

**CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE  
COUNTY  
COUNCIL**



**BUSINESS PAPER**

**FOR THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL  
TO BE HELD AT THE GILGANDRA SHIRE COUNCIL  
CHAMBERS,  
ON MONDAY 29 FEBRUARY, 2016  
COMMENCING AT 10:00 AM**

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# **AGENDA - ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**

**Monday, 29th February 2016**

- 1. WELCOME**
- 2. APOLOGIES**
- 3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**
- 4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES for Meeting Held Monday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2016**
- 5. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**
- 6. REPORT FROM CHAIRMAN**
- 7. REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER**
- 8. REPORTS OF THE SENIOR WEEDS OFFICER**
- 9. CONFIDENTIAL**
- 10. QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING**
- 11. NEXT MEETING - Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April or 2<sup>nd</sup> May at Warren**
- 12. CLOSE**

## **7. REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER**

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## **8. REPORT OF THE SENIOR WEEDS OFFICER**

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## **9. CONFIDENTIAL**

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## **10. QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

## **11. CONFIRM DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April or 2<sup>nd</sup> May at Warren**

## **12. CLOSE OF MEETING**

**CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE  
COUNTY  
COUNCIL**



**MINUTES**

**OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL  
HELD AT WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON  
MONDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2015**

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## CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER WALGETT ON MONDAY 21 DECEMBER 2015 COMMENCING AT 10:00AM

**PRESENT:** R. Greenaway (Acting Chairman), M. Coe, I. Woodcock, A. Van Lubeck, D. Schieb, P. Shinton, M. Webb and D. Batten.

**Staff Members:** D. Ramsland (General Manager), J. Unwin (Acting Chief Weeds Officer), C. Molloy, I. Prout, K. Watling, J. Miller and B. Timmins (Weeds Officers)

**Visitors:** Jeff Shanks (Luka Group – Auditors)

In Councillor Noel Kinsey's absence, Councillor Greenaway chaired the meeting.

**1. WELCOME:** Cllr Greenaway welcomed all councillors and staff to the meeting.

**2. APOLOGIES:** N. Kinsey (Chairman) and G. Peart

#### **12/15/1 Resolved:**

That apologies from N. Kinsey (Chairman) and G. Peart be accepted and leave of absence be granted.

**Moved:** Cllr Webb

**Seconded:** Cllr Batten

**Carried**

#### **3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

#### **12/15/2 Resolved:**

That the minutes of the Castlereagh Macquarie County Council meeting held at Coonamble on Monday 19 October, 2015, having been circulated, be confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

**Moved:** Cllr Batten

**Seconded:** Cllr Coe

**Carried**

## CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES

### **4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Nil

### **5. COUNCIL AUDITORS REPORT**

**Recommendation:** That Council receive and note the Auditor's Report for 2015 and formally adopt the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June, 2015. Further that a copy of Auditor Jeff Shank's presentation to Council be attached to these minutes.

#### **12/15/3 Resolved:**

That Council receive and note the Auditor's Report for 2015 and formally adopt the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June, 2015. Further that a copy of Auditor Jeff Shank's presentation to Council be attached to these minutes.

**Moved:** Clr Woodcock

**Seconded:** Clr Batten

**Carried**

Clr Greenaway thanked Mr Shanks for his detailed presentation.

Mr Shanks left the meeting at 10.45am.

### **6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

In Councillor Kinsey's absence, no Chairperson's report was presented.

### **7. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

#### **Item 7.1 Reconciliation Certificate 31 October & 30 November 2015**

**Recommendation:** That the Statement of Bank Balances as 31 October, 2015 and 30 November, 2015 be received and noted.

#### **12/15/4 Resolved:**

That the Bank Reconciliations as at 31 October, 2015 and 30 November, 2015 be received and noted.

**Moved:** Clr Van Lubeck

**Seconded:** Clr Coe

**Carried**

## CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES

### **Item 7.2 Quarterly Budget Review Statement – Period Ended 10 December, 2015**

**Recommendation:** That the Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the period ended 10 December 2015 be received and noted and the recommended variations to the revised budget as detailed in the attached statement be adopted.

**12/15/5 Resolved:**

That the Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the period ended 10 December 2015 be received and noted and the recommended variations to the revised budget as detailed in the attached statement be adopted.

**Moved:** Clr Webb

**Seconded:** Clr Coe

**Carried**

### **Item 7.3 Organisational Restructure – Update – December 2015**

Held over until Confidential Session of the Meeting.

### **Item 7.4 2014/15 Financial Statements and Auditors Report**

**Recommendation:** That Council receive and note the Financial Statements received from the Auditor's for 2014/2015.

**12/15/6 Resolved:**

That Council receive and note the Auditor's Report for 2015 and formally adopt the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June, 2015.

**Moved:** Clr Webb

**Seconded:** Clr Woodcock

**Carried**

### **Item 5. Annual Report**

**Recommendation:** That Council consider and adopt the 2014/2015 Annual Report.

**12/15/7 Resolved:**

That Council consider and adopt the 2014/2015 Annual Report.

**Moved:** Clr Batten

**Seconded:** Clr Shinton

**Carried**

## CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES

### **Item 6. Matters for Brief Mention or Information Only**

**Recommendation:** That the General Manager's Report with regards to Matters for Brief Mention or Information Only be received and noted.

**12/15/8 Resolved:**

That the General Manager's Report with regards Matters for Brief Mention or Information Only be received and noted.

**Moved:** Clr Coe  
**Seconded:** Clr Webb

**Carried**

At 11.30am C. Molloy, K. Watling, I. Prout, J. Miller and B. Timmins left the meeting and did not return.

### **8. ACTING SENIOR WEEDS OFFICER'S REPORT**

#### **Item 8.1 Acting Senior Weeds Officer's Report**

**Recommendation:** That Council receive and note the Acting Senior Weeds Officer's Report.

**12/15/9 Resolved:**

That Council receive and note the Acting Senior Weeds Officer's report for October/November 2015.

**Moved:** Clr Woodcock  
**Seconded:** Clr Van Lubeck

**Carried**

### **Item 8.2 Noxious Plant Reports**

#### **Coonamble Noxious Plant Report**

**Recommendation:** That Council receive and note the Noxious Plant report for Coonamble.

**12/15/10 Resolved:**

That Council receive and confirm Noxious Plant report for Coonamble.

**Moved:** Clr Webb  
**Seconded:** Clr Shinton



CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES

Carried

**Item 8.3 Gilgandra Noxious Plant Report**

**Recommendation:** That Council receive and note the Noxious Plant report for Gilgandra

**12/15/11 Resolved:**

That Council receive and confirm Noxious Plant report for Gilgandra

**Moved:** Clr Webb

**Seconded:** Clr Shinton

Carried

**Item 8.4 Walgett Noxious Plant Report**

**Recommendation:** That Council receive and note the Noxious Plant report for Walgett.

**12/15/12 Resolved:**

That Council receive and confirm Noxious Plant report for Walgett.

**Moved:** Clr Webb

**Seconded:** Clr Shinton

Carried

**Item 8.5 Warren Noxious Plant Report**

**Recommendation:** That Council receive and note the Noxious Plant report for Warren.

**12/15/13 Resolved:**

That Council receive and confirm Noxious Plant report for Warren.

**Moved:** Clr Webb

**Seconded:** Clr Shinton

Carried

## CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES

### **Item 8.6 Warrumbungle Noxious Plant Report**

**Recommendation:** That Council receive and note the Noxious Plant report for Warrumbungle.

**12/15/14      Resolved:**

That Council receive and confirm Noxious Plant report for Warrumbungle.

**Moved:**      Clr Webb

**Seconded:**      Clr Shinton

**Carried**

### **CONFIDENTIAL SESSION**

#### **1. Motion to move in to Confidential Session**

**12/15/15      Resolved:**

That at 11.30 am Council move into Confidential session and that the public be excluded from the meeting pursuant to Section 10A (2) (a) and (c) of the Local Government Act 1993 on the basis that the matters being considered are in relation to staff and/or commercial in confidence.

**Moved:**      Clr Van Lubeck

**Seconded:**      Clr Shinton

**Carried**

#### **2. Property Inspections Report**

**Recommendation:** That the Property Inspections Report be received and noted as a whole

**12/15/16      Recommendation:**

That Council receive and note all confidential Property Inspections report matters as a whole.

**Moved:**      Clr Van Lubeck

**Seconded:**      Clr Schieb

**Carried**

#### **3. Organisational Restructure**

**Recommendation:** That Council receive and note the General Manager's report in respect of the progress in the organisational restructure process and endorse the action taken so far.

**12/15/17      Recommendation:**

That Council receive and note the General Manager's report in respect of the progress in the organisational restructure process and endorse the action taken so far.

## CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES

**Moved:** Clr Shinton  
**Seconded:** Clr Batten

**Carried**

### **4. Employee Uniform**

**Recommendation:** That Council make arrangements for uniforms to be issued to each employee. (3 x Shirts and 3 x Trousers each)

**12/15/18 Recommendation:**

That Council make arrangement for uniforms to be issued to each employee (3 x Shirts and 3 x Trousers each)

**Moved:** Clr Schieb  
**Seconded:** Clr Van Lubeck

**Carried**

### **5. Motion to move out of Confidential Session**

**12/15/19 Resolved:**

That at 11.58am Council move out of Confidential Session.

**Moved:** Clr Coe  
**Seconded:** Clr Van Lubeck

**Carried**

### **Adoption of Closed Section Reports**

That Council adopt the recommendations of the Closed Committee Reports.

- Property Inspections Report
- Organisational Restructure
- Employee Uniforms

**Moved:** Clr Webb  
**Seconded:** Clr Van Lubeck

**Carried**

## **CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES**

### **General Business**

#### **1. Local Lands Services Weed Control**

Councillor Van Lubeck suggested that CMCC approach the LLS to provide additional reports in regards to the works being carried out on the stock routes as well as continue to respond to the control orders issued by CMCC. It was also suggested that CMCC work towards a collaborative approach with the LLS to ensure the eradication of noxious weeds and eliminate the duplication of work.

#### **2. Depot facilities**

Councillors requested that the General Manager provide a detailed report based on the facilities for each area and provide an update on the Coonamble depot.

#### **3. Grant Funding-**

That Council actively seeking funding for St John's Wort and Hudson Pear during the coming year.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 15 February, 2016 at Gilgandra.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 12.18PM**

**To be confirmed as a true and accurate record at the Council Meeting held on 15 February, 2016.**

**CHAIRMAN**

**GENERAL MANAGER**

# **General Manager's Report**

**ITEM 7:1 RECONCILIATION CERTIFICATE 31 DECEMBER, 2015**

Reconciled Ledger Accounts for 31 December 2015 are as follows:

**Balance of Ledger – 1-1110**

<b>Balance 30/11/2015</b>	598,016.68
Plus Receipts	749.25
Less Payment	138,524.25
	<b><u>\$460,241.68</u></b>

**Balance of Bank Accounts**

Balance 31/12/2015 #273228001484	\$460,241.68
Less: Outstanding Cheques	
Chq#6475 Gosford City Council 24/11/15	\$165.00
	<b><u>\$460,076.68</u></b>

<b>Stores Balance 1-1410</b>	<b>31/12/15</b>	<b>\$42,193.85</b>
<b>Debtors Balance 1-1310</b>	<b>31/12/15</b>	<b>\$379,856.87</b>

**Debtors:**

Sainsbury Automotive Dubbo	Invoice #812824	30/11/15	\$10,000.00
Local Land Services	Invoice #812825	18/12/15	\$27,500.00
	Invoice #812826	18/12/15	\$16,500.00
Orange City Council	Invoice #812827	24/12/15	\$325,856.87

**Recommendation:**

The Statement of Bank Balances as 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 be received & adopted.

**ITEM 7.1: RECONCILIATION CERTIFICATE 31 JANUARY, 2016**

Reconciled Ledger Accounts for 31 January 2016 are as follows:

**Balance of Ledger – 1-1110**

**Balance 31/12/15** 460,241.68

Plus Receipts 326,234.77

Less Payment 30,478.51

**\$755,997.94**

**Balance of Bank Accounts**

Balance 31/01/2016 #273228001484 \$755,997.94

Less: Outstanding Cheques

Chq#6479 Origin Energy Electricity Ltd	19/01/16	\$194.22
Chq#6480 Telstra	28/01/16	\$250.01
Chq#6481 MLC Masterkey Super	28/01/16	\$343.90
Chq#6482 LG Super	28/01/16	\$1,638.00

**\$753,571.81**

**Stores Balance 1-1410 31/01/16 \$32,683.40**

**Debtors Balance 1-1310 31/01/16 \$54,000.00**

**Debtors:**

Sainsbury Automotive Dubbo	Invoice #812824	30/11/15	\$10,000.00
Local Land Services	Invoice #812825	18/12/15	\$27,500.00
	Invoice #812826	18/12/15	\$16,500.00

**Recommendation:**

The Statement of Bank Balances as 31<sup>st</sup> January 2016 be received & adopted.

**CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**STORES INVENTORY REPORT**

**31 January 2016**

Item No:	Description	Unit Price	Ledger	Stock	Total Value
1032	Access	\$400.00 (5L)		6	\$2,400.00
2020	Graslan	\$160.00 (10kg)		6	\$960.00
2085	Grazon Extra	\$585.00 (20L)		36	\$21,060.00
2895	Round-Up Extra	\$159.80 (20L)		33	\$5,273.40
3225	Spray Dye	\$130.00 (5L)		11	\$1,430.00
3530	Uptake Oil	\$120.00 (20L)		9	\$1,080.00
3710	Genwet 1000	\$120.00 (20L)		4	\$480.00
<b><u>TOTAL VALUE</u></b>					<b>\$32,683.40</b>



## **ITEM 7.2: QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW STATEMENT AS AT 31 JANUARY, 2016**

### **Summary:**

An analysis of Council's actual income and expenditure to 31 January, 2016 has now been completed and a revised budget result forecast for the year ending 30 June, 2016 has been prepared showing the anticipated result on present trends.

These results are summarised as follows:

	<b>Budgeted Surplus/(Loss) \$</b>	<b>Revised Budget Surplus/(Loss) \$</b>	<b>Forecast Budget Surplus / (Loss)\$</b>
Operating budget result	125,515	(49,632)	75,883
Capital Budget result	(75,800)	3,286	(72,514)

After what was essentially a mini-budget review carried out at the last review, the current review recorded a minor improvement of \$1,343.

From a staffing point of view it is still not intended to make a permanent replacement for the Coonabarabran vacancy and to continue to utilise the second Gilgandra position to cover this area in conjunction with the senior weeds office and contract/casual staff when demand requires. However, the position of senior weeds officer is currently being advertised internally.

### **Background:**

Financial information made available to councillors should adequately disclose council's overall financial position and provide sufficient information to enable informed decision making and ensure that council remains on track to meet the objectives, targets and outcomes set out in its operational plan, adopted budget and delivery program.

Mindful of this, the DLG has developed a set of minimum requirements that assists each council in meeting its charter with regard to its finances and related responsibilities in respect of its operational plan, adopted budget and delivery program.

The requirements include showing how Council is tracking against its original and revised annual budgets at the end of each quarter and provide explanations for major variances that result in recommendations for budget changes.

They also enable the Responsible Accounting Officer to indicate if council will be in a satisfactory financial position at the end of the financial year, given the changes to the original budgeted position.

Collectively, these documents are known as a Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBRs) and are reported to council in accordance with the relevant legislation at the end of each quarter. The Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 - Regulation 203 made under the Local Government Act 1993 requires this report to be submitted to Council no later than 2 months after the end of the quarter.

Underpinning this is the 10 Year Long Term Financial Plan which forecasts the likely outcome over an extended period provided that there are no significant departures from the operational plan/delivery that will impact to vary estimated income and expenditure for the longer term.

**Current Position:**

The attached Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBRs) has been prepared in this new format for some time now. A budget functional item summary, as well as a second document which breaks down the actual budget line item income and expenditure for the year, details any variations from the original budget in respect of those various line items is also attached. It is proposed to go over these variations in detail at the meeting.

However in summary this is the third quarterly report in respect of 2015/16, and several variations to budget have become apparent, including a further in WAP1520 grant income of \$222,297. However this has been offset by an increase in plant income of \$35,789

The total variations reveal a net operating budget deficit for the quarter of (\$49,632) after provision has been made for depreciation of \$7,475.

With the exception of the reduction in WAP1520 grant income and associated impacts, this result is in line with the expectations voiced at the time of adopting the 2015/16 budget and operational plan at the June, 2015 meeting. It does, however, reduce our total surplus from both operating and capital works to only \$3,369.

Two new Isuzu utilities were purchased in December, 2016 at a net cost of \$63,514. Only one vehicle has been traded so far (trade in value \$10,000) because of the breakdown of the Toyota Landcruiser and the second trade-in is estimated to yield \$10/15,000 shortly.

This QBRs sets out the recommended changes to the total revised budget of (\$46,346) net. This are listed on a separate page along with reference to our key performance ratios and required declarations in respect of contractual arrangements, consultancies and legal expenses. However, after allowing for capital income/expenditure Council will operate at an estimated overall surplus in 2015/16 of \$3,369 after allowing for depreciation.

As previously requested, details of Council's fuel consumption and stores issued will be tabled at the meeting.

**Relevant Reference Documents/Policies:**

The Local Government (General) Regulation 2005

Local Government Act 1993, as amended

DLG Circular 10/32 – Quarterly Budget Review Statement

**Governance Issues:**

The recent announcement of the State Government's "Fit for the Future" initiatives should provide Council with a degree of certainty in which to plan for the immediate and short term future.

**Stakeholders:**

Castlereagh Macquarie County Council Constituent Councils – Shires of Warrumbungle, Coonamble, Gilgandra, Walgett and Warren.

**Financial Implications:**

It is proposed to discuss the matter what level of grant funds which may become available in 2016/17 in the confidential section of the meeting as already announced cuts will impact unfavourably on Council's bottom line making Council's longer term sustainability uncertain.

**Legal Issues:**

In the event of the County Council being wound-up, constituent councils would share in any surplus funds realised or be required to make good and shortfall.

**Alternative Solutions/Options:**

As previously advised, Council's financial position, both in immediate future and going forward needs to be monitored closely.

**Conclusion:**

Council's current actions are aimed at rectifying the financial downturn that was compounded by significant operating losses over the last decade. To date, the measures have worked quite satisfactorily but because of further cutbacks to WAP1520 funding the situation needs to be regularly monitored to identify what further corrective action will be required in conjunction with the next budget.

<b>Quarterly Budget Review Statement – 31 January, 2016</b>
<p><b>Recommendation:</b></p> <p>That the Quarterly Budget Review Statement the period ended 31 January, 2016 be received and noted, the recommended variations to the revised budget as detailed in the attached statement be adopted.</p> <p><b>Moved:</b></p> <p><b>Seconded:</b></p>

**Attachments:**

Attachment A - Quarterly Budget Review Statement – Signed Statement by Responsible Accounting Officer

Attachment B- Budget Review Statement 31 January 2016

Attachment C- Quarterly Budget Review Statement 31 January, 2016 – Operating Budget Summary

**Attachment A - Quarterly Budget Review Statement – Signed Statement by Responsible Accounting Officer**

**CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL  
Quarterly Budget Review Statement – 31 January, 2016.**

**Statement by Responsible Accounting Officer**

The following statement is made in accordance with Clause 203(2) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005.

It is my opinion that the Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the Castlereagh Macquarie County Council for the period ended 31 January, 2015 indicates that Council's projected financial position as at 30 June, 2016 will be satisfactory at year end having regard to the projected estimates of income and expenditure and the original budgeted income and expenditure.

This statement is made on the proviso that any resolution passed at Council's meeting on 29 February, 2016 in respect budget amendments and associated issues to offset any loss in grant income are implemented within the timelines determined or as duly amended.

Signed: 

Date: 17 February, 2016

Don Ramsland - Responsible Accounting Officer – Castlereagh Macquarie County Council.

## **Attachment B- Budget Review Statement 31 January 2016**

### **CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL Quarterly Budget Review Statement – 31 January, 2016.**

#### **Recommended Changes to Revised Budget**

<b>A. Revenue Income</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
1. Additional Plant Hire Income etc.		(35,789)
2. Additional sundry income		( 6,980)
3. Decrease in WAP1520 Grant		22,297
<b>Total – Revenue Income Adjustments</b>		<b>20,472</b>

<b>B. Revenue Expenditure</b>		
1. Temporary storage facility	1,830	
2. MVWAC meeting expenses	631	
3. Printing and Stationary	940	
4. Councillors' subsistence	775	
5. Union Picnic Day	487	
6. Staff Training	452	
7. Additional Private Works costs	1,670	
8. Cost of Parts	1,851	
9. Additional Plant Expenses	8,779	
<b>Total –Revenue Expense Adjustments</b>		<b>\$17,415</b>

**Net Reduction to Operating Surplus** **\$ 3,057**

<b>C. Capital Income Adjustments -</b>	<b>Nil</b>
<b>D. Capital Expenditure Adjustments</b>	<b>1,714</b>

**Total – Capital Adjustments** **1,714**

**Net Reduction to Surplus** **\$1,343**

**CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**Quarterly Budget Review Statement – 31 January, 2016.**

**Budget Review - Key Performance Indicators Statement**

1. **Unrestricted Current Ratio – 1.54:1** (1 July, 2015)
2. **Debt Service Ratio – 0.07:1** (1 July, 2015)
3. **Building and Infrastructure Renewal Ratio** - as a 1 July, 2015 this ratio was 0.00% as Council had made no provision for assets renewals

**Budget Review - Contracts and Other Expense**

**Part A – Contracts Listing** - Council has not entered into any contracts.

**Part B – Consultancy and Legal Expenses**

<b><u>Expense</u></b>	<b><u>Expenditure YTD</u></b>	<b><u>Budgeted</u></b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>Y/N</b>
Consultancies	Nil	No
Legal Fees	Nil	No

## Attachment C- Quarterly Budget Review Statement 31 January, 2016 – Operating Budget Summary

<b>CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL</b>													
<b>Quarterly Budget Review Statement - 31 January, 2016</b>													
<b>Operating Budget Summary</b>													
	Original Budget	cwd/fwd	Adopted Changes Todate					Revised Budget	YTD to 31/01/16	Remainder of Year	Projected for Year	Further Variations	Percentage Todate
			1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Final						
<b><u>OPERATING REVENUE</u></b>													
Total - Administration	928,027		47	(90,085)		0	0	837,989	813,171	9,501	822,672	(15,317)	99
Total - Destruction of Weeds	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total - Private Works	40,000			5,828		0	0	45,828	45,828	0	45,828	0	100
Total - Other Income	60,000		0	50,856			0	110,856	76,645	70,000	146,645	35,789	52
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>1,028,027</b>		<b>47</b>	<b>(33,401)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>994,673</b>	<b>935,644</b>	<b>79,501</b>	<b>1,015,145</b>	<b>20,472</b>	<b>92</b>
<b><u>OPERATING EXPENSES</u></b>													
sub total - administration	87,672			12678				100,350	33,387	70,364	103,751	3,401	32
sub total - insurance	51,284			-1032	0	0	0	50,252	48,986	1,266	50,252	0	97
sub total - governance	41,633		0	3000	0	0	0	44,633	25,082	20,326	45,408	775	55
sub total - employee expenses	131,948			4768	0	0	0	136,716	70,411	67,244	137,655	0	51
Total - Administration Expenses	312,537			19414			0	331,951	177,866	159,200	337,066	5,115	53
Total - Destruction of Weeds	403,000	0	0	-28145			0	374,855	224,002	150,853	374,855	0	60
Total - Private Works	24,000	0		8066		0	0	32,066	11,587	24,000	35,587	3,521	33
Total - Other Expenses	162,975	0		20000			0	182,975	35,152	156,602	191,754	8,779	18
<b>Total - Operating Expenses</b>	<b>902,512</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>19335</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>921,847</b>	<b>448,607</b>	<b>490,655</b>	<b>939,262</b>	<b>17,415</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>NET OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>125,515</b>		<b>47</b>	<b>(52,736)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>72,826</b>	<b>487,037</b>	<b>(411,154)</b>	<b>75,883</b>	<b>3,057</b>	
								72,826					

CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL													
<u>Quarterly Budget Review Statement - 31 January, 2016</u>													
<u>Capital Budget Summary</u>													
	Original Budget	cfd/fwd	Adopted Changes Todate				final	Revised Budget	Year to 31/01/16	Remainder of Year	Projected for Year	Further Variations	Percentage Todate
			1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr							
<b><u>CAPITAL INCOME</u></b>													
Total - Capital Income	15000	0		5,000		0	0	20000	10000	10000	20000	0	
<b><u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u></b>													
Total - Capital Expenditure	90,800	0	0	0	0	0	0	90,800	63,514	29,000	92,514	0	
NET CAPITAL SURPLUS (DEFICITS)	(75,800)	0		5,000		0	0	(70,800)	(53,514)	(19,000)	(72,514)	0	
<b><u>ESTIMATED TOTAL BUDGET RESULT - 31 January, 2016</u></b>													
Surplus/(Deficit) after Dep'n	49,715	0	47	(47,736)	0	0	0	2,026	433,523	(430,154)	3,369	3,057	
Add Dep'n Included in above	7,475		0					7,475	0	7,475	7,475		
Surplus(Deficit) before Dep'n	57,190	0	47	(47,736)	0	0	0	9,501	433,523	(422,679)	10,844	3,057	



**CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Draft Quarterly Budget Review Statement - 31 January, 2016.**

**Operating Budget**

	Original Budget	c/fwd	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Final	Revised Budget	YTD to 31/01/16	Remainder of Year	Projected for Year	Further Variations	Percentage todate
<b>OPERATING REVENUE</b>													
<b>Administration</b>													
DPI - MVWAC Grant	410,870			(92,339)				318,531	296,234		296,234	(22,297)	100
Weed Certificates	7,127							7,127	4,012	3,115	7,127	0	56
Constituent Council Cont	497,580							497,580	497,590		497,590	10	100
all councils addn cont								0		0	0	0	0
Interest on Investments	2,500							2,500	2,861	3,500	6,361	3,861	45
Property Insurance Rebate	2,610							2,610	3,267		3,267	657	100
Insurance Provision adjust	1,819			1,448				3,267	1,727	1,540	3,267	0	53
WHS Incentive Rebate	2,548							2,548	5,000		5,000	2,452	100
Workers Comp Incentive Payment	1,346							1,346		1,346	1,346	0	0
Motor vehicle Claims Exp Discount	1,627		47	806				2,480	2,480		2,480	0	100
Jury Duty								0		0	0	0	0
<b>Administration Total</b>	<b>928,027</b>		<b>47</b>	<b>(90,085)</b>				<b>837,989</b>	<b>813,171</b>	<b>9,501</b>	<b>822,672</b>	<b>(15,317)</b>	<b>99</b>
													0
<b>Destruction of Weeds</b>													
Con't from Constituent Councils								0		0	0	0	0
Hudson Pear - Walgett								0			0	0	0
Mesquite Control - Grant								0		0	0	0	0
Parthenium Weed - Grant								0		0	0	0	0
Parkinsonia - Grant								0		0	0	0	0
<b>Destruction of Weeds Total</b>								<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
													0
<b>Private Works</b>													
Bre Shire - Private Works								0		0	0	0	0
Coonamble - Private Works								0			0	0	0
Coonabarabran - Private Works				436				436	436		436		
Warren - Private Works				1,527				1,527	1,527		1,527		100
Walgett - Private Works				3,175				3,175	3,175		3,175		100
Gilgandra - Private Works				690				690	690		690	0	
DLCW - 5 Ways								0		0	0	0	0
WLC (HP)								0			0	0	0
Walgett Shire - Hudson Pear	40,000							40,000	40,000	0	40,000	0	100
Western LLS (HP) S/R analysis								0				0	0
Western LLS (HP) Control Prgmes								0			0	0	0
NSW Trade and Invest - Hudson Pear								0			0	0	0
Sale of Parts etc								0		0	0	0	0
<b>Private Works -Total</b>	<b>40,000</b>			<b>5,828</b>				<b>45,828</b>	<b>45,828</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>45,828</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100</b>
													0
<b>Other Income</b>													
Plant Income	60,000			50,856				110,856	76,645	70,000	146,645	35,789	52
Const Council Advances								0		0	0	0	0
Profit on sale of plant								0		0	0	0	0
<b>Other Income -Total</b>	<b>60,000</b>			<b>50,856</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>110,856</b>	<b>76,645</b>	<b>70,000</b>	<b>146,645</b>	<b>35,789</b>	<b>52</b>
													0
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>1,028,027</b>		<b>47</b>	<b>(33,401)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>994,673</b>	<b>935,644</b>	<b>79,501</b>	<b>1,015,145</b>	<b>20,472</b>	<b>92</b>

	Original Budget	Adopted Changes Todate						Revised Budget	YTD to 31/01/16	Remainder of Year	Projected for Year	Further Variations	Percentage todate
	c/fwd	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Final							
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>											1,015,145		
<b>Administration</b>													
<b>Salaries</b>													
General Manager's Salary	21,338							21,338	11,480	9,858	21,338	0	54
Administrative Assistance								0			0	0	0
Commission on auction sale								0			0	0	0
Office Assistant								0		0	0	0	0
admin support	25,750							25,750		25,750	25,750	0	0
MVWAC - Meeting Expenses	1,000			1,312				2,312	2,943		2,943	631	100
MVWAC - Weed Coord Cont	9,281			13,016				22,297	5,446	16,851	22,297	0	24
IPR Costs	300							300		300	300	0	0
Consulting Fees								0		0	0	0	0
Travelling	2,000			-2000				0			0	0	0
Audit Fees	7,210							7,210	6,300	910	7,210	0	87
Advertising	2,575							2,575	232	2,343	2,575	0	9
Printing & Stationary	2,060							2,060	411	2,589	3,000	940	14
Postage & Freight	1,030							1,030	64	966	1,030	0	6
Storage Rental				350				350	1,680	500	2,180	1,830	77
Telephone	7,725							7,725	3,125	4,600	7,725	0	40
Bank Charges	567							567	267	300	567	0	47
Legal Expenses	500							500		500	500		0
<b>Sundry Expenses</b>								0					0
computer maintenance	400							400		400	400	0	0
security services								0			0	0	0
office cleaning								0		0	0	0	0
sundry admin expenses	2,500							2,500		2,500	2,500	0	0
web site costs	1,500							1,500	158	1,342	1,500	0	11
Subscription - Shires Assoc	1,936							1,936	1,281	655	1,936	0	66
<b>sub total - administration</b>	<b>87,672</b>		-	<b>12678</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100,350</b>	<b>33,387</b>	<b>70,364</b>	<b>103,751</b>	<b>3,401</b>	<b>32</b>
										103,751		3,401	

	Original Budget	Adopted Changes Todate						Revised Budget	YTD to 31/01/16	Remainder of Year	Projected for Year	Further Variations	Percentage todote
		c/fwd	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Final						
<b>Administration - Insurances</b>													
Fidelity Gaurantee	1,288			105				1,393	1,393		1,393	0	100
Public Liability & Prof Indem	23,887			-139				23,748	23,748		23,748	0	100
PL & PI - Excess	-							0		0	0	0	0
Property Insurance	7,000			-1620				5,380	5,380		5,380	0	100
State Cover Capital Levy	1,266							1,266		1,266	1,266	0	0
Motor Vehicle Liability	6,500			722				7,222	7,222		7,222	0	100
Personal Accident	1,946			-57				1,889	1,889		1,889	0	100
Councillors' and Officers' Liability	9,397			-43				9,354	9,354		9,354	0	100
<b>sub total - insurance</b>	<b>51,284</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>-1032</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>50,252</b>	<b>48,986</b>	<b>1,266</b>	<b>50,252</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>97</b>
								0			50,252	0	
<b>Elected Members Activities</b>								0					
Chairperson's Allowance	8,000							8,000	4,500	3,500	8,000	0	56
Councillors' Meeting Fees	27,000							27,000	15,000	12,000	27,000	0	56
Councillors' Travelling	4,511							4,511	2,068	2,443	4,511	0	46
Councillors' Subsistence CMCC Mtgs				3000				3,000	2,114	1,661	3,775	775	56
Delegates' Expenses	2,122							2,122	1,400	722	2,122	0	66
"C" Division								0		0	0	0	0
Insurance Members Accident								0		0	0	0	0
<b>sub total - governance</b>	<b>41,633</b>			<b>3000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>44,633</b>	<b>25,082</b>	<b>20,326</b>	<b>45,408</b>	<b>775</b>	<b>55</b>
								0		45,408	775		
<b>Employee Overhead Expenses</b>								0					
redundancy - termination pay				200				200	200		200	0	100
redundancy - annual leave								0			0	0	0
redundancy - long service leave								0			0	0	0
Provision for ELE								0		0	0	0	0
Annual Leave	26,114							26,114	12,236	13,878	26,114	0	47
Long Service Leave	12,736							12,736		12,736	12,736	0	0
Sick Leave	7,434							7,434	4,548	2,886	7,434	0	61
Compassionate Leave								0			0	0	0
Union Picnic Day								0	487		487	487	100
Public Holidays NEI	14,866							14,866	5,836	9,030	14,866	0	39
Jury Duty								0		0	0	0	0
Superannuation	43,198							43,198	22,325	20,873	43,198	0	52
Pre -Tax Contributions								0		0	0	0	0
Post Tax Contributions								0		0	0	0	0
Workers Compensation	16,500							16,500	11,325	5,175	16,500	0	69
Staff Misc								0		0	0	0	0
Protective Clothing	600							600	391	209	600	0	65
Allowances Disability/Climatic	3,000							3,000	543	2,457	3,000	0	18
Staff Training	7,500			4568				12,068	12,520		12,520	452	100
<b>sub total - employee expenses</b>	<b>131,948</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4768</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>136,716</b>	<b>70,411</b>	<b>67,244</b>	<b>137,655</b>	<b>939</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>Total - Administration Expenses</b>	<b>312,537</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>19414</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>331,951</b>	<b>177,866</b>	<b>159,200</b>	<b>337,066</b>	<b>5,115</b>	<b>53</b>
										337,066		(5,115)	

	Original Budget	Adopted Changes Todate						Revised Budget	YTD to 31/01/16	Remainder of Year	Projected for Year	Further Variations	Percentage todote
		c/fwd	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Final						
<b>Destruction of Weeds</b>													
Supervision of Weeds Officers	12,000							12,000	1,950	10,050	12,000	0	16
Property Inspections	80,000							80,000	15,594	64,406	80,000	0	19
Cost of Council Roads	70,000							70,000	44,329	25,671	70,000	0	63
DLCW - 5 Ways								0			0	0	0
WAP 1520 Grant Expenses	228,500			-30000				198,500	158,064	40,436	198,500	0	80
Contribs from Constituent Councils								0		0	0	0	0
Hudson Pear Walgett Shire								0		0	0	0	0
Mesquite Contol Program				1746				1,746	1,746		1,746	0	100
Parthenium Weed Control				109				109	109		109	0	100
Parkinsonia Weed Control								0		0	0	0	0
Promotions & Field Days	7,500							7,500		7,500	7,500	0	0
Pasture Trials								0		0	0	0	0
HP Taskforce Administration	5,000							5,000	2,210	2,790	5,000	0	44
<b>Destruction of Weeds Total</b>	<b>403,000</b>			<b>-28145</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>374,855</b>	<b>224,002</b>	<b>150,853</b>	<b>374,855</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>60</b>
											374,855		
<b>Private Works</b>													
Bre Shire - Private Works								0		0	0	0	0
Coonabrbran - Cost of Private Works				463				463	463		463	0	
Gilgandra - Cost of Private Works				1147				1,147	1,908		1,908	761	
Walgett - Cost of Private Works				3250				3,250	4,159		4,159	909	
Warren - Cost of Private Works				3206				3,206	3,206		3,206	0	
Sundry Private Works								0			0	0	
WLC (HP) - 5 Ways								0		0	0	0	0
Western CMA (HP)								0		0	0	0	0
Western LLS (HP) S/R Analysis								0			0	0	0
Western LLS (HP) Control Pgmes								0			0	0	0
Walgett Shire - HP	24,000							24,000		24,000	24,000		
Agency Expenses								0		0	0	0	0
Cost for the Sale of Parts etc								0	1,851		1,851	1,851	100
<b>Private Works -Total</b>	<b>24,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8066</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>32,066</b>	<b>11,587</b>	<b>24,000</b>	<b>35,587</b>	<b>3,521</b>	<b>33</b>
											35,587	3,521	
<b>Other Expenses</b>													
Depot Expenses	7,500							7,500	3,679	3,821	7,500	0	49
Plant Expenses	48,000			20,000				68,000	31,473	45,306	76,779	8,779	41
Depreciation	7,475							7,475		7,475	7,475	0	0
Refund - Const Cnl Advances	100,000							100,000		100,000	100,000	0	0
<b>Other Expenses -Total</b>	<b>162,975</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>182,975</b>	<b>35,152</b>	<b>156,602</b>	<b>191,754</b>	<b>8,779</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Total - Operating Expenses</b>	<b>902,512</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>19,335</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>921,847</b>	<b>448,607</b>	<b>490,655</b>	<b>939,262</b>	<b>17,415</b>	<b>48</b>
											<b>939,262</b>	<b>17,415</b>	
<b>NET OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICI)</b>	<b>125,515</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>(52,736)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>72,826</b>	<b>487,037</b>	<b>(411,154)</b>	<b>75,883</b>	<b>3,057</b>	<b>642</b>

Quarterly Budget Review Statement - 31 January, 2016															
Capital Budget															
	Original Budget	Adopted Changes Todate						Revised Budget	YTD to 31/01/16	Remainder of Year	Projected for Year	Further Variations	Percentage todote		
		c/fwd	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Final								
<b>Capital Income</b>															
Profit on Sale of Plant	15,000			5,000				20,000	10,000	10,000	20,000	0			
Provision - New Depot (Coonamble)								0		-	-	-	0		
Sale of Surplus Equipment								0		-	-	-	0		
Transfer from Plant Reserve								0		-	-	-	0		
Transfer from ELE								0		-	-	-	0		
<b>Capital Income - Total</b>	<b>15,000</b>		-	<b>5,000</b>	-	-	-	<b>20,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	-	<b>50</b>		
													0		
<b>Capital Expenditure</b>													0		
Office Equipment								0	-	-	-	-	0		
Depot Facility - Coonamble	10,000							10,000		10,000	10,000				
New Vehicles - Nett	61,800							61,800	63,514		63,514	1,714	100		
Small Plant, Tools, Radios	2,000							2,000	-	2,000	2,000	-	0		
Transfer to ELE Reserve	5,000							5,000	-	5,000	5,000	-	0		
Transfer to Plant Reserve	12,000							12,000	-	12,000	12,000	-	0		
<b>Capital Expenditure - Total</b>	<b>90,800</b>							<b>90,800</b>	<b>63,514</b>	<b>29,000</b>	<b>92,514</b>	<b>1,714</b>	<b>69</b>		<b>92,514</b>
													0		1,714
<b>Net Capital Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(75,800)</b>		-	<b>5,000</b>	-	-	-	<b>(70,800)</b>	<b>- 53,514</b>	<b>- 19,000</b>	<b>- 72,514</b>	<b>- 1,714</b>	<b>74</b>		
<b>Quarterly Budget Review as at 31 January, 2016 - Est. Summary for Year</b>															
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,043,027</b>	-	47	- 28,401	-	-	-	<b>1,014,673</b>	<b>945,644</b>	<b>89,501</b>	<b>1,035,145</b>	<b>20,472</b>		20,472	
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>993,312</b>	-	-	<b>19,335</b>	-	-	-	<b>1,012,647</b>	<b>512,121</b>	<b>519,655</b>	<b>1,031,776</b>	<b>19,129</b>		19,129	
<b>Net Total Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>49,715</b>	-	47	- 47,736	-	-	-	<b>2,026</b>	<b>433,523</b>	<b>- 430,154</b>	<b>3,369</b>	<b>1,343</b>		<b>1,343</b>	
											<b>3,369</b>			<b>1,343</b>	
											-				
<b>RESERVES - as at 31 January, 2016 - estimated balances as at 30 June, 2016</b>															
<b>Retained Earning</b>	<b>49,715</b>	-	47	- 47,736	-	-	-	<b>2,026</b>	<b>433,523</b>	<b>- 430,154</b>	<b>3,369</b>	<b>1,343</b>			
<b>ELE Reserve</b>	<b>5,000</b>	80000						<b>85,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>85,000</b>	<b>85,000</b>	<b>-</b>			
<b>Plant Reserve</b>	<b>12,000</b>	9000						<b>21,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>21,000</b>	<b>21,000</b>	<b>-</b>			

**ITEM 7.3: ORGANISATIONAL RESTRUCTURE REPORT – UPDATE – JANUARY, 2016**

**REPORTING SECTION:** General Manager  
**AUTHOR:** Don Ramsland – General Manager

**Summary:**

At its meeting on 5 March, 2014 Council resolved in a twelve point resolution to undertake an organisational restructure of the CMCC.

This report details progress with regards that decision and seeks further direction where outlined.

**Background:**

Council's resolution of 5 March, 2014 was as follows:

**1. Implementation of Organisational Restructure**

**Recommendation:** For Council's consideration

**05/14/13 Resolved:**

**That:**

1. Council re-determine its organisation structure pursuant to section 333 of the Local Government Act 1993, by reducing staffing levels to five (5) full time weeds officers plus a full time supervisor, with such change to take effect on or before 30 May 2014.
2. Council authorise the General Manager to take all necessary action to give effect to resolution 1 above and to comply with the Council's obligations under the Local Government (State) Award 2010. Such action includes but is not limited to, notifying the employee(s) who may be affected by the change and the union(s) to which they belong, and discussing measures to avert or mitigate the adverse effects on those employees.
3. Without limiting the above, the General Manager is directed to take appropriate action to eliminate or reduce the Council's obligation to pay severance pay to employees who may be affected by the change in resolution 1 above. Such action may include, but is not limited to, facilitating the redeployment of displaced employees within constituent councils or Local Land Services and applying to the Industrial Relations Commission of New South Wales pursuant to clause 35(xv) of the Local Government (State) Award 2010 for an order authorising the Council to pay a lesser amount or no amount of severance pay if the Council obtains acceptable alternate employment for an employee.
4. Council establish a moratorium of twelve months in respect of the re-employment any staff made redundant by Council or any constituent council.
5. Council advise the Division of Local Government and Council's Auditor of the course of action being taken to restore Council's financial viability.
6. Council explore the possibility of short term interest free loans/advances of up to three years from constituent councils to fund the cost of the restructure pending the realisation of Council's surplus built assets.
7. Council approach its bankers to establish an overdraft of up to \$300,000

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- 8.** Council invite expressions of interest from constituent councils to provide Council's administrative/accounting function
- 9.** Council continue negotiations for the disposal of the Coonamble Freight Agency
- 10.** Council immediately commence action for the sale/auction of surplus depot facilities at Coonamble and Coonabarabran.
- 11.** Council, as part of the restructure process, transfer an appropriate sum to a cash backed employees leave entitlements reserve by 30 June 2104.
- 12.** Council prepare a mini-budget which reflects the above actions for consideration at its April, 2014 meeting.

**Moved:** Clr Batten

**Seconded:** Clr Shinton

**Carried**

**Current Position:**

It is proposed to comment on the current position point by point.

**Point 1**

Covered by Council's resolution

**Point 2**

All staff and the relevant union were notified of Council's intentions and discussions with staff and the union have now been concluded.

Seven staff initially requested voluntary redundancy; four requests have been accepted with three staff now terminated and a fourth to finish up in early July. Requests from the two Coonabarabran based staff have been put on hold, two requests have been declined and the situation at Gilgandra and Warren will be determined once applications have been called for the vacant Warren based position.

Following the invitation external applications for this position casual employee Mr John Miller has been appointed on a permanent basis.

The services of the Chief Weeds Officer were terminated on Friday 28 November, 2014 by making that position redundant pursuant to Clause 39 of the Local Government (State) Award 2014.

Council's Organisational Structure has been revised with a new position of Senior Weeds Officer replacing the former role of Chief Weeds Officer.

Mr John Unwin continues to act in the Senior Weeds Officer's position and for the time being at least the position will be based at Coonabarabran. Internal applications are now being called for this position.

As indicated, following Mr Wade Thompson's resignation I reconsidered the need to eliminate his position at Coonabarabran and subsequently advertised that position externally. However, following advice of an over 25% cutback in WAP1520 grant funded filling that position was

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again put on hold. It is proposed to have three Weeds Officers sharing the work in both Warrumbungle and Gilgandra Shires but this is dependent on a review of funding available prior to the April, 2016 meeting.

It is still proposed to make up any other staffing shortfalls using either contract or casuals depending on whatever approach is the more cost effective at the time.

**Points 3 and 4**

No staff member has sought redeployment with constituent Councils. Award Consultative and WH&S Committees are in the process of being established with the staff remaining and these are already proving to be valuable communication channels.

**Point 5**

Both the Office of Local Government and Auditor were been verbally advised of the action being taken. A plan of action was submitted to the Office of Local Government and this will be followed up formally once the revised QBRS to 30 November, 2014 and 2014/15 Budget and Operational Plan have been endorsed by Council. The Office of Local Government and Council's Auditor have also been advised of the outcomes of the auction sales held on 3 March, 2015.

**Point 6**

All five constituent councils indicated they were prepared to make advances of \$50,000 to the County Council subject to repayment within three years, subject to all councils agreeing to participate. A correction of the accounting treatment of these advances was made in the 2014/15 financial statements by way of Note 20 c.

The first repayment of \$20,000 per council was made in May, 2015. The next repayments are due in May 2016 and May 2017 respectively.

**Point 7**

Council's position has been discussed with Council's bankers and an application for an overdraft of up to \$300K submitted for consideration. However, the bank has raised a difficulty with obtaining security and it is believed following this course of action should be deferred now that all the constituent councils have agreed to make the required advances.

**Point 8**

As only Walgett expressed an interest in providing administrative/finance support services at an initial fee of \$25,000 per annum for the provision of these services commencing from 1 July, 2014, this approach was accepted and changes in Council's address for the service of notices, email address and telephone and fax contact details have been initiated. Council's main computer has been relocated to the Walgett Shire office and accounts are still being operated under the MYOB software package.

**Point 9**

The Coonamble freight agency was closed with effect from 9 May, 2014.

**Point 10**



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Action for the disposal of the two depot facilities at Coonamble and Coonabarabran has been delayed and the auction of the Coonamble property was held on Tuesday 3 March, 2015 after being delayed by adverse seasonal conditions with a dispersal sale of surplus plant and equipment being held on the same day. The old light truck used for the freight operation has already been sold.

An alternative depot location in Coonamble is currently being negotiated. In the short term, to allow the settlement of the sale to be finalised, temporary storage facilities have been secured in a nearby storage facility. Preliminary discussions have been held with my counterpart at Warrumbungle Shire with regards the Coonabarabran Depot.

**Point 11**

Provision was been made for \$103,000 to be transferred to the ELE as at 30 June, 2015. Funding for ELE was also being provided for from the cash advances being provided by constituent councils. The ELE Reserve was used to fund the majority of the long service leave payout due to the former Chief Weeds Officer following his redundancy.

**Point 12**

Due provision for the actions detailed in Council's resolution were made in the November, 2014 QBRs, the Budget and Operational Plan for 2014/15 and revised Long Term Financial Plan. These have been further updated in the January, 2016 QBRs.

Any other Councillors' queries will be discussed at the meeting.

**Relevant Reference Documents:**

Council's Operational Plan and Budget for 2015/2016, January, 2016 QBRs and Long Term Financial Plan

**Business Activity Strategic Plan Link:**

The issues identified during the preparation of the 2015/2016 Operational Plan and Budget are linked back to Council's 2015/2019 Delivery Plan and Business Activity Strategy

**Delivery Plan Link:**

The issues identified during the preparation of the 2015/2016 Operational Plan and Budget are linked back to Council's 2015/2019 Delivery Plan and Business Activity Strategy

**Operational Plan/Budget Link:**

The issues identified in 2015/2019 Council's Delivery Plan and Business Activity Strategy are directly linked to the 2015/2016 Operational Plan and Budget provisions

**Stakeholders:**

Castlereagh Macquarie County Council  
Council Staff  
Constituent Councils

**Governance Issues:**

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The process and procedures set out in the appropriate industrial legislation have been followed in implementing Council's resolution of 5 March, 2014

**Environmental Issues:**

Not applicable

**Financial Implications:**

Council secured agreement for advances of \$250,000 from constituent councils which allowed the restructure to be undertaken commencing in May, 2014 and completed in the 2014/15 financial year.

An auction sale of the Coonamble depot facility was held on 3 March, 2015 along with the sale of surplus plant and equipment. Council authorised the Mayor and General Manager to fix reserve prices and expedite any other necessary arrangements.

Avenues have been explored to initiate an automatic full on-cost recovery process for all grant works and private works so that accurate year to date costs are available at all times but this has not been possible under the MYOB system. An alternative manual system is now in place.

**Legal Issues:**

Council has been mindful of its obligations under industrial legislation as it embarked on a process of down-sizing.

**Alternatives/Options:**

There are a number of measures that can be utilised in undertaking a downsizing operation, but above all the principles of procedural fairness and natural justice must be observed at all times.

**Conclusion:**

It is to Council's credit that it has been prepared to take the tough decisions to address its current financial dilemma and turn the financial situation around. Other issues outside Council's control including the establishment of Local Land Services, the current review of noxious weed management and more recently the NSW Office of Local Government's "Fit for the Future" initiative have now come into play. This report notes progress being made in relation to the restructure process.

Council should consider now advising the Office of Local Government that apart from the repayment of constituent council advances the organisational restructure has been successfully completed

**Recommendation:**

That Council receive and note the General Manager's report in respect of the progress in the Organisational Restructure process and endorse the action taken so far.

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**Attachments:**

Restructure Action Plan

**CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL  
ORGANISATIONAL RESTRUCTURE - ACTION PLAN**  
(Revised as at 31 January, 2016)

**1. Redetermine Organisational Structure – 7 March, 2014**

Completed – see council resolution of 5 March, 2014

**2. Implement bi-monthly progress reporting – 30 April, 2014**

Commenced with report to deferred April meeting on 7 May, 2014 and June Meeting on 25 June 2014. Reporting now being made quarterly in accordance with OLG letter of 23 December, 2014

**3. Give effect to and finalise organisational restructure process - 30 May, 2014**

Staff and relevant union formally advised on 10 March, 2014. Meetings held with all staff on 24 March, 2014 and 9 April, 2014 respectively.

**4. Minimise financial impacts of organisational restructure on Council – 30 May, 2014**

Eight requests received for voluntary redundancy. Negotiations concluded with four staff at Coonamble (1 in May, 2 in June and 1 in July). Position of Chief Weeds Officer made redundant with effect from 28 November, 2014. Redundancies at Coonabarabran and Gilgandra on hold pending finalisation of restructure. Position at Warren has been advertised and a permanent appointment made from August, 2015. A decision whether to use casual staff or contract labour for other works will be made once the funding for the next five years under WAP 1520 is known. .

**5. Establish a moratorium for re-employment – 30 May, 2014**

No staff have requested re-deployment at this stage

**6. Advise Division of Local Government and Council's Auditor of action being taken to restore Council's financial viability – 30 May, 2014**

Letters sent to OLG and Auditor 19 May, 2014.

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**7. Explore possibility of short term advances with constituent councils – 30 April, 2014**

Letters sent to all constituent councils. All five councils have agreed with CMCC request for advance of \$50,000 repayable over three years. First repayment of \$20,000 per constituent council made in May, 2015.

**8. Commence negotiation for a bank overdraft – 30 April, 2014**

Commonwealth Bank approached to establish overdraft. At this stage investigations into which form of security CMCC could offer deferred because agreement for advances obtained from all constituent Councils.

**9. EOIs from constituent Councils to provide administrative/accounting function – 30 April, 2014**

Only one council lodged an expression of interest and the offer of Walgett Shire accepted at meeting on 25 June, 2014. Administration/financial functions have been progressively relocated to Walgett Shire's office as from 1 July, 2014.

**10. Negotiate closure of freight agency - 30 May, 2014**

Freight agency closed on 9 May, 2014.

**11. Commence action to dispose of surplus depot facilities – 30 May, 2014**

Initial stocktake carried out first week of June. Full inventory completed - 30 November, 2014.

**12. Transfer to ELE by 30 June – 15 June, 2014**

ELE has been provided for in 2013/14 and 2014/15 Financial Statements.

**13. Mini-budget (QBRs) to April Meeting – 30 April, 2014**

Revised QBRs to deferred April meeting on 7 May, 2014 and June meeting on 25 June, 2014. Revised QBRs to meetings on 17 December, 2014, 23 March, 2015, 20 April, 2015, 29 June, 2015, 24 August 2015, 19 October, 2015, 21 December, 2015 and 29 February, 2016.

**14. Prepare 2014/15 Operating Plan and Budget and ten year forecast – 30 April, 2014**

Draft 2014/15 Operating Plan and Budget and ten year forecast to deferred April meeting on 7 May, 2014 and adopted at June Meeting on 25 June, 2014.

An Operating Plan and Budget for 2015/16 was adopted in principle at Council's meeting on 20 April, 2015 and adopted at Council's meeting on 29 June, 2015.

**15. Finalise 2013/14 Financial Statements – 30 August, 2014**

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Audited 2013/14 Financial Statements lodged with Office of Local Government on 7 November, 2014. Auditor's presentation was made to meeting on 17 December, 2014.

Preparation of Council's 2014/15 financial statements was finalised early in September, 2015, audit undertaken during October, 2015 and the annual Auditor's presentation was made at the December, 2015 meeting.

**16. Finalise transfer of Accounting/administrative function to a constituent council – 1 July, 2014**

Agreement negotiated for administrative/financial support for an initial amount of \$25,000 p.a.

**17. Prepare schedule of future grant sources – 1 July, 2014**

State WAP grant of \$309,408 announced on 1 November, 2014. An application has now been lodged for funding under WAP1520. At this stage the formal announcement is being queried because of an anticipated 25% cut back in funds available. To date no response has been received to Council's letter to Minister Blair.

**18. Finalise disposal of surplus property/plant – 30 September, 2014**

Allowed for in forward planning – As per resolution passed at June, 2014 meeting General Manager to confer with Councillor Schieb with regards arranging an auction for Council's surplus plant, equipment and buildings. Auction held Tuesday 3 March, 2015.

**19. Revised Integrated Planning and Reporting Documentation**

Revised integrated Planning and Reporting Documentation was considered at Council's meeting in April, 2015 and formally adopted at Council's meeting on Monday 29 June, 2015.

**ITEM 7.4: HUDSON PEAR TASK FORCE UPDATE**

**REPORTING SECTION:** General Manager

**AUTHOR:** Don Ramsland – General Manager

**Summary:**

To consider an update in relation to the Hudson pear Task Force

**Background:**

At the June, 2014 meeting Council resolved to re-establish the Hudson pear Task Force under an independent chairperson. Subsequently, Mr Geoff Wise was approached to see if he was interested in the role and he has now confirmed his acceptance.

The renewed interest and funding availability for the control of Hudson Pear in and around Lightning Ridge and the expanding incursion at the 5 Ways between Coonabarabran and Coonamble presented an ideal opportunity to re-activate the Hudson Pear Task Force which had been in recess for a considerable period.

As part of the Strategic/Risk Analysis undertaken by Mr Ken Harrison, a series of meetings was held across the County area. At one of those meetings, the need for re-invigorating the Hudson Pear Task Force was raised, along with the roles to be played in future by Local Land Services and the Castlereagh Macquarie County Council.

It was agreed that CMCC would be ideally placed to facilitate the following through such a task force:

- Co-ordination and oversight of grant funds
- Community education and field days
- Chemcert training as required
- Green Army participation
- Establishing an independent chair person's role

The Strategic/Risk Analysis targeted these as well as various other outcomes in its recommendations. The CMCC has been proactive with the appointment of an independent chairperson to head up the proposed reactivated task force and the process which should be followed to achieve this outcome if it is appropriate.

**Current Position:**

A meeting of the various agencies and organisations represented on the old Hudson pear Task Force, along with any additional bodies identified including LLS, was held on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2015 and the minutes of that meeting will be tabled at the meeting.

The next meeting is planned for Wednesday 10 March, 2016 and it is hoped to have representatives of the recently formed “Green Army” to attend the Board’s coming meeting.

A working party has been formed to consider and implement where appropriate the recommendations made in the Strategic/Risk Analysis Report. At the same time a formal,

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mapping programme is being developed to identify existing infestations and the agencies/organisations currently responsible for control measures.

**Relevant Reference Documents:**

Hudson Pear Strategic/Risk Analysis Report and Terms of Reference

**Business Activity Strategic Plan Link:**

Council's 2013/2017 Delivery Plan and Business Activity Strategy

**Delivery Plan Link:**

Council's 2013/2017 Delivery Plan and Business Activity Strategy

**Operational Plan/Budget Link:**

2013/2014 Operational Plan and Budget provisions

**Stakeholders:**

Castlereagh Macquarie County Council

Constituent Councils

Affected resident and ratepayers, primarily in Lightning Ridge

LRMA and GGSMA

Local Land Services (North West, Western and Central West) and Green Army participants

**Governance Issues:**

The process and procedures set out in the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 in re-activating the task force will need to be followed.

**Environmental Issues:**

There is now ongoing and growing support for a programme of funding for the control of Hudson Pear infestations in and around Lightning Ridge. Ideally, the oversight of this process would be facilitated by the CMCC through the re-activated Hudson pear Task Force.

**Financial Implications:**

Council has been able to attract a grant of \$5,000 to provide funding for the establishment of an independent chairperson role and set up a supporting secretariat

**Legal Issues:**

The concept will be the subject of formal discussions with Local Land Service organisations as well as other independent organisations identified in the Strategic/Risk Analysis Report.

**Alternatives/Options:**

There were only a limited number of suitably qualified and experienced people based in the western region of NSW to undertake the role of independent chairperson.

**Conclusion:**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Hudson pear Task Force held on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2015 be received and noted and the General Manager's report endorsed.

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<b>Hudson pear Task Force – Update</b>
<p><b>Recommendation:</b></p> <p>That the minutes of the meeting of the Hudson pear Task Force held on Thursday 29 October, 2015 be received and noted and the General Manager's report endorsed.</p> <p><b>Moved:</b></p> <p><b>Seconded:</b></p>

**Attachments:**

Hudson pear Task Force meeting minutes of 29th October, 2015 will be tabled.



**ITEM 7.5: CMCC – FUTURE OF DEPOT FACILITIES**

**REPORTING SECTION:** General Manager

**AUTHOR:** Don Ramsland – General Manager

**Summary:**

To consider the future provision of depot facilities for Castlereagh Macquarie County Council

**Background:**

Now that the sale of the existing depot facility at Coonamble has been finalised, there is a need to establish a new but smaller facility at Coonamble. Negotiations have commenced with Coonamble Shire in respect of a site at the Coonamble Airport complex. In the interim, space is being rented at the storage facility across the road from the old depot. All that is really required is somewhere that chemical and equipment can be stored securely when not in use.

The ideal situation is to have all depot facilities established on properties held by constituent councils as this would simplify the procedure if the CMCC were to be wound up at some later date as part of the current local government “Fit for the Future” reform process.

**Current Position:**

Given the need to consider future events the sale of the Coonabarabran depot facility, which is the Council’s only remaining freehold property, should possibly be first raised with the Warrumbungle Shire before being placed on the market should it be necessary to dispose of this property in the immediate future.

The depots at Gilgandra, Walgett and Warren are all on land under the ownership or control of the constituent councils at those locations. During a recent search of the records at the Coonamble office, formal lease documents have not been able to be located and the constituent councils are currently being contacted to see what documentation they may be in possession of.

Recently, a review of Council’s insurance records have revealed Council is in possession of the old county depot site at Coolah and the title of this land is being investigated.

**Relevant Reference Documents:**

Relevant lease documentation if available.

**Business Activity Strategic Plan Link:**

Council’s 2013/2017 Delivery Plan and Business Activity Strategy

**Delivery Plan Link:**

Council’s 2013/2017 Delivery Plan and Business Activity Strategy

**Operational Plan/Budget Link:**

2013/2014 Operational Plan and Budget provisions

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**Stakeholders:**

Castlereagh Macquarie County Council  
Constituent Councils  
County residents and ratepayers  
Local Land Services (North West, Western and Central West)

**Governance Issues:**

If the appropriate legal documentation can't be located for the remaining depots, or the arrangements with the constituent councils have never been formalised, there is a need for this to be put in place at the earliest opportunity.

**Environmental Issues:**

There may be some environmental issues surrounding the storage of chemicals.

**Financial Implications:**

It would be appropriate for appropriate provision for financial considerations to be specifically addressed in any new legal documentation.

Council has earmarked \$10,000 in the 2015/16 budget to provide a new facility at Coonamble and plans and a draft cost estimate will be tabled at the coming meeting.

**Legal Issues:**

Appropriate legal agreements should be in place for all depot facilities.

**Alternatives/Options:**

Not to do anything about existing informal arrangements may cause problems in the future.

**Conclusion:**

It is timely for appropriate legal documentation to be put in place as part of the ongoing review and upgrading of CMCC policies, procedures and operational activities.

<b>Future of Depot Facilities</b>
<p><b>Recommendation:</b></p> <p>That Council note the intention to table plans and cost estimate for a new facility at Coonamble in addition to the need for appropriate documentation to be prepared in respect of all Council's depot facilities with constituent councils</p> <p><b>Moved:</b></p> <p><b>Seconded:</b></p>

**Attachments:**

Plans and cost estimates – new Coonamble facility - to be tabled at the meeting.

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**ITEM 7.6: MAJOR GRANT FUNDING – 2014/15 AND BEYOND**

REPORTING SECTION: General Manager  
AUTHOR: Don Ramsland – General Manager

**Summary:**

To consider grant funding availability and opportunities – 2015/16 and beyond.

**Background:**

The CMCC's main sources of funding are drawn from the DPI through Weed Action Plan Funding, constituent Council contributions, other grant sources and to a lesser extent private work contracts.

**Current Position:**

Project submissions for the Weeds Action Plan 1520 were lodged in May, 2015. One submission was lodged jointly from the Western, Central Tablelands and Central West LLS. The submission was being co-ordinated by the Macquarie Valley Weeds Advisory Committee.

Expressions of interest were also being invited from Councils to host the Weeds Action Plan 1520 and facilitation of the regional project Officer's employment, with the successful tender being awarded to Orange City Council for two years.

A new, computerised recording system that interfaces with Council's own system is now needed. As a result, the purchase of new computer tablets, mobile phones and GIS equipment has been put on hold temporarily until the DPI system requirements become available. The recommendations of the recently completed review of the Noxious Weeds Act have been generally accepted.

The Bio-security Act 2015, is currently in the discussion paper stage and should go before Parliament again shortly and is scheduled for adoption in the next sitting will replace some 11 existing Acts including the Noxious Weeds Act. Along with the new Act will come the Bio-Security Information System (BIS) and this will also need to interface with Council's systems.

The Minister is pushing for greater integration and co-ordination and it is likely that information recorded by Council's Weeds Officers in the field will be fed directly into the BIS with photos and GIS positioning details attached to form a comprehensive map weed problems across the country.

Whilst WAP 1520 is a five year project/commitment, provision is being made for a comprehensive review after the first two years.

A copy of the WAP1520 spread sheet will be tabled at the meeting so that Council will have a greater understanding of the new focus in weeds control – inspection and identification of new invasive species and incursions of Class 1 and 2 weeds rather than the traditional treatment of Class 3 and 4 weeds.

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**Relevant Reference Documents:**

WAP1520 Project Submission  
WAP 1520 Guidelines

**Business Activity Strategic Plan Link:**

Council's 2013/2017 Delivery Plan and Business Activity Strategy

**Delivery Plan Link:**

Council's 2013/2017 Delivery Plan and Business Activity Strategy

**Operational Plan/Budget Link:**

2013/2014 Operational Plan and Budget provisions

**Stakeholders:**

Castlereagh Macquarie County Council  
Constituent Councils  
County residents and ratepayers,  
Local Land Services (North West, Western and Central West)

**Governance Issues:**

WAP1520 may require the review of Council's various policies and procedures.

**Environmental Issues:**

Work practices may need to be reviewed to ensure Council achieves the best outcome in respect of environmental issues.

**Financial Implications:**

Any change to existing work practices and recording procedures will automatically have financial implications.

**Legal Issues:**

The new Bio-Security Act 2015 is due to pass through Parliament during the next session.

**Alternatives/Options:**

Nil

**Conclusion:**

Council needs to be working consultatively with all stakeholders to achieve the best interests on behalf of our residents and ratepayers.

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<b>Major Grant Funding – 2014/15 and Beyond</b>
<p><b>Recommendation:</b></p> <p>That Council maintain a watching brief over the impact of new legislation on Council's traditional funding sources.</p> <p><b>Moved:</b></p> <p><b>Seconded:</b></p>

**Attachments:**

Spread sheets to be tabled at the meeting.

**ITEM 7.7: LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM PROCESS – IMPACT ON CMCC**

**REPORTING SECTION:** General Manager

**AUTHOR:** Don Ramsland – General Manager

**Summary:**

To further consider impact of current local government reform process on the Castlereagh Macquarie County Council.

**Background:**

The Office of Local Government announced the “Fit for the Future” package of local government reform measures in September, 2014. The impact of these measures on County Councils still remains unclear.

The General Manager has attended a number of Local Government Reform workshops in an endeavour to gain an understanding of Council’s future role as a local control authority. However, little information or comment has been made at the various sessions

**Current Position:**

Whilst at this stage it continues to appear that County Councils are to be exempt, the concept of a “rural council” appears to have been drastically altered to what was envisaged in the ILGRP’s original report. The concept of a “joint organisation” is yet to be definitively explained, despite repeated requests from the industry for this to be done

As a result, a degree of strategic thought needs to be applied to identify the best outcomes possible not only for the County Council itself but the constituent councils as well.

From discussions within Local Land Services circles, it is becoming clearer that those organisations are taking on a more and more strategic role and on the ground services will be undertaken either by local councils acting as Local Control Authorities (LCAs) under the revised Noxious Weeds Act provisions or by contractors.

Council’s major source of funding is being administered through the Central West LLS even though the Walgett Shire falls within the North West LLS area. Funding cutbacks in the order of 30% have been made in respect of 2015/16 and it is believed that there are more coming.

Council has advised the CW LLS that it is prepared to provide contract spraying services for TSRs in our area to help make up funding shortfalls.

**Relevant Reference Documents:**

NSW Office of Local Government “Fit for the Future” documentation

**Business Activity Strategic Plan Link:**

Council’s 2013/2017 Delivery Plan and Business Activity Strategy

**Delivery Plan Link:**

Council’s 2013/2017 Delivery Plan and Business Activity Strategy

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**Operational Plan/Budget Link:**

2014/2015 Operational Plan and Budget provisions

**Stakeholders:**

Castlereagh Macquarie County Council  
Constituent Councils  
County Council residents  
Council staff

**Governance Issues:**

Not identified at this stage

**Environmental Issues:**

Nothing identified at this stage.

**Financial Implications:**

From the documentation available it would appear that those Councils that are deemed to be “Fit for the Future” in June, 2015 will have the opportunity to take advantage of a number of initiatives including access to cheaper funds.

Similarly, councils that elect to merge will be eligible for “marriage” grants.

What specific opportunities will be available for County Councils have yet to be identified. Needless to say it is obviously going to be in CMCC’s best interests to be as financially viable and economically sustainable as possible going forward and to be able to demonstrate these outcomes quite clearly.

**Legal Issues:**

It would appear that changes to the Local Government Act and associated legislation will be effective from September, 2016, although there is some speculation that the coming quadrennial elections may be deferred.

**Alternatives/Options:**

Doing nothing is no longer an option.

Maintaining and/or expanding the existing weeds authority

Consideration of an approach from Councils within OROC to form a joint organisation once the position with regards JOCs becomes clearer

**Conclusion:**

As advised previously, Council should not act hastily but rather gather all the facts before determining what action it should be taking.

Local Government Reform Process – Impact on CMCC
<p><b>Recommendation:</b></p> <p>That Council receive and note the General Manager’s Report.</p>



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<b>Moved:</b> <b>Seconded:</b>
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**Attachments:** Nil

**ITEM 7.8: MATTERS FOR BRIEF MENTION OR INFORMATION ONLY**

**REPORTING SECTION:** General Manager

**AUTHOR:** Don Ramsland – General Manager

**Summary:**

The following matters are listed for brief mention or information only.

**1. Drought Funding for Weeds:**

Previous advice to hand indicated that special federal government drought funding of \$25M was to be made available to address feral animal and weeds issues in twenty shires in western NSW and Queensland which had been affected by continuing drought. Four of these shires are in NSW (Bourke, Brewarrina, Walgett and Coonamble) and funds for these councils will be distributed through the NSW DPI. However, announcements for the basis on which funding will be distributed have yet to be made and the issue is being followed up through the Federal Member for Parkes, Mr Mark Coulton MP.

**2. Local Government Reform**

There is still no clear understanding of what action County Councils in NSW should be taking with regards the “Fit For The Future” legislation and whilst it was believed that the situation would become clearer once the position with regards “mergers” and “joint organisations” was made towards the end of October, 2015 we are still no better informed.

At the same time, consultation with regards proposed changes to the Local Government Act 1993 has now commenced and submissions in respect of Phase 1 close on 15 March, 2016.

Perhaps Council should consider making a submission based around expanding the number of constituent councils, reducing the number of representatives per council along with the other heads of consideration set out in OLG circular16-01

**3. New Website**

Council’s new website is now up and running and staff are now able to make any necessary changes in-house. The website will be demonstrated at the meeting, arrangements are in hand to have board members CVs, photos and contact numbers included.

**4. Concern With Use of Glyphosphate Sprays (Roundup)**

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Clr Doug Batten has raised the issue of the use of glyposphate based pesticides following a recent media release on the ABC news.

The following link is provided for Councillors information:

[http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-02-16/councils-still-using-pesticide-that-probably-causes-cancer/7168464?WT.mc\\_id=newsmail](http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-02-16/councils-still-using-pesticide-that-probably-causes-cancer/7168464?WT.mc_id=newsmail)

It is proposed to contact LGNSW to see what action is being taken to verify or otherwise address the claims being made before Council looks at using other types of pesticides which may not be as effective.

**5. New Biosecurity Act – 2015 – Submission**

A series of discussion papers in relation to the new Biosecurity Act 2015 went on public exhibition in late December, 2015, with submissions closing on 12 February, 2016. Following discussions with the Chairperson a brief submission was prepared in respect of the two papers that affect CMCC most. A copy of the submission is attached and the issues raised are self-explanatory.

<b>Matters for Brief Mention or Information Only</b>
<p><b>Recommendation:</b></p> <p>That the above issues for brief mention or information only as detailed in the General Manager's report to the May, 2015 meeting be received and noted.</p> <p><b>Moved:</b></p> <p><b>Seconded:</b></p>

**Attachments:**

Biosecurity Act submission

## Castlereagh Macquarie County Council

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### Overview

Castlereagh Macquarie County Council is the weeds authority for its constituent shire councils of Coonamble, Gilgandra, Walgett, Warren and Warrumbungle.

The County area covers some 60,000 square kilometres and services a population of over 27, 198 residents and ratepayers.

It operates extremely efficiently with a staff of six field staff under the supervision of a ten person board and a part time general manager.

Like all government undertakings, it is under constant financial pressure and recent cutbacks in the order of 25/30% have only increased this pressure.

Council appreciates the opportunity to make the following comments on the draft provision of the Biosecurity Act 2015 and in particular on the discussion papers in relation to Abandoned and Neglected Horticultural Enterprises and

### Abandoned and Neglected Horticultural Enterprises

Council notes that a key requirement of the new legislation is the *General Biosecurity Duty (GBD)* which imposes a duty on any person dealing with a biosecurity matter to take measures to prevent, minimise or eliminate the risk as far as is reasonably possible.

Whilst Council is generally in agreement with the proposed management approach outlined on page 2 of the discussion paper it believes that more is required in dealing with properties owned by non-resident owners and absentee landlords.

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This is of major importance where small hobby farms are involved and more needs to be done to prevent the spread of plant pests and diseases through both ignorance and neglect.

**Weeds**

Whilst the Biosecurity Act, 2015 repeals the Noxious Weeds Act of 1993 care needs to be taken that the powers of Councils as Local Control Authorities is not watered down either intentionally or unintentionally by the new legislation.

To this end, it appears the new legislation will impact adversely on the existing powers under Section 20 of the Noxious Weeds Act to allow Councils to enter property, undertake any necessary weed control measures and recover the costs involved from the errant landowner. This action is normally only taken as a last resort and only after more than adequate opportunity is given to offending landholders to rectify the situation. Whilst sometime this process may take a matter of days, the current notification period is not adversely affected by the opportunity to undertake control measures where there is only a limited window of opportunity for treatment.

It would appear that under the proposed new legislation Council must first go to the Registrar General to gain permission to enter and undertake control work. It is believed that this approach to administration will take far too long and the window to carry out weed controls/treatment will close allowing problem weeds to spread and become an even greater problem.

Whilst Council is in agreement with the outcomes detailed on page 4, it is also believed that it is necessary to ensure adequate funding is provided at a state/federal level to address new and expanding invasive weed infestations.

It is necessary to appreciate that not all weeds grow in all parts of NSW. It is also necessary to appreciate the need to prevent the spread of weeds from overseas and interstate.

The sale of certain species of cacti should be prohibited anywhere in New South Wales and the legislation should be amended to reflect this situation.

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Page 6 makes the statement that “all weeds” will be subjected to the General Biosecurity Duty (GBD) referred to previously. This needs clarification and “all weeds” should refer to any weed on the proposed “*State Prohibited List*” and also include weeds on the “*High Priority List*” which must be compiled by each of the new Regional Weeds Committees.

This should be expanded to include any weed which may have an adverse impact on a neighbouring landowner.

With the introduction of the new legislation it is essential that adequate provisions be made for the education of all parties so that they are able to quickly become familiar with both the thrust and provisions of the legislation.

One fear that remains is the ability of authorised officers being able to exert sufficient control measures over crown and other state agencies owned land to overcome many years of management by neglect.

# **Section 2**

  

## **Chief Weeds Officer's Report**

**ITEM 8.1 SENIOR WEEDS OFFICER'S REPORT**

Report December 2015/January 2016

As I was away on leave after the last County meeting held on the 21 December until the 11 January 2016 this report will be short.

Firstly I would like to welcome Ashleigh as a permanent employee on behalf of the staff at CMCC. Her effort on the administration side is very much appreciated by all and especially by me. Writing reports to MVWAC and others is no longer almost impossible; we would also like to congratulate her on her engagement.

Three inspectors have attempted training in the Legal Stage 1 course which will give them a better understanding on carrying out their duties and I am sure will give them confidence in their ability to carry out work. We may know their results by the meeting to be held in February.

I was fortunate to be in Walgett to see 90 plus millimetres of rain fall in a short time on the 27<sup>th</sup>. It was also good to see the smiles on faces around the office and on the street, I am sure they will need follow up in a week or two but it was a start.

We have been asked to help in the inspection of the Peel River at Gunnedah for Alligator Weed which is a Class 1 weed. We will be sending four inspectors for two nights and myself for one day as I will be attending the MVWAC meeting at Wellington on the 8<sup>th</sup> February. It is an opportunity to become familiar with the plant as the Peel water eventually will end in the river at Walgett. Gunnedah is looking after accommodation and meals.

The weed trailer from the MVWAC is booked for all the shows in the County area starting with Coonabarabran and the Easter festival at Lightning Ridge on 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2016.

John Unwin

Act Senior Weeds Officer

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**ITEM 8.2 CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**COONAMBLE NOXIOUS PLANT REPORT**

**FROM: 25 November 2015**

**TO: 25 January 2016**

**Seasonal Conditions:** Very hot and dry – Approximately 40mm of rain

<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Activities Undertaken</b>	<b>Outcomes Achieved</b>
1. Control noxious weeds on private property.	1. Carry out property inspections.	1. Number of properties inspected: 5 2. Area inspected: <u>2,222 hectares</u> 3. Area infested: <u>1,825.5 hectares</u> 4. Area treated: <u>5.5 hectares</u>
2. Control noxious weeds on council-controlled land  Walgett Shire Spray Roadside Private Work	2. Treat roadsides  African Lovegrass Area Treated: <u>35 hectares</u>	5. Area treated along roadsides: <u>1 hectare</u> 6. Number of locations inspected: <u>50</u> 7. Area inspected: <u>230 hectares</u> 8. Area infested: <u>1 hectare</u> 9. Area treated: <u>1 hectare</u>
1. Bi-monthly Plant usage (traded Vehicle) <b>Vehicle 1.</b> kms at start of months  <b>6-8203</b> <u>136,000</u>  <b>Vehicle 2.</b> kms at start of months  <b>6-8235</b> Nil	<b>Vehicle 1.</b> kms at end of months  <u>137,000</u>  <b>Vehicle 2.</b> kms at end of months  <u>4,633</u>	<b>Vehicle 1.</b> kms travelled for 2 months  <u>1,000</u>  <b>Vehicle 2.</b> kms travelled for 2 months  <u>4,633</u>



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**ITEM 8.3 CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**GILGANDRA NOXIOUS PLANT REPORT**

**FROM: 26.11.2015**

**TO: 25.01.2016**

**Seasonal Conditions:** Very hot conditions with some hot, windy days. Very little rain throughout the district.

<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Activities Undertaken</b>	<b>Outcomes Achieved</b>
2. Control noxious weeds on private property.	1. Carry out property inspections.	1. Number of properties inspected: <u>10</u> 2. Area inspected: <u>602 hectares</u> 3. Area infested: <u>32.2 hectares</u> 4. Area treated: <u>12.2 hectares</u>
3. Control noxious weeds on council-controlled land	2. Treat roadsides for Pear Blue Heliotrope Silverleaf Nightshade Bathurst Burr Noogoora Burr Green Cestrum	5. Area treated along roadsides: 6. Number of locations inspected: 7. Area inspected: 8. Area infested: 9. Area treated:
10. Bi-monthly Plant usage <b>Vehicle 1.</b> kms at start of months <b><u>6-8203</u></b> 137,000  <b>Vehicle 2.</b> kms at start of months <b><u>6-8214</u></b> 96,510	<b>Vehicle 1.</b> kms at end of months <b><u>140,250</u></b>  <b>Vehicle 2.</b> kms at end of months <b><u>100,880</u></b>	<b>Vehicle 1.</b> kms travelled for 2 months <b><u>3,250</u></b>  <b>Vehicle 2.</b> kms travelled for 2 months <b><u>4,370</u></b>

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**ITEM 8.4 CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**WALGETT NOXIOUS PLANT REPORT**

**FROM: December 2015**

**TO: January 2016**

**Seasonal Conditions:** Hot dry weather with a few showers.

<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Activities Undertaken</b>	<b>Outcomes Achieved</b>
1. Control noxious weeds on private property.	1. Carry out property inspections.	1. Number of properties inspected: 7 2. Area inspected: <u>53,825 hectares</u> 3. Area infested: <u>3,510 hectares</u> 4. Area treated: <u>Nil</u>
2. Control noxious weeds on council-controlled land	2. Treat roadsides for Noogoora Burr Bathurst Burr	5. Area treated along roadsides: 6. Number of locations inspected: <u>6</u> 7. Area inspected: <u>2,100 hectares</u> 8. Area infested: <u>870 hectares</u> 9. Area treated: <u>490 hectares</u>
10. Bi-monthly Plant usage <b>Vehicle 1.</b> kms at start of months  <u>229,782 kms</u>	<b>Vehicle 1.</b> kms at end of months  <u>234,294.kms</u>	<b>Vehicle 1.</b> kms travelled for 2 months  <u>4,512 kms</u>

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**ITEM 8.5 CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**WARREN NOXIOUS PLANT REPORT**

**FROM: November**

**TO: January**

**Seasonal Conditions:** The Warren Shire has seen some good rain with 35mm of rainfall in December and 99mm in January. This increased growth of Bathurst Burr, Noogoora Burr, Tiger Pear, Common Pear, Harrisia Cacti and Mimosa Bush.

<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Activities Undertaken</b>	<b>Outcomes Achieved</b>
1. Control noxious weeds on private property.	1. Carry out property inspections. <u>6</u>	1. Number of properties inspected: <u>14</u> 2. Area inspected: 3. Area infested: 4. Area treated:
2. Control noxious weeds on council-controlled land  Ellengereh Road, Warren Mitchell Highway	2. Treat roadsides for Blue Heliotrope	5. Area treated along roadsides: 6. Number of locations inspected: 7. Area inspected: 8. Area infested: 9. Area treated:
8. Bi-monthly Plant usage <b>Vehicle 1.</b> kms at start of months	<b>Vehicle 1.</b> kms at end of months	<b>Vehicle 1.</b> kms travelled for 2 months

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**TEM 8.6 CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**WARRUMBUNGLE NOXIOUS PLANT REPORT**

**FROM: December 2015**

**TO: January 2016**

**Seasonal conditions:** most of the shire has had falls of rain although it was varied; all of the shire now has a tinge of green but no runoff in most places as yet. 280 points of rain fell at Binnaway.

<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Activities Undertaken</b>	<b>Outcomes Achieved</b>
3. Control noxious weeds on private property.	2. Carry out property inspections.	1. Number of properties inspected: <u>7</u> 2. Area inspected: <u>4,745 hectares</u> 3. Area infested: <u>1,500 hectares</u> 4. Area treated: <u>150 hectares</u>
4. Control noxious weeds on council-controlled land	2. Treat roadsides for	5. Area treated along roadsides: <u>200km</u> 6. Number of locations inspected: 7. Area inspected: <u>1,751km</u> 8. Area infested: <u>200km</u> 9. Area treated:
10. Bi-monthly Plant usage <b>Vehicle 1.</b> kms at start of months  <u>5,413</u>	<b>Vehicle 1.</b> kms at end of months	<b>Vehicle 1.</b> kms travelled for 2 months