

CENTRAL TABLELANDS *Water*



Business Paper

Ordinary Meeting of Central Tablelands Water

13th February 2013

Grenfell



8 February 2013

Notice to Members

Your attendance is requested at an Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held at the Weddin Shire Council on Wednesday, 13 February 2013 at 10.30am. Morning tea will be served at 10.00am.

Agenda

1. Public Forum
2. Apologies for non-attendance
3. Leaves of absence granted
4. Confirmation of Minutes - Ordinary Meeting held on 12.12.12
5. Chairman's Minute
6. Councillor Representation
7. Notices of Motion
8. Reports of Staff

The WBC Executive Manager, Mrs Donna Galvin, will be in attendance to make a presentation on the WBC Alliance and its proposed submission to the Independent Review Panel

9. Adjourn Meeting and proceed into Committee of the Whole
10. Resume Ordinary Meeting & Report of Committee of the Whole
11. Next Meeting – Blayney – 10th April 2013

Yours faithfully

A. Perry
General Manager

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HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2013

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01) Financial Matters (4)

(Gavin Rhodes)

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the information be noted.

REPORT

Details of all payments made to creditors in the preceding two months are available for inspection at the Blayney office.

The Bank Reconciliation, as at 31 January 2013, together with a Statement of Funds Invested, is attached to the business paper.

Council's Petty Cash Book and the Warrant Listing will be **tabled** on meeting day.

As required by Council, the following table details the status of Council's investments through Lehman Bros as at 31 January 2013:

Investment	Interest Rate	Above BBSW	Call Date	Maturity Date	Interest Paid	Face Value	Current % value	Current Value
Aphex (Glenelg AA-)	4.8400%	1.77%	22/06/2009	22/12/2014	Quarterly	50,000	39.96	19,980
MAS (Parkes AA-)	0.0306%	-2.76%	20/12/2009	20/06/2015	Quarterly	300,000	N/A	N/A
ZIRCON (Coolangatta AA)	N/A	N/A	20/03/2011	20/09/2014	Quarterly	250,000	96.00	240,000
ZIRCON (Miami AA)	N/A	N/A	20/03/2015	20/03/2017	Quarterly	50,000	99.00	49,500
Total						\$650,000	47.61	\$309,480

The value of the CDO investments acquired through Lehman's have increased slightly with the latest valuations received as at 31 January 2013, showing an increase in the total net valuations from \$304,675 at 31 October 2012 to \$309,480 at 31 January 201, an increase of \$4,805. Valuations are now valued at 47.61% of par value.

As reported at the October and December Council Meetings, the class action by a significant number of councils against Lehman Australia has finally been completed and the Federal Court has ruled in favour of the councils. Council's solicitors Piper Alderman are now in the process of reconciling the holdings of Council to ensure that any final settlement amount agreed with the Liquidators or any judgment amount in favour of Council accurately reflects Council's holdings and/or crystallised losses. Council is still awaiting the outcome of this reconciliation process.

The ANZ Safe Custody Operations, Council's CDO investment custodians, issued the following email on 6 February 2013 regarding the Zircon investments:

Corporate Action Announcement

"We have received the following information from our custodian with regards to holdings relevant to your account.

Subject: ZIRCON ZCON01 FN MAT20-SEP-2014 TRANCHE A FRN 3MTH
BBSW+1.30%
ISIN: AU3FN0002085
Redemption Advice

Subject: ZIRCON ZCON03 FN MAT20-MAR-2017 FRN 3MTH BBSW +1.5%
ISIN: AU3FN0002325
Redemption Advice

ZIRCON ZCON01 FN MAT20-SEP-2014 TRANCHE A FRN 3MTH BBSW+1.30% and
ZIRCON ZCON03 FN MAT20-MAR-2017

has announced a Redemption with the following details:

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT

Following the approval of the Extraordinary resolution the issuer intends to pay redemption proceeds.

Please note the redemption consideration and payment date is yet to be advised.

UPDATE 4 FEBRUARY 2013

The Issuer has indicated that the payment is expected to be made late in February 2013.

Please note that the payment date is indicative only and is subject to change.”

Regards,

Safe Custody Operations

Global Market Operations ANZ Global Services & Operations

Although this is positive news for Council it is not yet known if Council will receive the full original value of the Zircon investment products.

Whilst Council's CDO investments are currently well below par value, Council's remaining investment portfolio of approximately \$2.69 million is all capital guaranteed, primarily in term deposits.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

ATTACHMENTS

1 Bank Reconciliation January 2013 1 Page

02) Budget Review Statement - 31 December 2012 (15)

(Gavin Rhodes)

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the Quarterly Budget Review for the quarter ended 31 December 2012 be accepted and the variations therein be adopted.

REPORT

The Quarterly Budget Review (QBR) for the period ended 31 December 2012 is submitted for examination by Council (refer Attachment 1).

It is estimated that the original forecast operating budget deficit of \$598,400 will be reduced by \$479,805 with a new forecast operating budget deficit of \$118,595, noting that this deficit includes depreciation expenditure totalling \$1,795,000. This significant reduction to the operating deficit, as estimated in the original 2012/2013 budget, is mainly attributed to the significant increase in water sales as a result of reduced rainfall and hot seasonal conditions in the Central Western area this financial year. The forecast water sales for the remaining six months has taken into account the known actual water sales for the 3rd quarter and estimated sales for the 4th quarter.

There are four variations recommended to the operational budget and one variation to the capital budget. These variations are listed on pages 3 and 5 of the December 2012 QBR with variation comments provided on pages 4 and 6 respectively.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Budget Review Statement December 2012 6 Pages

Central Tablelands Water

Quarterly Budget Review Statement
for the period 01/10/12 to 31/12/12

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Central Tablelands Water

Quarterly Budget Review Statement
for the period 01/10/12 to 31/12/12

Report 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 Central Tablelands Water for the quarter ended 31/12/12 indicates that Council's projected financial position at 30/6/13 will be satisfactory at year end, having regard to the projected estimates of income and expenditure and the original budgeted income and expenditure.

Signed:



Gavin Rhodes
Responsible Accounting Officer

Date:

7/02/2013

Quarterly Budget Review Statement
for the period 01/10/12 to 31/12/12

Central Tablelands Water

Income & Expenses Budget Review Statement

Budget review for the quarter ended 31 December 2012

Income & Expenses - Water Fund

	Original Budget 2012/13	Approved Changes Other than by a QBRS	Approved Changes Sep QBRS	Dec QBRS	Revised Budget 2012/13	Variations for this Dec Qtr	Notes	Projected Year End Result	Actual YTD figures
Income									
Rates and Annual Charges	1,201,489				1,201,489	32,176	1a	1,233,665	614,136
User Charges and Fees	2,791,249				2,791,249	444,807	1b	3,236,056	1,329,024
Interest and Investment Revenues	116,800				116,800			116,800	40,524
Other Revenues	337,570				337,570			337,570	156,068
Grants & Contributions - Operating	54,084				54,084	2,822	1c	56,906	28,453
Grants & Contributions - Capital	138,061				138,061	75,000	1d	213,061	136,596
Net gain from disposal of assets	26,000				26,000			26,000	-
Total Income from Continuing Operations	4,665,253	-	-	-	4,665,253	554,805		5,220,058	2,304,801
Expenses									
Employee Costs	1,526,778				1,526,778			1,526,778	726,916
Borrowing Costs	265,640				265,640			265,640	136,482
Materials & Contracts	855,570		(12,540)		843,030			843,030	357,718
Depreciation	1,795,554				1,795,554			1,795,554	897,777
Legal Costs	8,000				8,000			8,000	-
Consultants	60,000		12,540		72,540			72,540	-
Other Expenses	614,050				614,050			614,050	285,528
Interest & Investment Losses									
Net Loss from disposal of assets									
Total Expenses from Continuing Operations	5,125,592	-	-	-	5,125,592	-		5,125,592	2,414,901
Net Operating Result from Continuing Operations	(460,339)	-	-	-	(460,339)	554,805		94,466	(110,100)
Discontinued Operations									
Net Operating Result from All Operations	(460,339)	-	-	-	(460,339)	554,805		94,466	(110,100)
Net Operating Result before Capital Items	(598,400)	-	-	-	(598,400)	479,805		(118,595)	(246,696)

This statement forms part of Council's Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBRS) for the quarter ended 31/12/12 and should be read in conjunction with the total QBRS report

Central Tablelands Water

Quarterly Budget Review Statement

for the period 01/10/12 to 31/12/12

Income & Expenses Budget Review Statement**Recommended changes to revised budget**

Budget Variations being recommended include the following material items:

Notes Details

1a	\$32,176 increase due to increased water connections and under estimation in original budget.
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1b	\$444,807 increase due to forecast increase in water consumption for the remainder of the financial year as a result of reduced rainfall and hot seasonal conditions in the Central Western area this year. There has also been a significant increase of bulk water sales to Cowra Shire Council.
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1c	\$2,822 increase in pensioner rebate subsidy. This is due to an increase in the number of eligible pensioners claiming their entitlement.
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1d	\$75,000 increase estimated for additional Section 64 Developer Charges & Capital Contributions for Infill Blocks for the remainder of the financial year.
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Quarterly Budget Review Statement
for the period 01/10/12 to 31/12/12

Central Tablelands Water

Capital Budget Review Statement

Budget review for the quarter ended 31 December 2012

Capital Budget - Water Fund

	Original Budget 2012/13	Approved Changes Other than by a QBRS	Sep QBRS	Dec QBRS	Revised Budget 2012/13	Variations for this Dec Qtr	Notes	Projected Year End Result	Actual YTD figures
Capital Expenditure									
New Assets									
- Plant & Equipment	412,000		8,000		420,000	(8,000)	3a	412,000	143,021
- Land & Buildings					-			-	
- Office Equipment	-		50,000		50,000	8,000	3b	58,000	29,723
Renewal Assets (Replacement)									
- Plant & Equipment					-			-	
- Land & Buildings					-			-	
- Water Supply Network	2,468,005		(2,000,000)		468,005			468,005	176,984
- Land & Buildings					-			-	
Loan Repayments (Principal)	315,017				315,017			315,017	153,847
Total Capital Expenditure	3,195,022	-	(1,942,000)	-	1,253,022	-		1,253,022	503,575
Capital Funding									
Rates & Other Unified Funding					-			-	
Capital Grants & Contributions					-			-	
Reserves:									
- External Restrictions/Reserves					-			-	
- Internal Restrictions/Reserves	2,847,022		(1,942,000)		905,022			905,022	342,039
New Loans					-			-	
Receipts from Sale of Assets									
- Plant & Equipment	348,000				348,000			348,000	161,536
- Land & Buildings					-			-	
Total Capital Funding	3,195,022	-	(1,942,000)	-	1,253,022	-		1,253,022	503,575
Net Capital Funding	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-

This statement forms part of Council's Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBRS) for the quarter ended 31/12/2012 and should be read in conjunction with the total QBRS report

Central Tablelands Water

Quarterly Budget Review Statement
for the period 01/10/12 to 31/12/12

Capital Budget Review Statement
Recommended changes to revised budget

Budget Variations being recommended include the following material items:

Notes Details

3a	\$8,000 decrease is due to transfer to Office Equipment for implementation of new telephone system for Administration Office as reported in the September 2012 QBR.
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3b	\$8,000 increase due to transfer from Plant & Equipment Capital budget as stated at Note 3a above.
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03) Local Government Independent Review Panel (351)

(Tony Perry)

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Council endorse the WBC Alliance submission to the second Local Government Independent Review Panel consultation paper titled *“Better Stronger Local Government – The Case for Sustainable Change”*

REPORT

Following the successful Destination 2036 event, held in Dubbo in 2012, where councils from throughout NSW discussed the future of local government, the NSW State Government initiated an Independent Review to look at ways to strengthen the effectiveness of local government in NSW. Destination 2036 highlighted the need to take a closer look at local government structures and finances and the way that councils would deliver services in the future.

To conduct this Review an Independent Review Panel (the Panel) was formed. The Panel Chairman is Professor Graham Sansom, Director of the Australian Centre for Excellence in Local Government. Other members of the Panel are Ms Jude Munro AO and Mr Glenn Inglis, both of whom have extensive experience as local government leaders.

The PANEL was given 12 months to look at ways to strengthen the effectiveness of local government in NSW. The Review includes three rounds of community consultation, as well as extensive research into council finances, service delivery, local government boundaries and local decision-making models. The final recommendations will be presented to the Minister for Local Government in July 2013.

In November 2012, the PANEL released its second consultation paper titled *“Better Stronger Local Government – The Case for Sustainable Change”*. A full copy of that Paper was provided to all Councillors at the December Council meeting together with a fairly good summary of the Paper put together by the Executive Manager of the WBC Alliance.

It is obvious from reading the Paper that the “status quo” is not going to remain and that significant change in local government will occur. Whilst the report to the December meeting highlighted a few extracts or quotes from the Paper, the General Manager has provided further extracts below which highlight and leave no doubt that change is imminent:

‘NSW local councils employ over 50,000 people and spend close to \$10 billion every year;’..... ‘Yet with notable exceptions, local government seems to have been stuck in a rut, waiting for others to take the lead and seeking ‘silver bullet’ solutions to its problems....’ (p.3)

‘The Panel is totally committed to better, stronger local government’. (p.3)

'Each community in NSW needs a local government with the necessary strategic capacity to deal with future challenges.' (p.4)

'Tackling local infrastructure needs and backlogs warrants the highest priority. This will require continued efforts to improve asset management, make more efficient use of available resources and build the capacity of smaller councils.' (p.4)

'There needs to be a concerted effort to improve the efficiency, productivity and competitiveness of NSW local government. The Panel will be looking at how to develop much stronger frameworks and new entities for regional collaboration, advocacy and shared services.' (p.4)

'The Panel will investigate the need for new local government structures at regional and sub-council levels. It will also explore a range of Structures and possible new models of cooperative governance and service delivery in western NSW.' (p.5)

'The Panel will seek further evidence on the benefits and drawbacks of boundary changes in different circumstances. It will formulate proposals for amalgamations, new regional entities and shared services as appropriate throughout NSW. There is a case to consider significant consolidation of local government across the Sydney metropolitan area, and in other major urban regions, and some regional centres.' (p.5)

'If further boundary changes are to be pursued, especially on a voluntary basis, there will need to be a well-resourced, strongly proactive process. The Panel will consider how that might best be facilitated.' (p.5)

'The Panel believes that the current system of local government looks superficially well enough, but is really in quite poor shape. 'On the whole, councils continue to deliver a reasonable range of services and do so quite efficiently. But on closer examination it becomes evident that underlying financial problems and infrastructure backlogs are mounting..... efficiency, effectiveness and regional collaboration must be improved considerably to make the best use of scarce resources; there are too many layers of regulation; too many councils focus on compliance rather than performance.' (p.9)

'.....some councils are so small and so captured by local interests that they seem incapable of taking a more strategic view.' (p.10)

'..... However, many submissions from councils demonstrated only limited appreciation of the significance of the changes and challenges that lie ahead. There still appears to be a widespread belief that local government can 'muddle through' with current arrangements or at least something not much different.' (p.15)

'the operating statements of most councils (when stripped of capital revenue) are in deficit. excluding commercial utilities...councils on average

run an operating deficit of almost five per cent of their total own-source revenues.’ (p.16)

‘This means capital contributions, capital grants and proceeds of asset sales are mainly used to prop up operating costs rather than undertake capital renewals and enhancements...’ (p.16)

‘For one in four councils the long-term outlook is particularly bleak. Without substantial rate, grant and debt increases and/or disruptive expenditure cuts, they are financially unsustainable....’ (p.16)

‘The submission to the Panel by the Urban Task Force claimed that half of NSW local councils are financially unsustainable or close to it; and that the main reason for this is a \$4.5 billion infrastructure renewals backlog that is growing by \$150 million a year.’ (p.16)

‘.....around 50 councils have populations of less than 10,000, and a similar number depend on grants for more than 40% of their revenues. Most of these councils are struggling to remain financially sustainable and to meet community needs.’ (p.19)

‘Another avenue for enhanced efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery is expanded regional collaboration and shared services.’ (p.22)

‘The report goes on to suggest ways in which ROCs might be strengthened to provide a robust platform for shared services, including through establishment of arms-length entities with their own expert boards (some ROCs have already moved in this direction), as well as improved political governance arrangements. The latter could see ROCs evolve into Councils of Mayors’ with a legal framework along the lines of a modified County Council structure.’ (p.22)

‘A closely related issue is the proposed rationalisation of council-owned water utilities. The Panel notes that the model recommended in the 2009 Armstrong-Gellatly report retained these utilities in local government ownership whilst proposing a reduction in their number from 104 to either 32 regional groups or 15 catchment based organisations. Aggregation of the utilities was again recommended in the recently released State Infrastructure Strategy prepared by Infrastructure NSW. It argued that a number of smaller utilities would be unable to fund necessary renewal and upgrading of infrastructure over coming years, and that there was scope for increased efficiencies.’ (p.22)

‘...It follows that the system of local government will also need to vary from one place to another. A ‘one size fits all’ approach is untenable. The Panel is therefore exploring how local government structures, and hence how boundaries are drawn, could and should differ from one place to another.....research will also provide information to help determine whether changes to local government boundaries could assist in better managing the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.’ (p.23)

‘.....However, research points to the need for a stronger platform for shared services.’ (p.23)

‘The evidence suggests that NSW has too many local councils and that various forms of consolidation should be pursued to strengthen capacity and sustainability.’ (p.23)

‘In a number of cases amalgamation may be an option Elsewhere, regional collaboration and shared services – to the extent possible across large distances – may be the most practical approach.’ (p.27)

‘Several regional cities and some other large urban centres are forecast to experience significant economic and population growth..... Some of these centres have extensive commuter catchments crossing into neighbouring local government areas. In a few cases urban growth spills over into adjoining shires, or a nearby smaller town has become in effect a dormitory suburb. Such circumstances would indicate a case to consider boundary changes.’ (p.27)

‘For its part, much of the local government sector seems to have settled more or less for the status quo. There are numerous pockets of energy and innovation, but the Panel’s general impression is that relatively few councils and councillors are focused on the need for fundamental change. The sector seems to focus more on its disparate interests than on presenting a strong, unified position, re-inventing itself as an indispensable partner, and challenging the State to create a new paradigm of the NSW public sector.’ (p.36)

In February-March members of the PANEL will be available to attend meetings of regional organisations of councils to present a progress report and obtain further feedback.

In late March, or early April, the PANEL will release its third and final discussion paper: ‘Future Directions’. That paper will provide as much detail as possible on the Panel’s conclusions and the likely shape of its final recommendations to Government.

As indicated above, the General Manager is firmly of the opinion (and the PANEL have stated) that the “status quo” is not going to remain and therefore it is up to local government to be on the front foot and endeavour to be the masters of its own destiny.

The Panel’s November 2012 Paper makes numerous mentions and looks quite favourably on the notion of collaboration and shared services as an alternative to amalgamations or boundary changes and which could be a means of creating sustainability for a number of smaller councils. The WBC Alliance has shared services as one of its priorities for 2012/2013 and the WBC Board will be holding an extraordinary meeting on 6 February to discuss the recent Paper from the

Independent Review Panel and to formulate a response and direction for the WBC Alliance.

The General Manager is of the view that Council should support the WBC initiative and, as recommended by the Chairman in his minute at the December 2012 Council meeting, recommend to the WBC Board that they invite Weddin Shire Council to join the Alliance.

The other uncertainty in all this reform deliberation is the future of local water utilities (LWU's). There are 105 LWU's in NSW, 100 are operated by general purpose councils and 5 are operated by specific purpose county councils.

The Armstrong-Gellatly Independent Inquiry into Secure and Sustainable Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Services in Non-Metropolitan NSW, commissioned by the former NSW Government in 2007, recommended in its final report in 2009 the aggregation of the States 105 LWU's into 30 regional authorities or into 15 catchment based organisations.

The recent State Infrastructure Strategy issued by Infrastructure NSW also recommended the aggregation of 105 LWU's into 30 regional authorities and this recommendation was passed onto the Independent Review Panel for further consideration as part of their local government review.

The General Manager has been very strong in his opinion that, whilst CTW is operating extremely well and compliant with all the Best Practice requirements, if there is going to be a wholesale aggregation of LWU's, the control of water and sewerage should not be lost by local government and the best way to ensure this is by the creation of regional authorities based on a county council model.

The regional county council model was Council's original plan for a submission to the Armstrong-Gellatly Inquiry, as was the submission from the other four water county councils. The general feeling was that we did not want to see the control of water and sewerage lost to State owned water corporations. However, Council resolved in February 2009 to make a submission to the Minister for Water advising that, while CTW still favours the county council model, if the Minister's decision is for a binding alliance with the local water utilities in the Lachlan area, Council will support the alliance model, as long as CTW is retained as a member council.

At the April 2009 meeting of Council, the February 2009 resolution was rescinded and Council then resolved that the General Manager make a written submission to the Inquiry requesting that, as Council is compliant in all areas of best-practice, the Minister for Water allow Council to remain as a stand-alone county council, independent of any proposed alliances. (a copy of Council's 2009 submission is attached)

The previous and current State Governments have never acted on the Armstrong-Gellatly recommendations, however, as previously mentioned above, those recommendations, together with similar recommendations from the Infrastructure NSW Report, have been fed through to the IRP for inclusion in their Review.

In conclusion, local government appears to be in a state of flux at the moment until such time as the IRP concludes its review and presents its final report to the State Government, it will then be a wait and see what course of action the Government will take.

Whilst the above report includes a duplication of some aspects of the report to the December meeting, it is important that Council fully discusses the many repercussions that could emanate from IRP Review.

The General Manager indicated to Council at the December meeting that he had previously made a submission to the IRP and this was submitted in September 2012 following the issue of three (3) questions in a feedback form by the IRP. (A copy of the General Manager's submission is attached).

The IRP have invited feedback and comments on their November 2012 Paper in order to assist them in their findings and recommendations. The General Manager is seeking input from Council in order that, if it is Council's wish, he may formulate Council's response to the Paper before the 22 March 2013 deadline. The alternative is to support the response being submitted by the WBC Alliance.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

ATTACHMENTS

- | | | |
|---|---|---------|
| 1 | Submission to report of Independent Inquiry | 4 Pages |
| 2 | IRP Feedback Form | 4 Pages |

The Hon. Phillip Costa
Minister for Water
Minister for Regional Development
Level 34, Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Minister,

**Re: Independent Inquiry into Secure and Sustainable Urban Water Supply and
Sewerage Services for Non-Metropolitan NSW.**

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the Report of the Independent Inquiry into Secure and Sustainable Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Services for Non-Metropolitan NSW (The Report).

From the outset, Council supports and recognises the need for reform in areas where the performance of local water utilities is less than desirable, non-compliant with the best-practice guidelines and financial provision has not been made, or not able to be made, for the replacement of ageing infrastructure.

Whilst acknowledging the need for reform in certain areas of the water industry in non-metropolitan NSW, the Central Tablelands Water County Council (CTW) has resolved to make this submission requesting that CTW be allowed to continue as a stand-alone county council providing a good quality and reliable water supply to some 5,500 consumers across the local government areas of Blayney, Cabonne and Weddin.

Council is an active member of the Wellington, Blayney, Cabonne Alliance participating in many cost saving and resources sharing projects. The Blayney Shire Council/Central Tablelands Water IT sharing initiative is a prime example.

To support this request, the following detail is submitted as evidence of Council's ability to stand alone:

1. Council is compliant with all six criteria of the Best-Practice Guidelines for the Management of Water and Sewerage Services as issued by the Department of Water and Energy.

2. Council has completed a Strategic Business Plan which incorporates a 30 year capital works program and 30 year financial plan which is self-funding and not reliant on government financial assistance or loan borrowing.
3. Council was one of the first local water authorities in non-metropolitan NSW to introduce 'User Pay' pricing for water charges in 1994.
4. Full cost recovery, including the full funding of depreciation, will be achieved in 2012/2013.
5. Council has embraced best-practice water pricing by adopting the following pricing principles:
 - a) Residential water usage charges are currently set to recover 71% of residential revenue, whilst total water usage charges are currently set to recover 76% of total water charges revenue.
 - b) Residential consumers are subjected to a step increase of 50% for water usage above 450kL/a. (Residential water usage charges are currently set at \$1.46kL for usage < 450kL and \$2.19 for usage > 450kL.)
 - c) Council has a quarterly billing cycle.
 - d) Both access charges and water usage charges are included in each bill to customers.
 - e) Council has been phasing out all cross-subsidies over five years and will be completed in 2009/2010.
6. Council completed the preparation of a Developer Servicing Plan in 2004 and is now recovering full commercial developer charges for all new developments and changes to existing developments. The current Section 64 developer charge is set at \$7,800 per ET.
7. Commencing in 1999, Council has embarked on a major infrastructure renewal and upgrade program without government financial assistance, with the exception of backlog works at Quandialla and Manildra. The major infrastructure works completed over the past 10 years can be summarised as follows:
 - a) Construction of a new 'state of the art' DAF water filtration plant at Carcoar replacing the original plant constructed in 1953. Construction was completed in 2002 at a cost of \$3.3million.

- b) Upgrade of pumping infrastructure on Council's major trunk main in order to increase the transfer capacity to the towns and villages west of Carcoar by 25% thereby allowing those communities to enjoy the high quality water being delivered from the new filtration facility and be less reliant on supplementary groundwater sources. Completed in 2005 at a cost of \$1.1million
 - c) Provision of a potable water supply to the village of Quandialla, designed and constructed by CTW. The village had previously relied on a less than adequate non-potable supply and during most summer periods residents were forced to buy-in tanker loads of water to meet their demands. Completed in 2002 at a cost of \$980,000.
 - d) Replacement of 40kms of unlined cast iron reticulation water mains in Grenfell. Major water quality problems were being experienced with the old water mains that were over 70 years old. Completed in 2003 at a cost of \$3.6million.
 - e) Replacement of 20kms of unlined cast iron reticulation water mains in Canowindra. Completed in 2006 at a cost of \$1million.
 - f) Construction of a duplicate 200mm trunk main from Cudal to Manildra, a distance of 12.6kms, which increased the transfer capacity to Manildra from 6 litres/second (518kl/day) to 20 litres/second (1,728kl/day). Previously, Manildra was subjected to severe restrictions during each summer due to transfer limitations in the existing pipeline. Completed in 2004 at a cost of \$1.3million.
 - g) Expenditure of approximately \$500,000 per year on the replacement of asbestos cement reticulation water mains in Lyndhurst, Eugowra, Cudal, Morebel and Carcoar.
8. The Report highlights in Map 1 that Council's rating for *Overall Performance of Utilities* is good and *Compliance with Best-Practice Management Guidelines* is good.
9. The Report also states (Option 1, page 36) that *Goldenfields Water and Mid Coast Water county councils have the required revenue and client base to continue to operate on a stand-alone basis*. Whilst this statement is not questioned, Council does not agree with the assertion that smaller county councils would provide better delivery of water services through aggregation

with neighbouring utilities. Council has a proven record of achievement in the service of water delivery and best practice management and contends that, with a 30 year capital works program and financial plan in place without the requirement of government assistance, it also can continue to operate on a stand-alone basis.

The Chairman and I were pleased to hear your comment at Coonamble stating that you preferred the county council model but that it was not supported across the State. As you would imagine, Council agrees with your view as county councils have one focus, which is the delivery of water and, in some cases, sewerage services; control is retained within local government with representation from constituent councils.

In your opening address in Coonamble you stated that joining an alliance would not be compulsory but that, if any water utility was falling behind and not performing, you would be pursuing that utility and asking questions. As stated above, Council has shown that it is performing and, therefore, should continue to be allowed to operate on a stand-alone basis.

To support Council's submission, letters of support from two (2) of Council's three (3) constituent councils namely, Blayney and Weddin, are enclosed and written support from Cabonne Council is anticipated to be forthcoming.

Council looks forward to your favourable response to this submission.

Yours faithfully,

A. Perry
General Manager

Encl.

FEEDBACK FORM

Strengthening Your Community

*The Independent Local Government Review Panel
welcomes your feedback*



Please provide comments, as appropriate.

Name: Tony Perry (General Manager)
 Organisations Name: _____ Your Council: Central Tablelands Water County Council
 Email Address: tperry@ctw.nsw.gov.au
 Postal Address: PO Box 61
 Suburb: Blayney NSW Postcode: 2799
 Phone No: 02 6368 2208 Make Publicly Available: Yes

All submissions may be made publicly available. If you do not want any part of the submission or your personal details released, because of copyright or other reasons, please indicate this by answering "NO" in the field above and provide an explanation the Additional Comments section. However, you should be aware that even if you state that you do not wish certain information to be published, there may be circumstances in which the Government is required by law to release that information (for example, in accordance with the requirements of the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009).

1. What are the best aspects of NSW local government in its current form?

1. Representation and decision making is at a local level with community input and involvement.
2. Being the closest form of government to the people it is more relevant to community as the councillors are generally well known, have local knowledge and provide ready access to the community for whatever issue that needs to be addressed.
3. Strong leadership at a local level can achieve the best for the community as councillors, being members of the community, understand the various issues of community concern.
4. Local councillors can see first-hand what facilities need to be provided, what planning needs to take place, what promotion should happen and what funding is necessary.

FEEDBACK FORM
Strengthening Your Community
The Independent Local Government Review Panel
welcomes your feedback



2. What challenges will your community have to meet over the next 25 years?

1. Central Tablelands Water County Council (CTW) contends that the existing six local water utilities operating as County Councils in non-metropolitan NSW are an excellent example of best-practice water management whereby, due to their single focus as managers of public water utilities, they are able to effectively and efficiently provide a safe and reliable service to their communities and they are in the forefront of promoting sustainable water conservation practices and water demand management.

CTW has been operating as a County Council since 1944 and is proud of its achievements over the past 68 years and the close and cooperative relationship CTW enjoys with the communities it serves and its constituent councils. CTW can demonstrate the importance of focusing on infrastructure renewals and upgrades and has been addressing this issue over the past 14 years and is continuing to address the issue with its 30-year self-funding capital works programme.

Notwithstanding the comments above and whilst being a financially sustainable Council, being a local water utility (LWU), Council has no access to funding from State or Federal Governments. The State Government only provides funding for "back-log" works and even that is on a very long waiting list and, on the current level of funding from the State Government to the Country Towns Water and Sewerage Scheme, it could take many years before a LWU made its way through the list to receive funding. Accordingly, as no government funding is available for infrastructure renewals or upgrades, Council is reliant on revenue from its existing consumer base and developers to fund its 30 years capital works programme. This, together with the annual infrastructure maintenance programme, annual operational expenditure and being subject to unpredictable seasonal conditions, places a heavy burden on consumers with significant price increases each year.

2. The ridiculous fact that LWU's are classified as "Trading Undertakings" means that Council is not eligible for "Disaster Recovery Funding" (\$500,000 flood damage to trunk mains in 2012) and is subject to payroll tax.

General Purpose councils, if their area has received a Natural Disaster Declaration, are eligible to receive Disaster Recovery Funding. This discrimination against LWU's places a huge burden on Council's consumers considering that LWU's are councils similar to GP councils providing an essential community service and operating under the Local Government Act.

FEEDBACK FORM Strengthening Your Community

*The Independent Local Government Review Panel
welcomes your feedback*



3. Water security in the Central Tablelands and Central West of NSW will be a huge challenge over the next 25 years and the State Government needs to be serious about building and funding new water storages to alleviate the serious potential water shortage that could be facing the various communities and in particular the mining industry which is of enormous economic benefit to the State and local communities.
4. Declining populations in rural areas is a challenge that the communities will have to meet. The mining boom is assisting to meet this challenge but this needs to be backed up with improved telecommunications, better roads, infrastructure, services and facilities to attract people back to these communities or encourage them to stay.

FEEDBACK FORM Strengthening Your Community

*The Independent Local Government Review Panel
welcomes your feedback*



3. What top 5 changes should be made to local government to help meet your community's future challenges?

1. Constitutional recognition of local government.
2. Removal of the impediment placed on Local Government Water Utilities by classifying them as Trading Undertakings thereby making them eligible for Disaster Recovery Funding and Payroll Tax Exemption.
3. Council is a supportive and active member of the very successful WBC Alliance (refer to the separate submission from the Alliance), however, legislation is needed to enable councils to create legal and binding entities to operate Shared Services across an alliance of councils whilst at the same time receiving similar exemptions afforded to current local government councils.
4. A comprehensive review of the regulatory compliances that are placed on local government which places enormous strain on the minimal resources of rural councils; particularly those in the small to medium size range. Year by year more and more "red tape" is imposed on councils which is very testing on the human and financial resources of these councils.
5. If there is a risk that the State Government is favouring a move to create regional water corporations, the move should be to retain control within local government with the creation of regional water authorities under a County Council model based on catchment areas. Council put forward this view in a comprehensive submission in 2008 to the Armstrong-Gellatly Inquiry into Secure and Sustainable Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Services for Non-Metropolitan NSW. The full submission to the Inquiry is on Council's website www.ctw.nsw.gov.au :

04) Decade of Decentralisation Review (226)

(Tony Perry)

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Council note the information

REPORT

The NSW Government's *Decade of Decentralisation* policy is a key election commitment being implemented to stimulate regional development, manage the State's predicted population growth and deliver greater opportunities to rural and regional communities.

Under the policy, the Government is committed to creating new jobs in regional centres by initiating long term projects in regional centres rather than in metropolitan Sydney and by relocating public sector functions from the metropolitan area.

The NSW Government appointed a new Decentralisation Taskforce in November 2012 to review the Government's Decade of Decentralisation Strategy and associated regional policies and programs. The Taskforce is calling for submissions from regional stakeholders to inform its work to advise and support the Government's decentralisation efforts.

The General Manager has made a submission to the Decentralisation Taskforce based on a previous submission to Minister Hodgkinson and the State Government Standing Committee On State Development.

A copy of the submission is attached.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Submission to Decade of Decentralisation Review 7 Pages

Submission to the Decade of Decentralisation Review By Central Tablelands Water County Council

31 January 2013

In 2005, Mr D James, in his publication "Water, Water, Not Everywhere", produced for the Federal Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, stated that Australia was faced with water collection and allocation issues. Mr James further stated that increasingly warm weather and longer drier periods have indicated that Australia needs to collect more water to cope with fluctuating climatic conditions.

This situation is no different in the Central West where water restrictions are becoming a way of life for residents and water intensive industries are struggling to survive with reduced water supply and security.

During what could arguably be claimed as the worst drought on record, water supply problems in the Central West were particularly evident in areas such as Orange, Cowra, Parkes, Forbes and Condobolin where severe water restrictions were in place for 6 to 7 years. Orange in particular, a city of nearly 40,000, was in extreme risk of running out of water and was on Level 6 water restrictions.

It cannot be overstated the affect the drought has had on the Central West communities over the past 10 years.

At the extreme period of the drought, Wyangala and Burrendong Dam levels dropped to about 4% and 12.5% respectively and the Lachlan River near Condobolin stopped flowing.

Newcrest's gold mining operation at Cadia, near Orange, was also at risk of closing which would have had a devastating effect on the economic viability of

the City of Orange and surrounding district. Approximately 1,200 jobs would have been at risk not to mention the snowballing effect on the commercial businesses in Orange that feed off the mine.

For the past 13 years, Central Tablelands Water County Council (CTW) has been advocating and lobbying for the enlargement of Lake Rowlands Dam, near Blayney in NSW, from 4,500 megalitres to 26,500 megalitres. Lake Rowlands is a town water supply dam owned and operated by CTW supplying potable water to 13 towns and villages across the Central Tablelands and Central West.

In 2006, the Western Research Institute (WRI) at Charles Sturt University in Bathurst completed a study which presented a case for the enlargement of Lake Rowlands. The study, titled “Regional Development in Central West NSW – Water the Real Constraint”, identified that the expansion of Lake Rowlands offers an opportunity to significantly enhance the development potential of the Central West.

The study further identified that the Central West of New South Wales has a diverse industry base, however a significant proportion of production (27%) is attributable to the heavy water consuming industries of agriculture, mining and manufacturing. The study found that this reliance on water intensive industry, coupled with population growth, extreme drought and a lack of new dam infrastructure has resulted in similar water use and sustainability issues in the Central West as have been identified across Australia. Demand is at an unsustainable level, to the extent that water restrictions are becoming a way of life for many residents and industry is struggling to survive with reduced water supply and security.

As a result, a range of studies have been conducted which investigated ways to increase capacity and reallocate water to those areas in need. One such proposal is to increase the storage capacity of Lake Rowlands. As previously mentioned, Lake Rowlands is situated between Blayney and Carcoar on the Coombing Creek and supplies water to 13 towns and villages within the local government areas of Blayney, Cabonne, Weddin and Cowra. Lake Rowlands has a catchment area of approximately 197km² and at full supply level of 878m has a capacity of 4,500ML with secure yield of around 1,900ML.

Following the completion of the WRI study in 2006, and as a result of the worst drought on record, the Centroc group of Councils commissioned a further study to identify the best means of providing water security to the Central West. This study titled 'The Centroc Water Security Study' was fully funded by the NSW State Government at a cost of \$550,000. The study was conducted by engineering consultants MWH and completed in October 2009.

Once again, this study, after an exhaustive elimination of a long list of potential options, recommended the augmentation of Lake Rowlands and the construction of a series of transfer pipelines to service areas such as Orange, Parkes Forbes and Cowra as well as the existing consumers of CTW.

Lake Rowlands was found to be the best option due to its geographic location which has an elevation of 882 metres and can gravitate to most areas thereby reducing the energy and greenhouse gas emissions associated with moving water to various points of need within the region. The consultants were also of the opinion that, if population growth is greater than assumed, an augmented Lake

Rowlands supply would be better placed to support the greater associated demands.

One of the other distinct advantages of the Lake Rowlands option is that during drought the recommended strategy reduces the dependence of river-side towns on the Lachlan river through the provision of new additional town water storage and a regional network of pipes. This will reduce the need to manage the major Wyangala dam in relation to town water supplies in times of drought.

The Centroc study also states that, as the augmentation of Lake Rowlands is a key recommendation to improve security, it is a high priority action and planning for this work needs to commence as a priority. The consultants anticipated that the augmentation of Lake Rowlands, and the subsequent time for the storage to fill, will be the elements of the strategy which have the longest implementation timeframes. The consultants are of the opinion that the approval, design and delivery of a new storage generally takes between 7-10 years, but it is contended, and expert dam builders have testified, that **it can be completed much sooner if there is political will**. The NSW Office of Public Works has identified that, providing funding has been secured, the project could be completed within 6 years.

Whilst the Centroc study reveals estimated costs of the augmentation of Lake Rowlands Dam at \$150 million, CTW disputes this estimate and has two independent expert assessments that claim the dam can be built for an estimated \$66M, \$77M and \$89M after allowing for contingencies of 5%, 25% and 50% respectively. Either way, for this proposal to move forward, it needs State and Federal Government support with approvals and funding.

The Federal Government have already told us that they will only provide funding for 'shovel ready' projects and that matching funding must be provided by State or a combination of State and Local Government.

To enable this project to be 'shovel ready' it requires a series of studies to be completed such as concept design, environmental impact study, hydrology study and governance issues covering the management and distribution process of the new dam infrastructure. These studies have been estimated at between \$3M and \$4M for which Centroc and CTW are endeavouring to obtain funding from the NSW State Government in this regard.

Approval in principal for the project is also being sought from the State Government subject to the studies 'stacking up' and showing that the project is a viable and worthwhile proposition. The Federal Government is adamant that the approvals process is a State Government responsibility.

The current State Government has publicly stated that identifying regional infrastructure needs is a priority and it has a policy to promote city dwellers to move to regional NSW with a 'carrot' of \$7,000 being on offer to those who sell-up in Sydney and buy a home in the country.

This is all well and good but, if there is to be a genuine effort to reduce the population in Sydney and grow the regional areas, there needs to be employment and an attraction for industry and commercial enterprises to relocate to regional areas in order to create employment opportunities to those people relocating. In turn there needs to be the appropriate infrastructures in place and **water security has to be high on the list.**

As mentioned earlier, during the drought, Cadia Valley gold mining operations went very close to shutting down due to drastic water shortages and that about 1,200 jobs were at risk. It is worth noting that the 2006 WRI study identified that the Cadia Valley operation has the potential to produce \$184 million in GRP, \$6 million in royalties to the NSW Government and an additional 152 full-time jobs.

There are currently 25 other gold mining operations that are looking to start up in the region and one in particular in the Blayney area has, from all reports, the potential to be bigger than Cadia, but they are water dependent.

Whilst the priority for water security in the Central West has to be for town water supply, the population growth that comes with the increased mining and related commercial activities will place huge burdens on the already less than adequate water securities.

The NSW Dam Safety Committee have advised CTW that, unless it can show the Committee that a new dam will be construct by 2021, they will require major works to be carried out on the existing dam to upgrade the dam for flood security. Engineering consultants GHD have supplied 'ball park' estimates for this work at between \$3M and \$4M and, as this work qualifies as backlog works, should attract a government subsidy of \$1.5M to \$2M. CTW contends that this funding would be better served in support of pre-construction studies to prove the viability and reliability of a new dam that would be of benefit to a vast region of the Central West.

The NSW State Government placed enormous importance on ensuring that Sydney does not have a water security problem in the future by spending billions

on a desalination plant. Central West NSW, and in fact regional NSW needs to have and demands the same security.

05) New Model Code of Conduct (128)

(Tony Perry)

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Council adopt the new Model Code of Conduct and Model Procedures for Administration of the Model Code of Conduct, as issued by the Department of Local Government, and incorporate them into council's policy register.

REPORT

The Division of Local Government (DLG) has issued a new Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW (Model Code) and Procedures for the Administration of the Model Code in NSW (Model Procedures), which are to commence on 1 March 2013.

The key features of the new code framework include:

- Greater flexibility to resolve non-serious complaints, minimising costs to councils
- Improved complaints management, with complaints about councillors and the general manager managed from start to finish by qualified and independent conduct reviewers.
- Greater fairness and rigour in the investigation process through clearer procedures.
- Stronger penalties for ongoing disruptive behaviour and serious misconduct to more effectively deter and address such behaviour, allowing councils to get on with the business of serving their communities.

The DLG advised that Councils should make the following administrative arrangements in preparation for commencement of the Code:

- Adopt the New Model Code and Procedures by 1 March 2013.
- Appoint members of staff other than the General Manager to act as a complaints coordinator and alternate complaints coordinator before 1 March 2013.
- Ensure panels of conduct reviewers, appointed using the selection process prescribed under the new procedures, are in place by 30 September 2013.

The General Manager will report to the April 2013 Council Meeting recommending appointments for the positions of complaints coordinator and alternate complaints coordinator as well a recommendation for the appointment of a panel of conduct reviewers.

The new Model Code and Model Procedures are accompanied by the *Local Government Amendment (Conduct) Act 2012* which updates the regulatory framework underpinning the new Model Code and Model Procedures.

Copies of the new Model Code and Model Procedures have been included with this business paper for review by Council. Key changes to the Code are provided as an attachment.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

ATTACHMENTS

1 Code of Conduct - Key Changes 1 Page

NEW MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT AND PROCEDURES - KEY CHANGES

- In the interests of clarity and simplicity, standards of conduct and procedures for dealing with breaches will be separately prescribed.
- Minor changes have been made to the standards prescribed under the code in relation to binding caucus votes, the disclosure of political donations, loss of quorum, the management of significant non-pecuniary conflicts of interests in relation to principal planning instruments, gifts, relationships between councillors and staff and use of council resources for re-election purposes.
- New standards have been included to address misuse of the code and other conduct intended to undermine its implementation.
- New provisions have been included to improve all councils' access to suitably skilled conduct reviewers.
- Under the new procedures, complaints will be managed from start to finish by an independent conduct reviewer at arms length from the council if they are not informally resolved at outset.
- There will be an increased focus on informal resolution of less serious matters.
- Code of conduct matters will be dealt with confidentially. However, where a conduct reviewer determines that a councillor has breached the code and a sanction is imposed by the council, this will be made public via the minutes of the meeting.
- There will be limited rights of review to the Division where a person is subject to an adverse outcome.
- The Division will have more options for dealing with matters directly under the misconduct provisions. This will enable it to directly police the administration of the code and address issues such as misuse or failure to cooperate.
- Penalties for misconduct will be expanded and increased to improve deterrence.
- Both the Division and the Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal will be able impose stronger penalties for repeated misconduct. This will enable the more effective management of ongoing disruptive behaviour by individual councillors to enable councils to get on with the core business of serving their communities.

These changes have been made as a result of extensive consultation with councils and other key stakeholders, and based on feedback, have broad support.

06) Water Bottle Filling Stations (361)

(Tony Perry)

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Council note the information.

REPORT

As indicated in the Operations Manager's report, a water bottle filling station has been installed at Redmond Oval in Millthorpe. Together with the water bottle filling station that was installed in Heritage Park, Blayney in 2012, there are now 2 water bottle filling stations in Blayney Shire.

Currently, 2 more water bottle filling stations are programmed to be installed in the next few weeks in Cabonne Shire, 1 in Canowindra and 1 in Manildra.

Council has an agreement with both Blayney and Cabonne councils to install one water bottle filling station in a nominated village or town in each Shire on an annual basis. The approximate fully installed cost of each unit is \$3,000 shared 50/50 by CTW and the constituent council.

A photo of the Millthorpe unit is attached for Councils information.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Millthorpe Water Bottle Filling Station 1 Page



07) Workers Compensation & OHS Performance Report (12)

(Tony Perry)

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Council note the information

REPORT

Council has received StateCover's Annual General Manager's Report which is intended to provide Council with a snapshot of Council's workers compensation and Work Health & Safety (WHS) performance against relevant benchmarks.

Average Premium Rate

A key benchmark for the measurement of Council's Workers Compensation performance is the premium rate paid by Council compared to the average rate of the industry and/or a group of councils.

The table below provides a comparison of Council's premium rate to that of the scheme as a whole and Council's DLG group.

Group	Average Premium Rate
Council	1.75%
StateCover Average	3.69%
DLG Group Average	2.59%

Lost Time Injuries

The frequency of workplace injuries is an important indicator in monitoring Council's WHS performance.

The following table shows the injury rate for Council which is a standardised measure of reported lost time injuries per 100 employees. Benchmarking data is also provided to enable comparison with the StateCover average and our DLG group.

Group	Lost Time Injury Rate
Council	0.00%
StateCover Average	4.14%
DLG Group Average	3.08%

Injury Reporting

Early reporting together with early intervention are universally acknowledged drivers of good claim results. Therefore, monitoring injury and claim reporting timeframes can be a useful tool in ensuring outcomes are optimised.

The table below provides a summary of Council's injury reporting performance against the scheme average and Council's DLG group.

Group	Injuries reported in 2 business days
Council	No claims
StateCover Average	80.09%
DLG Group Average	87.88%

WHS Self Audits

StateCover provides Member Councils with an annual WHS self-audit to assist them in assessing their WHS performance. After analysing the completed audits, a comprehensive feedback report is provided which identifies WHS strengths and weaknesses and provides recommendations to support improvement.

The following table shows the overall audit score for Council with benchmarking information to allow comparison with the StateCover average as well as in our DLG group and our region.

Group	Average
Council	74.80%
StateCover Average	66.80%
Region Average	68.50%
DLG Group Average	N/A

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

08) Developer Servicing Plan (340)

(Tony Perry)

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Council endorse the 2012 draft Developer Servicing Plan (DSP) for Lake Rowlands and Quandialla supply areas;
2. Council endorse the following developer charges, as calculated in the DSP, for all subdivision developments within the Lake Rowlands and Quandialla DSP areas:

(a) Lake Rowlands	\$ 8,333.00
(b) Quandialla	\$15,088.00
3. Resolve that the capital contribution charge for all vacant unbuilt upon land within the existing village of Quandialla remain in accordance with the adopted annual fees and charges;
4. the DSP for Lake Rowlands and Quandialla supply areas be placed on public exhibition for a period of 30 working days with the intention of adopting the DSP at the April 2013 Council Meeting to commence on 1 July 2013.

REPORT

In accordance with section 306(3) of the Water Management Act 2003 and the Developer Charges Guidelines, issued in 2002 by what is now called the NSW Office of Water (NOW)), Council prepared and adopted in 2004/2005 a Developer Servicing Plan (DSP) for the Central Tablelands Water network.

The Guidelines state that Water Utilities proposing to levy developer charges need to prepare a DSP. A DSP is a document which details the water supply developer charges to be levied on development areas utilising a water utility's water supply infrastructure.

As also stated in the Guidelines, Developer Charges are up-front charges levied to recover part of the infrastructure costs incurred in servicing new developments or additions/changes to existing developments.

The power for local government councils to levy developer charges for water supply derives from section 64 of the Local Government Act 1993 by means of a cross-reference to sections 305 to 307 of the Water Management Act 2000.

Developer Charges serve two related functions:

1. they provide a source of funding for infrastructure required for new urban development; and
2. they provide signals regarding the cost of urban development and thus encourage less costly forms and areas of development.

As the NOW Guidelines require that the DSP be reviewed and updated every 5/6 years, the General Manager engaged the services of HydroScience Consulting to conduct an update of Council's 2004 Plan.

This review and update has now been completed and a draft copy of the revised DSP has been tabled at this meeting for Council's consideration and endorsement.

In 2004, the calculated Developer Charge for the Lake Rowlands supply area was \$6,942 per equivalent tenement (ET). This charge has been indexed each year resulting in the Developer Charge for 2012/2013 being \$8,732 per ET.

The 2012 DSP, as prepared by HydroScience, has calculated the Developer Charge for 2013/2014 at \$8,333 per ET.

For Councillors' information an ET is defined as a unit of measurement, representative of water demand, whereby the water demand of 1 ET is equivalent to the water demand of a single detached dwelling. An ET is further defined as the basic measure of demand placed on Water Utility systems by a single residence in a typical urban location.

Apart from the calculated Developer Charge for the Lake Rowlands supply area, the DSP has also calculated a Developer Charge for the Quandialla supply area. In 2004, the calculated Developer Charge for Quandialla was \$9,507 per ET, which is now calculated at \$15,088 per ET.

Whilst the revised Developer Charge for Quandialla has been calculated at \$15,088, the likelihood of subdivision developments in Quandialla is extremely doubtful and the remaining unbuilt upon blocks of land in the village are classified as "in-fill" blocks, which attract a capital contribution charge as per the annual fees and charges.

A copy of the Executive Summary from the draft DSP has been attached for Council's information. As mentioned above, a full copy of the draft DSP will be tabled at this meeting.

If Council is happy with the 2012 draft DSP, a resolution is required to endorse its contents and place the document on public display for a period of 30 working days. If there are no submissions to the DSP, Council can proceed to adopt the Plan at the April 2013 Council meeting.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

ATTACHMENTS

1 DSP Executive Summary 1 Page

Executive Summary

This Development Servicing Plan (DSP) covers water supply developer charge for the following areas served by Central Tablelands Water (CTW):

- ❑ Lake Rowland's DSP area: Blayney, Carcoar, Lyndhurst, Mandurama, Millthorpe, Canowindra, Cargo, Cudal, Eugowra, Manildra and Grenfell.
- ❑ Quandialla DSP area: Quandialla

The water supply developer charges calculated for the CTW DSP areas covered by this DSP are below:

DSP Areas	Adopted Water Supply Residential Developer Charges 13/14 (\$ per ET)
Lake Rowlands	\$8,333
Quandialla	\$15,088

The charges will be indexed on 1st July each year on the basis of movements in the CPI for Sydney.

The DSP has been prepared in accordance with the Developer Charges Guidelines for Water Supply, Sewerage and Stormwater (2002) issued by the Minister for Land and Water Conservation pursuant to section 306 (3) of the Water Management Act 2000. This document is to be registered with the NSW Office of Water.

The development servicing areas covered by these DSP are shown in Appendix A.

The existing assets serving the DSP areas and the timing and expenditures for new water supply works that will serve the area covered by this DSP are shown in section 5.

Water supply Levels of service to be provided by Council are provided in section 6.

The developer charges calculation and methodology including timing of payment; definition of developer charges to be paid and definition of the Equivalent Tenement (ET) of developments which varies from a detached house (1 ET) are described in section 8.

The developer shall be responsible for the full cost of the design and construction of water supply reticulation works within subdivisions.

09) Length of Service - Darrell Sligar (349)

(Tony Perry)

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Council issue a letter of appreciation and congratulations to the Manager of Operations & Technical Services, Mr Darrell Sligar, on the anniversary of his forty years of exemplary and dedicated service to Central Tablelands County Council.

REPORT

The General Manager is pleased to advise Council that, on 2 January 2013, the Manager of Operations and Technical Services, Darrell Sligar, reached a milestone of 40 years continuous service with Council.

The General Manager has been fortunate to have worked alongside Darrell for the past 22 years and witness his dedication and loyalty to Council. Darrell has extremely high technical skills and his practical knowledge of the Central Tablelands Water supply system is extremely valuable and beyond question.

Particularly, over the past 22 years Darrell has overseen and project managed a significant number of infrastructure constructions, upgrades and renewals. Without listing all of the significant achievements a few notable ones are, construction of the new DAFF water filtration plant at Carcoar, replacement of 40 km of reticulation mains in Grenfell, design and construct a water supply for the village of Quandialla, achieving the renewal of approximately 60% of the reticulation mains across the supply network, completion of the roofing of councils 46 reservoirs and the design and construction of a number of significant pump stations etc. etc.

The General Manager will organise a certificate and suitable gift to be presented at this meeting to acknowledge Darrell's service to CTW.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

10) WBC Alliance - Project Officer's Report (356)

(Donna Galvin)

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the information be noted.

REPORT

Report attached.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 WBC Executive Officers Report 3 Pages



WBC Alliance Report for Council meeting February 2013 (Prepared by the Executive Manager, WBC Alliance)

Independent Review of Local Government.

The NSW led reform process for local government is gathering momentum with the next paper from the Independent Review Panel due for release in April. Councils have the opportunity for further input up until 22 March. The Panel will be meeting with CENTROC during February.

Unfortunately despite our invitations the panel could not attend the Extraordinary meeting of the WBC Board on 6th February due to their commitments and the visit planned to the region later in February. The panel have indicated they are still very interested in what the WBC Alliance is discussing and contemplating.

An extra ordinary meeting of the WBC Board is scheduled for 6th February in Molong commencing at 10am. This meeting was called specifically to discuss the reform process and what direction the Alliance may take and how it should respond. There is no doubt that there will be some changes for councils in the coming 12 months and the member councils through the Alliance have an opportunity to influence what happens to their councils and to proactively determine their own futures.

For more information on the review process go to www.localgovernmentreview.nsw.gov.au

Fleet Management Review Project:

As reported in December this is a key project underway at the moment and there is a lot of work going on with this.

- The review into our current fleet management practices by company Uniqco is near completion with the full findings and recommendations being presented to the Professional Team meeting in February.
- A joint tender between Wellington and Blayney for the purchase of a truck and dog was completed but no selection recommended. The team are now going to use Local government Procurement to purchase the vehicles which will not require another tender process.

Food Shop Inspection Project:

The project team is currently working on an Expression of Interest document to be advertised in early 2013 seeking to engage suitably qualified consultants on a fee for service basis.

WBC Executive Manager Report to February 2013 Council Meeting

Dates for Alliance meetings 2013

The following lists the dates of Board and Professional Team meetings scheduled for 2013. All councillors are welcome to attend the Board meetings – if you wish to attend please let me know prior to the meeting. (donna.galvin@cabonne.nsw.gov.au or 0419 611 204)

WBC BOARD	
DATE	VENUE
6 th February	EXTRAORDINARY MEETING - MOLONG
6 March 2013	Wellington Council Chambers –TO BE CONFIRMED AT 6 TH FEB MEETING.
5 June 2013	Blayney Community Centre
4 September 2013	Cabonne Council Chambers, Molong Annual General Meeting (chair and Secretariat move to Cabonne)
6 November 2013	Wellington Council Chambers

PROFESSIONAL TEAMS	
DATE	VENUE
Thursday 21 st February	Cabonne Council Chambers, Molong
Thursday 20 th June	Wellington Council Chambers
Thursday 24 th October	Blayney Council Chambers

IT systems Implementation:

As reported in December the councils of Blayney, CTW and Cabonne will be implementing further modules to the Synergysoft system during February. This will be a very busy time for some staff.

WBC Executive Manager Report to February 2013 Council Meeting

Up Coming Dates/Events

6 th February	Extra ordinary meeting of the WBC Board – Molong – commencing 10am
7 th February -	I will be attending a meeting in Sydney as a member of a State working party examining different models of operation for councils as part of the Government reform process.
During February	- Blayney, CTW and Cabonne completing 2 nd Stage implementation of IT Systems including HR, Risk, Records, Asset management and workshop maintenance modules.
21 st February	Professional Teams meeting

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the information be noted.

WBC Executive Manager Report to February 2013 Council Meeting

11) Maintenance of Council's Systems (105)

(Darrell Sligar)

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the information be noted.

REPORT

a) Meter Reading

The 3rd meter read for the 2012/13 financial year commenced in Blayney on 9 January and was finalised with trunk main rurals on 24 February. All faulty meters have been repaired or replaced.

b) Meter Replacement/Service Replacement Program

Council staff replaced 6 full services and 6 partial services during the past two months.

c) Hydrant/Valve Maintenance

Hydrant and valve maintenance continued throughout the County area with 2 new valves installed replacing faulty units in Blayney.

d) Reticulation Flushing

All dead ends were flushed in Grenfell over the past 2 months.

e) Pump Station Maintenance

New pipework has been installed on the North Street pump at Grenfell. External painting continued on pump stations in the Canowindra and Blayney areas.

f) Trunk Main Inspections

Trunk main inspection continued along TM' C, Carcoar to Gooloogong, two faulty scour valves were replaced, 6 faulty air valves were repaired.

g) Filtration Plant Maintenance Carcoar

Four sludge lagoons have been cleaned and placed back into operation.

A new motor has been installed on a supernatant pump replacing a burnt out unit. A new gearbox was installed replacing a faulty unit on the polyelectrolyte system. All magflow meters have been recalibrated.

h) Filtration Plant Maintenance Blayney

A new motor has been installed on the fluoridation feeder. 2 new solenoid valves have been installed on the main control valves.

i) Water Bottle Filling Station

A water bottle filling station has been installed at Redmond Oval in Millthorpe.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

12) Performance of Council's Systems (105)

(Darrell Sligar)

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the information be noted.

REPORT*j) Main breaks*

The main failures recorded during the past two months are listed in the table below.

Location		Date	Size (mm)	Comment
Blayney	Stillingfleet Street	02.02.13	100	S/L (split length)
Lyndhurst	Queen Street	01.01.13	100	S/L
Lyndhurst	Garland Road	21.01.13	58	S/L
Canowindra	Rodd Street	05.12.12	100	DNR (repair clamp)
Cargo	Hamilton Street	07.01.13	100	DNR
Cargo	Mayne Street	08.01.13	100	DNR
Cudal	Hazelton's Line	05.12.12	58	DNR
Trunk Main 'F'	Millthorpe	05.12.12	150	S/L
Trunk Main 'F'	Millthorpe	22.12.12	150	S/L
Trunk Main 'C'	Gooloogong	06.12.12	225	Weld
Trunk Main 'C'	Mandurama	30.01.13	225	Tee
Trunk Main 'V'	Blue Jacket Lane	14.01.13	200	S/L
Trunk Main 'U'	Cargo Pumps	15.01.13	100	S/L
Rural Scheme	Nyrang Creek	20.01.13	80	S/L

k) Reservoir Levels

All reservoir levels have been maintained at or near 100% of capacity.

l) Service Complaints and Requests

A summary of service complaints and requests received for the last two months are as follows:

Location	Complaint/Request	Total
Blayney	Dirty Water	2
	Leaking Meter	1
	Leaking Service	2
	Main Break	1

	Meter Burst	1
	Meter Not Shutting Off	1
	Stop Valve Failure	1
Canowindra	Hydrant Leaking	1
	Leaking Meter	3
	Leaking Service	3
	Main Break	2
Carcoar	Leaking Meter	1
Cargo	Low Pressure	1
	Main Break	2
Cudal	Leaking Meter	1
	Leaking Service	3
Eugowra	Dirty Water	1
	Leaking Meter	2
	Leaking Service	1
	Meter Burst	1
	Meter not shutting off	1
Gooloogong	Low Pressure	1
	Main break	1
Grenfell	Dirty Water	7
	Hydrant leaking	1
	Leaking Service	2
	Leaking meter	1
Mandurama	Leaking Meter	1
	Leaking Service	2
	No water	1
Millthorpe	Meter not shutting off	1
	No Water	1
Quandialla	Hydrant leaking	1
	Low Pressure	1

m) Lake Rowlands

The level of Lake Rowlands has decreased from 96.1% on 3 December to 80.3% on 4 February.

Eight (8) megalitres has been discharged to the river system during the past two months.

n) New Water Services

During the past two months there have been 4 new water services connected to Councils mains:

2 x 20mm Grenfell

1 x 20mm Manildra

1 x 20mm Trunk Main 'D'

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

13) Water Leakage – Account 20905-00000-4 (298)

(Tony Perry)

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That, as these matters deal with items that are subject to the affairs of an individual, Council consider it in Committee of the Whole and that in terms of Section 10A (2) of the Local Government Act, the press and the public be excluded from the meeting of the Committee of the Whole.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

14) General Manager - Employment Contract (261)

(Tony Perry)

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That, as these matters deal with items that are subject to the affairs of an individual, Council consider it in Committee of the Whole and that in terms of Section 10A (2) of the Local Government Act, the press and the public be excluded from the meeting of the Committee of the Whole.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

15) Questions on Notice

(Tony Perry)

No questions on notice were received.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

16) Proceed to Committee of the Whole

(Tony Perry)

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That, as business for the Ordinary Meeting has now concluded, Council proceed into Committee of the Whole to discuss the items referred to in the report.

Council should exclude the press and public at this point, for confidential discussion on the items referred to Committee

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

17) Report of the Committee of the Whole

(Tony Perry)

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the recommendations of the Committee of the Whole be adopted.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Central Tablelands Water held at Cabonne
Shire Council, on Wednesday, 12 December 2012,
commencing at 10.30am**

<u>Present</u>	Cr. Geoff Braddon OAM	(Chairman)	Blayney
	Cr. Geoffrey McClelland	(Deputy Chairman)	Weddin
	Cr. Kevin Walker		Cabonne
	Cr. David Somervaille		Blayney
	Cr. Alan Griffiths		Weddin
	Tony Perry	(General Manager)	
	Darrell Sligar	(Manager Operations & Technical Services)	
	Gavin Rhodes	(Manager Finance & Corporate Services)	

APOLOGIES

12/103 RESOLVED:

That a leave of absence be granted to Cr. Durkin following receipt of his apology for non-attendance.

(Cr. McClelland/Cr. Walker)

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

12/104 RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Central Tablelands Water, held on 10 October 2012, being minute numbers 12/083 to 12/102 inclusive, be confirmed.

(Cr. McClelland/Cr. Griffiths)

CHAIRMAN'S MINUTE

Together with the General Manager, I attended the Centroc Board meeting and AGM. There is a report on this in the business paper. This was my first Centroc Board meeting and I found it interesting to listen to the debate on the various issues amongst the 17 member councils. At the AGM, the Mayor of Parkes, Cr Ken Keith, was elected Centroc Chair, replacing the Mayor of Forbes, Cr Phyllis Miller.

During the past two months I also attended Council's Internal Audit Committee meeting at which the past year's internal audit result was considered and we received the Annual Report. The Manager of Finance & Corporate Services has a detailed report in the business paper.

Together with the Manager of Finance & Corporate Services, I also attended the Board Meeting and AGM of the WBC Alliance. The WBC Alliance could prove to be an important factor in the review currently being undertaken by the Local Government Independent Review Panel. Amalgamations, boundary adjustments, ROC's and alliances are all under consideration by the Panel and it has been publicly stated by the Minister that the WBC Alliance is a good example of how Alliances can work.

The General Manager has provided all of us with comprehensive reports on the progress to date of the Review Panel.

I am of the opinion that we should be looking to expand our Alliance by inviting our constituent Council, Weddin to join. This of course will be up to the WBC Board but I will certainly be pushing for it.

That's all for my Chairman's Minute and I would like someone to move that it be accepted.

12/105 RESOLVED:

That the Chairman's Minute, as read, be accepted and the contents therein be noted and endorsed.

(Cr. Somerville/Cr. McClelland)

01) FINANCIAL MATTERS (4)

12/106 RESOLVED:

That the information be noted.

(Cr. Walker/Cr. Griffiths)

02) ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 30/6/2012

12/107 RESOLVED:

That the external auditor's presentation of the audited financial reports for the year ended 30 June 2012, be received and noted.

(Cr. McClelland/Cr. Somerville)

03) AUDIT COMMITTEE - ANNUAL REPORT 2011/2012 AND OCTOBER 2012 MEETING MINUTES

12/108 RESOLVED:

That Council receive and note the Audit Committee Annual Report 2011/2012 and the October 2012 Audit Committee Meeting Minutes.

(Cr. McClelland/Cr. Somerville)

04) GOVERNMENT INFORMATION PUBLIC ACCESS ACT 2009 (GIPA) - AGENCY INFORMATION GUIDE - REVIEW

12/109 RESOLVED:

That Council adopt the Draft Agency Information Guide 2012 in accordance with the Government Information Public Access Act 2009 (GIPA).

(Cr. McClelland/Cr. Somerville)

05) INDEPENDENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW PANEL (101)

Proceedings in Brief:

Cr Somervaille suggested that an independent submission from CTW should be made to the LRP.

The General Manager stated that he felt he had already made a submission on behalf of CTW but, if not, he would prepare a submission and submit to all Councillors for their concurrence.

12/110 RESOLVED:

That Council note the information.

(Cr. McClelland/Cr. Walker)

06) RE-DETERMINATION OF ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE (106)

12/111 RESOLVED:

That Council re-affirm the existing organisational structure and identify the General Manager's position as the only senior staff position in accordance with Section 332 of the Local Government Act.

(Cr. Griffiths/Cr. McClelland)

07) COWRA SHIRE COUNCIL - BULK & EMERGENCY WATER SUPPLY AGREEMENT (110)

12/112 RESOLVED:

That Council formally adopt the draft Bulk and Emergency Water Supply Agreement between Central Tablelands County Council and Cowra Shire Council and approve the application of Council's Common Seal to the agreement document.

(Cr. McClelland/Cr. Somervaille)

08) REVIEW OF DELEGATIONS (317)

12/113 RESOLVED:

That Council note the information.

(Cr. McClelland/Cr. Walker)

09) CODE OF CONDUCT (128)

12/114 RESOLVED:

That Council adopt the Model Code of Conduct, as issued by the Department of Local Government, unaltered.

(Cr. Somervaille/Cr. Griffiths)

10) COUNCILLOR EXPENSES AND FACILITIES POLICY (6)

12/115 RESOLVED:

That Council endorse the draft Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policies as presented in the General Manager's Report, with the addition of the provision of a Council blazer and tie, and place them on public display for a period of 28 days with a view to adoption at the February 2013 meeting of Council.

(Cr. Griffiths/Cr. Walker)

11) LODGEMENT OF PECUNIARY INTEREST RETURNS (157)

12/116 RESOLVED:

That Council note the information.

(Cr. Griffiths/Cr. McClelland)

12) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON CENTROC BOARD MEETING & AGM (229)

12/117 RESOLVED:

That Council note the Chairman's report on the Centroc Board meeting and AGM held in Grenfell on 22 November 2012.

(Cr. McClelland/Cr. Walker)

13) NSW OFFICE OF WATER - DELEGATION (217)

12/118 RESOLVED:

That Council note the information.

(Cr. Walker/Cr. McClelland)

14) CLOSING OF OFFICE OVER CHRISTMAS - NEW YEAR (84)

12/119 RESOLVED:

That Council approve and advertise the closure of the administration office during the period 24 December to the 2 January inclusive, and that the administration staff be granted three days leave in lieu of overtime and that the staff be required to take the fourth day either as an RDO or annual leave.

(Cr. McClelland/Cr. Griffiths)

15) WBC ALLIANCE - EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT (356)

12/120 RESOLVED:

That the information be noted.

(Cr. McClelland/Cr. Griffiths)

16) MAINTENANCE OF COUNCIL'S SYSTEMS (105)

12/121 RESOLVED:

That the information be noted.

(Cr. Griffiths/Cr. McClelland)

17) PERFORMANCE OF COUNCIL'S SYSTEMS (105)

12/122 RESOLVED:

That the information be noted.

(Cr. Griffiths/Cr. McClelland)

**18) WATER LEAKAGE ACCOUNT 21202-00000-2 (298)
WATER LEAKAGE ACCOUNT 60201-00000-1 (299)
WATER LEAKAGE ACCOUNT 2781-10000-9 (285)**

12/123 RESOLVED:

That, as these matters deal with items that are subject to the affairs of an individual, Council consider it in Committee of the Whole and that in terms of Section 10A (2) of the Local Government Act, the press and the public be excluded from the meeting of the Committee of the Whole.

(Cr. Walker/Cr. Somerville)

19) QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

No questions on notice were received.

20) PROCEED TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

12/124 RESOLVED:

That, as business for the Ordinary Meeting has now concluded, Council proceed into Committee of the Whole to discuss the items referred to in the report.

(Cr. Walker/Cr. Griffiths)

21) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

WATER LEAKAGE – ACCOUNT 21202-00000-2 (298)

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council grant the consumer a one off concession of 50% of the consumption charge as recorded on the November 2012 water account.

WATER LEAKAGE – ACCOUNT 60201-00000-1 (299)

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adhere to its policy of no concession for water leakage.

WATER LEAKAGE – ACCOUNT 2781-10000-9 (285)

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council note the information.

MEETING DATES SCHEDULED FOR 2013 (89)

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adhere to the 2013 Council meeting dates, as resolved at the October 2012 meeting of Council and reaffirmed in the adoption of the minutes of that meeting.

21) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

12/125 RESOLVED:

That the recommendations of the Committee of the Whole be adopted.

(Cr. Somervaille/Cr. McClelland)

Next Meeting: The next meeting of Central Tablelands Water will be held in Grenfell on 13 February 2013.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 12.20pm.