

**CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL**

Meeting of Council

Held at Warrumbungle Shire Council Chambers

On 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017

# **CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL**



## **BUSINESS PAPER**

**For the Ordinary Meeting of Council  
to be held at the Warrumbungle Shire Council  
Chambers,  
On Monday 10 April 2017  
Commencing at 10:00 am**

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(PO Box 664)  
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**CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL**

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**AGENDA - ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**

**Monday, 10 April 2017**

- 1. WELCOME**
- 2. APOLOGIES**
- 3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**
- 4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES for Meeting held Monday 20 February 2017**
- 5. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**
- 6. REPORT FROM CHAIRMAN**
- 7. REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER**
- 8. REPORT OF THE SENIOR WEEDS OFFICER**
- 9. CONFIDENTIAL**
- 10. QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING**
- 11. NEXT MEETING - Monday 19 June 2017 at Coonamble**
- 12. CLOSE**

**7. REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER**

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| Item 7.1 | Reconciliation Certificate 28 February & 31 March 2017.....                               | page 12 |
| Item 7.2 | Quarterly Budget Review Statement as at 31 March 2017 .....                               | page 15 |
| Item 7.3 | Organisational Action Plan – March 2017.....  | page 27 |
| Item 7.4 | Additional Grant Funding – 2016/17 and beyond .....                                       | page 31 |
| Item 7.5 | Biosecurity Act 2015 – Staff training .....   | page 33 |
| Item 7.6 | Draft Annual Budget and Integrated Planning and Reporting Documentation<br>2017/2018..... | page 38 |
| Item 7.7 | Matters for Brief Mention or Information Only.....  | page 40 |

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

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| Item 8.1 | Senior Weeds Officer's Report.....                          | Page 46 |
| Item 8.2 | Bi-Monthly Road Inspections Report from Inspectors.....     | Page 47 |
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| Item 8.4 | Bi-Monthly Infestations Report from Inspectors.....         | Page 55 |
| Item 8.5 | Bi-Monthly Treatment Report from Inspectors.....            | Page 61 |
| Item 8.6 | Warren Inspectors Bi-Monthly Report .....                   | Page 64 |

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**9. CONFIDENTIAL**

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Item 9.1      Staffing Matters.....Page 69

**10.    QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING**

**11.    CONFIRM DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 19 June 2017 at Coonamble**

**12.    CLOSE OF MEETING**

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# **CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL**



## **MINUTES**

**Of the Ordinary Meeting of Council  
held at Warren Shire Council Chambers on Monday  
20<sup>th</sup> February, 2017**

77 Fox Street  
(PO Box 664)  
Walgett NSW 2832

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**CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL**

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**CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT THE WARREN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2017 COMMENCING AT 10:00AM**

**1. Record of affirmation or oath:**

Mark Beach oath at 10:00am 20 Feb 2017

**PRESENT:** Ctrs D. Batten (Chairman), M. Beach, A. Brewer, G. Peart, M. Martinez, I. Woodcock, M. Webb, B. Fisher and R. Lewis

**Staff Members:** D. Ramsland (General Manager), J. Unwin (Senior Weeds Officer), J. Miller (Warren Weeds Inspector) and A. McCudden (Minute Secretary)

**2. WELCOME:** Ctr Batten welcomed all councillors and staff to the meeting.

**3. APOLOGIES:** P. Shinton

**2/17/1 Resolved:**

That apologies from P. Shinton be accepted and leave of absence be granted.

**Moved:** Ctr Webb

**Seconded:** Ctr Woodcock

**Carried**

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - Nil**

**5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**2/17/2 Resolved:**

That the minutes of the Castlereagh Macquarie County Council meeting held at Walgett on Monday 12 December, 2016, having been circulated, be confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

**Moved:** Ctr Lewis

**Seconded:** Ctr Brewer

**Carried**

**6. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES - Nil**

**7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

No Chairperson's report was presented.

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**CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**8. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

**Item 8.1 Reconciliation Certificate 30 December 2016 & 31 January 2017**

**Recommendation:** That the Statement of Bank Balances as at 30 December 2016 and 31 January 2017 be received and noted.

**2/17/3 Resolved:**

That the Bank Reconciliations as at 30 December 2016 and 31 January be received and noted.

**Moved:** Cllr Webb

**Seconded:** Cllr Peart

**Carried**

**2/17/4 Resolved:**

That the General Manager discusses the outstanding debt with the Local Land Services and Council give him authority to commence collection action to see it be paid.

**Moved:** Cllr Lewis

**Seconded:** Cllr Woodcock

**Carried**

**Item 8.2 Quarterly Budget Review Statement – Period Ended 31 January, 2017**

**Recommendation:** That the Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the period ended 31 January, 2017 be received and noted and the recommended variations to the revised budget as detailed in the attached statement be adopted.

**2/17/5 Resolved:**

That the Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the period ended 31 January 2017 be received and noted and the recommended variations to the revised budget as detailed in the attached statement be adopted.

**Moved:** Cllr Webb

**Seconded:** Cllr Martinez

**Carried**

**Item 8.3. Organisational Review Update – January 2017**

**Recommendation:** That Council receive and note the General Manager's report in respect of the progress being made in respect of the new Organisational Action Plan and endorse the action taken so far.

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**CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**2/17/6 Resolved:**

That Council receive and note the General Manager's report in respect of the progress being made in respect of the new Organisational Action Plan and endorse the action taken so far.

**Moved:** Cllr Lewis

**Seconded:** Cllr Webb

**Carried**

**Item 8.4      Review of Policy Documents**

**Recommendation:** That as no submissions was received during the public exhibition period Council now adopt the following policies:

Code of Conduct

Code of Meeting Practice

Councillor Access to Information and Interaction with Council Staff Policy

Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities for Councillors

**2/17/7 Resolved:**

That as no submissions was received during the public exhibition period Council now adopt the following policies:

Code of Conduct

Code of Meeting Practice

Councillor Access to Information and Interaction with Council Staff Policy

Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities for Councillors

**Moved:** Cllr Martinez

**Seconded:** Cllr Fisher

**Item 8.6      Matters for Brief Mention or Generally for Information Only**

**Recommendation:** That the above issues for brief mention or information only as detailed in the General Manager's report to the December, 2016 meeting be received and noted and Council determine any other action required.

**2/17/8 Resolved:**

That the above issues for brief mention or information only as detailed in the General Manager's report to the February, 2017 meeting be received and noted and Council determine what further action, if any, should be taken in respect of the matters listed.

**Moved:** Cllr Peart

**Seconded:** Cllr Lewis

**Carried**

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**2/17/9 Resolved:**

That Council coordinate a response to both North West and Central West Local Land Services via email through the General Manager by the 1st March with a view to a draft being circulated to the delegates by the 3rd and submitted to the LLS board by the 8th March.

**Moved:** Clr Brewer

**Seconded:** Clr Woodcock

**Carried**

**9. SENIOR WEEDS OFFICER'S REPORT**

**Item 9.1 Senior Weeds Officer's Report**

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

**2/17/10 Resolved:**

That Council receive and note the Senior Weeds Officer's report for December 2016 / January 2017

**Moved:** Clr Webb

**Seconded:** Clr Fisher

**Carried**

**Item 9.2 Noxious Plant Reports**

**Recommendation:** That Council receive and note the Noxious Plant reports for Coonamble, Gilgandra, Walgett, Warren and Warrumbungles.

**2/17/11 Resolved:**

That Council receive and note the Noxious Plant reports for Coonamble, Gilgandra, Walgett, Warren and Warrumbungles.

**Moved:** Clr Woodcock

**Seconded:** Clr Webb

**Carried**

**CONFIDENTIAL SESSION**

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

**2/17/12 Resolved:**

That at 11.25am 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.



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Moved: Clr Martinez  
Seconded: Clr Webb

Carried

**2. Property Inspections Report**

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

**2/17/13 Resolved:**

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

Moved: Clr Woodcock  
Seconded: Clr Peart

Carried

**3. Motion to move out of Confidential Session**

**2/17/14 Resolved:**

That at 11.30am Council move out of Confidential Session.

Moved: Clr Brewer  
Seconded: Clr Webb

Carried

**Adoption of Closed Section Reports**

**2/17/15 Resolved:**

That Council adopt the recommendations of the Closed Committee Reports.

- Property Inspections Report

Moved: Clr Brewer  
Seconded: Clr Woodcock

Carried

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

1. Council reviewed the Business Activity Strategic Plan 2016-2025 and noted various amendments to be made following the commencement of the new NSW Biosecurity Act 2015 on 1 July 2015.

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**CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 10 April, 2017 at Coonabarabran.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 12:30PM.**

To be confirmed as a true and accurate record at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 10 April 2017.

**CHAIRMAN**

**GENERAL MANAGER**

# **General Manager's Report**

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**ITEM 7.1: Reconciliation Certificate - 28 February 2017**

Reconciled Ledger Accounts for 28 February 2017 are as follows:

**Balance of Ledger – 1-1110**

<b>Balance 31/01/2017</b>	615,836.16
Plus Receipts	3,174.95
Less Payment	45,857.71
	<b><u>\$573,153.40</u></b>

**Balance of Bank Accounts**

Balance 28/02/17 #273228001484	\$573,153.40
Less: Outstanding Cheque	Nil
	<b><u>\$573,153.40</u></b>

<b>Stores Balance 1-1410</b>	<b>28/02/17</b>	<b>\$25,613.80</b>
<b>Debtors Balance 1-1310</b>	<b>28/02/17</b>	<b>\$40,000.00</b>
<b>ELE Reserve Balance 1-1210</b>	<b>28/02/17</b>	<b>\$103,000.00</b>
<b>Plant Reserve 1-1220</b>	<b>28/02/17</b>	<b>\$9,000.00</b>

**Debtors:**

Local Land Services	Invoice #812825	30/06/15	\$25,000.00
	Invoice #812826	30/06/15	\$15,000.00
			<b><u>\$40,000.00</u></b>

**Recommendation:**

The Statement of Bank Balances as 28 February 2017 be received & adopted.

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**CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL  
STORES INVENTORY REPORT**

**28 February 2017**

<b><u>Item No:</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Unit Price</u></b>	<b><u>Stock</u></b>	<b><u>Total Value</u></b>
1032	Access	\$400.00 (5L)	0	\$0.00
1041	Scrubmaster	\$340.00 (20kg)	2	\$680.00
2085	Grazon Extra	\$585.00 (20L)	31	\$18,135.00
2895	Round-Up Extra	\$154.80 (20L)	31	\$4,798.80
3225	Spray Dye	\$160.00 (5L)	3	\$480.00
3530	Uptake Oil	\$130.00 (20L)	8	\$1,040.00
3710	Genwet 1000	\$120.00 (20L)	4	\$480.00
<b><u>TOTAL VALUE</u></b>				<b>\$25,613.80</b>

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**ITEM 7.1:    Reconciliation Certificate 31 March 2017**

This report will be tabled at the meeting as a supplementary report.

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**ITEM 7.2: Quarterly Budget Review Statement As At 31 March 2017**

**REPORTING SECTION:** General Manager

**AUTHOR:** Don Ramsland – General Manager

**FILE NUMBER:** 09/47-03

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**Summary:**

An analysis of Council's actual income and expenditure to 31 March, 2017 has now been completed and a revised budget result forecast for the year ending 30 June, 2017 has been prepared showing the anticipated result on present trends.

These results are summarised as follows:

	<b>Revised Budgeted Surplus/(Loss) \$</b>	<b>Revised Budget Surplus/(Loss) \$</b>	<b>Forecast Budget Surplus / (Loss)\$</b>
Operating budget result	78,999	9,936	88,935
Capital Budget result	(75,330)	Nil	(75,330)

**Background:**

Just for the information of our new Councillors, 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.

Being mindful of this, the Office of Local Government (OLG) 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 providing 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 these requirements 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/Delivery Plan that will impact to vary estimated income and expenditure for the longer term.

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### **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, and in view of the fact that this is the third quarterly report in respect of 2016/2017, the variations which are listed on the attached review statement are only minor. These variations reveal an Operating Budget surplus for the quarter of (\$9,936) after provision has been made for depreciation of \$22,000.

Similarly, the Capital Budget Deficit stands at \$75,330 following a transfer from the Employees' Leave Entitlement Reserve in respect of accrued long service leave taken up to December, 2016.

This result is in line with the expectations voiced at the time of adopting the 2016/2017 Budget and Operational Plan at the June, 2016 meeting.

This QBRs sets out the recommended changes to the revised Overall Budget of \$9,936 net. As indicated, these variations are listed in the attached Budget Papers and summarised on a separate page in the Budget Summary with reference to our key performance ratios and required declarations in respect of contractual arrangements, consultancies and legal expenses.

Our exact key performance ratios are detailed with our financial statements for 2015/2016 which were the subject of the annual Auditors presentation at the December meeting.

However, after allowing for capital income/expenditure Council will operate at an estimated overall surplus in 2016/2017 of \$13,605 after allowing for depreciation.

Details of Council's stores balances are included with the monthly bank reconciliation statements.

### **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 pending announcement of the State Government's "Joint Organisation" initiative 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.



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**Financial Implications:**

It is proposed to discuss the matter of what level of grant funds may become available in 2016/2017 in the confidential section of the meeting as anticipated changes to the role of Local Land Service functions and subsequent funding cuts could impact unfavourably on Council's bottom line.

**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 seem to be working quite satisfactorily but the situation needs to be regularly monitored to identify whether any further corrective action is required.

<b>Quarterly Budget Review Statement – 31 March, 2017</b>
<p><b>Recommendation:</b></p> <p>That the Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the period ended 31 March, 2017 be received and noted, and 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** - Quarterly Budget Review Statement as at 31 March, 2017

**Attachment C** - Cash Flow Statement as at 31 March, 2017

**Attachment D** - Quarterly Budget Review Statement 31 March, 2017 – Operating Budget Summary

**Attachment E** - Quarterly Budget Review Statement 31 March, 2017 – Operating Budget – Detailed

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

**CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Quarterly Budget Review Statement – 31 March, 2017.**

**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 March, 2017 indicates that Council's projected financial position as at 30 June, 2017 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 10 April, 2017 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: 31 March, 2017

Don Ramsland - Responsible Accounting Officer – Castlereagh Macquarie County Council

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**Attachment B - Quarterly Budget Review Statement as at 31 March, 2017**

**Recommended Changes to Revised Budget**

<b>A. Revenue Income</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
1. Additional Private Works – Warrumbungle	1,020	
2. Additional Private Works – Gilgandra	1,250	
3. Additional funding DPI – PRMF	19,720	
<b>Total – Revenue Income Adjustments</b>		<b>21,990</b>
<b>B. Revenue Expenditure</b>		
1. Additional Costs – Depot Expenses	2,412	
2. Biosecurity Expenses	4,846	
3. Additional Costs – DPI – PRMF	19,720	
4. Additional Costs -Parkinsonian Control	2,981	
5. Additional Costs – Private Works	866	
6. Additional Costs – Sick Leave	3,340	
7. Additional Costs – Staff Training	4,529	
8. Additional Costs – PPE	271	
9. Additional Costs – Project Officer	1,961	
10. Additional Costs – Meeting Expenses	3,572	
11. Adjustment – Computer Expenses	(15,412)	
12. Saving – Chairperson’s Allowance	(4,541)	
13. Saving – Meeting Fees	(7,491)	
14. Saving – Council Roads	(5,000)	
<b>Total –Revenue Expense Adjustments</b>		<b>12,054</b>
<b>Net Increase in Operating Surplus</b>		<b>9,936</b>
<b>C. Capital Income Adjustments -</b>	<b>Nil</b>	
<b>D. Capital Expenditure Adjustments</b>	<b>Nil</b>	
<b>Total – Capital Adjustments</b>		<b>Nil</b>
<b>Net Increase in Deficit</b>		<b>Nil</b>

**Quarterly Budget Review Statement – 31 March, 2017**

**Budget Review - Key Performance Indicators Statement**

1. Unrestricted Current Ratio –2.63 :1 (1 July, 2016)
2. Debt Service Ratio – 1.84:1 (1 July, 2016)
3. Building and Infrastructure Renewal Ratio - as a 1 July, 2016 this ratio was 0.00% as Council had made no provision for assets renewals

**Budget Review - Contracts and Other Expenses**

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

**Part B – Consultancy and Legal Expenses**

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

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## Attachment C – Cash Flow Statement as at 31 March, 2017

Statement of Cash Flows as at 31 March, 2017							
				Actual	Actual	Est.	Est.
				2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>							
<u>Receipts</u>							
User Fees and Charges				10	15	29	7
Investment and Interest Revenue				5	6	6	7
Grants and Contributions				1013	940	823	731
Bonds, Deposits and Retention amounts				-	-		
Other				201	132	120	162
<u>Payments</u>							
Employee Benefits and Oncosts				-1037	-900	-626	-680
Materials and Contracts				-89	-78	-26	-16
Other				-221	-198	-226	-123
<b>Net Cash provided/used in Operating Activities</b>				<b>-118</b>	<b>-83</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Investing Activities</b>							
<u>Receipts</u>							
Sale of Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipment				2	414	16	15
<u>Payments</u>							
Purchase of Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipm				-	9	-69	-60
Investments				-	-		-17
<b>Net Cash provided/used in Investing Activities</b>				<b>2</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>-53</b>	<b>-62</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Financing Activities</b>							
<u>Receipts</u>							
Proceeds from Borrowings and Advances				250	-	0	-
Transfer from Plant Reserve							10
<u>Payments</u>							
Repayment of Borrowings and Advances				-	-100	-100	-50
<b>Net Cash Flow provided/used in Financing Activities</b>				<b>250</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>-40</b>
<b>Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>				<b>134</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>-53</b>	<b>-14</b>
add Cash and Cash Equivalents - beginning of year				17	151	391	343
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents - end of year</b>				<b>151</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>329</b>
Investments on hand - end of year				-	-		119
<b>Total Cash, Cash Equivalents and Investments</b>				<b>151</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>448</b>

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## Attachment D - Quarterly Budget Review Statement as at 31 March, 2017 – Operating Budget Summary

CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL													
Quarterly Budget Review Statement - 31 March, 2017													
Operating Budget Summary													
	Original Budget	Adopted Changes Todate						Revised Budget	YTD to 31/03/17	Remainder of Year	Projected for Year	Further Variations	Percentage Todate
		cwd/fwd	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Final						
<b><u>OPERATING REVENUE</u></b>													
Total - Administration	819,846	0	0	0	0	506	0	820,352	786,861	33,491	820,352	0	62
Total - Destruction of Weeds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total - Private Works	10,000	0	700	4,260	4,468	0	0	19,428	11,698	29,720	41,418	21,990	7
Total - Other Income	156,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	156,000	75,257	80,743	156,000	0	3
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>985,846</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>4,260</b>	<b>4,468</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>995,780</b>	<b>873,816</b>	<b>143,954</b>	<b>1,017,770</b>	<b>21,990</b>	<b>52</b>
<b><u>OPERATING EXPENSES</u></b>													
sub total - administration	124,702	0	0	17	2706	4004	0	131,429	49,719	76,677	126,396	(5,033)	2
sub total - insurance	51,760	0	3,298	-4612	0	0		50,446	49,142	1,304	50,446	0	98
sub total - governance	48,521	0	0	0	0	0		48,521	21,805	14,684	36,489	(12,032)	0
sub total - employee expenses	131,033	0	0	512	7906	0		139,451	106,206	41,385	147,591	8,140	5
Total - Administration Expense	356,016	0	3,298	-4083	10612	4004		369,847	226,872	134,050	360,922	(8,925)	18
Total - Destruction of Weeds	377,206	0	0	0	80	1167		378,453	257,665	118,769	376,434	(2,019)	7
Total - Private Works	2,500	0	122	3556	1174	0		7,352	6,655	21,283	27,938	20,586	5
Total - Other Expenses	160,406	0	0	0	0	723		161,129	40,495	123,046	163,541	2,412	10
<b>Total - Operating Expenses</b>	<b>896,128</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,420</b>	<b>-527</b>	<b>11866</b>	<b>5894</b>		<b>916,781</b>	<b>531,687</b>	<b>397,148</b>	<b>928,835</b>	<b>12,054</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>NET OPERATING SURPLUS (</b>	<b>89,718</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(2,720)</b>	<b>4,787</b>	<b>(7,398)</b>	<b>(5,388)</b>		<b>78,999</b>	<b>342,129</b>	<b>(253,194)</b>	<b>88,935</b>	<b>9,936</b>	<b>481</b>

**CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL**

Meeting of Council

Held at Warrumbungle Shire Council Chambers

On 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017

CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL												
<b>Quarterly Budget Review Statement - 31 March, 2017</b>												
<b>Capital Budget Summary</b>												
	Original Budget	cfd/fwd	Adopted Changes Todate				final	Revised Budget	YT to 31/03/17	Remainder of Year	Projected for Year	Further Variations
			1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr						
<b><u>CAPITAL INCOME</u></b>												
<b>Total - Capital Income</b>	<b>15000</b>		<b>10000</b>		<b>7500</b>	<b>2500</b>		<b>35,000</b>	<b>10000</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>0</b>
<b><u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u></b>												
<b>Total - Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>110,330</b>				<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>110,330</b>	<b>31,070</b>	<b>79,260</b>	<b>110,330</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>NET CAPITAL SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>(95,330)</b>		<b>10000</b>		<b>7500</b>	<b>2500</b>		<b>(75,330)</b>	<b>(21,070)</b>	<b>(54,260)</b>	<b>(75,330)</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>ESTIMATED TOTAL BUDGET RESULT - 31 March, 2017</b>												
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) after Dep'n</b>	<b>(5,612)</b>		<b>7,280</b>	<b>4,787</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>(2,888)</b>		<b>3,669</b>	<b>321,059</b>	<b>(307,454)</b>	<b>13,605</b>	<b>9,936</b>
<b>Add Dep'n Included in above</b>	<b>22,000</b>							<b>22,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22,000</b>	<b>22,000</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Surplus(Deficit) before Dep'n</b>	<b>16,388</b>		<b>7,280</b>	<b>4,787</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>(2,888)</b>		<b>25,669</b>	<b>321,059</b>	<b>(285,454)</b>	<b>35,605</b>	<b>9,936</b>

# CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL

Meeting of Council

Held at Warrumbungle Shire Council Chambers

On 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017

## Attachment E - Quarterly Budget Review Statement 30 September, 2015 – Operating Budget – Detailed Breakdown

	Original Budget	Adopted Changes Totdate						Revised Budget	YTD to 31/03/17	Remainder of Year	Projected for Year	Further Variations	Percentage todote
		c/fwd	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Final						
<b>OPERATING REVENUE</b>													
<b>Administration</b>													
DPI - MVWAC Grant	287,248							287,248	268,880	18,368	287,248	0	94
Weed Certificates	7,290							7,290	3,034	4,256	7,290	0	42
Constituent Council Cont	506,547							506,547	506,547	0	506,547	0	100
all councils addn cont	-							0		0	0	0	0
Interest on Investments	6,000							6,000	2,619	3,381	6,000	0	44
Property Insurance Rebate	3,342							3,342	275	3,067	3,342	0	8
Insurance Provision adjust	1,767							1,767		1,767	1,767	0	0
WHS Incentive Rebate	5,115							5,115	5,000	115	5,115	0	98
Workers Comp Incentive Payme	-					506		506	506		506	0	100
Motor vehicle Claims Exp Discot	2,537							2,537		2,537	2,537	0	0
Jury Duty	-							0		0	0	0	0
<b>Administration Total</b>	<b>819,846</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>506</b>		<b>820,352</b>	<b>786,861</b>	<b>33,491</b>	<b>820,352</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>Destruction of Weeds</b>													
Con't from Constituent Councils								0		0	0	0	0
Hudson Pear - Walgett								0		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>		<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Private Works</b>													
Bre Shire - Private Works								0		0	0	0	0
Coonamble - Private Works			400					400	400		400	0	100
Coonabarabran - Private Works					360			360	1,380		1,380	1,020	100
Warren - Private Works			300	3,600				3,900	3,900		3,900	0	100
Gilgandra - Private Works					988			988	2,238		2,238	1,250	100
Walgett - Private Works				660	3,120			3,780	3,780	0	3,780	0	100
DLCW - 5 Ways								0		0	0	0	0
WLC (HP)								0		0	0	0	0
Walgett Shire - Hudson Pear								0		0	0	0	0
Western LLS (HP) S/R analysis								0		0	0	0	0
Western LLS (HP) Control Prgmcs								0		0	0	0	0
NW LLS - Hudson Pear Taskfor	10,000							10,000		10,000	10,000	0	0
DPI HP PRMF Project VSS										12,220	12,220	12,220	0
DPI HP PRMF Project R7623										7,500	7,500	7,500	0
Sale of Parts etc								0		0	0	0	0
<b>Private Works -Total</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>4,260</b>	<b>4,468</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>19,428</b>	<b>11,698</b>	<b>29,720</b>	<b>41,418</b>	<b>21,990</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Other Income</b>													
Plant Income	156,000							156,000	75,257	80,743	156,000	0	48
Const Council Advances								0		0	0	0	0
Profit on sale of plant								0		0	0	0	0
<b>Other Income -Total</b>	<b>156,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>156,000</b>	<b>75,257</b>	<b>80,743</b>	<b>156,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>985,846</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>4,260</b>	<b>4,468</b>	<b>506</b>		<b>995,780</b>	<b>873,816</b>	<b>143,954</b>	<b>1,017,770</b>	<b>21,990</b>	<b>86</b>

# CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Meeting of Council

Held at Warrumbungle Shire Council Chambers

On 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017

	Original Budget	Adopted Changes Todate						Revised Budget	YTD to 31/03/17	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>													
<b>Administration</b>													
<b>Salaries</b>													
General Manager's Salary	22,032							22,032	14,756	7,276	22,032	0	67
Administrative Assistance								0		0	0	0	0
Commission on auction sale								0		0	0	0	0
Office Assistant								0		0	0	0	0
Contract Admin Support	26,523							26,523		26,523	26,523	0	0
MVWAC - Project Officer Costs	5,446							5,446	7,407		7,407	1,961	100
OCC - Weed Coord Cont	20,108							20,108		20,108	20,108	0	0
IPR Costs	309							309		309	309	0	0
Host - Meeting Expenses - MVV	2,500				1193			3,693	7,265		7,265	3,572	100
BioSecurity Info Expenses				17	1513	4004		5,534	10,380		10,380	4,846	100
Travelling	2,000							2,000		2,000	2,000	0	0
Audit Fees	7,426							7,426		7,426	7,426	0	0
Advertising	2,652							2,652	990	1,662	2,652	0	37
Printing & Stationary	2,500							2,500	554	1,946	2,500	0	22
Postage & Freight	1,061							1,061	57	1,004	1,061	0	5
Storage Rental	1,000							1,000		1,000	1,000	0	0
Telephone	7,957							7,957	5,458	2,499	7,957	0	69
Bank Charges	583							583	226	357	583	0	39
Legal Expenses	515							515		515	515	0	0
<b>Sundry Expenses</b>								0		0	0	0	0
computer maintenance	15,412							15,412			0	(15,412)	0
security services								0		0	0	0	0
office cleaning								0		0	0	0	0
sundry admin expenses	2,500							2,500	1,200	1,300	2,500	0	48
web site costs	1,500							1,500	1,426	74	1,500	0	95
Subscription - Shires Assoc	2,678							2,678		2,678	2,678	0	0
<b>sub total - administration</b>	<b>124,702</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2706</b>	<b>4004</b>		<b>131,429</b>	<b>49,719</b>	<b>76,677</b>	<b>126,396</b>	<b>(5,033)</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Administration - Insurances</b>								0		0	0	0	0
Fidelity Gaurantee	1,435		98	-140				1,393	1,393		1,393	0	100
Public Liability & Prof Indem	24,460		2,133	-2418				24,175	24,175		24,175	0	100
PL & PI - Excess								0		0	0	0	0
Property Insurance	5,541		- 531	-180				4,830	4,830		4,830	0	100
State Cover Capital Levy	1,304							1,304		1,304	1,304	0	0
Motor Vehicle Liability	7,439		627	-733				7,333	7,333		7,333	0	100
Personal/Members' Accident	1,946		132	-189				1,889	1,889		1,889	0	100
Councillors' and Officers' Liabilit	9,635		839	-952				9,522	9,522		9,522	0	100
<b>sub total - insurance</b>	<b>51,760</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,298</b>	<b>-4612</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>50,446</b>	<b>49,142</b>	<b>1,304</b>	<b>50,446</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>97</b>
<b>Elected Members Activities</b>													
Chairperson's Allowance	8,144							8,144	2,389	1,214	3,603	(4,541)	66
Councillors' Meeting Fees	27,486							27,486	14,328	5,667	19,995	(7,491)	72
Councillors' Travelling	4,635							4,635	1,485	3,150	4,635	0	32
Councillors' Subsistence	6,076							6,076	3,603	2,473	6,076	0	59
Delegates' Expenses	2,180							2,180	0	2,180	2,180	0	0
CMCC Meeting Expenses								0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>sub total - governance</b>	<b>48,521</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>48,521</b>	<b>21,805</b>	<b>14,684</b>	<b>36,489</b>	<b>(12,032)</b>	<b>60</b>



# CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Meeting of Council

Held at Warrumbungle Shire Council Chambers

On 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017

	Original Budget	Adopted Changes Todate						Revised Budget	YTD to 31/03/17	Remainder of Year	Projected for Year	Further Variations	Percentage todote
		e/fwd	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Final						
<b>Employee Overhead Expenses</b>													
redundancy - termination pay													
redundancy - annual leave													
redundancy - long service leave													
Provision for ELE													
Annual Leave	26,274							26,274	23,907	2,367	26,274	0	91
Long Service Leave	11,542				7755			19,297	19,042	255	19,297	0	99
Sick Leave	9,696							9,696	8,536	4,500	13,036	3,340	65
Compassionate Leave				512				512	512		512	0	100
Union Picnic Day					500			500	500		500	0	100
Public Holidays NEI	12,928				-500			12,428	7,057	5,371	12,428	0	57
Jury Duty								0		0	0	0	0
Superannuation	44,408							44,408	29,822	14,586	44,408	0	67
Pre -Tax Contributions								0		0	0	0	0
Post Tax Contributions								0		0	0	0	0
Workers Compensation	16,500							16,500	6,567	9,933	16,500	0	40
Staff Misc								0		0	0	0	0
Protective Clothing	600				151			751	1,022		1,022	271	100
Allowances Disability/Climatic	3,085							3,085	712	2,373	3,085	0	23
Staff Training	6,000							6,000	8,529	2,000	10,529	4,529	81
<b>sub total - employee expenses</b>	<b>131,033</b>			<b>512</b>	<b>7906</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>139,451</b>	<b>106,206</b>	<b>41,385</b>	<b>147,591</b>	<b>8,140</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>Total - Administration Expenses</b>	<b>356,016</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,298</b>	<b>-4083</b>	<b>10612</b>	<b>4004</b>		<b>369,847</b>	<b>226,872</b>	<b>134,050</b>	<b>360,922</b>	<b>(8,925)</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Destruction of Weeds</b>													
Supervision of Weeds Officers	7,196							7,196	2,833	4,363	7,196	0	39
Property Inspections	78,000							78,000	15,084	62,916	78,000	0	19
Other Costs - Council Roads	78,000							78,000	69,867	3,133	73,000	(5,000)	96
WAP1520 Grant Expenses	200,000							200,000	157,663	42,337	200,000	0	79
HP TaskForce Administration	6,300							6,300	3,496	2,804	6,300	0	55
Contribs from Constituent Councils								0		0	0	0	0
Hudson Pear Walgett Shire								0		0	0	0	0
Mesquite Contol Program						92		92	92	0	92	0	100
Parthenium Weed Control								0		0	0	0	0
Parkinsonia Weed Control					80	1075		1,155	4,136	0	4,136	2,981	100
Promotions & Field Days	7,710							7,710	4,494	3,216	7,710	0	58
Pasture Trials								0		0	0	0	0
<b>Destruction of Weeds Total</b>	<b>377,206</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>1167</b>		<b>378,453</b>	<b>257,665</b>	<b>118,769</b>	<b>376,434</b>	<b>(2,019)</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>Private Works</b>													
Bre Shire - Private Works								0		0	0	0	0
Walgett Shire - Private Works				1290	620			1,910	1,910		1,910	0	100
Warren Shire - Private Works			122	2131				2,253	2,253	0	2,253	0	100
Coonamble - Private Works				135				135	135	0	135	0	100
Gilgandra Shire - Private Works					554	-242		312	696	0	696	384	100
Warrumbungle Shire Pte Works						242		242	724	0	724	482	100
Sundry Private Works								0		0	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	0
Western LLS (HP) Control Pgmes								0		0	0	0	0
Walgett Shire - HP								0		0	0	0	0
DLWC - 5 Ways	1,000							1,000		1,000	1,000	0	0
DPI HP PRMF Project VSS										12,220	12,220	12,220	0
DPI HP PRMF Project R7623										7,500	7,500	7,500	0
Cost for the Sale of Parts etc	1,500							1,500	937	563	1,500	0	62
<b>Private Works -Total</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>3556</b>	<b>1174</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>7,352</b>	<b>6,655</b>	<b>21,283</b>	<b>27,938</b>	<b>20,586</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Other Expenses</b>													
Depot Expenses	7,875					723		8,598	10,010	1,000	11,010	2,412	91
Plant Expenses	80,531							80,531	30,485	50,046	80,531	0	38
Depreciation	22,000							22,000		22,000	22,000	0	0
Refund - Const Cnl Advances	50,000							50,000		50,000	50,000	0	0
<b>Other Expenses -Total</b>	<b>160,406</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>723</b>		<b>161,129</b>	<b>40,495</b>	<b>123,046</b>	<b>163,541</b>	<b>2,412</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Total - Operating Expenses</b>	<b>896,128</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,420</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>11,866</b>	<b>5,894</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>916,781</b>	<b>531,687</b>	<b>397,148</b>	<b>928,835</b>	<b>12,054</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>NET OPERATING SURPLUS (L)</b>	<b>89,718</b>		<b>(2,720)</b>	<b>4,787</b>	<b>(7,398)</b>	<b>(5,388)</b>		<b>78,999</b>	<b>342,129</b>	<b>(253,194)</b>	<b>88,935</b>	<b>9,936</b>	

# CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Meeting of Council

Held at Warrumbungle Shire Council Chambers

On 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Quarterly Budget Review Statement - 31 March, 2017															
Capital Budget															
	Original Budget	Adopted Changes Todate						Revised Budget	YTD to 31/03/17	Remainder of Year	Projected for Year	Further Variations	Percentage todate		
		c/fwd	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Final								
Capital Income															
Profit on Sale of Plant	15,000							15,000		15,000	15,000	0	0		
Sale of Depot Facilities (Coonamble, Coonbran)								0		0	0	0	0		
Sale of Surplus Equipment								0		0	0	0	0		
Transfer from Plant Reserve			10,000					10,000		10,000	10,000	0	0		
Transfer from ELE					7,500	2,500		10,000	10,000		10,000	0	100		
Capital Income - Total	15,000	-	10,000	-	7,500	2,500	-	35,000	10,000	25,000	35,000	0	29		
Capital Expenditure															
Office Equipment	33,000							33,000	31,070	1,930	33,000	0	94		
Depot Facility - Coonamble	5,000							5,000		5,000	5,000	0	0		
New Vehicles - Nett	53,000							53,000		53,000	53,000	0	0		
Small Plant, Tools, Radios	2,000							2,000		2,000	2,000	0	0		
Transfer to ELE Reserve	5,000							5,000		5,000	5,000	0	0		
Transfer to Plant Reserve	12,330							12,330		12,330	12,330	0	0		
Capital Expenditure - Total	110,330	-	-	-	-	-	-	110,330	31,070	79,260	110,330	0	28		
Net Capital Surplus/(Deficit)	(95,330)	-	10,000	-	7,500	2,500	-	(75,330)	- 21,070	- 54,260	- 75,330	0	28		
Quarterly Budget Review as at 31 March, 2017 - Est. Summary for Year															
Total Income	1,000,846		10,700	4,260	11,968	3,006		1,030,780	883,816	168,954	1,052,770	21,990	84		1,052,770
Total Expenditure	1,006,458		3,420	- 527	11,866	5,894		1,027,111	562,757	476,408	1,039,165	12,054	54		1,039,165
Net Total Surplus/(Deficit)	(5,612)		7,280	4,787	102	- 2,888		3,669	321,059	(307,454)	13,605	9,936			13,605
Summary Of Reserves as at 31 March, 2017															
Total Equity	430,000	- 5,612	7,280	4,787	102			436,557		436,557	436,557	0	0		
ELE Reserve	103,000	5,000			-7500	- 2,500		98,000	- 2,500	100,500	98,000	0	(3)		
Plant Reserve	9,000	12,330	-10,000					11,330		11,330	11,330	0	0		

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**ITEM 7.3: Organisational Action Plan – March 2017**

**REPORTING SECTION:** General Manager

**AUTHOR:** Don Ramsland – General Manager

**FILE NUMBER:** 09/47-03

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**Summary:**

To review the Organisational Action Plan.

**Background:**

In March, 2014 Council adopted a twelve point plan as part of the proposed organisational restructure of the County Council.

With the close of the 2015/16 financial year all but two of those measures had been completed, the outstanding issues being the finalisation of the appointment of the Senior Weeds Officer and the repayment of the last \$10,000 instalments in respect of the advances made by our constituent Councils to fund the restructure.

**Current Position:**

As part of the Integrated Planning and Reporting legislation Council should be looking at the outcomes achieved from its Business Activity Statement and supporting legislation.

Of paramount importance is the need to be proactive in the local government reform process and, in particular preparing a submission in respect of the joint organisation concept.

It is also a requirement that all the elements of the IP&R supporting legislation be reviewed within twelve months of the September quadrennial elections and ensure they address the requirements of the Biosecurity Act 2015.

During August, 2016 Council commenced putting a new digital information system in place to meet the requirements of the new Biosecurity Information System (BIS) and be in a position to provide data for the new state-wide data base. Training for staff has been ongoing.

At its meeting on 27 June, 2016 Council adopted a 30 point Organisational Action Plan for 2016/17. It is planned to update and implement progressively throughout the year and to also be reviewed at each meeting.

This report to the April, 2017 meeting is the fifth of these reviews and progress in respect of the following elements has now been identified:

**April**

1. Prepare Quarterly Budget Review Statements - completed
2. Provide regular feedback to constituent councils through the distribution of agendas and minutes - in train and expansion of process to be discussed at meeting
3. Prepare Draft Budget for 2017/18 and supporting documentation – in train

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4. Advertise estimates - in train
5. Research grant fund opportunities – in train

Any Councillors' queries can be discussed at the meeting.

**Relevant Reference Documents:**

Council's Operational Plan and Budget for 2016/2017, August, 2016/17 QBRS statements and Long Term Financial Plan

**Business Activity Strategic Plan Link:**

The issues identified during the preparation of the 2016/2017 Operational Plan and Budget are linked back to Council's 2016/2020 Delivery Plan and Business Activity Strategy

**Delivery Plan Link:**

The issues identified during the preparation of the 2016/2017 Operational Plan and Budget are linked back to Council's 2016/2020 Delivery Plan and Business Activity Strategy

**Operational Plan/Budget Link:**

The issues identified in 2016/2020 Council's Delivery Plan and Business Activity Strategy Plan are directly linked to the 2016/2017 Operational Plan and Budget provisions

**Stakeholders:**

Castlereagh Macquarie County Council  
Council Staff  
Constituent Councils  
Local residents and landholders

**Governance Issues:**

The aim of this report is to acquaint Councillors with the progress being made in respect of the many and varied tasks that need to be addressed over each twelve months. As necessary, over the next twelve months, additional items may be added to the Action Plan.

**Environmental Issues:**

Not applicable

**Financial Implications:**

Maintaining both Council's financial viability and ongoing sustainability into the future are essential elements. The bleak financial future Council was facing two years ago has been turned around to one where a ten year financial plan indicates an increasing level of available funds and at the same time sees due provision being made for future liabilities such as ELE and Plant Replacement.

**Legal Issues:**

Council will need to be mindful of any changes in local government legislation that may have serious impacts into the future. This particularly relates to changes in the Biosecurity Legislation that becomes effective on 1 July, 2017.

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**Alternatives/Options:**

Not to be aware of ongoing issues or plan for the future

**Conclusion:**

As discussed previously, it is to Council's credit that it has been prepared to take the tough decisions to address its recent financial dilemma and turn the financial situation around.

However, as well as routine operational requirements, there are other issues outside Council's control including the functioning Local Land Services, the review of noxious weed management, new Biosecurity legislation and more recently the NSW Office of Local Government's discussion paper in respect of Joint Organisations that have now come into play. This report notes the success and progress made in relation to the new Organisational Action Plan.

<b>Organisational Action Plan – March 2017</b>
<p><b>Recommendation:</b></p> <p>That Council receive and note the General Manager's report in respect of the progress being made in respect of the new Organisational Action Plan and endorse the action taken so far.</p> <p><b>Moved:</b></p> <p><b>Seconded:</b></p>

**Attachments:**

Updated Organisational Action Plan

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ORGANISATIONAL ACTION PLAN**

**August**

1. Be proactive in the local government reform process by preparing a submission in respect of the joint organisation concept. - ongoing
2. Finalise annual statements of account for 2015/16 - completed
3. Review and update its WH&S policies and procedures - completed
4. Review and negotiate Council's Insurances - completed
5. Update Local Control Plans – Class 4 Weeds -completed
6. Prepare 2015/16 WAP 1520 return - completed
7. Prepare Quarterly Budget Review Statements - completed

**October**

8. Report on the outcomes achieved through the Integrated Planning and Reporting legislation Council from its Business Activity Strategy and supporting legislation.
9. All elements of the IP&R supporting legislation be reviewed within 12 months of the September quadrennial elections & ensure they address the requirements of the Biosecurity Act 2015.
10. Review Councillors' remuneration
11. Review its salary system, work practices and costing documentation
12. Update all policies and procedures
13. Prepare Quarterly Budget Review Statements

**December**

14. Auditor's presentation to December, 2016 and annual statements table for adoption
15. Re-negotiate property leases with constituent councils where appropriate
16. Conduct both WH&S and Award Consultative Committee meetings
17. Provide the secretariat for the Hudson pear Task Force
18. Run a series of weeds eradication programmes based on seasonal conditions
19. Improve communication with state agencies and other stakeholders
20. Prepare Quarterly Budget Review Statements
21. Appointment of Senior Weeds Officer – John Unwin appointed.

**February**

22. Monitor insurance cover and ensure all risks are reasonably addressed
23. Provide regular feedback to constituent councils through the distribution of agendas & minutes

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24. Maintain an up to date website and records system

25. Prepare Quarterly Budget Review Statements

26. Research grant fund opportunities

**April**

27. Prepare Quarterly Budget Review Statements

28. Provide regular feedback to constituent councils through the distribution of agendas and minutes

29. Prepare Draft Budget for 2017/18 and supporting documentation

30. Advertise estimates

**June**

31. Prepare Draft Budget for 2017/18 and supporting documentation

32. Community consultation

33. Commence annual statement preparation

34. Review ELE reserves

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**ITEM 7.4     Additional Grant Funding – 2016/17 And Beyond**

**REPORTING SECTION:** General Manager  
**AUTHOR:** Don Ramsland – General Manager  
**FILE NUMBER:** 09/47-03

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**Summary:**

To note additional grant funding availability and opportunities – 2016/17 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.

Whilst WAP 1520 is a five year project/commitment, provision was made for a comprehensive review after the first two years. At this stage it is not clear what form this review will take or when it will occur.

A new, computerised recording system, the Bio-Security Information System (BIS) that interfaces with Council's own system has now been developed. As a result, Council has proceeded with the purchase of new computer tablets, mobile phones and GIS equipment which interfaces with the DPI system requirements.

Council has now managed to secure additional funding for the spraying and monitoring of Hudson Pear infestations at Lightning Ridge and Cumborah with amounts of \$12,220 and \$7,500 respectively in 2016/17 and further amounts of \$13,000, \$10,000 and \$5,000 in 2017/18 under the PRMF grant scheme.

**Relevant Reference Documents:**

WAP1520 Project Submission  
WAP 1520 Guidelines  
DPI PRMF agreements

**Business Activity Strategic Plan Link:**

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



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**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:**

Any changes to the WAP1520 funding 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 relevant 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 take effect from 1 July, 2017.

**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.

<b>Additional Grant Funding – 2016/17 and Beyond</b>
<p><b>Recommendation:</b></p> <p>That Council note the General Manager's report and 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>

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**Attachments:**

Nil

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**ITEM 7.5: Biosecurity Act 2015 – Staff Training**

**REPORTING SECTION:** General Manager

**AUTHOR:** Don Ramsland – General Manager

**FILE NUMBER:** 09/47-03

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**Summary:**

To note arrangements for staff training ahead of the introduction of the new Biosecurity Act 2015 on 1 July, 2017

**Background:**

The Biosecurity Act 2015 is scheduled to take effect from 1 July, 2017 and will replace some 11 existing Acts including the Noxious Weeds Act. Along with the new Act will come and this will also need to interface with Council's systems.

**Current Position:**

Advice has been received from the DPI that training for Weeds Officers in respect of the new legislation will commence from the beginning of May, 2017. A comprehensive ELearning training package has been developed for weeds officers to be completed in their own time and this is being complemented by a series of sixteen face to face workshops across NSW.

The closest workshops for our staff to attend will be held in Dubbo between 16 May and 18 May, 2017.

The subject matter will cover compliance procedures, appointment of authorised officers, implementation of Regional Strategic Management Plans, guidance on new regulations and use of a range of new compliance tools.

The cost of this training, together with the staff time involved has not yet been addressed in departmental communications.

**Relevant Reference Documents:**

DPI letter dated 17 March, 2017.

**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

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Constituent Councils

County residents and ratepayers,

Local Land Services (North West, Western and Central West)

**Governance Issues:**

The proposed training may require the issue of fresh authorities to staff

**Environmental Issues:**

Nothing identified at this stage.

**Financial Implications:**

Departmental communications have been mute on the issue of re-imbursement of staff expenses for those involved.

**Legal Issues:**

The new Bio-Security Act 2015 is due to take effect from 1 July, 2017.

**Alternatives/Options:**

Nil

**Conclusion:**

Arrangements are being made for Council's staff to attend the training workshops in Dubbo – 16/18 May, 2017.

<b>Additional Grant Funding – 2016/17 and Beyond</b>
<p><b>Recommendation:</b></p> <p>That Council receive and note the General Manager's report.</p> <p><b>Moved:</b></p> <p><b>Seconded:</b></p>

**Attachments:**

DPI letter dated 17 March, 2017

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OUT17/11224

General Manager  
Local Control Authority

Dear Sir/Madam

This letter is to inform you of the proposed training schedule prior to the commencement of the *NSW Biosecurity Act 2015* (the Act).

The Act will commence in mid-2017 and is a major reform for weed management in NSW. Once the Act commences the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993* will be repealed and local control authorities (LCAs) will need to implement the new legislation. Transition between the old and new Act will involve changes to how weed regulation is applied. The new Act offers a range of new tools that were not possible under the existing Noxious Weed Act.

The Department is currently developing a comprehensive package of ELearning training to ensure weed officers will be adequately prepared for the implementation of the Act, this material will be available to access and complete from 1 April 2017. Weed officers and other staff will need to complete this as the minimum requirement for appointment as an Authorised Officer under the Act. This component can be completed in the weed officers own time and will be complimented by a series of planned face to face sessions. Much of this material will be revisited and further explained during these workshops.

Face to face compliance training is being rolled out at sixteen locations across NSW from the beginning of May 2017. Subject matter will cover compliance procedures, appointment of authorised officers, implementation of Regional Strategic Weed Management Plans, guidance on new regulations and use of a range of the new compliance tools.

While I appreciate that there may be some apprehension about the training program, every attempt has been made to make this content accessible and user friendly. The Department also recognises that weeds officers have considerable competency in their roles and this program will build on the existing experience and training.

**Please refer to the following detailed instructions on how all officers can register / complete the ELearning training and to attend the face to face workshops:**

**EM Train Log In Information**

1. Go to the website – [emtrain.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://emtrain.dpi.nsw.gov.au)
2. Create new account
3. Complete all fields
4. Click on **View Catalogue** select **Additional Skills** then select **Biosecurity Legislation** to commence the ELearning modules.

Note – a passport size photo will need to be uploaded at the end of the ELearning modules so a compliance card can be produced and provided to the weed officer/s and other staff who have completed this training.

Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute, Private Bag 4008, Narellan NSW 2567  
Tel: 02 9741 4732 Fax: 02 4640 6300 Web: [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au)

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**2.**

If you have any further questions please contact:

<b>Regions</b>	<b>Invasive Species Officer Contact</b>
Central West, Central Tablelands, North West, Northern Tablelands	Philip Blackmore Ph 02 6770 3134 / email <a href="mailto:philip.blackmore@dpi.nsw.gov.au">philip.blackmore@dpi.nsw.gov.au</a>
Greater Sydney, Hunter, North Coast	Rod Ensby Ph 02 6640 1648 / email <a href="mailto:rod.ensby@dpi.nsw.gov.au">rod.ensby@dpi.nsw.gov.au</a>
Murray, Riverina, South East, Western	Mich Michelmore Ph 02 4824 3737 / email <a href="mailto:michael.michelmore@dpi.nsw.gov.au">michael.michelmore@dpi.nsw.gov.au</a>
General enquiries	Robyn Henderson Ph 02 6391 3638 / email <a href="mailto:weeds@dpi.nsw.gov.au">weeds@dpi.nsw.gov.au</a>

Yours sincerely



**Bruce M Christie**

Deputy Director General  
Biosecurity and Food Safety

17 March 2017

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## Training Time Table

Week No.	Date	Location	Activity	Session
Week 1	May 1	Orange HO	General Biosecurity	1
		Armidale	General Biosecurity	2
	May 3	Orange HO	Local Control Authorities	3
		Armidale	Local Control Authorities	4
Week 2	May 4	Orange HO	General Biosecurity	5
	May 9	Wollongbar	General Biosecurity	6
		Tocal (Paterson)	General Biosecurity	7
		Cobar	General Biosecurity	8
	May 10	Wollongbar	Local Control Authorities	9
Week 3		Tocal (Paterson)	Local Control Authorities	10
		Cobar	Local Control Authorities	11
	May 16	Dubbo	General Biosecurity	12
		Tamworth	General Biosecurity	13
	May 17	Dubbo	Local Control Authorities	14
Week 4		Tamworth	Local Control Authorities	15
	May 18	Dubbo	General Biosecurity	16
	May 23	Menangle	General Biosecurity	17
		Bega	General Biosecurity	18
	May 24	Menangle	Local Control Authorities	19
Week 5		Bega	Local Control Authorities	20
	May 25	Menangle	General Biosecurity	21
	May 30	Narrabri	General Biosecurity	22
		Newington	General Biosecurity	23
		Queanbeyan	General Biosecurity	24
	May 31	Narrabri	Local Control Authorities	25
Week 6		Newington	Local Control Authorities	26
		Queanbeyan	Local Control Authorities	27
	June 1	Newington	<b>NSW Fisheries</b>	28
	June 6	Wagga	General Biosecurity	29
		Deniliquin	General Biosecurity	30
Week 7	June 7	Wagga Wagga	Local Control Authorities	31 a
		Wagga Wagga	<b>NSW Fisheries</b>	31 b
		Deniliquin	Local Control Authorities	32
	June 8	Wagga	General Biosecurity	33
Week 8	June 12	<b>Public Holiday</b>		
	June 14	Coffs Harbour	General Biosecurity	34
		Dareton	General Biosecurity	35
	June 15	Coffs Harbour	Local Control Authorities	36a
		Coffs Harbour	<b>NSW Fisheries</b>	36b
Week 9		Dareton	Local Control Authorities	37
	June 16	Coffs Harbour	General Biosecurity	38
	June 20	Batemans Bay	<b>NSW Fisheries</b>	39

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**ITEM 7.6: Draft Annual Budget and Integrated Planning and Reporting Documentation 2017/2018**

**REPORTING SECTION:** General Manager

**AUTHOR:** Don Ramsland – General Manager

**FILE NUMBER:** 09/47-03

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**Summary:**

To consider Council's draft 2017/18 Operational Plan and Budget and accompanying Integrated Planning and Reporting Documentation.

**Background:**

Council's draft Operational Plan and Budget for 2017/18 has been prepared pursuant to the provision of Section 404 of the LGA and is attached for Council's consideration. Both the Operating Plan and the Budget for 2017/18 should be reviewed in conjunction with the preparation of the other elements of Council's Resourcing Strategy which are also now circulated for consideration at the meeting. The 2017/2018 Operational Plan and Budget continues to be directly impacted by the remedial action determined by Council at its meeting on 6 March, 2014 to correct past budget over runs.

Whilst the major preparations for the 2017/2018 draft Operational Plan and drafting of the 2017/2018 Budget and revised ten year Long Term Financial Plan (spreadsheets attached) have been completed, these can't be finalised until action required with regards the Resourcing Strategies is determined by Council. It will then be necessary for the various documents prepared as part of the IP&R legislation to be placed on public exhibition for comment.

**Current:**

Changes to some legislation associated with the introduction of the new Biosecurity Act from 1 July, 2017 have delayed the final preparation of all the integrated planning and reporting documentation. However, the draft Budget document for 2017/2018, which is attached, sets out in detail the measures proposed to be undertaken in the next financial year and includes continuing provisions for cash backed reserves for employees leave entitlements established this year) and a plant reserve.

An option to vary the basis of future constituent council contributions is an issue that should be discussed when considering the proposed contribution from each council – an increase of 1.50% in line with State Government rate pegging legislation. However, in considering changing the basis for contributions, Council should be mindful of the responsibility of higher tiers of government to fund major weed incursions, particularly where these are spread over a number of adjoining shires.



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As an example, Western Local Lands Services should have responsibility for funding of a Hudson Pear control programme with initial proposals being for an amount of \$500,000 per year for the next five years. The Strategic/Risk Analysis undertaken as part of that programme should now lead to this level of funds being made available to address the Hudson Pear problem on an ongoing basis. The LLS or DPI should be picking up funding responsibility for the re-activation of the Hudson Pear Taskforce, although operationally this should be oversighted by the Council.

**Relevant Reference Documents/Policies:**

Council's 2017/18 draft Operational Plan and Budget and supporting Integrated Planning and Reporting Documentation.

**Governance Issues:**

The preparation of the draft Operational Plan and Budget, and accompanying Integrated Planning and Reporting Documentation, is a requirement of Section 404 of the Local Government Act 1993.

**Stakeholders:**

CMCC, Constituent Councils, Local Land Services – North West and Central West and Rural communities across constituent Council areas.

**Financial Implications:**

The draft Operational Plan and Budget is the corner stone on which Council's future viability and sustainability is based. The draft Budget and ten year Long Term Financial Plan indicates that relying on a 6 man workforce using present trends, the Budget will achieve an overall surplus in the next year and over a ten year life would also produce a surplus on current trends dependent upon the current level of government funding being maintained.

**Legal Issues:**

Nil

**Alternative Solutions/Options:**

Dissolution of the County with weed functions reverting to the control of constituent councils

**Conclusion:**

The various decisions to be taken in the consideration of the 2017/2018 draft Operational Plan and Budget should be considered as an extension to the ongoing remedial action already identified in Council's March, 2017 Quarterly Budget Review Statement outcomes. More detail in this regard will be available at the meeting.

**Draft Operational Plan and Budget – 2017/2018**

**Recommendation:**

That Council adopt the draft 2017/2018 draft Operational Plan and Budget, together with draft Integrated Planning and Reporting Documentation, in principle and be placed on public

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exhibition and comment invited prior to the documents being further considered for formal adoption at Council's meeting on 19 June, 2017.

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

**Attachments:**

*Note: The Draft Operating Plan and Budget for 2017/18 and other IP&R Documentation will be emailed separately & hard copies will be tabled at the meeting.*

**ITEM 7.7: Matters for Brief Mention or Information Only**

**REPORTING SECTION:** General Manager

**AUTHOR:** Don Ramsland – General Manager

**FILE NUMBER:** 09/47-03

**Summary:**

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

**1. CWLLS New Chair and Board Members**

On Thursday 23 March 2017 Primary Industries Minister Niall Blair announced the placement of Chairs and Local Board members to the eleven Local Land Services Regions. The new Chair for Central West Local Land Services is Susan Madden, Dubbo and appointed Board Members Ross Sawtell, Dubbo; Emma Thomas, Forbes; and Christine White, Coolah.

**2. Local Government Reform**

There is still no clear understanding as to what action County Councils in NSW should be taking with regards local government reform.

It would appear that no action will be taken with regards the pending legislation to establish joint organisations until after the September, 2017 local government elections.

**3. New Biosecurity Act – 2015 – Central West and North West Regional Strategic Weeds Management Plans - Submissions**

Copies of the submissions lodged in respect of the Central West and North West Regional Strategic Weeds Management Plans are attached for Council's information.

During briefing session run by the North West LLS it was obvious that the Plans, whilst needing further thought with regards weeds classification and procedural matters, could form the basis for better management in the future.

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**Matters for Brief Mention or Information Only**

**Recommendation:**

That the above issues for brief mention or information only as detailed in the General Manager's report to the April, 2017 meeting be received and noted.

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

**Attachments:**

Biosecurity Act - Central West and North West Regional Strategic Weeds Management Plans - Submissions

**Submission in respect of Draft North West Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017-22**

Walgett

27 March, 2017

**1. Introduction**

The Castlereagh Macquarie County Council (CMCC) appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft plan. The CMCC is a single purpose Council which is responsible for fulfilling the obligations of its five Constituent Council's obligations under the Noxious Weeds Act of 1993. It was established in 1947. The present area of operation of the CMCC encompasses the local government areas of Coonamble, Gilgandra, Warren, Walgett and Warrumbungle and covers a land area of approximately 60,200 square kilometres. The Council employs a Weeds Officer in each of these local Government areas under the supervision of a Senior Weeds Officer. Administrative supervision is provided by part-time General Manager and contracted administrative support. The County Board is made up of two delegates from each of the five constituent Councils which meet five times a year rotating between constituent Councils. Comments in regard to the various components of the plan are offered as follows, these comments are offered on the basis that the plan is accepted as a high level strategic document which is devoid of operational detail.

**2. Vision, Goals, Outcomes and Objectives**

It is considered that in a combative environment such as weed control and overall biosecurity one of the objectives needs to be the recognition and acknowledgement of those participants, particularly landholders, who continue to take a proactive approach and "Do the right thing".

The vision of having information recorded on a State wide data base may need to be modified after a greater appreciation is gained as to how much computer storage space will be required. Similarly, the time to be spent in training staff with lower level computer skills may be an area that requires further government support.

**3. Strategies and Actions**

## **CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL**

Meeting of Council

Held at Warrumbungle Shire Council Chambers

On 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017

The strategies and actions seem appropriate, however, should not a strategic document such as this acknowledge and support the people on the ground who are applying the legislation on a daily basis. Functions including providing education, training and resources for both the public and staff come at a cost and without ongoing assistance from the State through the LLS or DPI LCA will struggle to grow their capabilities and find it increasingly difficult to meet the ever demanding requirements for the public.

### **4. Implementation**

The key approaches, as outlined in the plan are somewhat subjective, however from a CMCC perspective, any outcome that provides for consistency and clear roles and responsibilities in the delivery of local weed management and the integration of regional delivery and projects will be both welcomed and supported. It should be further recognised that local control authorities such as the Castlereagh Macquarie County Council are service providers at the coal face whose action are governed by State legislation. As such, these authorities are virtually in a holding pattern until clearer and more definitive guidance with regards the new provision of the Biosecurity Act 2015 becomes available.

### **5. Priority Weeds List**

Acknowledging the fact that the Plan is a living document and that species can be added/deleted or moved within the various “Stages of Invasion”, the proposed list is regarded as a line in the sand and provides for a suitable starting point. However, Council’s view is that the weeds listed in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 do not properly represent the problem weeds in the North West Local Land Service area and should be reviewed based on the economic impact of the failure to eradicate on both the agricultural sector and the broader community. This is particularly the case with Hudson pear which if left uncontrolled has the potential to destroy vast tracks of farming country.

### **6. Regulatory Mechanisms**

Although clearly enunciated throughout the document, it remains a matter of interest to see the legislation tested in a court of law. Past experience has been that those who fail to meet their obligations often wait until the last minute to comply. Some even allow legal action to be resolved on the court house steps but not until LCAs have expended considerable funding which is non recoverable.

### **7. Objectives and Outcomes**

The standardised approach offered by the MERI framework and the subsequent consistent evaluation of achievements or outcomes across the state is regarded as a real positive. It remains to be seen how this will work in practice. Given that one of the objectives of the new Act is to set a new minimum standard for appointment as an authorised officer, the additional training required may severely test the literacy and computer skills of the existing weeds officers, notwithstanding the fact that face to face training is being planned for respective staff. There is also a cost involved in attending these sessions that has not been allowed for in existing budgets.

### **8. General Comments**

Taking a Helicopter perspective the Strategic Weed Management Plan does provide a structured way forward, however when the rubber hits the road and the plan is being delivered on the ground it is imperative that funding streams are clearly identified and maintained.

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In recent years the CMCC has undergone a major restructure, reducing staff levels by over 50%, in order to become financially sustainable. That said, from a constituent council viewpoint, the Gilgandra Shire for example currently allocates 3% of its rate income to weeds management by way of its annual contribution to the CMCC.

From an elected member view point it would be fair to say that there does not exist an appetite to expend further ratepayer funds on biosecurity functions.

**9. Conclusion**

The recent reduction in funding levels at a State level is a cause for concern. County Councils, and in turn their constituent Councils, are facing an ever increasing financial burden. It is believed that either State legislation or Regional Weeds Management Plans should detail the responsibilities of Regional Weeds Committees in respect of funding and identify areas where LCAs can recover costs relating to TSRs and other State controlled reserves/areas under their control.

## **CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL**

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On 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017

### **Submission in respect of Draft Central West Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017-22**

Walgett

27 March, 2017

#### **1. Introduction**

The Castlereagh Macquarie County Council (CMCC) appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft plan. The CMCC is a single purpose Council which is responsible for fulfilling the obligations of its five Constituent Council's obligations under the Noxious Weeds Act of 1993. It was established in 1947. The present area of operation of the CMCC encompasses the local government areas of Coonamble, Gilgandra, Warren, Walgett and Warrumbungle and covers a land area of approximately 60,200 square kilometres. The Council employs a Weeds Officer in each of these local Government areas under the supervision of a Senior Weeds Officer. Administrative supervision is provided by part-time General Manager and contracted administrative support. The County Board is made up of two delegates from each of the five constituent Councils which meet five times a year rotating between constituent Councils. Comments in regard to the various components of the plan are offered as follows, these comments are offered on the basis that the plan is accepted as a high level strategic document which is devoid of operational detail.

#### **2. Vision, Goals, Outcomes and Objectives**

It is considered that in a combative environment such as weed control and overall biosecurity one of the objectives needs to be the recognition and acknowledgement of those participants, particularly landholders, who continue to take a proactive approach and "Do the right thing". The vision of having information recorded on a State wide data base may need to be modified after a greater appreciation is gained as to how much computer storage space will be required. Similarly, the time to be spent in training staff with lower level computer skills may be an area that requires further government support.

#### **3. Strategies and Actions**

The strategies and actions seem appropriate, however, should not a strategic document such as this acknowledge and support the people on the ground who are applying the legislation on a daily basis.

Functions including providing education, training and resources for both the public and staff come at a cost and without ongoing assistance from the State through the LLS or DPI LCA will struggle to grow their capabilities and find it increasingly difficult to meet the ever demanding requirements for the public.

#### **4. Implementation**

The key approaches, as outlined in the plan are somewhat subjective, however from a CMCC perspective, any outcome that provides for consistency and clear roles and responsibilities in the delivery of local weed management and the integration of regional delivery and projects will be both welcomed and supported. It should be further recognised that local control authorities such as the Castlereagh Macquarie County Council are service providers at the coal face whose action are governed by State legislation. As such, these authorities are virtually in a holding pattern until clearer and more definitive guidance with regards the new provision of the Biosecurity Act 2015 becomes available.

#### **5. Priority Weeds List**

## **CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL**

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Acknowledging the fact that the Plan is a living document and that species can be added/deleted or moved within the various “Stages of Invasion”, the proposed list is regarded as a line in the sand and provides for a suitable starting point. However, Council’s view is that the weeds listed in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 do not properly represent the problem weeds in the Central West Local Land Service area and should be reviewed based on the economic impact of the failure to eradicate on both the agricultural sector and the broader community.

### **6. Regulatory Mechanisms**

Although clearly enunciated throughout the document, it remains a matter of interest to see the legislation tested in a court of law. Past experience has been that those who fail to meet their obligations often wait until the last minute to comply. Some even allow legal action to be resolved on the court house steps but not until LCAs have expended considerable funding which is non recoverable.

### **7. Objectives and Outcomes**

The standardised approach offered by the MERI framework and the subsequent consistent evaluation of achievements or outcomes across the state is regarded as a real positive. It remains to be seen how this will work in practice.

### **8. General Comments**

Taking a Helicopter perspective the Strategic Weed Management Plan does provide a structured way forward, however when the rubber hits the road and the plan is being delivered on the ground it is imperative that funding streams are clearly identified and maintained. In recent years the CMCC has undergone a major restructure, reducing staff levels by over 50%, in order to become financially sustainable. That said, from a constituent council viewpoint, the Gilgandra Shire for example currently allocates 3% of its rate income to weeds management by way of its annual contribution to the CMCC. From an elected member view point it would be fair to say that there does not exist an appetite to expend further ratepayer funds on biosecurity functions.

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The recent reduction in funding levels at a State level is a cause for concern. County Councils, and in turn their constituent Councils, are facing an ever increasing financial burden. It is believed that either State legislation or Regional Weeds Management Plans should detail the responsibilities of Regional Weeds Committees in respect of funding and identify areas where LCAs can recover costs relating to TSRs and other State controlled reserves/areas under their control.