PRESENT:

APOLOGIES:

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calendar of Events</th>
<th>March - April</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>March</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Draft Murray CMA Catchment Action Plan 2013-23 Public Exhibition Euston Club Resort 8.30 – 11am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Draft Murray CMA Catchment Action Plan 2013-23 Public Exhibition Balranald Senior Citizens 3 – 5.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Community Safety Precinct Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>April</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Euston Beautification</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tourism &amp; Economic Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Balranald Beautification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Hostel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>LEMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Council</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Recommendation:
That: “The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 19th February 2013 copies having previously been circulated to each Councillor be taken as read and confirmed”.

That: “The minutes of the Corporate Services Committee Meeting of Council held on Wednesday 13th March 2013 copies having previously been circulated to each Councillor be taken as read and confirmed”.

This is Page 1 of the Business Paper of the Ordinary Monthly Meeting of Balranald Shire Council held in the Councils Chambers Market Street Balranald on Tuesday 19th March 2013.
PRESENTATION/DELEGATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>NSW OFFICE OF WATER PRESENTATION</th>
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<tbody>
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<td></td>
<td>Reporting Officer</td>
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Purpose of Report:
To advise Council that Scott Jaensch from NOW will be making a presentation at this meeting.

Report:
NOW have been requested to make a presentation at this Council meeting regarding the Lake Benannee wetting and drying investigations.

Attachments: Nil.

Budget Implications: Nil.

Recommendation: That the presentation be received.

MAYORAL MINUTE/REPORT

COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR ADOPTION

COMMITTEE & OTHER REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

DELEGATES REPORTS

NOTICES OF MOTION/RECISSION

GENERAL MANAGERS REPORTS (Incorporating all Staff Reports)
Corporate Services Division

**Item C-1 | STATEMENT OF FUNDS**

| Reporting Officer | DCS – Robert Rayner | File 85 |

**Purpose of Report**
Funds Report for the Month Ending 28th February 2013

**Report**

**Bank Reconciliation**
Balance B/F From Previous Month 989,083.95

ADD Receipts for Month:
- Hostel Subsidy 41,737.38
- Rates & Water 284,814.91
- Hostel Bond 125,000.00
- FAGS 321,222.25
- Debtors 14,914.88
- Other Revenue 76,338.56
Total Receipts 864,027.98

LESS Payments for the Month:
- Contractors Plant Hire 177,981.99
- BAS - Dec12 15,482.00
- Insurance Instalment 45,911.77
- Headwall & Pipes 64,895.58
- Other Payments 629,233.96
Total Payments 933,505.30

Cash Book Balance as at End of Month 919,606.63

LESS Outstanding Deposits as at end of Month 19,886.96
ADD Unpresented Cheques as at end of Month 2,959.31

Bank Balance as at End of Month 902,678.98

**Funds Held**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funds</th>
<th>General</th>
<th>DWM</th>
<th>Water</th>
<th>Sewer</th>
<th>Combined</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bank</td>
<td>544,696.79</td>
<td>87,070.19</td>
<td>140,104.82</td>
<td>147,734.83</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,400,000.00</td>
<td>3,000,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,144,696.79</strong></td>
<td><strong>87,070.19</strong></td>
<td><strong>140,104.82</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,547,734.83</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,919,606.63</strong></td>
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<th>Funds</th>
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<td>1,547,734.83</td>
<td>2,430,796.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Held:</td>
<td>Bankwest</td>
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<td>IMB Ltd</td>
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<td>NAB</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Suncorp</td>
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<td>Westpac</td>
<td>$500,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,000,000.00</strong></td>
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All investments shown have been made in accordance with Section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993, the regulations and council’s investment policy.

**Recommendation:** For Information.
Item C-2 DONATION REQUEST BALRANALD HEALTH SERVICE

Reporting Officer Director of Corporate Services - Robert Rayner

File 56

Purpose of Report
To determine support for a donation request from the Balranald Health Service.

Report
Council have received a request from the Balranald Health Service to support a trip to Melbourne for approximately 20 members of the Day Centre.

These elderly residents of our community would stay overnight in Melbourne and attend a live show.

The DECD has been requested by the GM to liaise with the Health Service Manager to source grant funds if available.

Budget Implications
Nil

Attachments
1. Letter from the Balranald Health Service

Recommendation
That report be noted.
Mr Chris Littlemore  
General Manager  
Balranald Shire Council  
Market Street  
BALRANALD NSW 2715

Dear Chris,

This letter is to ask if you would consider a donation of some funds for the Balranald Health Service for a specific purpose. Balranald Health Service runs an active Day Centre which meets twice weekly for elderly residents of our Community and our Residential Aged Care Unit. Our average attendance rate is about twenty participants each Monday and Thursday.

At the end of each year, our Coordinator, Leanne Giannarousoa has taken the group to an end of year function to celebrate prior to Christmas. As you can imagine, this activity greatly enhances the quality of life for the participants of the Day Centre.

Day Centre raises funds throughout the year with raffles and the sale of items such as crafts, cookery and soaps made by the group members. At the end of 2013, we are aiming to raise money towards a trip to Melbourne for the group of approximately twenty members to stay overnight and see a live show. Balranald Health Service is seeking assistance to support our fundraising for this trip.

I would be very appreciative of your consideration of this project to achieve our goal at the end of the year. We are hoping to raise in excess of five thousand dollars to organize this trip. We would be happy to receive any assistance you are able to provide. If you would like to discuss this with me further, I am available during business hours through the week on 03 59719800.

Yours Sincerely,

Annette Vassarzo Morel  
Health Service Manager  
Balranald NIFS,  
25/02/2013
Item C-3  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BALRANALD &amp; DISTRICT MILITARY HERITAGE TRAIL PROPOSAL</th>
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<tr>
<td>Reporting Officer</td>
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**Purpose of Report**  
To advise Council of meetings held regarding the military heritage trail proposal.

**Report**  
Council on the request of Adrian Gorman met with the stakeholders in relation to the above project on Friday 1\(^{st}\) March 2013. Present were Adrian Gorman, David Eastburn, Mayor Cr. Steve O’Halloran, Connie Mallett Balranald Inc., Toni Dennis Secretary/Manager Balranald & District Ex-Servicemen’s Club Ltd. (Club), Noel Camin Balranald RSL Sub Branch (RSL) and Club Board member, Robyn Ryan DECD and Robert Rayner Acting GM.

Adrian Gorman had previously outlined his proposal during a presentation at a June 2012 meeting of the TED Committee where he was requested to keep Council informed of his progress. Adrian was now requesting Council to erect the plaques before this year’s ANZAC Day. I advised the meeting that a report would have to go to Council before any proposal was approved.

During the discussions facilitated by Balranald Inc.’s agenda, Council was advised that the RSL and Club objected to the proposal and that they had not been properly consulted.

Numerous separate meetings were held with the stakeholders over the ensuing days. David Eastburn confirmed that Adrian Gorman was willing to compromise and place the plaques in ANZAC Park. The RSL and Club both requested details of the proposal to take to their respective committee/board.

Council prepared correspondence and forwarded details of the proposal as supplied by Balranald Inc to the RSL and Club. Council also requested that the RSL Committee and Club Board advise in writing to the Council of any objections they may have to the proposal.

At the date of writing this report no further correspondence has been received.

**Budget Implications** Nil

**Attachments**

**Recommendation** For the information of Council.
Economic & Community Development Reports

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>BALRANALD INTERAGENCY NETWORK REQUEST TO WAIVE GREENHAM PARK HALL HIRE FEES FOR SERVICE EXPO</th>
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<td>Reporting Officer</td>
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Purpose of Report
To advise Council of a request for support of this event.

Report
At the March meeting of the Balranald Interagency Network it was resolved that the Interagency Network hold a Service/Agency Expo in Balranald at Greenham Park Hall on May 22, 2013.

The Expo will provide service providers and agencies with a networking opportunity during the morning session, and will include a community luncheon, children's activities and community expo from 1pm – 3pm.

In 2009, the very successful “What does Balranald have for you” expo was held, which provided an opportunity for agencies to showcase their services, and to inform the community on how to access these services. The 2013 Expo will be hosted in the same format as the previous event.

Balranald Interagency Network has secured funding of $1200 from Families NSW for the marketing, activities and lunch catering and is seeking the support of Council by way of waiving the hire fees at Greenham Park Hall.

Budget Implications
Nil.

Attachments
Nil.

Recommendation
That Council support the Balranald Interagency Network Expo by waiving the Greenham Park Hall hire fees.
Item E - 2  | REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT – ST JOSEPHS FAMILY GROUP GARDEN
--- | ---
Reporting Officer | Director of Economic and Community Development Robyn Ryan | File 056

**Purpose of Report**
To advise Council of a request for financial support from the St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School Family Group.

**Report**
Correspondence has been received from the St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School Family Group seeking financial support from Council to assist in establishing a garden to provide students with an opportunity to learn the many benefits of growing food, and using this experience in their class curriculum.

The group will purchase the garden bed construction materials locally, and are seeking a contribution of $1,000 from Council to progress the project.

**Budget Implications**
Funds available – 2012/2013 donations budget

**Attachments**
Correspondence attached

**Recommendation**
For Council’s consideration.
Dear Mr Mayor and Balranald Shire Councillors

On behalf of the Family Group Committee I am writing to seek your assistance in a project that is a focused initiative for 2013 at St Joseph’s school.

To complement a wonderful paved area at the back of the school the class teachers and students are very keen to develop new garden areas. Raised garden beds will provide an opportunity for students to learn the many benefits of growing food and using the experience in their class curriculum. The students hope to follow in the wonderful example of gardening set by Fr Pat!

Materials for this project would be locally sourced and we are hoping for a contribution from the Council of $1000 to significantly support this activity.

We understand that there are many community groups that need assistance from the Council, but hope that you do see the value in such a project.

Yours sincerely

Nadine Matarazzo
Secretary
Infrastructure & Development Reports

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>MAINTENANCE &amp; CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Director Infrastructure &amp; Development - John Stevenson</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>File:726</td>
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<td>3.</td>
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**Purpose of Report:** To provide Council with a progress report on works.

**Report:**

1. **Contractor M Cameron – Culparlin Alma Road**
   Contractor is completing the last of the flood repair work on Culparlin Alma Road, following a delay with a recent storm in the area. This work will complete flood restoration program in this eastern section of the Shire except for the culvert installation program.

2. **Councils Team 1 – MR67 North**
   Works are proceeding to finalise the 2km reconstruction section southerly from the boundary bitumen section. It is anticipated that these works will be sealed at the end of the month. Gravel reconstruction is also proceeding southerly from the Mildura- Ivanhoe crossroads and northerly from the end of bitumen at Clare Bank end in conjunction with the above work.

3. **Council Team 2 – Maintenance Grading Burke & Wills Road**
   Team 2 have completed reconstruct / maintenance grading works on this road westerly to Tin Tin. The final section through Upson Downs to Bidura will recommence this week following negotiations to source water.

4. **Council Team 3 – Tapalin Mail Road**
   Works have commenced to reconstruct a further 1.5km on this road following the completion of a similar section on Meilman Road. Both these projects are to be sealed in conjunction with the MR67 North program.

5. **Information Centre Front Car Park**
   Kerb and guttering works within the front car park have been completed. Paul Josling, contractor, is currently constructing the pavement to be finalised for seal in conjunction with the above bitumen program late March / early April.
6. **Culvert Cleaning and Replacement Work**

Culvert placement works are underway and will continue utilising a council team and some contractor involvement. MR 67 North will initially be undertaken.

7. **Heavy Patching Work by Paul Josling, Contractor – Sturt Highway & Yanga Way**

A further round of heavy patching sections have been completed on Yanga Way together with town bridge approaches on the Sturt Highway. These heavy patches are being bitumen sealed at the time of writing.

8. **Pedestrian Footbridge Riverside Development**

Tenders for the construction of this footbridge are to close on Monday the 18th March. A late page will be tabled at the meeting in relation to tenders received in order that works may proceed. Negotiations are underway with the RMS to seek funding assistance for the walkway on the eastern side between the swing bridge and the highway.

9. **Miscellaneous**

a) O’Connor Street drainage adjacent to Mr Potters land is underway. It is anticipated that this work will be completed within the week.

b) **Balranald Waste Depot**

Windblown litter has been collected, paper screen fencing has been extended and additional directional signage is in place. Discussions are presently underway to improve management of the depot.
General Managers Office

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>G - 2</th>
<th>LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW PANEL (LGRP)</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Reporting Officer General Manager – Chris Littlemore File</td>
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**Purpose of Report:**
To advise Council of the LGRP presentation at Nyngan and their second report.

**Report:**
Representatives from the LGRP made a presentation at the Western Division Conference in Nyngan. Minister Don Page has had a policy position that there be no forced amalgamations.

The recent referendums (9 March 2013) in Queensland over de-amalgamation demonstrate that issues around representation outweigh any (largely mythical) savings that are supposed to eventuate from amalgamations. These voters have elected to pay for the cost of de-amalgamation; they are so adamant that the new model is not working for them. Almost 60% of voters in three shires and 81% in the fourth voted to part company.

The LGRP has recognised that one model won’t suit 152 councils. It also recognises that many councils take ownership of issues, and take the initiative. They enable communities to deal with their own issues. When councils work well they achieve beneficial outcomes across the local and regional economy, built and natural environments, and social networks. Despite often being tight for funds, purposeful and effective councils find the resources for crucial initiatives, like medical services in rural areas. They act as government, getting on with what needs to be done.

The second paper from the LGRP quotes from the Qld LG Reform Commission that “councils need to be of sufficient size and scale to generate cost efficient and effective services”.

Of the things the report discusses the most sensible is providing councillors with the training to take a strategic approach, meaning the provision of professional development similar to that available to company directors. Enhanced strategic capacity.

In terms of sustainability, LGRP cites the 2006 Allen report “25% of councils are financially unsustainable”. Yet here we are 7 years later and none have gone into administration for inability to pay their way.

The 2009 Henry review states Local Gov has access to a robust tax base (land). The 2008-9 LG National Report states that NSW rates are 22% less than other states and that rate pegging has had un-intended
consequences and that the political sensitivities in NSW may be "overstated".

The report recognises that there is no relationship between size and efficiency however does point to some potential gains from amalgamation that cannot be achieved any other way.

For Western NSW, the panel is suggesting some modified state/local government model (p27) and community councils.

In the past, these councils have been the training ground for many of the current General Managers and senior staff of regional and coastal councils. The Qld model has the western councils unchanged and super councils for the rest of the state. The training function will no longer be as effective as before.

In relation to governance, the LGRP is suggesting that the role of Mayor could be expanded back to some pre-1993 model, yet on the other hand they suggest that it is difficult to get professionals to come to western shires. It would be better if the panel came to Balranald and saw how well the shire works in terms of the GM – Mayoral relationship.

The LGRP has recognised that councils are perhaps over-regulated rather than assisted to build capacity. Few councils would argue they have it wrong.

The second report is provided under separate cover and is available at http://tinyurl.com/a7kju7a. Should councillors wish to make a submission they are encouraged to do so by 22 March 2013. There is an online survey that councillors, staff and the public and complete at http://www.localgovernmentreview.nsw.gov.au/LGRSurvey.asp

The LGRP is planning a two month further close consultation visiting shires across the state.

**Attachments:** Nil.

**Budget Implications:** Nil.

**Recommendation:** That the report be noted.
Item G - 3  | AUTHORITY TO AFFIX SEAL
--- | --- | ---
Reporting Officer | General Manager – Chris Littlemore | File Legal 2.387

**Purpose of Report:** To obtain authority to affix Council Seal to a funding agreement

**Report:**
Council has received the Funding Agreement from the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency under the Local Government Energy Efficiency Program (LGEEP) for the installation of 8 solar hot water systems on Council residences. Total funding of $30,000 will be received and Council’s contribution will be allocated from the Council’s maintenance budget as reported earlier.

**Budget Implications:** Nil

**Recommendation:** that the Mayor and General Manager be authorised to affix the Council Seal to the funding agreement.

---

Item G - 4  | CMA CONFERENCE WENTWORTH
--- | --- | ---
Reporting Officer | General Manager – Chris Littlemore | File

**Purpose of Report:**
To advise Council that the CMA Conference will be held at Wentworth on 17 April 2013.

**Report:**
Council has been invited to attend the 2013 Catchment Conference for Murray CMA.

The event begins on Tuesday 16th April with full day field trips to Mungo National Park & Lake Victoria, departing from Wentworth Services & Sporting Club. Limited numbers will apply for both tours, so registration is essential.

Wednesday 17th April is the Full Day Catchment Conference, "Local People, Local Landscapes. Rising to the Challenge!" Commencing from 8.15am for a 9am start, this full day Conference features special guest speakers & professionals in their field. Refreshments & Lunch are included.

All events are free of charge to community members of Murray (& the former Lower Murray-Darling) CMA area.

**Budget Implications:** Nil.

**Recommendation:** That Council nominate representatives to attend.
Item G - 5  MEETING WITH MINISTER GREG SMITH

| Reporting Officer | General Manager – Chris Littlemore | File |

Purpose of Report:
To advise Council of the discussions with the Attorney General.

Report:
Council representatives Mayor Steve O'Halloran and General Manager Chris Littlemore met with the Minister on 27 February.

Council discussed its proposal for a new Court House and possible funding models. The Minister and his staff were quite interested in achieving a positive outcome for the community and were very impressed with the efforts Council had gone to in seeking comment from court officers and clients.

The Minister gave an undertaking that his staff would prepare a detailed report, working with Council staff to seek a satisfactory resolution to the issues faced in Balranald.

This was a very positive response and while not exactly a commitment to proceed, is a major step forward.

Attachments: Nil.

Budget Implications: Nil.

Recommendation: That Council continue to liaise with the Attorney General to progress the project and that a letter of thanks be forwarded to John Williams for his assistance in arranging the meeting.
Item G - 6  MEETING WITH MINISTER KATRINA HOGKINSON

Reporting Officer  General Manager – Chris Littlemore  File

Purpose of Report:
To advise Council of the discussions with the Minister.

Report:
Council representatives Mayor Steve O'Halloran and General Manager Chris Littlemore met with the Minister on 27 February along with the Mayor and GM from Wakool Shire.

Council discussed its concerns that the boundaries on the proposed Local Land Services districts will severely disadvantage ratepayers in the west of the Murray District, given the vast distance between the east and western most point of the proposed Murray District.

Council proposed a change on the basis of practicality and manageability. Hay Shire Wakool and Carathool Shires will need to be consulted in relation to the proposal.

In addition, Council commended the initiative to contract Sires to collect Land Service rates on a fee for service basis. Councils are ideally placed to issue account given their existing databases and expertise in property based charging. Councils in Queensland are paid $3.35 per notice to collect the levy.

Council also approached the issue of the Yanga Lake regulator replacement and showed the Minister the state of the regulator that NSW NPWS are reliant on, to hold water in the lake at present.

The Minister advised that the management of water in the Lake was a responsibility of NSW NPWS and that she would be happy to take up the issue with Sally Barnes.

Unfortunately the Minister was not able to provide any update on the Commonwealth buyback of the Nimmie Caira.

Attachments: Nil.

Budget Implications: Nil.

Recommendation: That the report be noted.
Item G – 7 | CORRESPONDENCE
---|---
Reporting Officer | General Manager - Chris Littlemore | File

**Purpose of Report:**
To advise Council of recent correspondence of interest.

**Report:**
4. Letter – Balranald Murrumbidgee Classic Committee

**Budget Implications:**
Nil

**Attachments:**
Copies of correspondence as listed above.

**Recommendation**
That the correspondence be noted.
MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT 2013 – COMMENCEMENT AND KEY RESOURCES

Purpose
The purpose of this Circular is to:
- remind councils that the new Model Code Framework commences on 1 March 2013;
- promote the Model Code Summary as a simple guide to the standards of behaviour required by council officials; and
- inform councils of the availability of the Division of Local Government’s Model Code of Conduct 2013 webpage, featuring key resources to support implementation of the new code.

Issue

To assist councils with the implementation of the new code the Division has developed a series of resources that are available on the Division’s web site. These resources include:

- FAQs on the implementation of the new framework
- The Model Code of Conduct, Model Code summary and Model Code Procedures
- Standalone versions of the Model Code targeted at different types of council officials containing only those standards relevant to those officials
- Guides to Model Code procedures for general managers, Mayors and complaints coordinators, containing easy to understand summaries of their roles in the complaints management process
- Guides to Model Code procedures for complainants and people the subject of investigation. The prescribed procedures require that persons being investigated be provided with information about the investigation process.

- Additional resources and information will be added to the webpage over time.


Division of Local Government
5 O’Keefe Avenue NOWRA NSW 2541
Locked Bag 3015 NOWRA NSW 2541
T 02 4428 4100  F 02 4428 4196  TTY 02 4428 4209
A copy of the Model Code summary is attached to this Circular (Attachment A). Councils officials are encouraged to familiarise themselves with this and the new Model Code.

Action
General Managers should ensure that a copy of this Circular is tabled at the next council meeting, including the Model Code Summary. The assistance of General Managers in promoting the Model Code 2013 webpage and its resources to all council officials would be appreciated.

Ross Woodward
Chief Executive, Local Government
A Division of the Department of Premier and Cabinet
STANDARDS OF CONDUCT FOR COUNCIL OFFICIALS

Council officials play a vital role in serving local communities.
To do this effectively, you will want to uphold the highest standards of behaviour to ensure communities have trust and confidence in local government.

What are the expected standards of behaviour?
The standards of behaviour are described in detail in the Model Code of Conduct. The Code is a legal document that all officials are obliged to understand and follow. The Model Code forms the basis of each council's code of conduct. Highlighted below are the expected standards of behaviour for all council officials.

You must:
- conduct yourself in a manner that will not bring council into disrepute
- act lawfully and honestly, and exercise due care
- treat others with respect and not harass or discriminate against them, or support others who do so
- consider issues consistently, promptly and fairly
- ensure development decisions are properly made and deal fairly with all parties involved
- disclose and appropriately manage conflicts of interests including, in the case of councillors, from reportable political donations
- use and secure information appropriately and not disclose confidential information
- use council resources ethically, effectively and efficiently.

In addition, staff must ensure the efficient and effective operation of council's organisation and implement decisions of council without delay.

You must not:
- accept money or gifts of value and avoid situations that may appear to secure favourable treatment
- make complaints improperly, take detrimental action in response to complaints, or disclose information about code of conduct matters.

In addition, councillors must not:
- direct or influence council staff in the exercise of their role
- participate in binding caucus votes, except for nominations.
What happens if the standards are not met?
The small number of cases where a council official fails to follow the Code will be dealt with in accordance with the Model Code Procedures.

Breach of these standards may be reported to the general manager or, in the case of a breach by the general manager, to the Mayor. Serious complaints that cannot be resolved informally may be investigated by an independent conduct reviewer.

**Councilors**
Breaches by councillors may result in:
- censure
- requirement for training
- counselling
- requirement to apologise
- findings of inappropriate conduct being made public
- referral to the Division of Local Government for disciplinary action, including suspension for up to three months
- referral by the Division to the Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal for suspension for up to six months or disqualification from holding civic office.

**General managers**
Breaches by general managers may result in:
- requirement for training
- counselling
- requirement to apologise
- findings of inappropriate conduct being made public
- other actions specified under the general manager’s contract.

**Council staff**
Breaches by council staff may result in disciplinary action, termination or, in the case of non-senior staff, other penalties permitted under the relevant industrial award.

**Delegates or council committee members**
Breaches by delegates or council committee members may result in:
- censure
- requirement to apologise
- prosecution
- removal or restriction of delegations.
Don Page MP

Minister for the North Coast
Minister for Local Government

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 1 March 2013

NEW CODE OF CONDUCT COMES INTO FORCE

Councillors in the State’s 152 councils are now subject to more stringent rules, after a new Code of Conduct came into force today, Local Government Minister Don Page said.

The new code, which was passed by Parliament late last year, allows the Division of Local Government to investigate misconduct by councillors and to take disciplinary action against them if they breach the code.

“Sanctions include suspension of individual councillors for up to three months and in serious cases, suspension for up to six months or disqualification from civic office by the Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal,” Mr Page said.

“I want to emphasise that the vast majority of councillors uphold the highest levels of probity that we expect of them,” Mr Page said.

Mr Page said the new rules were the result of extensive consultation with the community, the local government sector, the NSW Ombudsman’s office and ICAC.

Mr Page said under the new laws:

- Councillors who misbehave could have their fees suspended for up to three months or in extreme cases, could be barred from civic office for up to five years.
- A provision to punish councillors for making politically motivated or vexatious allegations under the code.
- New regional assessment panels will be formed to assess complaints made under the code of conduct.
- Creation of a role for the Division of Local Government to help councils administer the code.
- Make it possible for the Director General of Local Government to consider a councillor’s prior behavior when deciding on sanctions.
- A ban on councillors and their family members receiving gifts of more than token value including free meals, gym memberships, free or discounted overseas travel.
- A ban on councillors using their positions to gain a private benefit, financial or otherwise.
- A ban on sanctions for councillors who fail to abide by caucus rulings before council votes.

The new model code comes into force just days after Mr Page introduced new early intervention laws into Parliament.
If passed, those new laws will allow the Minister to issue “improvement orders” to poorly performing councils and to suspend councils for up to three months with a possible extension of a further three months to improve or restore the effective functioning of the council.

“The two sets of laws complement each other and form an integrated framework for dealing with dysfunction or poor performance in councils,” Mr Page said.

“The code of conduct laws allow the Division to address misconduct or ongoing disruption by individual councillors to allow councils to focus on getting on with the business of meeting the needs of their communities. The Early Intervention Bill allows the Minister and the Division to address collective failure by a council and provides a mechanism for getting the whole council back on track to effectively serve its community.”

Mr Page said the reforms by the Liberals & Nationals Government were proof of the desire to keep democracy in the hands of the people at the local level.

“For the first time in 17 years there are no councils under administration in NSW – we want to keep it that way, and these laws will help us do that.”

The Model Code of Conduct can be viewed at: www.dig.nsw.gov.au

Media: Jonathan Porter 0418 945538
Chris Littlemore
General Manager
Balranald Shire Council
PO Box 120
Balranald NSW 2715

1 March 2013

Dear Mr Littlemore,

Subject: Notification of council nominated members and invitation for the Western Region Panel Chair to visit the Shire

I refer to your letter dated 21 February 2013 advising the panel secretariat of Balranald Shire Council’s nominated members for the regional panel and inviting the Western Region Panel Chair, Ms Kibble, to visit the Shire to become better acquainted with issues in that district. A copy of your letter was forwarded to the panel chair and she has asked that I reply on her behalf.

Ms Kibble would like to thank you for your kind invitation and will endeavour to visit next time the regional panel are in the area for a Western Region panel meeting

Should you have any further enquiries about this matter, please contact Angela Kenna, Project Officer, on telephone number 9228 2064.

Yours sincerely

Stuart Withington
Manager, Regional Panel Operations
Dear Chris,

The Balranald Murrumbidgee Classic Committee wishes to extend our sincere gratitude to you for your continued support of the Balranald Murrumbidgee Classic.

This year the classic is being held on March 23rd and 24th at the Balranald Caravan Park.
We would be honored if the Balranald Shire Council Mayor or his representative was able to attend the event on Sunday 24th March at 11.30am to present the major entry prize of a boat and motor package. R.S.V.P. Jenny 50201214.

I have enclosed a copy of the entry form for your perusal, 2000 of which were distributed to angling stores in a wide ranging area.

Thank you once again for your support and please do not hesitate to contact me for any details I have omitted.

Yours sincerely,

Brian Shirley.
President.
**Item G - 8**

**ACTION REPORT – DECEMBER 2012 COUNCIL MEETING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reporting Officer</th>
<th>General Manager – Chris Littlemore</th>
<th>File 120</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Purpose of Report:** to bring forward for Councillors information the Action Report with actions taken on previous council resolutions.

### BALRANALD SHIRE COUNCIL

**ACTION SHEET**

**FEBRUARY 2013**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MINUTE</th>
<th>DIRECTOR/ FILE NO</th>
<th>SUBJECT</th>
<th>DATE INITIATED</th>
<th>COMMENTS CURRENT STATUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02.13.3404</td>
<td>GM</td>
<td>Notify Western Region Planning Panel Mayor as Delegate Deputy Mayor as substitute</td>
<td></td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02.13.3406</td>
<td>DID</td>
<td>Consent to DA 07/13 proposed subdivision</td>
<td>11.03.2013</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02.13.3407</td>
<td>DID</td>
<td>Affix Councils common seal to RFS proposal re heavy equipment</td>
<td></td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02.13.3411</td>
<td>DECD</td>
<td>Low level weir – Investigate funding for 2013/2014 Operational Plan</td>
<td></td>
<td>In progress – diarised for budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02.13.3416</td>
<td>DCS</td>
<td>Notify NSW Rural Doctors of Council decision to decline to participate</td>
<td>7.3.2013</td>
<td>Letter sent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02.13.3427</td>
<td>DECD</td>
<td>Prepare ticket office at Theatre Royal ready for History Group</td>
<td>18.2.2013</td>
<td>Completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02.13.3428</td>
<td>DECD</td>
<td>Decline offer of membership to Murray River Regional Tourism</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pending</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02.13.3429</td>
<td>DECD</td>
<td>Commit funds in 2013/14 Operational Plan to assist Balranald Netball Club</td>
<td>1.3.2013</td>
<td>Letter Sent – Diarised for budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02.13.3430</td>
<td>DECD</td>
<td>Prepare budget for $3000 contribution to New Years Eve Committee</td>
<td>1.3.2013</td>
<td>Letter Sent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02.13.3431</td>
<td>DECD</td>
<td>Decline invitation to be part of Riverina Cities Committee – Population Project</td>
<td>1.3.2013</td>
<td>Letter Sent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02.13.3432</td>
<td>DECD</td>
<td>Advise RFCS Local Advisory Group that DECD and Cr Campbell be LAG Members</td>
<td>1.3.2013</td>
<td>Letter Sent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02.13.3433</td>
<td>DECD</td>
<td>Organise Seniors Week Luncheon for March 19th 2013</td>
<td></td>
<td>In Progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02.13.3435</td>
<td>DID</td>
<td>Consent to Subdivision DA 03/13</td>
<td>7.3.2013</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02.13.3437</td>
<td>DID</td>
<td>Organise changeover of Plant 1 Cat Grader 12H for Cat 140m Motor Grader from William Adams</td>
<td></td>
<td>Deferred to 1st July budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Code</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Status</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>02.13.3438</td>
<td>DID</td>
<td>Inform Balranald Local Aboriginal Land Councils of Filtered Water Request at Ferla</td>
<td>Letter sent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02.13.3442</td>
<td>GM</td>
<td>Advise RFS of approval of presented estimates</td>
<td>22.2.2013 Advised</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02.13.3446</td>
<td>GM</td>
<td>Provide letter of support to Wakool Shire</td>
<td>22.2.2013 Letter sent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02.13.3447</td>
<td>Mayor</td>
<td>Arrange with facilitator to assist with GM’s review after date has been set.</td>
<td>Complete</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Item G - 9 QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reporting Officer</th>
<th>QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Manager - Chris Littlemore</td>
<td>File 030</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cr Cooke</th>
<th>Climate change, community funding energy efficiency regarding street lighting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cr Purtill</td>
<td>Handing over of water &amp; sewer (WD Conference)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$15m for ANZAC memorials ask for assistance S. Ley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cr Cooke</td>
<td>A. Gorman – how many memorials 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cr Jolliffe</td>
<td>Water to aerodrome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Signange Murray Valley Highway, Vic roads won’t.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cr Jolliffe</td>
<td>Barking Dogs and attacks on livestock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cr Byron</td>
<td>Dogs at Euston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cr Purtill</td>
<td>Country Education Fund Donation, review amount $3000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### CLOSED MEETING - CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS