

MINUTES for the MEETING of GOLDENFIELDS WATER COUNTY COUNCIL held at GOLDENFIELDS WATER COUNTY COUNCIL OFFICES on THURSDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2007 starting at 1.07pm.

PRESENT

Cr. D. Bolte (Chair), Cr. C. Manchester, Cr. J. Macaulay, Cr. J. O'Brien, Cr. D. Palmer and Cr. J. Edwards.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. P. Wearne, General Manager, Mr. P. Dwyer, Manager Administration, Mr. N. Nasser, Manager Production and Distribution, Mr. B. West, Manager Engineering and Miss. K. Turner, Executive Assistant.

A. APOLOGIES

- 07/121 An apology for non-attendance was received for Cr. P. Speirs and Cr. J. McGregor and leave of absence was granted on the motion of Crs. Manchester and Palmer.

B. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 27 SEPTEMBER 2007.

- 07/122 The Minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2007 having been circulated and read by the Members, were confirmed on the motion of Crs. Edwards and O'Brien.

C. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Nil

D. CORRESPONDENCE

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. The Hon Nathan Rees, MP, Minister for Water Utilities
(Received 22/10/07) | Response to inquiry regarding status of Review of Relative Efficiencies and Economies. |
| 2. Katrina Hodgkinson, MP, Member for Burrinjuck
(Received 31/10/07) | Forwarding a copy of response received from the Minister for Climate Change, Environment and Water to representations made on Goldenfields behalf regarding critical water availability within the Murrumbidgee valley. |
| 3. State Cover Workers Compensation
(Received 5/11/07) | Advising of Council 2007 Workers Compensation and OHS Performance Report. |

4. The Hon Nathan Rees, MP, Minister for Water Utilities
(Received 15/10/07) Requesting comment on the Draft Terms of Reference for the Review of Structural and Regulatory Arrangements for the Supply of Water and Sewerage Services in Regional New South Wales.

GM's Note: In consultation with the Chairman, a submission was made on the Draft Terms of Reference. A further, more detailed submission will be made when the Review is out for public consultation in early 2008.

Recommendation

That the information be noted.

- 07/123 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Palmer and Edwards that the information be noted.

E. FINANCIAL REPORT (P. Dwyer)

1. CHEQUE WARRANT – SEPTEMBER 2007 AND BANK RECONCILIATION

Warrant

Fund	Voucher Numbers	\$
Water	17926 – 18054	
	Autopays 600245-600246	
	71234 – 71292	\$3,650,140.27

Bank Reconciliation

Opening Balance	\$ 210,617.37
Deposits	\$3,566,894.36
	<u>\$3,777,511.73</u>
Withdrawals	\$3,650,140.27
Balance as at 30 September 2007	<u>\$ 127,371.46</u>

2. CHEQUE WARRANT – OCTOBER 2007 AND BANK RECONCILIATION

Warrant

Fund	Voucher Numbers	\$
Water	18055 – 18197	
	Autopays 600247-600248	
	71293 – 71348	\$2,600,496.88

Bank Reconciliation

Opening Balance	\$ 127,371.46
Deposits	\$2,820,720.68
	<u>\$2,948,092.14</u>
Withdrawals	\$2,600,496.88
Balance as at 31 October 2007	<u>\$ 347,595.26</u>

3. REPORT OF COUNCIL INVESTMENTS

Listed below are Council's Investments as at 30 September 2007

Financial Institution	Face Value	Annualised Interest Rate %
NSW Treasury – Cash Facility	\$6,807,952.69	6.90
Local Govt Financial Services – Cash	\$12,442,748.57	6.45
Commonwealth Bank – At Call	\$308,987.21	6.45
LGFS Term Deposit due 8.11.07-194418	\$500,000.00	6.50
LGFS Term Deposit due 6.12.07-192778	\$500,000.00	6.60
LGFS Term Deposit due 7.02.08-195746	\$500,000.00	6.75
LGFS Term Deposit due 20.3.08-193928	\$500,000.00	6.75
LGFS Term Deposit due 6.6.08-194803	\$500,000.00	6.85
CBA Term Deposit due 06.06.08	\$500,000.00	6.77
TOTAL:	\$22,559,688.47	

GOLDENFIELDS WATER COUNTY COUNCIL – NOVEMBER 2007

Listed below are Council's Investments as at 31 October 2007

Financial Institution	Face Value	Annualised Interest Rate %
NSW Treasury – Cash Facility	\$6,845,009.09	6.41
Local Govt Financial Services – Cash	\$11,699,172.19	5.65
Commonwealth Bank – At Call	\$374,581.87	6.45
LGFS Term Deposit due 8.11.07-194418	\$500,000.00	6.50
LGFS Term Deposit due 6.12.07-192778	\$500,000.00	6.60
LGFS Term Deposit due 7.02.08-195746	\$500,000.00	6.75
LGFS Term Deposit due 20.3.08-193928	\$500,000.00	6.75
LGFS Term Deposit due 6.6.08-194803	\$500,000.00	6.85
CBA Term Deposit due 06.06.08	\$500,000.00	6.77
TOTAL:	\$21,918,763.15	

The above investments include the following restricted assets:

Purpose	Amount
Plant and vehicle replacement	\$846,000
Employees leave entitlements	\$1,296,000
Sales fluctuation	\$2,120,000
Infrastructure replacement	\$16,154,000
Total:	\$20,416,000

I hereby certify that the investments have been made in accordance with the Act, the Regulations and Council's investment policy.

Recommendation

That the information in respect of items E1 to E3 be noted.

07/124 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Manchester and O'Brien that the information in respect of items E1 to E3 be noted.

4. OUTSTANDING DEBTORS

The balances outstanding as at 5 November 2007 were:

	Arrears	Interest	Current	Total
Access Charges	36,524	6,491	208,891	251,906
Consumption Charges	101,957	30,622	320,483	453,062
Deferred Headworks			84,000	84,000
TOTAL:	138,481	37,113	613,374	788,968
Overpayments				91,213

The balances outstanding as at 5 October 2007 were:

	Arrears	Interest	Current	Total
Access Charges	45,250	7,151	510,816	563,217
Consumption Charges	115,152	32,239	1,024,492	1,171,883
Deferred Headworks			84,000	84,000
TOTAL:	160,402	39,390	1,619,308	1,819,100
Overpayments				85,452

The balances outstanding as at 4 September 2007 were:

	Arrears	Interest	Current	Total
Access Charges	31,064	6,424	30,996	68,484
Consumption Charges	97,618	31,558	59,577	188,753
Deferred Headworks			85,100	85,100
TOTAL:	128,682	37,982	175,673	342,337
Overpayments				78,854

Recommendation

That the report on outstanding debtors be received and noted.

- 07/125 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Macaulay and O'Brien that the report on outstanding debtors be received and noted.

5. QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2007

The Quarterly Budget Review for the period ending 30 September 2007 is attached (yellow pages) for the consideration of Council.

Details of the main variations are as follows:

Revenue

At this stage no changes have been made to the anticipated revenue. This will be reviewed again with the next review and depending on the continued restrictions and weather conditions a revision in anticipated water sales may be necessary.

Expenditure

- Administration – increased by \$10,300 being provision for the NWI audit (as reported to the August meeting)
- Reservoir maintenance – increased by \$95,069 (being revote/carryover for stage II of the Oura aeration tower repairs – this was reported to the September 2006 meeting)

Operating expenditure increased by \$105,369.

Capital

The votes in this section have been revised in line with the report presented to Council's August meeting and after review by staff. The revised budget (both upwards and downwards) can be summarised as follows:-

GOLDENFIELDS WATER COUNTY COUNCIL – NOVEMBER 2007

Capital Works Program (as adopted 2007/08 Management Plan)	\$15,115,000
Plus Amounts carried forward from 2006/07 Program	5,318,182
Plus additional amounts voted for 2007/08	421,416
Less items deferred to 2008/09	(6,435,000)
Revised Budget as per September Quarterly Budget Review	\$14,419,598

The following changes are proposed to the operating budget:

Adopted operating budget (deficit)	\$-37,010
Revision at 30 September 2007 – deficit	-\$105,369
Revised result – 30 June 2008 – anticipated deficit	-\$142,379

At this stage there are no major areas of concern and the review indicates that Council's financial position is satisfactory.

Recommendation

That the quarterly budget review report as at 30 September 2007 be noted and that Council adopt the variations as listed.

07/126 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Edwards and Manchester that the quarterly budget review report as at 30 September 2007 be noted and that Council adopt the variations as listed.

07/127 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Manchester and O'Brien that item E6 be deferred until Council's Auditor attended the meeting.

6. AUDIT REPORT - 2006/2007 FINANCIAL REPORTS

Following completion of the audit of the of last year's financial statements, Council's auditor Mr Graham Bradley principal of Auswild & Co has submitted his statutory report to Council.

The report does not disclose any major areas of concern and indicates that in the auditor's opinion Council is in a sound financial position. A copy of the auditor's report and principal financial statements is included with the business paper (green pages).

The financial reports were despatched to the Department of Local Government on 30 October 2007.

The required advertisement was placed in the Southern Weekly magazine for the week commencing 5 November and called for submissions on the financial statements and reports. Any submissions received will be considered at the December meeting of Council.

The Auditor's report provides further information on the summary below. Mr Bradley will be present at this meeting to formally present his report. A full copy of the Financial Reports can be made available to any Councillor upon request.

The summary report as advertised shows:

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

For the year ending 30th June, 2007

	2007	2006
	(\$'000)	(\$'000)
<u>Income Statement</u>		
Total income from continuing operations	14,462	13,577
Total expenses from continuing operations	12,734	11,987
Operating result from continuing operations	1,728	1,590
Net operating result before capital grants & contributions	1,027	697
 <u>Balance Sheet</u>		
Total current assets	29,880	28,840
Total current liabilities	2,317	1,914
Total non-current assets	185,180	163,861
Total non-current liabilities	50	21
Total equity	212,693	190,766
 <u>Other Financial Information</u>		
Current ratio	12.90:1	15.07:1
Unrestricted current ratio	20.82:1	27.03:1
Debt service ratio	0.0%	56.09%
Annual charges coverage ratio	21.1%	22.3%
Annual charges outstanding percentage	17.0%	17.9%

Recommendation

1. That the action taken in advertising the summary be endorsed.
2. That Council adopt the 2006/2007 Financial Statements and Auditors report following the presentation by Mr Bradley.

7. PROPOSED DEBT WRITE-OFFS (Gerard Carr)

Water Account 80479

The farm manager of a water account contacted Council in July 2007 concerned about the previous three water accounts that totaled 7427 Kilolitres.

The property, as well as being supplied by GWCC also has a number of bores. In an effort to confirm the GWCC usage the manager was asked to monitor the meter readings. While this was occurring the meter was then reported as "stopped". Arrangements were made to replace the water meter and then have the "stopped" meter tested. A flow-test revealed the meter while still operable was reading 18.8% slow. It can be accepted that the meter was not recording correctly and carrying out an estimation based on the new meter's average daily consumption provides 5076Kl for the 4 periods (difference of 2797Kl). A submission made by the farm manager is that GWCC water consumption should have been 6063 Kl for the twelve months rather than 7873Kl recorded (difference of 1810Kl).

Recommendation

That the actual water consumption be discounted for the period 25/05/2006 to 23/07/2007 and that the calculated water consumption of 6063Kl be accepted. Further that water consumption of 1810Kl (\$1991.00) be written off Water Account 80479 as being meter recording errors.

- 07/128 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Palmer that the actual water consumption be discounted for the period 25/05/2006 to 23/07/2007 and that the calculated water consumption of 6063Kl be accepted. Further that water consumption of 1810Kl (\$1991.00) be written off Water Account 80479 as being meter recording errors.

Water Accounts 73051 and 79379

These accounts' water connections were permanently disconnected in July 2000 and August 2002 respectively. Their lands were recently included in a general purpose Council's sale of land for unpaid rates and charges under s713-720 of the LG Act. Goldenfields has been advised that the sale prices did not cover the outstanding rates owing.

Recommendation

That the amount of \$980.05 be written off Water Account 73051 and \$1,590.98 be written off Water Account 79379 to fully satisfy the outstanding charges in accordance with s719(b) of the Local Government Act 1993.

- 07/129 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Palmer and Manchester that the amount of \$980.05 be written off Water Account 73051 and \$1,590.98 be written off Water Account 79379 to fully satisfy the outstanding charges in accordance with s719(b) of the Local Government Act 1993.

Water Account 72556

This account supplies an abandoned village hall which has seen access charges and interest levied since 2000. While the ownership carried over from our predecessors is "Hall Trustees", the NSW Department of Lands has no crown land with Trustees in this area nor does the general purpose council rate the property. The villages' sole resident verbally advised the last usage of the hall was at least 10 years ago. Meter records since March 1996 show nil water consumption.

Recommendation

That the water meter for Water Account 72556 be permanently disconnected and \$1,164.50 of access charges and interest be written off as unrecoverable.

- 07/130 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Macaulay that the water meter for Water Account 72556 be permanently disconnected and \$1,164.50 of access charges and interest be written off as unrecoverable.

Water Accounts 80468 and 79785

Account 80468 is an inactive standpipe water account with \$21,762.53 of outstanding wholesale water sales including interest of \$4,041.53. While a new standpipe account has been operating effectively under community control since October 2006, the previous operator appears to have neither issued accounts nor retained records to reconcile the water sold since late 2002.

Account 79785 is also an inactive standpipe water account with \$1,752.17 outstanding including interest of \$538.88. Information on the then circumstance is limited; however the charges were levied in 2002 and remained unpaid following the closure of the hotel and the very sudden overnight departure of the publican (and standpipe operator). Another standpipe operator was found shortly thereafter.

In both cases locating the previous operator has been unsuccessful with little likelihood of recovery. While writing off the charges and interest is an option the standpipe water had been used within each of the villages' broader communities. These outstanding amounts could be met as Community Service and Support contributions.

Recommendation

That the outstanding amount of \$21,762.53 for water account 80468 and \$1,752.17 for water account 79785 be credited in full as Community Service and Support contributions.

- 07/131 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Manchester that the outstanding amount of \$21,762.53 for water account 80468 and \$1,752.17 for water account 79785 be credited in full as Community Service and Support contributions.

F. WORKS REPORT *(Nick Nasser)*
SEPTEMBER 2007

1. WATER LOSSES & MAINS REPAIRS

DATE	TIME		LOCATION	PIPE DIAMETER	AFFECTED CONSUMERS	ESTIMATED LOSS (KI)	REASON
	Off	On					
1/9/07	8.00	12.00	Wade Street, Coolamon	100	10	50	Split pipe
3/9/07	-	-	Wantabadgery Road	100	-	-	Other
4/9/07	-	-	Stockinbingal	100	-	5	Hole in pipe
4/9/07	-	-	Barellan School	100	-	-	Hole in pipe
4/9/07	-	-	Temora Road	375	-	15	Joint failure
4/9/07	-	-	Morton's Hill	375	-	15	Hole in pipe
4/9/07	11.00	2.00	Deepwater Road, Matong	200	3	50	Joint failure
4/9/07	-	-	Cootamundra	375	-	15	Hole in pipe
5/9/07	-	-	Springdale	375	-	10	Joint failure
6/9/07	-	-	Old Sydney Road	100	-	5	Split pipe
7/9/07	-	-	Naradhan	100	-	5	Hole in pipe
7/9/07	-	-	Kikoira Road, Naradhan	100	-	5	Split pipe
10/9/07	-	-	Garoolgan Silos	100	-	15	Split pipe
12/9/07	-	-	Temora Road	375	-	5	Joint failure
12/9/07	-	-	Holts Lane, Naradhan	100	-	0.5	Split pipe
12/9/07	-	-	Hylands Bridge Water Line	200	-	30	Split pipe
13/9/07	-	-	Cootamundra	375	-	15	Joint failure
14/9/07	-	-	Hylands Bridge Water Line	200	-	5	Hole in pipe
17/9/07	10.30	11.30	Lonsdale Lane, Coolamon	200	-	5	Hole in pipe
18/9/07	1.00	4.15	Dumaresq Street, West Wyalong	100	30	25	Hole in pipe
18/9/07	-	-	Trunk main, West Wyalong	300	-	15	Joint failure
18/9/07	12.00	5.00	Hylands Bridge	200	-	2	Split pipe
18/9/07	12.30	2.30	Matong	100	-	20	Joint failure
19/9/07	-	-	Temora Road	375	-	10	Joint failure
19/9/07	-	-	Cootamundra	375	-	10	Joint failure
19/9/07	-	-	Trunk main, West	300	-	5	Joint failure

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			Wyalong				
19/9/07	11.00	3.00	Deepwater Road, Matong	200	10	20	Split pipe
20/9/07	-	-	Trunk main, West Wyalong	300	-	15	Joint failure
20/9/07	12.30	2.30	Stockinbingal Retic	100	20	10	Hole in pipe
21/9/07	-	-	Malebo Range	100	-	15	Split pipe
21/9/07	-	-	Coursing Park	80	-	2	Hole in pipe
24/9/07	-	-	Trunk main, West Wyalong	300	-	20	Joint failure
24/9/07	9.00	11.00	Stockinbingal Retic	100	20	10	Joint failure
24/9/07	-	-	Edwards Corner	375	-	-	Other
25/9/07	9.00	11.00	Junee	100	40	10	Other
26/9/07	3.30	8.30	Thanowring Road	250	30	50	Split pipe
26/9/07	-	-	Garoolgan - Binya	100	-	15	Hole in pipe
26/9/07	3.30	8.30	Thanowring Road	250	-	20	Split pipe
27/9/07	-	-	Stockinbingal - Temora	375	-	10	Hole in pipe
27/9/07	-	-	Woodlands Stud, Cootamundra	100	-	15	Split pipe
27/9/07	7.00	10.00	Loftus Street, Temora	200	20	30	Split pipe
28/9/07	-	-	Junee	100	1	10	Joint failure
30/9/07	8.00	11.00	Stinson Street, Coolamon	100	6	20	Split pipe

2. COMPLAINTS

Water Quality

Dirty Water – Junee

Nil

Dirty Water – Other

21/09/07 58 Hibernia Street, Stockinbingal

21/09/07 239 Hoskins Street, Temora

Other Problems:

14/09/07 67 Wallace Street, Coolamon – very strong chlorine taste in water.

21/09/07 19 Lady Mary Drive, West Wyalong – water tastes like plastic.

A total of 62 service difficulty and fault reports were received for the month of September.

3. CONSTRUCTION & MAJOR MAINTENANCE

The following significant works were undertaken in September 2007:-

- Overhaul No. 3 Pump at Demondrille.
- Continue routine PRV and ACV servicing.
- Continue with Loftus Street, Temora upgrade.
- Clean Brobenah Reservoirs.
- Clean Ganmain collection tanks x 4.
- Clean Oura collection tank.
- Flush trunk main Ganmain to Coolamon.
- Overhaul No. 6 Bore pump at Oura.

Recommendation

That the information be noted.

07/132 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Palmer and Manchester that the information be noted.

G. WORKS REPORT (Nick Nasser)
OCTOBER 2007

1. WATER LOSSES & MAINS REPAIRS

DATE	TIME		LOCATION	PIPE DIAMETER	AFFECTED CONSUMERS	ESTIMATED LOSS (KI)	REASON
	Off	On					
2/10/07	12.30	1.45	Binya line	100	4	10	Split pipe
3/10/07	-	-	Delaven Street, Temora	100	-	10	Joint failure
4/10/07	-	-	Springdale - Temora	375	-	15	Joint failure
4/10/07	-	-	Griffith Road, Garoolgan	100	-	10	Split pipe
4/10/07	-	-	Stockinbingal - Temora	375	1	10	Joint failure
5/10/07	-	-	Griffith Road, Garoolgan	100	-	10	Split pipe
5/10/07	-	-	Bauloora - Stockinbingal	375	-	20	Joint failure
8/10/07	-	-	Combaning	375	-	10	Hole in pipe
8/10/07	-	-	Temora Road, Cootamundra	375	-	10	Joint failure
8/10/07	-	-	Suttons Lane, Cootamundra	100	-	20	Split pipe
10/10/07	-	-	Marrar	100	10	20	Split pipe
10/10/07	-	-	Temora Road, Cootamundra	375	-	15	Joint failure
10/10/07	-	-	Tallimba Road Weethalle	100	-	5	Split pipe
10/10/07	-	-	Cootamundra	375	-	15	Hole in pipe
10/10/07	5.00	7.00	9 Booth Street, Coolamon	100	-	-	Joint failure
11/10/07	-	-	Cootamundra	375	-	5	Joint failure
11/10/07	2.00	3.45	Temora Township	100	-	5	Joint failure
12/10/07	-	-	Trunk Main West Wyalong	300	-	10	Joint failure
15/10/07	-	-	Matong	100	-	10	Split pipe
16/10/07	-	-	Combaning	375	-	10	Hole in pipe
16/10/07	-	-	Trunk Main West Wyalong	300	-	15	Joint failure
17/10/07	-	-	Trunk Main	300	-	5	Joint failure

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			West Wyalong				
17/10/07	-	-	Fishers Lane, Weethalle	100	-	10	Split pipe
18/10/07	-	-	Cootamundra	375	-	15	Hole in pipe
19/10/07	-	-	Binya	100	-	15	Split pipe
19/10/07	-	-	Garoolgan	100	-	20	Hole in pipe
19/10/07	-	-	Ardlethan	100	-	10	Other
22/10/07	1.30	3.00	Cambria Street, Stockinbingal	100	10	5	Other
22/10/07	-	-	Combaning	375	-	1	Joint failure
22/10/07	-	-	Neeld Street, Wyalong	100	-	15	Split pipe
22/10/07	-	-	Gilbert Street, Wyalong	100	10	5	Split pipe
23/10/07	-	-	Trunk Main West Wyalong	300	-	10	Joint failure
23/10/07	-	-	Trunk Main West Wyalong	300	-	20	Joint failure
24/10/07	6.00	8.00	Malebo Range	100	10	5	Split pipe
24/10/07	-	-	Trunk Main West Wyalong	300	-	15	Joint failure
24/10/07	-	-	Asquith Street, Temora	100	-	10	Split pipe
24/10/07	-	-	Junee Retic	100	-	2	Joint failure
29/10/07	2.00	5.00	Malebo Range	100	-	4	Split pipe
30/10/07	-	-	Old Sydney Road, Bethungra	150	-	10	Split pipe
30/10/07	-	-	Eurongilly	100	-	3	Split pipe
30/10/07	2.00	6.00	Old Junee – Tenandra Main	150	-	20	Joint failure
31/10/07	-	-	Jugiong Road, Cootamundra	375	-	5	Joint failure
31/10/07	-	-	Jugiong Road, Cootamundra	375	-	20	Joint failure
31/10/07	-	-	Temora	100	-	2	Joint failure
31/10/07	-	-	Kamarah	100	-	2	Split pipe
31/10/07	-	-	Garoolgan	100	-	1	Hole in pipe

2. COMPLAINTS

Water Quality

Dirty Water – Junee

03/10/07 120 Park Lane.
17/10/07 23 Cross Street.

Dirty Water – Other

08/10/07 155 Railway Road, West Wyalong.
24/10/07 3 Mackrell Street, Ungarie.

Other Problems:

02/10/07 15 Adams Street, Stockinbingal – cloudy water.
05/10/07 Pucawan – white coloured water.
10/10/07 103 Cassin Street, West Wyalong – strong bleach/chlorine smell in water.
16/10/07 64 Deutcher Street, Temora – strong chlorine smell in water.
18/10/07 Dullah Road, Ganmain – milky coloured water.
22/10/07 28 Bendee Street, Barellan – bitter, rusty tasting water.
26/10/07 3 Mackrell Street, Ungarie – fine white substance settling in water.

A total of 83 service difficulty and fault reports were received for the month of October.

3. CONSTRUCTION & MAJOR MAINTENANCE

The following significant works were undertaken in October 2007:-

- Completed Loftus Street, Temora pipe work upgrade.
- Install new power cable for Thanowring Road Electrical Upgrade.
- Complete swabbing in Junee Township.
- Flush Coolamon and Ganmain reticulations.
- Commission new Aria Park reservoirs.
- Clean Junee Balance Tanks and Junee Rocky Hill reservoir.
- Swabbed trunk-main from Oura to Junee.
- Replace No. 6 Bore at Oura following major overhaul.
- Re-install and commission No. 3 Pump at Demondrille Pump Station following major overhaul.
- Complete major maintenance on No. 1 flocculators at Jugiong Plant.

Recommendation

That the information be noted.

07/133 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Manchester and Edwards that the information be noted.

H. OTHER REPORTS

1. CAPITAL WORKS PROGRESS REPORT (*Paul Wearne*)

Attached for the information of Councillors is the Capital Works Progress Reports for the period ending 31 October 2007.

Recommendation

That the information be noted.

07/134 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Manchester that the information be noted.

2. CRITICAL WATER AVAILABILITY FOR 2007-08 (*Paul Wearne*)

At the time of writing this report there have been minor changes to Council's water allocations since the last meeting. The Minister for Climate Change, Environment & Water announced on 2 October 2007 an increase in allocation from 60% to 75% of entitlements for High Security Irrigators in the Murrumbidgee valley. The same announcement increased stock and domestic licences from 50% to 100% and an increase for town water supply from 50% to 70%. The media release did advise that "*all water users need to remain conservative with water and that is why 3a restrictions are being encouraged*" which once again refers to Victoria's adopted level of restrictions. "Level 3a" is broadly the same as Goldenfields' level 4 and after consultation with the Chairman; it was decided to continue with the previous restrictions that have been imposed by Council. An information sheet was included with the last billing mail out (5/10/07) to remind customers of the restrictions.

The General Manager, in consultation with the Chairman, faxed a letter to Minister Koperberg on 4 October 2007 seeking clarification as to how the increases in allocations were determined and putting forward Goldenfields case for an increase in allocation equivalent to stock and domestic licence holders. To date no reply has been received.

Minister Koperberg announced on 2 November 2007 an increase in allocation from 75% to 80% of entitlements for High Security Irrigators in the Murrumbidgee valley. No changes to Town Water Supplies were announced.

Year to date consumption to the end of October 2007 is detailed in the table below.

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Table 1

Source	YTD Max Alloc.	YTD Max Alloc. X 70%	YTD Consumption	% of Max. Alloc.	% of 70% Alloc.
Jugiong	1,371	960	1,129	82.34%	117.60%
Oura	1,392		1,119	80.38%	
Mt Arthur	157		122	77.70%	
Mt Daylight	64		77	120.31%	
Hylands Bridge	28	20	30	107.14%	150.00%
Cootamundra	374	262	203	54.27%	77.48%
Harden **	278	195	122	43.88%	62.56%
Young	517	362	395	76.40%	109.11%

** Does not include Harden Minor Consumers that are read quarterly.

The above table does indicate that the current level of restrictions; which predominantly impact on domestic and urban customers is reducing consumption within those customer classifications. The table also indicates that in schemes where there are a higher percentage of ‘rural’ connections, the restrictions have been less effective. A graphical display of this information similar to the normal production graphs that are prepared for each meeting will be tabled at the meeting.

An analysis of consumption per customer type during the July to September 2007 quarter has been undertaken. It should be noted that this analysis is only of Goldenfields Retail customers and does not include the four bulk customers. Table 2 below provides a summary of this analysis. Graphical interpretations of this information will also be tabled at the meeting.

Table 2

Customer Type	No Connections	Consumption (ML)	7 Year Average Consumption (ML)
Urban (including Pensioners)	7,288	252	288
Non Urban Rural	1,857	331	332
Non Urban Commercial / Industrial	840	73	81
Non Urban Community	379	17	23
Non Urban Standpipes	31	4	5
Non Urban Others	1	1	2
Non Potable Residential	10	2	3
Non Potable Rural	69	14	12
Non Potable Others	9	1	1
Total	10,484	695	747

Table 3 portrays the same information as percentages with each customer class shown as a percentage of total retail connections and/or total retail consumption.

Table 3

Customer Type	Connections (%)	Consumption (%)	7 Year Average Consumption (%)
Urban (including Pensioners)	69.52	36.26	38.55
Non Urban Rural	17.71	47.63	44.44
Non Urban Commercial / Industrial	8.01	10.50	10.84
Non Urban Community	3.62	2.45	3.08
Non Urban Standpipes	0.30	0.58	0.67
Non Urban Others	0.00	0.14	0.27
Non Potable Residential	0.10	0.29	0.40
Non Potable Rural	0.66	2.01	1.61
Non Potable Others	0.09	0.14	0.13

The significant fact from Table 3 is, for the July to September 2007 quarter, approximately 48% of retail consumption is attributed to approximately 18% of the retail customer base. This fact alone is sufficient for representations to be made to the Minister for Climate Change, Environment & Water for restoration of 100% of water entitlements across the entire Goldenfields area.

The adopted levels of restriction that Council presently use do not provide a mechanism for reducing rural consumption. It would be reasonable to assume that high rural consumption can be attributed to stock requirements. Any moves to curtail rural consumption would need to be staged to minimise the impact on animal welfare. Council has and will continue requesting of its rural customers voluntary reductions in water consumption but to date this has not had a positive impact on the total consumption for this particular customer group. The option of mechanically restricting the flow from each individual service is available but would be time consuming and expensive.

Council currently has a moratorium on new rural connections on the Mt Daylight and Hylands Bridge schemes along with the Coursing Park area of Junee Shire. There is also a general moratorium, in accordance with Council policy, on new connections on mains of less than 100mm diameter unless a significant contribution towards upsizing of the main is made by the applicant. The question of whether Council should continue to allow any new rural connections at this time warrants asking.

2. CRITICAL WATER AVAILABILITY FOR 2007-08 – SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT *(Paul Wearne)*

Since the preparation of the Business Paper for today’s meeting it has come to light that Town Water Supply allocations in the Murrumbidgee Valley have been increased to 100% of entitlement although the Minister has urged Local Water Utilities to continue with “Level 3” restrictions. Whilst the circumstances regarding this advice are involved to say the least, the news is welcome indeed.

The obvious reaction by our customers to this news will be an expectation of the easing of restrictions. Referring to Table 1 of the report in the Business Paper,

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there appears to be some scope for the easing of restrictions in the Jugiong, Oura and Mt Arthur schemes but little scope within the Mt Daylight and Hylands Bridge schemes.

Discussions with Narrandera Shire Council have commenced to secure the transfer of 100ML of water for the Hylands Bridge scheme under the same conditions as last year. Contact has been made with the Department of Water & Energy who has approved the transfer.

With respect to the level of restriction, the following are proposed for the Jugiong, Oura and Mt Arthur systems:-

Type of Customer	Restriction Conditions
DOMESTIC	
Garden Watering	Fixed Sprinkler sprays 2 days per week based on odds and evens system between 6.00 am and 8.00 am and 6.00 pm and 8.00 pm. Even numbered houses can use fixed sprinklers on Sundays and Wednesdays. Odd numbered houses can use fixed sprinklers on Saturdays and Tuesdays. Houses with no numbers should use the even number days. Hand held hoses may be used on any day between 6.00 pm and 8.00 am.
Swimming Pools	Topping up of pools is permitted. The filling of pools with Council licence only.
Washing Motor Vehicles	Must be undertaken on lawn areas.
PUBLIC / COMMERCIAL	
Public Gardens / Sporting Grounds / Bowling Greens	Fixed Sprinkler sprays on Mondays and Thursdays for a maximum of 4 hours between 6.00 pm and 10.00 am. Hand held hoses may be used on any day between 6.00 pm and 10.00 am.
Nurseries	Fixed Sprinkler sprays on Mondays and Thursdays for a maximum of 4 hours between 6.00 pm and 10.00 am. Hand held hoses may be used on any day between 6.00 pm and 10.00 am.
Washing Motor Vehicles (Commercial)	No Restriction.
Water Cartage from Town Supply	From Public Standpipes only.
INDUSTRIAL	
Ready Mix Concrete / Abattoirs / Other	No Restriction.

Subject to satisfactory negotiations with Narrandera Shire Council regarding the additional 100ML, the Hylands Bridge system could be included in the above. Were the additional 100ML not available then Hylands Bridge would have to remain on the present restrictions (i.e. 1 hour per day for hand held garden watering.)

The Mount Daylight system has, until the end of October, consumed 120% of its total year to date allocation and therefore the present level of restriction (i.e. 1 hour per day for handheld garden watering) will need to remain in place.

Recommendation

1. That water restrictions as outlined in the above report be adopted to be effective from Saturday 24 November 2007 until further notice.
2. That a moratorium on new Rural (Non-Reticulated) connections be imposed until further notice.
3. That existing Rural customers be again requested to conserve water wherever possible.

07/135 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Edwards and Manchester;

1. That Level 1 Restrictions of Councils adopted Levels of Restriction be imposed, effective from Thursday 22 November 2007, for all schemes with the exception of the Mount Daylight scheme.
2. That the present level of restriction continue for customers connected to the Mount Daylight scheme.
3. That a moratorium on new Non Reticulated connections be imposed from Thursday 22 November until further notice.
4. That existing Non Reticulated customers be again requested to conserve water wherever possible.

07/136 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Manchester and Palmer that in recognition of the contribution made by Narrandera Shire Council to the continuation of supply to the Hylands Bridge/Brobenah scheme, water account in the name of Narrandera Shire Council within the scheme covering the billing period January 2008 to June 2008 be paid by a donation from Goldenfields Water.

Council's Auditor, Mr Graham Bradley, principal of Auswild & Co arrived at the meeting, the time being 3.00pm. Item E6 was considered and Mr Bradley presented his report to Council.

07/137 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Manchester that the action taken in advertising the summary be endorsed and that Council adopt the 2006/2007 Financial Statements and Auditors report.

3. REQUEST FOR UPSIZING OF CONNECTION *(Paul Wearne)*

A request has been received from a customer for upsizing of an existing connection. A copy of the request is attached (with the deletion of personal references) for the information of Council.

In considering this request, the following sections of Council's Management Plan are reproduced. Clause 9.4.3 of the Plan states (in part):-

“Council has determined that all properties not contained within its defined Reticulation areas are deemed to be Non Reticulated and shall only be eligible for a 20mm standard connection, no matter what their location or property size.....”

Additionally, Clause 9.4.4 states (in part):-

“Any connection larger than 20mm in size will require Council's specific approval that will include the setting of a price for the required connection....”

During the replacement of the Bauloora to Temora pipeline, all existing customers have had/will have their existing connections renewed on a “like for like” basis. This is the case with the above customer.

Investigation by staff has revealed that were the existing connection upsized from 20mm to 25mm it would have little or no positive impact on flow rates at the end of the house service pipe approximately 3 km from the meter. Whilst flow rates AT THE METER would be greater, frictional losses through the 3 km of 25mm “internal” pipe would literally negate the benefit gain at the meter. This information was relayed to the customer with it suggested that he consider upsizing the “internal” pipe size to improve flow.

Were Council to approve the upsizing, a price for such will need to be determined. In cases relating to reticulated customers, the cross sectional area of the meter is applied. The cross sectional area of a 25mm meter is 1.56 times that of a 20mm meter. Therefore the flow rate at the meter is deemed to be 1.56 times that of a standard peak day demand requiring a Headworks contribution of 1.56 times the standard. The current standard (20mm) Headworks contribution for a Non Reticulated connection is \$7,500, therefore the Headworks contribution for a 25mm connection would be \$11,700. As an existing customer, a concession equivalent to 1 standard connection is deemed to have already been paid thus leaving an additional sum of \$4,200.

It is the opinion of staff that were the upsizing of the meter approved by Council at an additional cost of \$4,200 to the customer, there would be no significant gain in the flow rate received by the customer at the end of the internal pipe.

Recommendation

That approval for the upsizing of the meter not be given.

07/138 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Edwards and O'Brien that approval for the upsizing of the meter not be given.

4. OFFICE CLOSURE (*Paul Wearne*)

For the past three years Council has closed its Temora office during the Christmas/New Year period. Closing the office would give office staff an opportunity to take leave with minimal disruptions to our operations. Naturally, operations staff would still be rostered on call to attend operational issues (water breaks and breakdowns) and if a major emergency arose that would require opening of the office then staff could be recalled to affect this.

Closure of the office during this period means that the office would be shut from close of business on Monday 24th December, 2007 and re-open on Wednesday 2nd January, 2008. There are only three (3) business days during this period as public holidays fall on 25th & 26th December and 1st January.

Customers are still able to pay their accounts through the Australia Post facilities during this time. Closure of the office would be advertised during December.

Recommendation

That Council's office in Temora be closed from 27th December, 2007 to 31st December, 2007 inclusive.

- 07/139 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Edwards and Manchester that Council's office in Temora be closed from 27th December, 2007 to 31st December, 2007 inclusive.

5. CHRISTMAS PARTY (*Paul Wearne*)

In previous years Council has hosted a Christmas Party for staff. Last year a function was held at the Temora Bowling Club after the December Council meeting to which Councillors, staff and their partners were invited. Council provided all refreshments including drinks which were restricted to beer, wine and soft drinks. Anyone wishing to drink spirits did so at their own cost. A budgeted amount was set by Council and, if and when exhausted, individuals became responsible for their own. The event was for a set period of time after which Council "disassociated" itself from any ongoing activities. Some of the benefits of such an event included promoting corporate unity, acknowledging the efforts of staff (and indirectly their partners) over the proceeding year and having a "degree of control" over the event. Assistance with transportation for employees based outside of Temora was also provided. From all reports an enjoyable time was had by all.

Recommendation

1. That Council host a Christmas Party on Friday 21 December 2007 from 1.00pm to 5.00pm at the Temora Bowling Club to which Councillors, staff and their respective partners be invited.
2. That Council assist with the provision of transportation for employees based outside Temora.
3. That Council allocates \$2,500 for the event.

- 07/140 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Edwards and Manchester;
1. That Council host a Christmas Party on Friday 21 December 2007 from 1.00pm to 5.00pm at the Temora Bowling Club to which Councillors, staff and their respective partners be invited.
 2. That Council assist with the provision of transportation for employees based outside Temora.
 3. That Council allocates \$2,500 for the event.

6. FUTURE COUNCIL MEETINGS *(Paul Wearne)*

Subject to the outcome of the previous item, it is suggested that the next meeting of Council will be in the morning of Friday 21 December 2007 at Temora.

Recommendation

That the next meeting of Council be held in Temora on Friday 21 December 2007 commencing at 10.00am

- 07/141 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Manchester and Palmer that the next meeting of Council be held in Temora on Friday 21 December 2007 commencing at 10.00am.

I. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

Cr. Edwards requested that investigations be made into how increases in Council's water licence entitlements can be obtained and the benefits of a carryover system for groundwater extractions.

Cr. Palmer sought information on the number of non reticulated applications over the past 12 months.

Cr. Palmer suggested possible topics for motions to the upcoming 'G' Division Conference could include the percentage of total water used for town water supplies on the Murrumbidgee Valley and the manner in which information is disseminated by the Minister for Climate Change, Environment and Water (i.e. via Media Release).

J. CLOSED SESSION *(Pink pages)*

- 07/142 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Palmer that the Council meet in Closed Session.

1. POTENTIAL INTENSIVE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS

(Paul Wearne)

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under section 10A (2) (c) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to the following:

(c) Information that would, if disclosed confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposed to conduct) business.

- 07/143 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Manchester and O'Brien;
1. That the existing customer who has expressed an interest in procuring an additional 150ML of water per annum for the potential expansion of an existing intensive agriculture activity be advised that the existing infrastructure is inadequate to provide the required water.
 2. That the General Manager undertake further discussions with the developer requiring approximately 50ML of water per annum and report back to a future Council Meeting.

2. OURA HIGH VOLTAGE ELECTRICAL UPGRADE (*Alan Moston*)

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under section 10A (2) (c) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to the following:

(c) Information that would, if disclosed confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposed to conduct) business.

- 07/144 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Macaulay and O'Brien that Council endorse the actions of the Chairman and General Manager.

OPEN SESSION – 4.17PM

- 07/145 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Palmer and O'Brien that the Council revert to Open Session and that the resolutions made in Closed Session be made public.

There being no further business requiring the attention of the Council, the Meeting closed at 4.18pm.
