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**ORDINARY MEETING OF GREATER HUME SHIRE COUNCIL
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ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

1. **STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING POLICY (EXEMPT AND COMPLYING DEVELOPMENT CODES) 2008**

Report prepared by Town Planning Consultant - James Laycock

REASON FOR THE REPORT

This report has been prepared to inform Council that *State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008* ("the Codes SEPP") was gazetted on 12 December 2008 and came into force on 27 February 2009. The Codes SEPP applies to the entire State with some minor exceptions. This report has been principally prepared to recommend consequential changes to Council's existing 'exempt development' and 'complying development' policies to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Council's planning and building surveying functions.

DISCUSSION

Introduction and background

Several fact sheets about the Codes SEPP produced by the Department of Planning are **ENCLOSED SEPARATELY** for information and background reading.

Existing 'exempt development' and 'complying development' policies affecting the Greater Hume Shire Council local government area

Table 1 summarises Council's existing 'exempt development' and 'complying development' policies.

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STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING POLICY (EXEMPT AND COMPLYING DEVELOPMENT CODES) 2008 [CONT'D]

Table 1: Existing 'exempt development' and 'complying development' policies affecting the GHSC LGA

Change consequences arising from the introduction of <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008</i> on 27 February 2009 as affecting the Greater Hume Shire Council					
	<i>Interim Development Order No. 1 – Shire of Holbrook</i>	<i>Hume Local Environmental Plan 2001</i>	<i>Culcairn Local Environmental Plan 1998</i>	<i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008</i>	<i>State Environmental Planning Policy No. 60 – Exempt and Complying Development</i>
What land does the Environmental Planning Instrument apply to?	The former Shire of Holbrook	The former Shire of Hume	The former Shire of Culcairn	All land in NSW, with some minor exceptions	The former Shire of Holbrook
Does the Environmental Planning Instrument contain "exempt development" or "complying development" provisions?	No	Yes, at clause 12 which gives affect to the <i>Consideration of Applications Development Control Plan</i>	Yes, at clause 9A which gives affect to the <i>Culcairn Development Control Plan No. 1 – Exempt and Complying Development</i>	Yes, at Parts 2 and 3	Yes, at Parts 2, 3, and 4
Does the Development Control Plan contain "exempt development" or "complying development" provisions?	No, and no DCP exists	Yes, at sections 4 and 5 of the <i>Consideration of Applications Development Control Plan</i>	Yes in the <i>Culcairn Development Control Plan No. 1 – Exempt and Complying Development</i>	Not applicable	Not applicable
Does <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008</i> apply?	Yes, pursuant to clause 1.4	Yes, pursuant to clause 1.4	Yes, pursuant to clause 1.4	Not applicable	Not applicable

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Change consequences arising from the introduction of <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008</i> on 27 February 2009 as affecting the Greater Hume Shire Council					
Does <i>State Environmental Planning Policy No 60 – Exempt and Complying Development</i> apply?	Yes, as the local government area of "Holbrook" is listed in Part 2 of Schedule 1	No	No	Not applicable	Not applicable

Reasons for the repeal of Council's existing 'exempt development' and 'complying development' policies.

Given the introduction of the Codes SEPP, it is considered best practice to repeal Council's existing same or similar policies. This should serve to achieve a number of goals:

- facilitate the overall aim of putting in place State-wide consistent 'exempt development' and 'complying development' definitions which will assist, for example, home owners, builders, and the development industry in general;
- facilitate Council providing correct 'exempt development' and 'complying development' advice to home owners, builders, and the development industry in general; and
- reduce Council's risk of providing incorrect advice due to potentially conflicting 'exempt development' or 'complying development' definitions.

Statutory procedural issues

To repeal sections 4 and 5 of the *Consideration of Applications Development Control Plan* which affects all land in the former Hume Shire LGA and to repeal the *Culcairn Development Control Plan No. 1 – Exempt and Complying Development* which affects all land within the former Culcairn Shire LGA the following statutory procedure applies:

- place a public notice in the Border Mail newspaper of Council's intention to repeal the above plan sections and plan and the reasons for doing so; and
- after at least 14 days have passed from publication of the above notice place a public notice in the Border Mail newspaper of Council's decision to repeal the above plan sections and plan. (The repeal of the stated plan sections and plan would take effect on the date of publication of this notice.)

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To remove the requirement for *State Environmental Planning Policy No. 60 – Exempt and Complying Development* to be considered in the former Holbrook Shire LGA it will be necessary for the Department of Planning to remove the word “Holbrook” from Part 2 of Schedule 1. As such Council cannot implement this without the consent of the Minister for Planning (refer to the wording of a related “recommendation” below).

Consultation

Given the considered public benefits of implementing what is proposed in this report and as detailed above at the “Discussion” heading, it is considered sufficient public notice to implement the proposed changes by carrying out the minimum public notification requirements as detailed above at the “Statutory procedural issues to repeal Council’s existing ‘exempt development’ and ‘complying development’ policies” heading.

BUDGET IMPLICATION

Nil.

CONCLUSION

It is considered best practice to facilitate the full and proper introduction of the State-wide Codes SEPP in the Greater Hume Shire LGA by repealing Council’s existing same or similar policies. This should serve to assist both home owners, the development community, and Council’s planning and building surveying staff alike and reduce the potential for incorrect advice to be given and therefore lessen risk.

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. Sections 4 and 5 of the *Consideration of Applications Development Control Plan* which affects all land in the former Hume Shire LGA and the *Culcairn Development Control Plan No. 1 – Exempt and Complying Development* which affects all land within the former Culcairn Shire LGA be repealed and public notices to this affect be implemented in accordance with clauses 22 and 23 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000*; and
2. Council request the Minister for Planning to remove the word “Holbrook” from Part 2 of Schedule 1 of *State Environmental Planning Policy No. 60 – Exempt and Complying Development*.

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GOVERNANCE

1. **LEASE TO ROBINSON – FACTORY LOT 5, DP 9695 GORDON STREET, CULCAIRN**

Report prepared by General Manager – Steven Pinnuck

REASON FOR REPORT

To seek Council's approval to execute the lease under the Common Seal of Council.

DISCUSSION

At the December meeting Council resolved to construct a factory and lease it to Graeme Robertson for a period of 4 years.

Lease documentation has been prepared on the following terms:

- Four year lease with option to renew of 2 years plus 2 years
- Rental set at \$300 per week or 6% of construction costs which ever is the greater.
- Bank Guarantee equivalent to six months rent being provided
- Payment of a \$5,000 landscaping bond.

In addition, Mr Robinson has the option to purchase at any time during the lease period including the period of options to renew.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The estimated construction costs of \$250,000 will have a negative impact on Council's cash reserves; however, will provide a recurrent income source of \$15,600 per annum.

CONCLUSION

The approval to sign the lease documentation is a procedural matter.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Mayor and General Manager be authorised to execute the lease of Lot 5 Gordon Street with Graeme Robinson under the Common Seal of Council.

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2. NSW HEALTH – PROPOSAL TO SELL NURSING HOME BEDS AT HOLBROOK

Report prepared by General Manager – Steven Pinnuck

REASON FOR REPORT

To Provide an update on the proposal by NSW Health to sell 16 nursing home beds at the Holbrook Hospital.

DISCUSSION

At the December meeting it was resolved:

“That Council:

- 1. Confirm its commitment to the retention of 16 nursing home beds at Holbrook.*
- 2. Seek to convene a meeting of the Leeton, Murrumbarah-Harden and Corowa Councils to ascertain their position on the State Nursing Home Transfer Project.*
- 3. Establish a Working Party to progress the matter comprising the Mayor, General Manager, Cr Wilton (Chair of Holbrook Aged Services Committee), Manager Community Services, and Judy Wettenhall (Chair of the Holbrook Health Advisory Committee).”*

NSW Health advised Corowa, Leeton, Harden and Greater Hume Councils that a series of meetings would be held in the week commencing 23 March 2009. In view of the resolution of Council at the March meeting, Greater Hume Shire Council facilitated a meeting of Corowa and Leeton Councils on Monday 23 March. Harden Shire was unable to attend due to other commitments.

The meeting divulged that all Councils sought to retain the status quo as the impact of the removal of the nursing home beds from local hospitals was of great concern.

Greater Hume Shire Council meet with representatives of NSW Health and Greater Southern Area Health Service at Holbrook on Friday 28 March.

The meeting allowed for a full and frank discussion of a range of issues including:

- Whether NSW Health could morally sell or lease Nursing Home Infrastructure that was substantially put there by the community.
- The continued viability of the Hospital will form part of the EOI Financial Impact Assessment and if the viability wasn't neutral or improved the project would not proceed.
- When questioned about how NSW Health could guarantee that the beds stayed in Holbrook, it was stated that it formed part of the guiding principles that the beds stay local. When pressed about the definition of local they said that they would take our comments (that local means Holbrook) back to the Minister and the Commonwealth.
- Will not accept a proposal that shifts the beds to another area.

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- Commonwealth has the power of veto and therefore they will have to approve any transfer of the bed licences from NSW Health to an alternate Approved Provider.
- Confirmed that the EOI process will start in April and hope to have the process completed by the end of 2009.
- If no EOI's are received or none meet the guiding principles, NSW Health will continue to operate the beds in situ. If this scenario materialises then beds will continue to be maintained at that level and fully utilised.
- NSW Health is quite happy with the MPS model and has no plans to dispose of High or Low Care beds in these facilities.

Subsequently, the EOI was advertised on Friday 3 April 2009 and it would appear that issues raised have been taken into consideration with the preparation of the EOI document.

For small regional/rural aged care facilities located with local hospitals, the EOI document identifies three likely transfer options:

- *Transfer aged care places and operation via a lease arrangement. Existing resource sharing between aged care and hospital service delivery may continue after the transfer. This may be either a long term or short term arrangement depending on the site.*
- *Transfer aged care places and operation under a short term arrangement with a plan that the facility may be moved off site within the current local town.*
- *Transfer places only to the new operator to provide services offsite with the requirement that the aged care places continue to be operated in the local town.*

The EOI document clearly states that small regional/rural aged care facilities must remain in the local town where the places are transferred for operation in another aged care facility.

The following indicative time line for the State Nursing Home Transfer Project has been established.

Stage	Target Date
Stage 1 – EOI	
Release of EOI Brief	3 April 2009
Industry Briefing	15 April 2009
Closing date for submissions of EOI	8 May 2009
Notification of Short-Listed Respondents	July 2009

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NSW HEALTH – PROPOSAL TO SELL NURSING HOME BEDS AT HOLBROOK [CONT'D]

Stage	Target Date
Stage 2 – (request for detailed proposals) RDP	
Release of RDP	July 2009
Closing date for submission of detailed proposals	September 2009
Evaluation	September – November 2009
Stage 3 – Negotiations, contract documentation and contract award	November 2009 – 1 st quarter in 2010
Post contract award – transfer management, contract administration and monitoring	Ongoing after contract award

Manager Community Services, Ian Gilbert, will be attending the Industry Briefing on 15 April 2009.

Management is of the view that, at this early stage of the project, Council should be represented at the Industry briefing to be held on 15 April 2009 and submit an expression of interest. This will ensure that Council remains fully informed as the project unfolds.

It should be noted that Council has not undertaken any due diligence of profitability (or otherwise) of acquiring the 16 nursing home bed licences at Holbrook and that if Council was to consider moving to the next step of a detailed proposal it is likely that the services of a consultant would be required.

This may also present an opportunity for a wider review of the aged services provided by Greater Hume Shire Council, particularly the operation of the Howlong Hostel and further development of the Jindera Aged Care Precinct.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Minimal at this stage; however, if Council is selected and subsequently resolves to proceed to a detailed proposal consultancy fees could be in the range of \$10,000 to \$15,000.

CONCLUSION

At this stage it is imperative that Council remains abreast of developments in relation to the State Nursing Home Project. Therefore, it is recommended that Council be represented at the industry briefing and that an Expression of Interest be lodged for the 16 Nursing Home beds at Holbrook.

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NSW HEALTH – PROPOSAL TO SELL NURSING HOME BEDS AT HOLBROOK [CONT'D]

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council submit an Expression of Interest for the 16 Nursing Home beds at Holbrook.
2. A further report be submitted to Council following the notification of short listed respondents as a result of the Expression of Interest process.

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3. REVIEW OF ORGANISATION STRUCTURE

Report prepared by General Manager – Steven Pinnuck

REASON FOR REPORT

To provide an update on the Organisation Review currently being undertaken by Employment Solutions.

DISCUSSION

The external review of the organisation is continuing and following actions being completed over the past month.

- A climate survey of staff (all staff have been given the opportunity to respond online or paper based).
- Further interviews with MANEX staff and Managers in Corporate & Community Services, Engineering and selected professional staff.
- Telephone interviews with Councillors to determine their perspective and community feedback on current service delivery and management of assets and facilities.
- Telephone interviews conducted with randomly selected staff to gain a deeper understanding of organisational climate and processes.
- Telephone interviews with external stakeholders to gain an insight into their interactions with Council.

It is anticipated that that the review will be concluded by Friday 17 April 2009 and the findings could have ramifications (if adopted by Council) on Council's 2009/2010 Budget and beyond.

Accordingly, it is recommended that an Extraordinary meeting be held on Wednesday 6 May 2009 to receive a presentation of the review by Employment Solutions.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil at this stage.

CONCLUSION

As the external review of the organisation could have implications on the 2009/2010 and future budgets, it is imperative that the findings of the review are presented to Council without delay.

RECOMMENDATION

That an extraordinary meeting be held on Wednesday 6 May 2009 at the Holbrook Community Meeting room commencing at 5pm to receive a presentation by Employment Solutions on the external review of the organisation.

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4. HENTY COMBINED CHURCHES – REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO COLIN BUCHANAN CONCERT

Report prepared by General Manager – Steven Pinnuck

REASON FOR REPORT

To advise Council of a request for financial contribution to assist in the hosting of a Colin Buchanan concert.

DISCUSSION

Council has received a request from Robyn Armstrong of the Henty Presbyterian Church on behalf the combined Henty Churches for a financial contribution to a Colin Buchanan concert to be held in Henty on 25 August 2009. A copy of the correspondence is included as **ANNEXURE 1**.

Colin Buchanan is an 8 time Golden Guitar winner with career album and DVD sales in excess of 240,000.

It is estimated that it will cost in the vicinity of \$5,000 to stage the concert and whilst it is expected that those attending will pay an admission fee it is hoped that this can be minimised in the current climate.

The Organising Committee is seeking donations from \$200 to \$1,000.

Given the stress on rural families as a result of the prolonged drought it is considered that a modest donation can be justified.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

A modest donation can be funded from existing donation allocations.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that a contribution of \$400 be approved.

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. Council approve a contribution of \$400 to the Henty Combined Churches Colin Buchanan concert to be held 25 August 2009 and
2. the contribution be funded from the 2008/2009 Donations (NEI) allocation.

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5. WALBUNDRIE SHOW SOCIETY INC. – REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Report prepared by General Manager – Steven Pinnuck

REASON FOR REPORT

To advise Council of a request for financial contribution to assist the Walbundrie Show Society in hosting the 2010 Sydney Royal Show Zone Show Girl Final.

DISCUSSION

Council has received a request for financial contribution of \$500 to assist the Walbundrie Show Society in the hosting the 2010 Sydney Royal Show Zone Show Girl Final. A copy of the correspondence is attached as **ANNEXURE 2**.

The Walbundrie Show Society will host the event at the Commercial Club Albury on 6 February 2010. The event will attract about 300 people from Jingellic to Wentworth to Lake Cargelligo.

The Walbundrie Show Society arguably hosts the largest one day show in the Riverina and this provides an ideal opportunity to support a major local event whilst at the same time promoting the Shire.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

A contribution of \$500 can be funded from the 2008/2009 Tourism Incentives allocation.

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. a contribution of \$500 be approved to Walbundrie Show Society to assist in hosting the 2010 Sydney Royal Show Zone Show Girl Final, subject to Council having the opportunity to display signage at the event.
2. the contribution be funded from the 2008/2009 Tourism Incentives allocation.

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6. NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIAN POTTERY – REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND RATE RELIEF

Report prepared by General Manager – Steven Pinnuck

DISCUSSION

Council has received correspondence from Geoff and Kerrie Ford, Proprietors of the National Museum of Australian Pottery seeking financial assistance to install two tourist signs and waiving of rates and charges on the Museum building.

The National Museum of Australian Pottery was relocated to Holbrook by Mr & Mrs Ford in 2006 following 12 years of operation in Wodonga. At the time of relocation Council to not provide any incentives or assistance of any kind.

There are a number of museums across the Shire that include Council owned and controlled museums such as the Submarine Museum (Holbrook) and Station Masters Residence (Culcairn) and private but community/volunteer operated and controlled museums such as the Woolpack Inn (Holbrook) and the Jindera Pioneer Museum (Jindera). In the case of the Woolpack Inn and the Jindera Pioneer Museum both operate under the legal status of an Incorporated Association.

Discussions with Mr Ford disclose that the motivation for the request is that the Museum does not run at a profit and adds significantly to the tourism potential of Holbrook and builds on its reputation as a Museum town. This is a marketing opportunity for Holbrook pre and post the bypass construction.

In relation to rates and charges, Council does waive rates and charges for all Council owned/controlled and community based museums; however, waiving rates on a private enterprise regardless of whether that enterprise makes a profit or not would create a hazardous precedent.

Management is of the view, however, that as no assistance was provided to the National Museum of Australian Pottery on establishment and that the Museum builds on Holbrook's reputation as a Museum town, assistance could be provided through funding the cost and installation of two tourist signs. It is estimated that the installed cost of the signs as detailed in **ANNEXURE 3** is \$2,000.00

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The estimated installed costs of the tourist signs could be funded from the 2008/2009 Tourism Incentives allocation.

CONCLUSION

The National Museum of Australian Pottery is a Nationally renowned Museum that will form an important link of the future marketing of Holbrook and therefore a modest level of financial assistance is warranted to assist in its long term viability.

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NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIAN POTTERY – REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
AND RATE RELIEF [CONT'D]

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. Council accede to the request to supply and erect two tourist signs as detailed in **ANNEXURE 3**.
2. The cost of the installed signs be funded from the 2008/2009 Tourism Incentives allocation.
3. Mr & Mrs Ford be advised that it is unable to accede to its request for rate relief to rates and charges rated on the National Museum of Australian Pottery Museum.

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7. LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANAGERS' ASSOCIATION FORUM – MONDAY 1 JUNE 2009. SHIRES ASSOCIATION OF NSW ANNUAL CONFERENCE - MONDAY 1 JUNE TO WEDNESDAY 3 JUNE 2009

Report prepared by General Manager – Steven Pinnuck

REASON FOR REPORT

To report on the dates of the Annual Local Government Manager's Association Forum and the Shires Association Annual Conference.

DISCUSSION

Timed to co-ordinate with the Shires Association Annual Conference, the Local Government Managers' Association (LGMA) Forum is held on Monday 1 June 2009 in Sydney.

The 2009 Annual Conference of the Shires Association of New South Wales will be held on Tuesday 2 and Wednesday 3 June 2009 in Sydney. It has been the practice for Council to be represented at the Conference by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor as Delegates and the General Manager as an Observer.

As the 2008 LGMA Forum was most disappointing it is recommended that Council not attend in 2009.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Provision is made in recurrent budgets to attend the annual Shires Conference.

RECOMMENDATION

That, in accordance with previous practice, Council be represented at the 2009 Annual Conference of the Shires Association of New South Wales by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor as Delegates and the General Manager as an Observer.

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CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

1. HENTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Report prepared by Director Corporate & Community Services – David Smith

REASON FOR REPORT

To advise Council on proposed changes to the Terms of Reference of the Henty Community Development Committee.

DISCUSSION

At the February 2009 meeting of the Henty Community Development it was recommended that Council amend the Terms of Reference of the Committee so as to ensure that the structure of the committee better reflects the needs and demographics of the Henty community.

In broad terms, the Committee has resolved to amend the terms of Reference to allow for an increase in the number of members from seven to up to twelve members. A copy of the revised Terms of Reference is attached as **ANNEXURE 4**.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. the Terms of Reference of the Henty Community Development Committee attached as **ANNEXURE 4** be adopted.
2. Council provide assistance to the Henty Community Development Committee in the recruitment of new members to the Committee.

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2. MANAGEMENT OF COUNCIL'S INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO

Report prepared by Director Corporate & Community Services – David Smith

REASON FOR REPORT

To provide Council with further information in respect of the on-going management of Council's investment portfolio.

DISCUSSION

As Councillors would be aware, Greater Hume Shire Council has significant cash reserves invested with a number of financial institutions. As at the end of March 2009, Council's investments totalled \$16,200,000. Attached as **ANNEXURE 5** are statements of bank balances at as 31 March 2009 and a summary of investments as at 31 March 2009.

Historically, Greater Hume Shire Council has adopted a conservative approach to investing, with the majority of investments placed in the form of term deposits with major financial institutions. Whilst this approach may have provided a lower level of return compared to other higher risk investments, it has nonetheless enabled Council to avoid the significant capital losses experienced by a large number of Councils following the collapse of Collateralised Debt Obligation, or CDO, investments. In view of the on-going volatility within financial markets, it is essential that Council remain committed to an investment philosophy that focuses on asset protection rather than a strategy based on achieving maximum returns.

At present, Council has term deposit investments with a number of institutions, the majority of which having a dedicated branch or office located within Greater Hume Shire. A systematic process has now commenced whereby investments from those institutions that are not a recognised local financial institution will be called back on maturity and re-invested with a locally represented institution. It is also proposed that the level of investments will be spread as evenly as possible amongst the locally represented institutions.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

As mentioned, Council's investment strategy is based on term deposits and as such is heavily influenced by the current downward movements in official interest rates. At present, Council is receiving rates in the vicinity of 4% - 4.5% on investments compared to rates of up to 8% in September 2008.

This reduction in interest rates will have an obvious effect on investment returns and is a matter that will be discussed with Councillors during the preparation of Council's 2009/10 budget and forward estimates.

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MANAGEMENT OF COUNCIL'S INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO [CONT'D]

CONCLUSION

Council's conservative approach to investment management has enabled Greater Hume Shire Council to avoid the significant capital losses experienced by a large number of Councils following the collapse of CDO and other higher risk investments. Despite the reductions in official interest rates, Council continues to receive relatively competitive interest rates on investments and most importantly, Council's investment assets are held in relatively short term deposits with stable and secure financial institutions.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received and noted.

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3. IMPLEMENTATION OF DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROMOTING BETTER PRACTICE PROGRAMME

Report prepared by Director Corporate & Community Services – David Smith

REASON FOR REPORT

To provide Council with an update on the implementation of the Department of Local Government Promoting Better Practice Programme.

DISCUSSION

The Department of Local Government Promoting Better Practice programme is a formal review process aimed at improving the viability and sustainability of councils by:

1. generating momentum for a culture of continuous improvement and greater compliance across local government;
2. providing an 'early intervention' option for councils experiencing operating problems;
3. promoting good governance and ethical conduct principles;
4. identifying and sharing innovation and good practice in local government; and
5. enabling the department to use review information to feed back into its work in identifying necessary legislative and policy work for the local government sector.

A key element of the programme involves council completing a strategic self-assessment and practice checklists. The strategic self-assessment examines the adequacy of council's strategic focus. It asks council to explore what it is trying to achieve; how it delivers its priorities; what it has or has not achieved; and what it has learned and plans to do next.

The self-assessment process is a series of 5 checklists that relate to Council's assessment of its ability to meet minimum practice standards. The checklist covers the areas of Governance; Regulatory Functions; Asset and Financial Management; Community and Consultation; and Workforce Relations. The self-assessment process also requires the collation of a range of key council documents including plans, policies, procedures and reports across a range of council operational areas.

Included, as **ANNEXURE 6**, is a report on Council's self assessment of the Governance function that provides Councillors with a snap shot of progress to date. It is envisaged that over the next four months, similar reports will be presented on other functions. Further progress reports will be presented to Council on a six-monthly basis.

In addition, management will be reviewing Promoting Better Practice reviews undertaken by other councils to determine whether there are common issues that Council should also be addressing (in addition to the checklist).

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IMPLEMENTATION OF DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROMOTING BETTER PRACTICE PROGRAMME [CONT'D]

Councils can also be selected for a formal on-site review by Department officers on the basis of, but not limited to, the following criteria:

1. whether councils in the region or locality have been reviewed and if so, how many
2. where the council has requested a review
3. the council's financial position
4. the council's performance in key areas as identified in the comparative performance publication
5. the date of the last review, section 740 inquiry or section 430 investigation of the council
6. referral or request from another department branch or body such as the ICAC or the Ombudsman
7. number and seriousness of complaints and allegations about significant performance issues
8. a direction from the Minister or Director General.

Over the past 1 – 2 years a number of Council's in the Riverina / Murray area have had a formal review, however, to date, Greater Hume Shire Council has not been selected for review. Despite this, Greater Hume Shire Council has adopted a proactive approach to the Promoting Better Practice programme and has been utilising the strategic self-assessment and practice checklists for some time. By actively working through the self-assessment process Council is able to conduct an internal 'health check' on key operational areas and ensure that Council is prepared for the time when a formal Departmental review takes place.

To date, significant progress has been made in the areas of Workplace Relations, Governance, Planning & Regulatory Functions and Community and Consultation. Many of the policies presented to Council for adoption over recent months have been developed or revised in response to provisions contained in the Promoting Better Practice Programme. In addition, a number of internal working procedures have been updated and improved as a result of improved knowledge and awareness of best practice procedures in operation at other councils in NSW.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct budget implications associated with the Promoting Better Practice Programme, however there may be initiatives or programmes identified through the programme that require separate budget allocations. Should that be the case, such initiatives or programmes would be discussed as part of Council's annual management plan process.

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IMPLEMENTATION OF DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROMOTING BETTER PRACTICE PROGRAMME [CONT'D]

CONCLUSION

The Department of Local Government Promoting Better Practice programme provides a structured framework by which Council can conduct an extensive review of operations and governance procedures across the full spectrum of Council's operations.

Despite not having been selected for a formal review, Greater Hume Shire Council has embraced the Promoting Better Practice programme and will continue to utilise the strategic assessment tools as a central component of Council's continuous improvement activities.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received and noted.

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4. COUNCIL POLICY

Report prepared by Director Corporate & Community Services – David Smith

REASON FOR REPORT

To present a policy on the levying of charges in relation to kerb & guttering and footpath construction.

DISCUSSION

A draft policy has been developed in relation to the levying of charges on adjoining landowners for the construction of kerb & guttering and/or footpaths. The draft policy is attached as **ANNEXURE 7**. The policy provides for clear communication between Council and affected landowners in relation to kerb & guttering and/or footpath construction. The policy also provides for a flexible payment arrangement for property owners subject to kerb & guttering and/or footpath charges.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

All kerb & guttering and footpath construction works are detailed in Council's annual Management Plan.

CONCLUSION

The Administration of Contributory Footpath and Kerb and Gutter Schemes Policy provides Council and ratepayers with clear processes in respect to the levying of kerb & guttering and/or footpath charges and is presented to Council for adoption.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Administration of Contributory Footpath and Kerb and Gutter Schemes Policy be adopted.

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ENGINEERING

1. BILLABONG CREEK BRIDGE REPLACEMENT – MR331

Report prepared by Director Engineering – Greg Blackie

REASON FOR REPORT

To seek Council's endorsement for the engagement of consultants to facilitate the replacement of the Billabong Creek Bridge on MR331 (Culcairn – Holbrook Road).

DISCUSSION

As previously advised, Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) has provided funding of \$2.6 million to replace the Billabong Creek Bridge on the Culcairn to Holbrook Road (MR331).

Due to the specialized nature of the project and to ensure this work proceeds promptly, it is proposed that Council tender out the management of the project to qualified consultants.

It is proposed that the work to be completed by the consultant would include:

- Preparing a concept design and estimate for the bridge and road realignment
- Liaising with relevant government and utility authorities
- Preparation of design and construct tender documentation
- Managing the tender process, including selection of successful tenderer
- Contract Management of the design and construction of the bridge and road approaches.

The RTA has advised that it wishes to see the bridge substantially under construction by end of this year and open by mid next year.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil, funding will be sufficient to include management and construction costs.

CONCLUSION

To ensure appropriate time frames are met and due to the specialized nature of work, it is recommended that project management for the construction of the bridge be tendered to external consultants

RECOMMENDATION

Council endorse the tendering to external consultants for the project management of the design and construction of the replacement bridge over the Billabong Creek on the Culcairn – Holbrook Road (MR331).

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2. CULCAIRN WATER SUPPLY RESERVOIR

Report prepared by Director Engineering – Greg Blackie

REASON FOR REPORT

To update Council on the status of the Culcairn Water Supply Reservoir in Culcairn with regard to its current condition and possible replacement.

DISCUSSION

Council owns and operates the Culcairn Water Supply System which supplies approximately 1,100 residents of the Culcairn Township.

The system comprises two large reservoirs:

- a 1,073 KL concrete tower reservoir (off Black Street); and
- a 378 KL steel tripod reservoir, located in Melville Street.

Water is sourced from two bores located south of Culcairn.

The existing concrete water tower reservoir was constructed in 1931 by the NSW Department of Public Works, and has been in full operation ever since. The reservoir is fed through the existing reticulation system in the lane between Henty Street West and Black Street, with no dedicated rising main. The reservoir is an integral part of the Culcairn Water Supply System and cannot be taken out of service for an extended period of time.

Council, in its regular review in 2008 of its water infrastructure, determined that the existing concrete tower required replacement, and allocated \$500,000 in the 08/09 budget to complete the work.

Following further investigations, it was estimated that a replacement tower would cost in the order of more than \$1,000,000.

Subsequently, engineering staff engaged consultants to investigate the tank, and have reported that the tank is in reasonable condition and could be rehabilitated at a much lesser cost than the construction of a new tank (see **ANNEXURE 8**).

Estimates for rehabilitation are \$100,000 to \$200,000 which is more in line with Council's available water funds.

Allowing for consultant fees, a budget of \$250,000 would be deemed adequate to complete refurbishment of the existing tank giving it an extended life span.

It is proposed, if Council support the refurbishment instead of replacing the tank, that consultants be employed to project manage the refurbishment of the tank including further testing, preparation of tender documentation, tendering (including tender analysis), and contract management of works.

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CULCAIRN WATER SUPPLY RESERVOIR [CONT'D]

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Council's current allocation of \$500,000 in the 08/09 budget for the replacement of the Culcairn Water Tower Reservoir can be revised to \$250,000.

CONCLUSION

Following investigations as reported, it is appropriate that rehabilitation of the existing Culcairn Concrete Water Tower Reservoir be undertaken instead of the construction of a new tower following the recent assessment of its condition, and potential savings to be achieved.

RECOMMENDATION

That rehabilitation of the existing Culcairn Concrete Water Tower Reservoir be undertaken instead of the construction of a new tower, and consultants be employed to project manage the refurbishment process.

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3. RURAL ADDRESSING

Report prepared by Director Engineering – Greg Blackie

REASON FOR REPORT

To brief Council on responses received following advertising of proposed road name changes, and to finalize the road naming and renaming process by approving the gazettal of proposed changes.

DISCUSSION

As required by Roads Act, a list of the proposed road naming changes was advertised in the Border Mail on 28 February and 7 March 2009 (see **ANNEXURE 9**), and certain emergency service, and government organizations were advised by letter of the proposed changes.

All persons who submitted correspondence previously to Council on rural addressing were forwarded a letter advising of all the proposed changes, requesting submissions by 30 March 2009.

From the advertising and correspondence sent, a total of six responses were received (see **ANNEXURE 9**).

The responses have been summarized as follows:

1. Department of Lands approving of all proposed names.
2. PL Strachan (Albury Resident) objecting to Olympic Way being changed to Gerogery Road
3. Jason & Naomi Toogood (Property "Clearview" Henty) objecting to Newtons Road being changed to Stein Road
4. Skinner & Associates on behalf of Mrs Janeen Davidson of "Bimbadeen" Cookardinia objecting to unnamed lane off Holbrook – Wagga Road adjacent to Cookardinia Recreation Reserve to Property " Bimbadeen" being named Sportsground Lane.
5. & 6. Bruce and Helen Hill (Property "Halcyon Park" objecting to unnamed lane of Funks Road Jindera being called Wren Lane.

From the minimal responses received by Council it can be noted that most of the proposed changes are acceptable to residents.

From the responses received, the following advice is provided:

1. Correspondence advises that all proposed names meet the Road Naming Guidelines, as required by Department of Lands. **No response necessary.**
2. Objector from Albury concerned by loss of identity of Olympic Games torch relay held in 1956, which passed through this area. The highway from Cowra to Tabletop is named Olympic Highway in recognition of this event. **Proceed with renaming of Olympic Way to Gerogery Road**

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RURAL ADDRESSING [CONT'D]

3. Objector from Henty concerned with Stein Road being proposed as under "Road Naming Guidelines" names of living people should not be used, and would prefer it named after John "Digger" Newton who farmed the property "Myross" before it was sold. The objector would prefer it to be renamed Diggers Road, Digger Newtons Road, or Cooma Park Road. Stein Road has been proposed in respect of the generations of the Stein Family (now deceased) that have farmed land on Newtons Road. It is noted that the Stein family still farm land on this road. As Newtons Road is retained as a road name at Bowna, it is appropriate that in respect to the previous deceased generations of the Stein family that the road be renamed Stein Road. **Proceed with renaming of Newtons Road to Stein Road.**

4. Objector from road to be named concerned with proposed name of Sportsground Lane and would prefer it named after her deceased husband Richard Davidson who resided on the property "Bimbadeen" on the lane for the whole of his life (72 Years). It is suggested that the road be renamed Davidson's Road, or Bimbadeen Road. As the only property on this road apart from the Cookardinia Recreation Reserve, it would seem appropriate to rename this road after one of the deceased family descendants. As this is a minor road, and keeping with road naming guidelines not to include apostrophe's and "s" in road names, an appropriate name of Davidson Lane would be a suitable alternative name. **Readvertise the proposal to name the unnamed lane of the Holbrook - Wagga Road adjacent to Cookardinia Recreation Reserve to the property "Bimbadeen" as Davidson Lane.**

5. & 6. Objector from road to be named concerned that the proposed name of Wren Lane will be misspelled or misinterpreted as "Ren Lane". Objector has suggested Wood Swallow Lane or Blue Wren Lane. Names have been derived from species of bird that live in trees on this road. Road Naming Guidelines advise that names should be easy to spell and pronounce, and as it could be said 'Wren' could be misinterpreted as 'Ren'. It is therefore logical to consider an alternate name such as Wood Swallow Lane. **Readvertise the proposal to name the unnamed lane of Funks Road Jindera as Wood Swallow Lane.**

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Updating of existing road signage has been included in Council's proposed budget for 2009/10.

CONCLUSION

As there was no objection to 37 of the 41 road name changes proposed, and as detailed in this report that only two proposed names be considered to be changed, that Council proceed with the gazettal of the road name changes as detailed in **ANNEXURE 9** apart from the two unnamed lanes off Holbrook- Wagga Road, Cookardinia, and Funks Road Jindera, and that they be readvertised for renaming as Davidson Lane and Wood Swallow Lane respectively.

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RURAL ADDRESSING [CONT'D]

RECOMMENDATION

Council proceed with the gazettal of the road name changes as detailed in **ANNEXURE 9** apart from the two unnamed lanes off Holbrook- Wagga Road, Cookardinia, and Funks Road Jindera, and that they be readvertised for renaming as Davidson Lane and Wood Swallow Lane respectively.

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4. VILLAGES WATER SUPPLY EXTENSION

Report prepared by Director Engineering – Greg Blackie

REASON FOR REPORT

To advise Council on the results of an investigation to extend the Villages Water Supply scheme in Hawthorn, Molkentin and Rocks Roads, Jindera.

DISCUSSION

Last year correspondence was received from Don & Margaret Hews who live on the corner of Molkentin Road and Rocks Road advising that there was support from property owners for the extension of the Villages Water Supply system to supply water to properties in the Molkentin and Rocks Road area.

Following a report to Council, a scheme was developed (see **ANNEXURE 10**) and estimates determined for the construction of a water main to supply water from the Villages Water Supply. Letters were forwarded to nine (9) land owners whose properties abutted the proposed main extension in Hawthorn, Molkentin and Rocks Roads.

Following the closure of submissions, only two (2) landowners advised they wish to be connected to the Villages Supply Scheme, two (2) advised that they did not want to be connected and five (5) other landowners did not respond. As stated in correspondence to landowners, a nonresponsive answer would be considered that they did not want to be connected to the Villages Supply Scheme.

From the responses received (and not received), there is little support for the extension of the water main at this time.

It is therefore concluded that Council advise the nine (9) landholders of the negative response to the scheme, and that it would be not be considered further until support for the scheme is shown.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil, as project is not to proceed, with the current allocation for Council's portion to the scheme to be reallocated to other works on the Village Supply Scheme.

CONCLUSION

With little support for the scheme it is not appropriate to continue the proposal to extend the Villages Supply Scheme in this area at the present time.

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VILLAGES WATER SUPPLY EXTENSION [CONT'D]

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. Council note the results of the investigation of the proposal to extend the Villages Water Supply scheme in Hawthorn, Molkenntin and Rocks Roads, Jindera; and
2. advise residents that were part of the proposed scheme that due to lack of support that the scheme will not proceed.

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PART B – FOR INFORMATION

GOVERNANCE

1. DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT CIRCULARS [G.320.3]

REASON FOR REPORT

To ensure Councillors are updated with changes to legislation or the strategic direction of Local Government in NSW.

DISCUSSION

ENCLOSED SEPARATELY with the agenda is a listing of DLG Circulars No 10 to 14/2009. Copies of DLG Circulars are available from the website www.dlg.nsw.gov.au or alternatively by contacting Council.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

CONCLUSION

For Councillors' Information.

2. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SHIRES ASSOCIATIONS OF NSW (LGSA) – WEEKLY CIRCULARS [G.330.1]

REASON FOR REPORT

To ensure Councillors are updated with changes to legislation or the strategic direction of Local Government in NSW.

DISCUSSION

ENCLOSED SEPARATELY is a listing of Table of Contents of LGSA Weekly Circulars Issues 9 to 13. Copies of LGSA Weekly Circulars are available from the website www.lgsa.org.au or alternatively by contacting Council.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

CONCLUSION

For Councillors' Information.

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3. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT – FEBRUARY 2009

<i>Projects and Tasks</i>	<i>Project Start Date</i>	<i>Progress to date</i>	<i>Project Completion Date</i>	
Culcairn 125 Anniversary Festival	March 2007	As per previous report		
		Tasks in progress & to be completed		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation and grant acquittal for Country Arts Support Program and NSW Department State and Regional Development. 		
		March Update		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country Arts Support Grant completed and submitted 	Completed	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DSRD report still in progress, still collecting information for this report. 	Revised date March 09	
Walla Walla Sport and Recreation Precinct	May 2008	Deferred until further notice		
		Tasks in progress & to be completed		
Community Development Grant Program	August 08	Administration and coordination of program	Ongoing	
		Tasks in progress & to be completed		
Henty Community Club Synthetic Bowling Green Project	May 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As per previous report 		
		Tasks in progress & to be completed		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued work with Committee to help with applications for funding and coordination of project 	Estimated completion date June 09	
Greater Hume Shire Children's Services	Sep 08	As per previous report		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Print and presentation of plan • Support through implementation • Annual evaluation and modification of plan 	Revised completion date March 09 Ongoing	

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT – FEBRUARY 2009 [CONT'D]

Culcairn Recreation Track	June 08	As per previous report		
		Tasks in progress & to be completed		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further planning budgeting and support through the various stages of the project 	Ongoing at present	
		March Update		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation meetings through March 		
GHS Drama Camp Against the Grain	July 08	As per previous report		
		Tasks in progress & to be completed		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Community, Youth Officer and other stakeholders to develop School Holiday Programs including Drama Camp, music and art workshops in response to Community identified need Source Funding for project 	Estimated completion date Sept 09 Administration ongoing annually	
		March Update		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drama Camp Working group planning meetings throughout Feb and March Development of business plan in progress nearing completion 	Estimated completion date March 09	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country Arts Support Application submitted 	14 Feb 09	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing Applications for Arts NSW ConnectEd 2009 Grant FRRR Rural Education Program Grant 2009. 	Estimated completion date 30 th March 09	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing Sponsorship proposal 	Estimated completion date March /April09	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing procedures manual for camp with Committee 	Estimated completion date May 09	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate project and support community and stakeholders through out project 	Ongoing	

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT – FEBRUARY 2009 [CONT'D]

School Holiday Activities Art and Music		As per previous report	
		Tasks in progress & to be completed	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with Community, Youth Officer and other stakeholders to develop School Holiday Programs including music and art workshops in response to Community identified need ▪ Source Funding for project and implement 	Work shops to be conducted in April 09 and July 09
		March Update	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently liaising with Murray Conservatorium and Henty Public School regarding Music Workshops 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed Country Art Support Grant application for this project 	13 th February 09
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified Art Start Funding through Regional Arts NSW • Develop Art Start Application 	TBA depends on funding opening date
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate project and support community and stakeholders through out project 	Ongoing
Tidy Towns	Feb 08	As pervious report	
		Tasks in progress & to be completed	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support of committee during implementation of plans and annual evaluation • Support of other Tidy Towns Committees • Encourage community to enter Tidy Towns (and other) award programs and support groups during this process. 	Ongoing
		March Update	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Henty Plan to be formatted printed and presented to the Henty Community for review. 	Revised Date May 09
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSW Tidy Towns is to hold an information seminar in Henty in April 09. • On receipt of information design and organise publicity etc. 	21 April 09

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT – FEBRUARY 2009 [CONT'D]

Tidy Towns Funding Program	Jul 08	Tasks in progress & to be completed	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing Funding Guidelines • Developing Grant Application Forms • Developing Grant Assessment and Recording Data Base • Advertise Grants • Support Community • Process grants and prepare report • Inform grant applicants re process • Evaluate and refine process and forms as necessary • Administration and coordination of program 	Estimated completion date Dec 08 And ongoing
		March Update	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No applications and few enquiries received to date 	Grants close 30 th March 09
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process grants and prepare report • Inform grant applicants re process • Evaluate and refine process and forms as necessary • Administration and coordination of program 	Ongoing
Strengthening Community Activities <small>(Developed in response to community need as a drought response initiative)</small>	March 07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop partnerships with other bodies and agencies to respond to community identified needs 	Ongoing
Strengthening Community Voices		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Courses previously held in Culcairn, Walla Walla, Henty, • Others as needed/requested by communities 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burrumbuttock course deferred until new Centacare staff changes are confirmed 	TBA
Mental Health First Aid		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Courses held in Culcairn, Walla Walla, Brocklesby and Holbrook 	Sept 08
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Others as needed/requested by communities 	Ongoing

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT – FEBRUARY 2009 [CONT'D]

Stitching Together	Oct 08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source Funding • Develop Plan • Design and produce advertising • Administration and coordination • Hold 1st workshop 	Completed Dec 08
	Tasks in progress & to be completed		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respond to community needs identified in evaluation 	And ongoing
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source funding and implement plans 	June 09 (ongoing if needed)
	March Update		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second workshop conducted and evaluated • Extremely effective and over subscribed • Very positive feedback from workshop • Lots of positive media attention from this project. • 3 short radio interviews, one interview with Win TV and an in depth interview with CDO and community members by rural reporter for ABC Riverina <p>Note: <i>Due to the works planned by Country Energy it was thought that this workshop would have to be postponed – but thanks to the generosity of Country Energy, who supplied a generator to run 15 sewing machines and 2 irons, the workshop was able to go ahead.</i></p>	8 March 09
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing discussions underway with various funding bodies and facilitators so continue program – delayed until Centacare staff changes are confirmed. • Planning and investigation underway with the goal of holding 4-5 further workshops during 2009 • New voluntary high profile (in the sewing world) facilitator has been sourced 		

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT – FEBRUARY 2009 [CONT'D]

Brocklesby Community Plan Review	Dec 08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per previous report 	
		March Update	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal request from Brocklesby Focus to evaluate, revise and update the Brocklesby Community Plan has been received. Currently liaising with Brocklesby Focus 	Tentative completion Dec09
New Projects Jindera Forum		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial discussions with Jindera Forum regarding a town strategic plan and community website Investigating funding options with NSW Department State and Regional Development. 	TBA
Wall Walla 125 School Anniversary		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial discussions with community regarding funding and planning for this event. 	TBA
DSRD Small Chamber of Commerce Grants		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with Walla Walla Community Development Committee, Culcairn Community Development Committee, Henty Community Committee and Brocklesby to apply for marketing and promotion grants for these towns Working with the Walbundrie community and Coop to develop applications for marketing plan. (Also investigating Coop Development Funding opportunities) 	March 31st
Connecting the Country Office of Rural Affairs Grants		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with Henty, Walla Walla, Jindera and Culcairn Communities to develop funding applications for website development. 	April/May 09

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT – FEBRUARY 2009 [CONT'D]

<p>Ongoing Tasks and Future Projects</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culcairn community space • Administer and update Community Data Base • Community Directories • Business Directory • GHSC Public Art Policy • Customer Service Courses with Council and GHS Businesses • Help community groups with various grant application • Respond to community needs as they arise • Website • New projects as directed 	
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CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

1. CUSTOMER REQUEST MODULE

A composite Customer Request Module report for February and March is **ENCLOSED SEPARATELY**.

ENGINEERING

1. WATER AVAILABILITY/RESTRICTIONS

REASON FOR REPORT

To update Council on the current water situation.

DISCUSSION

The most current updates from the Department of Water & Energy (DWE) on critical water planning for the Murray and Murrumbidgee Valleys are attached in **ANNEXURE 11**. Also included is a media release from the DWE.

The outlook for next financial year (2009/10) does not look promising due to the current and persistent dry conditions and subsequent minimal inflows entering the system. It is to be noted inflows are now equivalent to the lowest on record in the Murray Valley, and second lowest in the Murrumbidgee Valley.

The DWE is currently advising that, due to the prolonged drought, both Murray and Murrumbidgee Valley Councils will need to be prepared to go to Stage 4 restrictions effective 1 July 2009.

Also included in **ANNEXURE 11** are copies of current consumption graphs for the Villages Water Supply and Culcairn Water Supply.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

If Stage 4 Restrictions do eventuate and continue for a majority of next financial year, a significant impact would be expected on Councils Water Fund with decreased income from low water usage, and expenditure remaining high due to extra treatment required to maintain the quality of the water in the system.

CONCLUSION

For Councillors' Information.

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2. MARCH REPORT OF WORKS

Grants Program

State Roads Maintenance:

Vegetation control has continued on MR78 (Olympic Highway) and MR 284 (Tumbarumba Road).

Resealing of segments 19, 20 and 21 of MR 284 (Tumbarumba Road) has been completed.

Culvert inspection under RTA Works Order is continuing.

Regional Roads Block Grant:

Work is continuing on the widening and rehabilitation the pavement of MR331 (Walbundrie Road) between Brittas Reserve Road and Walbundrie.

Construction of a large culvert in conjunction with the reconstruction of pavement 26 kilometres east of Holbrook is continuing.

The cleaning of drains in the west of the Shire is continuing.

Reseals have been completed on MR 211(Holbrook to Wagga Road) east of Cookardinia, MR 282 (Wymah Road) east of the Wymah Valley Retreat and MR 331 (Walbundrie Road) west of Culcairn near Brittas Reserve Road.

Local Roads

Sealed:

Resealing has taken place on the Walla Park, Alma Park Road south of the Sherwyn Road intersection.

The final seal has been placed on the last constructed areas of Taylor's Road, Four Mile Lane and Morven Gerogery Road.

Resealing has taken place on a 3 kilometre section of Downfall Road from the Tumbarumba boundary, the full length of Selby Road and Drumwood Road.

Gravel:

Due to the unavailability of water for road maintenance, very little grader work has taken place over the last month.

The River Road has been graded at the Jingellic end only.

General cleaning of drains has taken place.

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REPORT OF WORKS – MARCH [CONT'D]

Urban Streets

Reseals have been completed in Lyne Street, South Street, Comer Street and Keightley Street in Henty as well as Melville and Munro Streets in Culcairn and Peel Street in Holbrook.

General

General maintenance of parks, gardens and public toilets has continued throughout the Shire.

ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

1. DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS PROCESSED FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2009

Attached, at **ANNEXURE 12** is the schedule of development applications processed for the month of March 2009.

2. RANGER'S REPORT – MARCH 2009

Companion Animals

No. of Complaints Received		26 including 3 barking dog, 16 roaming dogs, 1 excessive number of dogs kept complaint	
No. of Dog attacks:	2	Location: Culcairn Burrumbuttock	Culcairn 2 dogs involved in incident with cat being bitten and later dying. Owner of dogs fined and warning letter sent. 2 nd attack kelpie type dog involved in incident with ducks. Dog surrendered and relocated
Comments:			
		Dogs	Cats
In Council's Facility at beginning of month		1	5
Captured & Returned to Owners		5	
Captured & Impounded		13	1
Released from Pound to Owners		5	
Surrendered by Owners		2	
Rehomed		7	1
Euthanased		4	4
Remaining in Council's Facility at end of month		0	1

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RANGER'S REPORT – MARCH 2009 [CONT'D]

Feral Cats

No. of Complaints:	4
No. Feral Cats caught:	6

Livestock

	Cattle	Sheep	Horses	Goats	Other
No. of Reports of Stock on Roads	2	3			
Instances - Returned to owners	2	2			
Impounded					
Vehicle accidents involving stock					

Other Livestock, wildlife complaints

Nil.

Abandoned Vehicles

2 abandoned vehicles remain impounded.

Other Vehicle Incidents

Nil.

Hazard Reduction

Fire Hazard reduction works being done in Geddes Bush Walk Holbrook to protect residential houses and Woolpack Inn Museum.

Pollution and Environmental Incidents: 2 separate lots of waste dumped beside roadway across Shire.	
Inspection conducted: Police informed of vehicle's details dumping rubbish, 1 not identified	Police notified of 1 vehicle dumping rubbish on way through town. Investigation of other rubbish, no owner identified, rubbish removed by Council employee.
Noise Complaint (Truck noise)	Truck noise complaint: Spoke to residents re truck idling, engine brake use (and riding of motorbike). Police also informed. Continuing patrols and monitoring.

Holbrook Pool:

Chemical monitoring and shutting down of pool at end of season.

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RANGER'S REPORT – MARCH 2009 [CONT'D]

Overgrown Vegetation

Follow ups done on blocks identified having overgrown vegetation.

Culcairn Landfill Fire:

Culcairn Landfill domestic waste pit lit up, fire extinguished by Rural Fire Service tankers and Council water tankers. An excavator contracted to extract hot material and extinguish and then cover waste with fill.

3. SENIOR WEED OFFICERS REPORT - APRIL 2009

1. Control Works

Dry weather conditions have not been suitable for the majority of control work to be carried out, hence activity has been restricted and detailed in this report.

Work carried out during March included:

- Blackberry spraying in the Carabost area.
- Silverleaf Nightshade along the Culcairn-Holbrook Road.
- Johnson's Grass follow up work along Olympic Way.
- Khaki Weed on roadsides and in some built up areas.

2. Inspections

Inspections have been carried out for Alligator Weed, Silverleaf Nightshade, Johnson's Grass and Prairie Ground Cherry.

Alligator Weed at Woomargama has emerged in several spots along the creek downstream of where the excavation works were carried out in 2006. These areas were mapped and subsequently sprayed using Brushoff under the permit conditions of 10gms per 100 litres of water.

Follow up inspections of Prairie Ground Cherry infestation near Henty have been carried out to determine the success of the control work carried out. Dr. Rex Stanton, scientist at Wagga Wagga, visited the site and outlined what work he had completed and results.

3. Rabbit Control

Rabbit control work has been carried out along the Carabost Road where warrens were destroyed and harbour cleaned up. Control of rabbits on all the cemeteries has been carried by Council by poisoning and filling in the warrens.

The Pindone poisoning program has been completed on the western side of Holbrook. All warrens gassed and filled in.

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SENIOR WEEDS OFFICER'S REPORT [CONT'D]

4. Staff

Graeme Coysh, council weed sprayer is on 6 weeks long service leave. Robert O'Conner has commenced duties as a Ranger/Weeds Officer. He will be concentrating on ranger duties while Charlie Clark is on leave.

5. Training

Senior Weeds Officer attended a 1 day regional workshop in Wagga Wagga to fine tune the 2009/10 grant application for regional weed funding. The grant application is then signed off by the individual councils and submitted to the Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee for approval.

RECOMMENDATION

That Part B of the Agenda be received and noted.

PART C – COMMITTEE REPORTS

Attached, as **ANNEXURE 13**, are minutes/notes of the following Committee Meeting:

- Minutes Of Greater Hume Shire Council Occupational Health And Safety/Risk Management Extraordinary Committee Meeting held 16 March 2009.
- Minutes Of The Greater Hume Shire Council Occupational Health And Safety/Risk Management Committee Meeting Held 30 March 2009.
- Minutes of the Walla Walla Community Development Committee Meeting held on 1 December 2008.
- Minutes of the Walla Walla Community Development Committee Meeting held on 2 February 2009.
- Minutes of the Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils Meeting held on 18 February 2009.

RECOMMENDATION

That Part C of the Agenda be received and noted.