



MEDIA STATEMENT

24 October 2019

Balranald Caravan Park

An agreed settlement approved in the NSW Supreme Court yesterday resolves a protracted dispute over the management of the Balranald Caravan Park.

The Park is an important community asset that has a key role to play in maximising investment in local tourism and the economy. Council will in coming weeks share with the community how it now intends to manage the Park.

As part of the transition, Council will put in place transparent financial reporting with external, independent auditing that will be publicly disclosed.

Under the agreed settlement, Park managers Matthew and Dee Jess will vacate on or before Sunday, 1 December.

Council regrets that it had to resort to legal action but had no choice.

Council put the management of the Park to public tender after concerns were raised about governance and financial accountability issues, both by external auditors and through the State Government-initiated Performance Improvement Order process.

Following the tender process, Mr and Mrs Jess were offered a lease which they refused to sign. With no lease in place, they had no entitlement to remain in possession of the Caravan Park.

Council took legal action when Mr and Mrs Jess refused to leave.

Council is pleased that the matter has been settled by both parties and that both can now move forward.

MICHAEL KITZELMANN
General Manager