).

Officers Recommendation

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

MATTERS FOR COUNCILS' CONSIDERATION

Early Years Services Program

The recent assessment of the Early Years Services Program has raised concerns about the program's compliance with its funding obligations. These concerns, consistently identified from June 2022 to June 2023 by the Department of Education, highlight critical gaps in the program's achievement of the benchmarks set for funding utilisation and desired outcomes.

A major factor contributing to these challenges is the identified deficiencies in staff qualifications, experience, and the overall management of the program. These issues have led to a notable deviation from the program's primary goals and objectives, undermining the effectiveness of the program.

Given these critical findings, there is an urgent need for a comprehensive and rigorous review of the program's strategies and execution plans. Addressing these issues promptly is crucial to ensure the program's realignment with its fundamental objectives and compliance with funding requirements.

The corrective action will entail a thorough reassessment of current methodologies, a significant enhancement of monitoring mechanisms, and adopting a more strategic approach to partnership and community engagement. Such steps are vital to address the shortcomings identified in the assessment and to ensure the program meets its commitments and delivers on its promise of providing high-quality early childhood services to the community.

In addressing these concerns, the following has been identified focusing on staff development, infrastructure enhancement, and program restructuring. Key components for consideration include:

Comprehensive Program Review: A thorough reassessment of the program's methodologies and execution plans to realign with core objectives and funding requirements.

Staff Training Initiative: Enrolment of staff in the Certificate III in Children's Services to address the gaps in qualifications and experience, ensuring a higher standard of program delivery.

A meeting was held with the Principal of Birdsville School to also explore the following solutions:

Collaborative Infrastructure Development: Construction of a dedicated building within the premises of the local primary schools, specifically for the Playgroup program. This initiative aims to allow public access while maintaining safety and leveraging the school's resources.

Resource Sharing and Mentorship: A strategic partnership with each of the local primary schools, facilitating resource sharing, and mentorship. This collaboration will provide a supportive environment for skill development in early childhood services.

Given the scope and significance of these initiatives, further discussions and cooperation with each of the Shire's schools, and securing funding for the building is a crucial aspect of this plan. The proposed corrective actions not only aim to address the current deficiencies but also lay the

groundwork for a more robust and effective Early Years Services Program. This report, encompassing both immediate and long-term strategies, is presented for council's consideration and direction.

Does council support the corrective actions, seeking to continue conversations with each of the schools

Birdsville Community Pool

The community pool situated within Birdsville School grounds has become a key area of focus in our efforts to improve local community amenities. Although the pool is a valuable resource for the school, its location restricts wider community access, especially during school hours. This limitation is compounded by safety concerns, notably the frequent instances of the pool gate being left unlocked, raising the risk of unsupervised access, particularly for children.

In response to these challenges, a meeting was held with the Principal of Birdsville School to explore potential solutions that would be mutually beneficial. The following was identified as a possible solution.

1. **Construction of a Separate Fence:** To delineate the pool area from the school, thereby providing separate access for the community and the school. This would allow the community to use the pool during school hours without compromising school security.
2. **New Amenities Block for Birdsville School:** Recognising that the construction of the fence would lead to the loss of the school's current amenities block, the proposal includes building a new amenities block for exclusive school use.

As we consider the outlined proposal for the Birdsville community pool, it is important to acknowledge the necessity of securing funding to support these initiatives. The construction of a separate fence and a new amenities block for the school represents a significant investment in both our community's infrastructure and the safety of our children. This report is therefore presented to the council for consideration and direction.

Does council support the proposed actions, seeking to continue conversations with the school

Christmas-Themed Promotions and Decorations

During the month, discussions were initiated regarding the worn-out condition of our Christmas decorations, sparking a broader conversation about the potential for Christmas-themed promotions in the region.

Arising from these discussions is the enthusiasm of many other towns, both large and small, who commit to Christmas-themed initiatives. These initiatives, depending on their scale and scope, have been known to significantly enhance end-of-year celebrations and foster a sense of community spirit.

Given the potential benefits that such promotions could bring, there is a proposition to allocate a budget for this project. This budget would encompass the cost of acquiring new decorations, their installation, maintenance, and potentially organising related events or activities.

From a marketing, promotions, or event perspective, there are numerous avenues to explore for introducing festive elements in each town within our Shire. These initiatives have the potential to not only enhance the visual appeal of our region but also contribute to the overall well-being and sense of togetherness among our residents.

This collaborative effort could result in a more vibrant and engaging end-of-year celebration for our Shire's community and is therefore presented for council's consideration and direction.

Does council support the proposed initiative and if so, identify the annual budget allocation.

Town Entrance Signs

In the recent evaluation of town entrance signage, it has come to our attention that the design for the Bedourie entrance signs has not been finalised, and as a result, the signs have not been created.

To address this issue, the following actions are recommended:

- **Finalise Bedourie Sign Design:** Work to finalise the design for the Bedourie entrance signs and ensure it aligns with our branding and identity. Once the design is complete, proceed with ordering the necessary signage.

- **Budget Allocation:** To support this action effectively, it will be essential to identify a budget allocation. This budget will cover the costs associated with creating new signage, and addressing any installation or maintenance requirements.

Budget Implication: The estimated cost for producing and installing the signage is \$12,000.00

Does council support the proposed initiative and if so, identify the annual budget allocation.

MATTERS FOR COUNCILS' INFORMATION

Outstanding Resolutions Update

Minute No.	Minute Description	Status	Comment
2020.12.14-OM-2	TOWN ENTRANCE SIGNS	In progress	Signs have now been located for Birdsville. The design for Bedourie signs needs to be finalised. Budget allocation needs to be identified for Bedourie signs
2021.12.13-OM-6	88FM RADIO IN BEDOURIE AND BIRDSVILLE	In progress	No further progress. RFQ developed. Further investigation on equipment for suitability and requirements for the RFQ.
2022.11.21-OM-13	BIRDSVILLE COURTHOUSE PROPOSAL	In progress	More asbestos has been located onsite. Notification has been forwarded to the Department of Environment and Heritage seeking approval to recommence works. No feedback has been received to date. A comprehensive Project Management Plan has now been drafted to ensure any further risks are managed efficiently and effectively.

Continuous Improvement Program

In October, we took a significant step towards enhancing our operational effectiveness by drafting comprehensive guidelines for continuous improvement. These guidelines have been carefully crafted to streamline our processes, boost efficiency, and ensure that we continually evolve and adapt to meet the needs of our community.

To foster collaboration and gather valuable insights, we've shared these draft guidelines among the directorate. We are actively seeking initial feedback from our dedicated team members before we move forward with specific improvement projects.

These guidelines encompass various aspects of our operations, including performance measurement, data analysis, stakeholder engagement, and goal setting. They are designed to serve as a framework for driving positive change and innovation across the directorate.

The feedback we receive from the teams will play a crucial role in refining and tailoring these guidelines to our unique context. With their input, we will be better equipped to prioritise and execute continuous improvement projects that align with our strategic objectives.

Community Development

Library and Childrens Services

Children's Services in both Birdsville and Bedourie highlights a range of successful activities and outcomes. In Birdsville, activities such as sensory days with foam play and sensory bags, an engaging obstacle course, and participation in the Bedourie Halloween event, were a hit among children and parents. The Birdsville Playgroup also enjoyed arts and crafts days, contributing to an overall fun and educational month. Bedourie's Children's Services program, in parallel, hosted the Halloween event with a disco and trick-or-treating, involving the community and ensuring inclusivity

with various awards. Both locations reported 100% parent satisfaction and significant improvement in children's engagement.

The programs achieved commendable outcomes in child development, parental engagement, community building, and health and well-being. Key strategies such as play-based learning, age-appropriate activities, multisensory learning were effectively utilised. These initiatives led to enhanced cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development in children, strengthened community ties, and fostered holistic development. Continuous assessment, feedback, and data-driven decision-making were integral in shaping these effective programs. Overall, the collaborative efforts in Birdsville and Bedourie reflect a commitment to nurturing young minds and strengthening community bonds.

Regional Arts Services Network (RASN)

A meeting was held with the Regional Arts Services Network (RASN) to explore exciting opportunities for enhancing our Shire's cultural and artistic landscape. During our discussions, we delved into various ways to bring engaging arts and cultural programs to our community.

One significant outcome of our engagement with RASN was the promising support they offered to assist in developing a comprehensive two-year calendar of events. This calendar will serve as a roadmap for cultural and artistic activities within our Shire. Notably, it will encompass a diverse range of events and provide regular networking opportunities for our talented local artists.

This collaborative effort between Diamantina Shire Council and RASN holds immense potential to invigorate our cultural scene and foster creativity among our community members. As we move forward, we will continue to work closely with RASN to bring these plans to fruition and provide enriching cultural experiences for our residents.

Economic Development

Outback Queensland Agritourism Accelerator Project

In October, we took significant steps towards enhancing business capability, resilience, and sustainability in Outback Queensland through the Outback Queensland Agritourism Accelerator Project. This project is designed to educate and inform operators about the positive potential that agritourism can bring to the region. It also aims to identify businesses that are willing to diversify into agritourism and provide the necessary support mechanisms to expedite this process.

Our discussions included a meeting with the Sparrowly Group to discuss Council's position and the landscape of agritourism within our region. This strategic partnership represents a significant opportunity to collaborate with experts in agritourism and leverage their insights and resources to support local businesses.

The Outback Queensland Agritourism Accelerator Project aligns with our commitment to fostering economic growth and diversification within our Shire. It offers the potential for businesses to explore new opportunities while contributing to the overall resilience and sustainability of our region.

Lease of Kitchen Space Behind Wirrarri Visitor Information Centre

During the month, we explored the opportunity to lease the kitchen space located behind the Wirrarri Visitor Information Centre. This initiative is a part of our ongoing efforts to enhance the amenities and services available in the region, making it more appealing and functional for visitors and residents alike.

Leasing this kitchen space offers the potential to provide catering services, host culinary events, and support local food businesses. It aligns with our commitment to promoting tourism and supporting local entrepreneurs in our Shire.

As we move forward with this endeavour, we will be conducting feasibility studies, considering budget requirements, and seeking council's approval and support for the lease. We also look forward to engaging with the community to gather their valuable input and to ensure that this project aligns with their needs and expectations.

Marketing and Promotions

Regional Marketing Initiatives

During the month, we actively engaged in regional marketing initiatives to promote Diamantina Shire and enhance its appeal to both visitors and residents. These initiatives encompassed several distinct actions:

Let's Go Brisbane Caravan & Outdoor Sale

From October 26th to the 29th, the Let's Go Brisbane Caravan & Outdoor Sale, was held at the Brisbane Showgrounds. Thousands of people attended this event, providing a valuable platform for showcasing our Shire's unique attractions and offerings. The Caravan Parks Association of Queensland Ltd, on our behalf, presented and distributed Diamantina Shire brochures to a diverse audience. This outreach effort aimed to raise awareness of our Shire as an attractive travel destination.

Inclusion in Outback Queensland Masters Pocket Guide 2024

Diamantina Shire will be prominently featured in the "Outback Queensland Masters Pocket Guide 2024." This publication serves as an essential resource for the upcoming Masters event, and our inclusion ensures that our Shire is highlighted and showcases experiences to do whilst in the area.

Inclusion in 2024 Outback Queensland Traveler's Guide

The "2024 Outback Queensland Traveler's Guide" is a valuable tool for travellers planning their outback adventures, and our inclusion will further promote our Shire as a must-visit destination.

Joint Marketing Initiatives with Local Businesses

In addition to our regional marketing efforts, we have initiated discussions with key local businesses in Birdsville to explore joint marketing initiatives. These discussions aim to foster collaboration, reduce competition among local businesses, and create impactful marketing campaigns that benefit the Shire as a whole.

Tourism & Visitor Services

Access and Inclusive Training for Visitor Information Centre Staff

A comprehensive training program has commenced for our Visitor Information Centre staff with a focus on access and inclusivity. The primary objective of this program is to equip our staff with the knowledge and skills required to cater to the diverse needs of travellers, including those with different functional and cognitive impairments, such as senior travellers. This initiative acknowledges the importance of understanding what influences the travel decisions of these visitors and how to attract and retain them within our Shire, given the large and growing travel segment they represent.

As we progress with this training program, we anticipate that our Visitor Information Centre staff will be better equipped to provide exceptional service to a wide range of travellers, making our Shire more welcoming and accommodating to all. We are committed to promoting inclusivity and accessibility within our community and among our visitors.

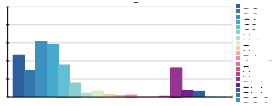
Visitor Experience Familiarisation (Family) Program

In an effort to enhance the quality of our visitor experiences, our dedicated tourism staff members will be embarking on a Famil (familiarisation) program. This program will enable them to gain in-depth knowledge about local trails and experiences, ultimately identifying areas that require improvement.

The primary objective of this program is to ensure that our visitors have a memorable and enjoyable time exploring our Shire. By actively participating in this program, our staff will be well-equipped to provide valuable insights and recommendations to enhance the overall visitor experience.

As we progress with the Famil program, we will also seek feedback from our staff on the trails and experiences they audit. This feedback will be invaluable in shaping future improvements and initiatives that cater to the needs and preferences of our visitors.

Birdsville Caravan Park and Lodge



The total revenue generated for October 2023 are as follows:

- Gross Revenue: \$57,233.50.00
- Net Revenue (after deductions): \$52,030.19

Analysis

The data for Birdsville Tourist Park and Lodge for October 2023 highlights several key insights:

High Demand for Premium Accommodations: Ensulted cabins, particularly those with larger berth capacities, exhibited high occupancy rates. This suggests a strong demand for more premium, comfortable accommodations among visitors.

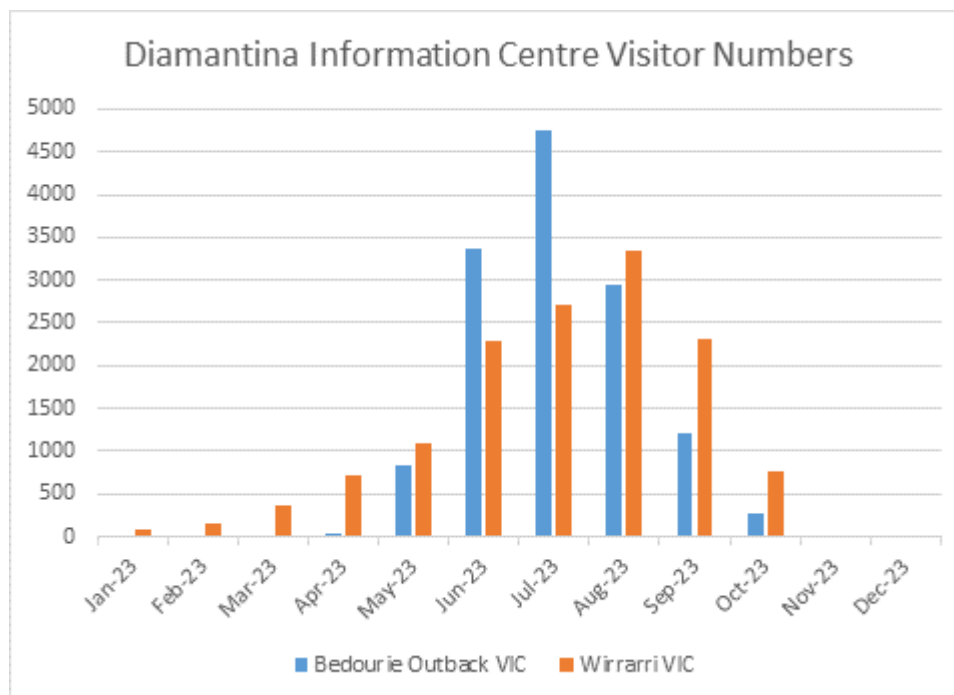
Preference for Powered Sites: Powered sites had higher occupancy rates compared to unpowered sites. This indicates a preference among guests for sites with additional amenities like electricity and water connections.

Significant Usage of Specialised Facilities: Facilities like private facilities and overflow areas, particularly during events, were heavily utilised. This points to the importance of these facilities in accommodating spikes in visitor numbers, especially during peak events or seasons.

Variability in Lodge Room Occupancy: Different types of rooms in Birdsville Lodge experienced varying levels of occupancy, implying that some room types are more popular or better suited to visitor needs than others.

In essence, the data points to a strong market preference for higher-end accommodations and facilities with additional amenities. It also highlights the importance of diversifying accommodation options to cater to different visitor preferences, which in turn optimises occupancy rates and maximises revenue.

Birdsville and Bedourie Visitor Information Centres



2023 Total Visitor Numbers

2023	Wirrarri Visitor Information Centre	Bedourie Outback Visitor Centre
Total Visitor Numbers to Date	13,780	13,410

During October, 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, shedding light on the changing dynamics of tourism in the region.

Visitor Contact Summary (October 2023 – 2022 Comparison)

	Wirrarri Visitor Information Centre		Bedourie Outback Visitor Centre	
	October 2023	October 2022	October 2023	October 2022
Phone	129	218	107	187
Email	53	89	39	18
Total Visitors	762	638	266	489

Visitor Distribution

	Wirrarri Visitor Information Centre	Bedourie Outback Visitor Centre
QLD	199	82
NSW	203	33
VIC	88	29
TAS	19	12
SA	68	35
WA	35	4

	Wirrarri Visitor Information Centre	Bedourie Outback Visitor Centre
NT	14	11
ACT	10	0
Local	92	56
International	34	3

Analysis

Wirrarri Visitor Information Centre:

1. **Total Visitors:** October 2023 saw an increase in total visitors compared to October 2022, with a rise from 638 visitors to 762 visitors. This indicates a growing interest in our Shire as a destination for travellers.
2. **Phone and Email Inquiries:** Phone inquiries decreased from 218 to 129, while email inquiries decreased from 89 to 53. Despite the decrease in inquiries, the overall increase in total visitors suggests that visitors are seeking information through on-site visits or other means, such as online resources.
3. **Visitor Distribution:** The visitor distribution data shows that visitors primarily come from Queensland and New South Wales, which remains consistent with previous years. However, there has been an increase in visitors from South Australia, indicating a broader regional interest.

Bedourie Outback Visitor Centre:

1. **Total Visitors:** October 2023 recorded a lower total visitor count compared to October 2022, with a decrease from 489 visitors to 266 visitors. This decrease may be attributed to various factors, including seasonal variations or changes in travel patterns.
2. **Phone and Email Inquiries:** Phone inquiries decreased from 187 to 107, while email inquiries increased from 18 to 39. This suggests a shift in communication preferences, with more visitors choosing to contact the centre via email.
3. **Visitor Distribution:** Similar to Wirrarri Visitor Information Centre, visitors primarily originate from Queensland and New South Wales. However, there has been a decrease in visitors from New South Wales and an increase in visitors from South Australia. Local visitor numbers have remained relatively stable.

In summary, both visitor centres experienced a decrease in phone and email contacts in October 2023 compared to October 2022. However, Wirrarri Visitor Information Centre managed to attract a higher total number of visitors, while Bedourie Outback Visitor Centre saw a significant decline in visitor numbers, which may be related to the reduced inquiries. Understanding the reasons behind these trends and exploring strategies to convert inquiries into visits or enhance visitor engagement could be valuable for both centres.

11.14 Infrastructure Report

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

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)

Officers Recommendation

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

Facilities

Contractor Builder, Bill Knight and Jason Doyle have completed the installation of the new shelter over the courtyard of the office.

Bill has also completed other outstanding tasks whilst in town.

Jason Doyle - Facilities Coordinator is crossing off some of the outstanding tasks.

The new air conditioners have been installed at the hall and are working well.

We are looking into how to reduce the noise from the ducting as over the years the lining has deteriorated and been cleaned out.

Currently we are sourcing the help from DABFAB in Boulia for our plumbing needs.

Water Meter Readings	10/10/2023	24/10/2023	Comments
Bore head Master Meter	548270	556909	
Cluny Meter	26473	26473	
Kameran/racetrack meter	115140	115147	
Industrial Area Meter	180108	185479	
Bedourie town meter	221702	225027	
Temp – into pond	43	43	
Temp – out of pond	28	31	
26 Merri St	5191	5214	
31 Eyre St	2699	2746	
23 Eyre St	1191	1197	
3 Kepler	2304	2291	Running backwards investigate and change
22 Merri St	3393	3417	
16 Wodonga St	9590	9593	
12 Wodonga St	8841	8846	
24 Nappa St	6738	6755	
6 Merri St	118	157	
7 Eyre St	5334	5338	
44 Wodonga St	9459	9479	
15 Kepler	9276	9277	

Bedourie CED	10/10/2023	24/10/2023	Comments
Pump stn 1 pump 1	10946	10968	

Pump stn 1 pump 2	7345	7376	
Pump stn 2 pump 1	5772	5833	
Pump stn 2 pump 2	2980	2992	
Pump stn 3 pump 1	7603	7617	
Pump stn 3 pump 2	3620	3632	

Housing

We have only had two official housing requests this month, with questions in regards to others; the emails have been answered and referred to the Council Web site to put in housing request forms.

The two received were one new request in Birdsville the other a request to move to larger house from Bedourie.

Housing Request October

Name	Current Address	Town and Bedrooms required	Comments	Suggested house
Zack Kiniven	11 Kepler 2 bedroom	Bedourie 3	Expecting baby would like an extra bedroom for more room Both Council employee's	38 Eyre Street Bedourie
Adele Rowe	30 Graham Street	Birdsville 3	45 Frew Street would suit my style of living in Birdsville I am going for the full time tourism officer position on Council currently casual	15 Frew Street Not a large house bedrooms are very small. Birdsville

Aerodromes

REX ground control Bedourie, operation as per usual.

CASA Audit has been received.

Town Services – Bedourie

Bedourie Town Services are continuing with general maintenance, Weed spraying, Street sweeping, Fertilising, Cleaning Town facilities and Spa units. Slashing, Mowing and Gardening.

Next event to support will be the Bedourie State School swim and arts camp.

Swimming Pool maintenance as per usual, usage of the spa will slow down again now with the warmer weather, the spa will be closed for the summer after the School Swim Camp.

Events - the Channel Country Ladies Day was held in Bedourie and from reports from the committee and women that attended the day, all was a great success. The committee left the grounds in a very clean and tidy state.



Town Services – Birdsville

Birdsville Town Services are continuing with general maintenance, Weed spraying, Street sweeping, cleaning of council housing and facilities, Mowing and Gardening.

Birdsville team have lost a labourer Richard Armstrong who has moved on. We will be advertising this position along with all of the others currently out there.

Alarna Archterberg is currently away on vacation, as she will be staying over the Christmas break



Project Management

No work to report this month

Construction crew

The crew are working on flood damage works at Coorabulka, for the next two weeks; they will then be moving to Birdsville Windorah road to work on the RMPC resheeting work, before the Christmas break they will be doing maintenance grading to enable the re sheet works to commence after the Christmas break, the first 6.5 KM, this will be about four weeks work, he will then continue another section of re sheet.

Patrol Crew

The crew are now nearing completion of the Adria Downs flood damage repairs; they will be moving to complete the Coorabulka Flood Damage works before the Christmas break.

After the Christmas break this crew will be working in this area and up towards the Boulia border and Diamantina Lakes, this will all be flood repair work.



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 remediation works on Roseberth floodway remediation works, this will commence late October



Contractors

- **Dale Contracting** is working on the Sandringham Bedourie road on flood repair works, and will be in this area until Christmas break
- **G T Contracting** along with some of DSC crew are working between Cuttaburra Resheet. 10 KM section, and the remediation works at Roseberth North Floodway, this work will keep them busy up to the Christmas break.

After the christmas break we will not start the contract crews back, until we have assessed our funding.

Works Programme

We are currently updating our works programme to see where we stand financially, this update is in the early stages, but is complete up to the Christmas break with weekly costs included,

Plant

Plant Renewal 2023/2024

We have had several Plant Committee meetings discussing the renewal of plant, purchase of new plant and the resale of old plant.

I have attached a spreadsheet for your information,

Workshop Report October 2023

General maintenance of all vehicles is being continued.

I have been working on submitting a report on a monthly basis, of the status of Defects raised by plant operators and staff through our electronic system Plant Assessor, we are still working on improving this report in the coming months,

Based on the period from the 1st January 2023 and up to the end of October 2023, we have the following information :

Total defects reported in full period	230
Resolved	100
Unresolved	130
Resolved in the month of Oct.	10
Raised in October	20

This report will improve over the next few months

Attachments

[Plant Renewal Program](#)

[Plant Defect Log](#)

11.15 Engineering Report

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

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

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.

ROAD MAINTENANCE PERFORMANCE CONTRACTS

RMPC Contract Value for 2023/24

Item	Contract	Amount Claimed	Cost to Complete	Comment	Timing
Base Allocation	\$2,041,406.00	\$610,858.97	\$1,430,547.03		Must be completed by 30 June 2024
Herbicide Spot Spraying Declared Plants	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00		
Gravel Resheeting	\$1,328,800.00	\$0.00	\$1,328,800.00	81A Ch 31.3km – 41.4km 80A Ch 138.44km – 144.95km	
Total (Approved)	\$3,385,206.00	\$610,858.97	\$2,774,347.03		

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 (10km)	\$600,000	\$514,111.21	RMPC 2022/23	Complete	
Total Approved (40.08km)	\$2,600,000	\$1,091,954.76			

Gravel crushing tender has been awarded to Harris Road Contractors – works have commenced.

Main Roads Minor Works Performance Contracts

Item	Contract	Amount Claimed	Cost to Complete	Comment
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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	\$1,834,775.90	TMR have lodged Betterment application with QRA – Design complete	
Gumbrie Pave and Seal 80A		Design pending, survey scheduled for mid – late September	\$50k, Priority 2.
80A Shallow Lakes/ Durrie Realignment		Design pending, survey commenced	\$100k, Priority 1.
93C Mimosa/ Monkira Sandhills Realignment		Design pending, survey required	\$150k, Priority 3.

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 30th June 2024.

Asset name	Value	Percentage Complete to Date
Adria Downs Access Road	\$ 2,120,194.36	75%
Betoota - Mooraberee Road	\$ 284,656.40	100%
Betoota Access Road	\$ 88,346.74	100%
Cacoory - Stony Crossing Road	\$ 530,015.09	100%
Coorabulka - Shire Boundary Road	\$ 250,280.46	25%
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	

Asset name	Value	Percentage Complete to Date
Griffiths Tank - Coorabulka Road	\$ 468,815.58	100%
Kamaran Downs Access Road	\$ 13,353.87	100%
Lake Machattie Detour	\$ 408,113.06	100%
Sandringham - Bedourie Road	\$ 651,497.01	25%
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%
Total	\$ 7,046,714.67	

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.

The submission value for the event is below and have now been approved by QRA. Works are due to be completed prior to 30th 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	
Vaughan Johnson Lookout Road	\$ 153,022.68	
Project Management	\$ 514,092.56	
Total	\$ 6,827,714.36	

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.	✓	99%	\$1k
Site 2 - Diamantina Lakes - Winton Shire Boundary Road Ch 4372		Pending final review	✓	99%	\$1k
Site 3 - Diamantina Lakes - Winton Shire Boundary Road Ch 4582		Pending final review	✓	99%	\$1k
Site 4 - Diamantina Lakes - Winton Shire Boundary Road Ch 4844		Construction Works Complete	✓	100%	
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	✓	99%	\$1k
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.	✓	99%	\$1k
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	✓	99%	\$1k
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.	✓	99%	\$1k
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	✓	99%	\$1k
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.	✓	99%	\$1k
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	✓	99%	\$1k

Location	Construction Estimate	Comment	Survey	Design Status	Cost To Complete
Site 13 - Griffiths Tank - Coorabulka Road Ch 65704	\$573,361.51	Current estimate was developed for original QRA submission. Pending final review	✓	99%	\$1k
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		Removed from Scope		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	✓	99%	\$1k
Site 18 - Springvale Diamantina lakes Ch 47534		Pending final review	✓	99%	\$1k
Site 19 - Betoota - Mooraberee Road Ch 290 - 315		Design required to develop detailed estimate for site.	✓	99%	\$1k
Site 20 - Betoota - Mooraberee Road Ch 26100 - 26163		Pending final review.	✓	99%	\$1k
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 overed constructing concrete apron. Design scope to realignment/ reconstruct existing structure. Removed from Scope.		0%	\$100k?
Site 24 - Monkira - Davenport Downs Road Ch 96736 - 96768				0%	
Site 25 - Monkira - Davenport Downs Road	\$298,346.40			0%	

Location	Construction Estimate	Comment	Survey	Design Status	Cost To Complete
Ch 98918 - 98968					
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			✓	60%	\$10k
Site 28 - Griffiths Tank - Coorabulka Road Ch 93704 - 93729		Pending Final Review	✓	95%	\$5k
Site 29 - Springvale - Boulia Shire Boundary Road Ch 5860 - 5900			✓	0%	\$25k
Site 30 - Springvale - Boulia Shire Boundary Road Ch 6460 - 6500			✓	0%	\$25k
Site 31 - Springvale - Boulia Shire Boundary Road Ch 7488 - 7520			✓	0%	\$25k
Site 32 - Springvale - Boulia Shire Boundary Road Ch 28871 - 28919			✓	0%	\$25k
Site 33 - Springvale - Boulia Shire Boundary Road Ch 28990 - 29010			✓	0%	\$25k
Site 34 - Springvale - Boulia Shire Boundary Road Ch 31652 - 31695			✓	0%	\$25k
Site 35 - Springvale - Boulia Shire Boundary Road Ch 38680 - 38720			✓	0%	\$25k
Site 36 - Springvale - Boulia Shire Boundary			✓	60%	\$10k

Location	Construction Estimate	Comment	Survey	Design Status	Cost To Complete
Road Ch 42439 - 42595					
Site 37 - Springvale - Diamantina Lakes Road Ch 46497 - 46528			✓	0%	\$20k
Site 38 - Springvale - Diamantina Lakes Road Ch 50608 - 50644			✓	60%	\$10k
\$321k spent to date on the above design related works PM budget for 2022 event is \$506,127.28. PM budget for the 2023 event is \$514,092.56				CTC	\$400k

OTHER

Project/ Item	Comment
Visits to the Shire	17 th – 19 th October
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	Birdsville hall concept to be amended to suit community consultation. Final concept design for Bedourie Council Office has been received with construction estimate from quantity surveyor expected by end November.
Big Red Road Pave and Seal	All construction works completed. Reseal to take place in early December.
Gravel pit materials testing	Samples taken from pit required for RRUPP gravel resheeting. Material samples have been taken progressively over the last few months. All pits have been sampled on DTMR roads and waiting test results.
Water Main Air Scouring	The Water Group have procured reservoir cleaning and water main air scouring which will occur in the coming months.

Attachments

Nil

13.1 Organisational Structure Review

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Author: Michael Hayward | Interim Chief Executive Officer

Link to Corporate Plan:

- Quality administration and service which meets customer needs

Consultation:

- Cr Dare | Mayor Diamantina Shire Council

Summary

The purpose of this report is to propose a revised Organisational Structure for Councils consideration and adoption.

Officers Recommendation

Council resolves, for the purposes of the *Local Government Act 2009*, section 196(a), to adopt the organisational structure as presented.

Relevant Policy/Legislation

Section 196 of the Local Government Act 2009 provides that:

- (a) a local government must, by resolution, adopt an organisational structure that is appropriate to the performance of the local government's responsibilities.
- (b) The local government may employ local government employees for the performance of the local government's responsibilities
- (c) The chief executive officer appoints local government employees

Background Information

At the December 2022 ordinary meeting, the interim Chief Executive Officer presented a report recommending that following the appointment of the new CEO, council adopt a structure that assists them and the CEO in delivering the corporate and operational plans of council on behalf of the community.

The interim CEO put forward a recommendation that:

"Council adopt the proposed organisational structure (attachment 1) in accordance with section 196 of the local Government Act 2009".

Council subsequently moved the following resolution:

Minute No. 2022.12.14-OM-7

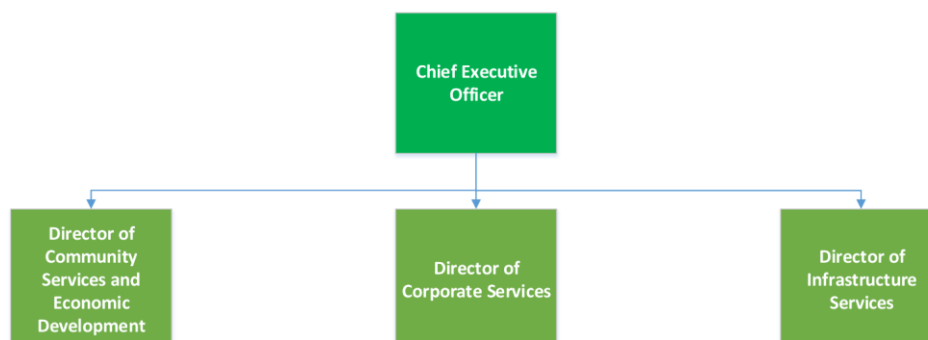
Moved by Cr Pursell and Seconded by Cr Murray

'That the recommendation be adopted.'

Carried 5/0.

Attachment 1 to the report is reproduced below:

Diamantina Shire Council Organisation Chart (Executive) - Draft



Report

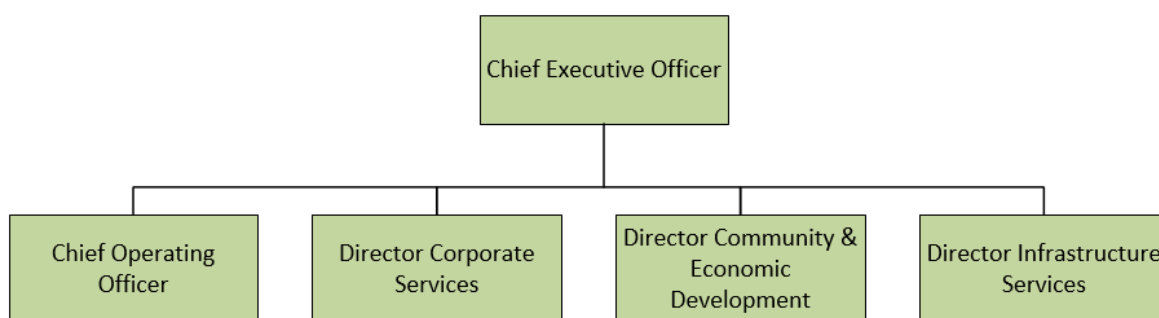
Since the adoption of the organisational structure in December 2022, the appointed Chief Executive Officer resigned and the position has been filled by a succession of Interim CEO's.

Council have reviewed the characteristics and skills that they believe are necessary to successfully fulfil the role of Chief Executive Officer for the Diamantina Shire Council.

Council have retained the services of LG Services Group to recruit a suitable candidate for the position when advertising recomences and to ensure applicants match the characteristics and skill sets that council believe are required to successfully meet the requirements of the role.

The Mayor and current Interim Chief Executive Officer have reviewed both the current and previous organisational structures that have been adopted by council and have identified what is considered to be an appropriate structure that will assist in filling the role of CEO and will provide a succession path to ensure longer term continuity for the role of Chief Executive Officer.

It is proposed that council give consideration to the following model with the view to adopting the model as the new Organisational Structure:



The Chief Operating Officer is a senior executive who would be responsible for the day-to-day operations of council. The COO is effectively a second in command, reporting to the CEO. While the CEO is concerned with long-term business goals, the COO is focused more on implementing councils' strategies into daily operations to meet objectives. The COO is responsible for working collaboratively with other senior executives to ensure that organizational goals are met.

The functions under each executive role are proposed as follows:

Chief Operating Officer	Director Corporate Services	Director Community & Economic Development	Director Infrastructure Services
Customer Service Corporate Services • Policies and procedures • Process Mapping • Reporting and communication ➢ Annual Report ➢ Operational Plan ➢ Corporate Plan Special Projects	Financial Sustainability Finance Investment Council Businesses Procurement Payroll Human Resource Management Technology & Innovation Records Management Planning & Environment	Community & Cultural Services Tourism & Services	Infrastructure Services • Shire Roads • Main Roads • Town Streets • Waste Services • Water and Sewer Services Fleet Services Project Management Asset Management

This structure is considered to have the right amount of flexibility to allow for the Chief Operating Officer Role to be filled by either someone with a local government background or someone from outside of local government but with a background in business or management.

Financial Implications

Whilst the position has not been recognized in the 2023/24 budget, the position can easily be funded from the existing budget and from other savings that have been identified from recent reviews of council's operations.

Conclusion

Previous organisational structures have provided for a Deputy Chief Executive Officer however whilst this model provided some confidence in filling any vacancies in the CEO role, the Deputy position was effectively a combination of the current Director Corporate Services role and the proposed new position of Chief Operating Officer. Whilst the COO would effectively be the

equivalent of the old Deputy CEO, this new position provides greater flexibility to allow the COO to work with all the other executive officers to assist in achieving outcomes within designated timeframes.

Whilst the COO role will work closely with the CEO and is similar in part to the old Deputy CEO role it does not mean that the COO will automatically assume the CEO role during any period of absence or if there is a vacancy in the CEO role. Section 195 of the Local Government Act 2009 allows a local government to appoint a qualified person to act as the chief executive officer which means council does not have to appoint the COO to act in the role if they believe that the officer does not have the relevant skills and knowledge to fill the role of CEO.

Attachments

Nil