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**ORDINARY MEETING OF GREATER HUME SHIRE COUNCIL
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OFFICERS' REPORTS PART A – FOR DETERMINATION

GOVERNANCE

1. **PRESENTATION BY ZEN TECHNOLOGIES (POWER AND ENERGY) PTY LTD**

Report prepared by General Manager – Steven Pinnuck

DISCUSSION

At the September meeting of Council, Cr Jacobs outlined details of a community based project initiated in Towong Shire to encourage the installation of a home based solar energy generation system.

Richard Taylor, CEO of Zen Technologies has accepted Council's invitation to make a presentation to the October meeting.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That standing orders be suspended to permit Council to receive a presentation by Richard Taylor, CEO of Zen Technologies on home based solar energy generation systems.

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ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

1. DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION 7-08/09 – USE ONLY – SHED AND CATTLE YARD – LOT 712 DP 773872 – 8 SAWYER ROAD JINDERA (P21837)

Report prepared by Director Environment and Planning – Mike Davies

INTRODUCTION

Council is currently in receipt of Development Application 7-08/09 for the use only of shed and cattle yard at Lot 712 DP773872 number 8 Sawyer Road Jindera. The applicant is Doctor Scott Giltrap and owner is Angela Ramsay.

DISCUSSION

This application has been referred to Council's Ordinary Meeting as:

1. Setbacks from public reserves, local roads and adjoining properties for the Hume Shire Council Building Setback Development Control Plan:
 - a. a minimum setback of twenty metres applies to buildings adjoining public reserves and local roads.
 - b. a minimum setback of ten metres applies to buildings from side and rear boundaries; and
2. Submissions have been received.

The authors of the submissions are:

1. B & B Cumming "Dundrey" Hawthorn Road Jindera.
2. Mr J Young 291 Rocks Road Jindera.

Copies of the submissions are **ENCLOSED SEPARATELY** with this report for Councillors' information.

Site Description

The site is described as Lot 712 DP 773872 number 8 Sawyer Road, Jindera. The site has an area of approximately sixty hectares (60.45 ha) and is located on the corners of Sawyer and Hawthorn Roads, Jindera.

The property is zoned Rural Environment (Inner) in accordance with the Hume Shire Council Local Environmental Plan 2001.

Description of the Proposal

The proposal involves the use of shed.

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DP 773872 – 8 SAWYER ROAD JINDERA (P21837) [CONT'D]

The site plan and elevations has been included in **ANNEXURE 1** to this report for Council's information.

Assessment

The following is an evaluation of the application in accordance with section 79C of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

1. Matters for consideration – general

a) The provision of

(i) any environmental planning instruments

There are no State Environmental Planning Policies or Regional Environmental Plans applicable to the application. The relevant local planning instrument is the Hume Shire Council Local Environmental Plan 2001. The subject site is zoned Rural Environment Inner in accordance with the Hume Shire Council Local Environmental Plan 2001. The proposed development is permissible in the zone with the consent of Council.

(ii) any draft environmental planning instrument that is or has been placed on public exhibition

The Greater Hume Shire Council Local Environmental Plan is in draft and as yet not on public exhibition.

(iii) any development control plan

The Development Control Plans applicable to the subject development application is the *Strategic Direction Development Control Plan*.

(iv) the regulations

The Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulations do not prescribe any additional matters for consideration.

b) The likely impacts of the development including environmental impacts on both the natural and built environments, and social and economic impacts in the locality.

The use of the shed and adjoining yards has been the subject of complaints to Council regarding both noise and possible contamination of the adjoining creek. These issues are raised in the letters of objection. As a result of a report to the August meeting of Council, 39 nearby residents were surveyed by letter for their comments on cattle noise at the locality. At the time of preparing this report 13 (thirteen) responses had been received, of which 11 do not find the noise offensive. Responses to the survey are **ENCLOSED SEPARATELY**.

The issue of creek contamination has been investigated by Council's ranger. After a heavy rain event early in 2008, he found no run-off entering the creek.

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c) Suitability of the site for the development

The shed is considered consistent with the use of the land. The intensity of use of the land has been investigated previously due to the proposition that the activity being conducted constituted "intensive agriculture" which is prohibited in the zone. After a site visit and extensive interview with the operator, the Department of Primary Industry declared the operation was not intensive, but rather the land managed to suit the drought conditions.

d) Any submissions made in accordance with this Act or the regulations

Public notification was sent out on 11 August 2008 with a closing date of 25 August 2008; objections have been received by Council. As referred earlier in this report, the authors of the submission are:

1. B & B Cumming "Dundrey" Hawthorn Road Jindera
2. Mr J Young 291 Rocks Road Jindera.

e) The Public Interest

The survey of local landowners which co-incided with the assessment of this application has indicated general support for the activities being conducted on this land.

Consideration

Prohibited development in Rural Environment is: Intensive agriculture, including, but not limited to, an animal boarding establishment and animal breeding or training establishment; and stock and sale yard.

"Stock and sale yard" means a building or place used for the purpose of offering animals for sale and includes a public cattle market.

Conclusion

There have been complaints regarding this cattle operation over a number of years; however, a recent survey seems to indicate that there is also broad local support. The shed, whilst large and encroaching on the required 20 metre setback (it is 18 metres), does not look out of context.

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DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION 7-08/09 – USE ONLY – SHED AND CATTLE YARD – LOT 712
DP 773872 – 8 SAWYER ROAD JINDERA (P21837) [CONT'D]

RECOMMENDATION

That Development Application 7-08/09 for the shed at Lot 712 DP773872 number 8 Sawyer Road Jindera is approved subject to the following conditions:

1. All works shall be carried out in accordance with the approved plans and specifications endorsed DA 7-08/09 except where modified by any conditions of this consent.
2. The cattle yard is not to be used for the purpose of offering animals for sale.
3. Run-off and erosion controls must be implemented to prevent soil erosion, water pollution or the discharge of loose sediment on surrounding land, as follows:
 - Divert uncontaminated run-off around cleared or disturbed areas,
 - Erect a silt fence to prevent debris escaping into drainage systems or waterways,

Conditions have been placed on the consent for the following reasons:

- 1 To ensure the compliance with the terms of the Environmental Planning Instruments.
- 2 Having regard to Council's duties of consideration under Section 79C of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, as well as Section 80A which authorises the imposing of consent conditions.
- 3 Having regard to the comments made by referral authorities and submissions received from the public.
- 4 Having regard to the circumstances of the case and the public interest.

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2. DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION 40-08/09 – PROPOSED RESIDENCE ALTERATION AND ADDITIONS – VERANDAH, CARPORT AND FENCE – 78 DIGHT STREET JINDERA

Report prepared by Building Surveyor – Wayne Allen

Introduction

Council is currently in receipt of Development Application number 40-08/09 for proposed residence additions and alterations – verandah, open carport and fence at 78 Dight Street, Jindera. The applicant is Fredericks and Mc Clelland and the owner is Mr Daniel and Mrs Kylie Davies.

This application has, in part, been referred to Council on the basis of seeking to vary development standards contained in a Council Development Control Plan. The variation relates to building setbacks in Dight Street, Jindera.

The contents of this report are confined to the issue of building setbacks as the full assessment of the application would normally be completed under delegated authority.

The former Hume Shire Building Setbacks Development Control Plan (DCP) contains the following standards for setbacks in Township areas relevant to this application:

- i) A general building setback of 7.5 metres
- ii) The building setback applies to additions to existing dwellings which may already have a reduced building setback.

The applicant is seeking a reduced building setback of 5.4 metres (verandah) and 650 mm (open carport) to Dight Street. A copy of a letter from the owners, the site plan and elevations have been included as an **ANNEXURE 2** to this report for Council's information.

Site Description

The site is described as Lot 102 DP584461 (No 78) Dight Street, Jindera. The site has an area approximately one thousand and twelve square metres (1012 m²) and is orientated north/south. The property is flat and situated on the northern side of Dight Street.

The property is zoned Township in accordance with the Hume Local Environment Plan 2001.

The site currently has a dwelling situated on it with a building setback approximately 7.5 metres. The dwelling is sited parallel to the street frontage.

Description of the Proposal

The proposed verandah and open carport will attach to the front of the existing dwelling and extend out 2.4 metres (verandah) and 7.0 metres (open carport). In effect this addition will reduce the building setback from approximately 7.5 metres to 5.4 metres (verandah) and 650 mm (open carport).

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DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION 40-08/09 – PROPOSED RESIDENCE ALTERATION AND ADDITIONS – VERANDAH, CARPORT AND FENCE – 78 DIGHT STREET JINDERA [CONT'D]

Consideration

Clause 3.1 (iii) of the Building Setbacks DCP provides matters for consideration for variations to the road setbacks distances will only be considered if car accommodation is proposed within the building setback; and it shall be:

- a) designed to complement the dwelling, adjoining buildings and the streetscape in general;
- b) an open style carport; and
- c) of minimum height, bulk and scale.

Clause 3.2 of the Building Setbacks DCP provides for requests to be made to Council to seek a variation to a building setback providing the following matters are addressed where applicable:

- i) Impact on streetscape
- ii) Effect on sight distances for motorists and pedestrians
- iii) The effect on the privacy of adjoining properties
- iv) The effects on the amenity of the future occupants of the building
- v) The impact on sunlight penetration, ventilation and aspect
- vi) The height, bulk, scale and size of the building
- vii) The effect the building's position will have as a precedent and a catalyst in advancing the aims and objectives of future development in the relevant areas
- viii) Whether the cumulative effect of similar variations will undermine the purpose of the building setback
- ix) Whether the aims and objectives of the building setback would still be satisfied with a variation.

Assessment

I. IMPACT ON STREETSCAPE

Dight Street has a very wide road reserve. There is not considered to be any unique features to the streetscape in the proximity of the proposal. There is currently a consistency of building setbacks along the street and given consideration of the proposed reduced setback, it will have very little impact on the existing streetscape.

II. EFFECT ON SIGHT DISTANCES FOR MOTORISTS AND PEDESTRIANS

Dight Street traffic is considered to be a reasonably low volume. The proposed encroachment would not have any impact on motor vehicle or pedestrian sight distance.

III. THE EFFECT ON THE PRIVACY OF THE ADJOINING PROPERTIES

The proposed verandah and carport are open. The proposal is not considered to have any adverse impact on the privacy of adjoining properties.

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DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION 40-08/09 – PROPOSED RESIDENCE ALTERATION AND ADDITIONS – VERANDAH, CARPORT AND FENCE – 78 DIGHT STREET JINDERA [CONT'D]

IV. THE EFFECT ON THE AMENITY OF THE FUTURE OCCUPANTS OF THE BUILDING

The proposed verandah, open carport and fence if anything will enhance the future amenity of the existing dwelling.

V. THE IMPACT ON SUNLIGHT PENETRATION, VENTILATION AND ASPECT

The proposal will assist in energy efficiency of the dwelling.

VI. THE HEIGHT, BULK, SCALE AND SIZE OF THE BUILDING

The dwelling remains as a single storey building; the proposal is not considered an over development of the site in relation to the size of the allotment.

VII. THE EFFECT THE BUILDING'S POSITION WILL HAVE AS A PRECEDENT AND AS A CATALYST IN ADVANCING THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF FUTURE DEVELOPMENT IN THE RELEVANT AREAS

Given the streetscape in Dight Street is already established, this proposal is not considered to give rise to any unreasonable precedent, and any future requests for modifications would be considered on their individual merit.

VIII. WHETHER THE CUMULATIVE EFFECT OF SIMILAR VARIATIONS WILL UNDERMINE THE PURPOSE OF THE BUILDING SETBACKS

Given the circumstances of this particular case there is limited scope for a cumulative impact and therefore no reason to suggest approval would undermine the purpose of building setbacks.

IX. WHETHER THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE BUILDING SETBACKS WOULD STILL BE SATISFIED WITH A VARIATION

Given the impact of the proposal on the existing vistas and streetscape is considered to be negligible, approval of the variation would not be inconsistent with the purposes of the *Building Setbacks Development Control Plan*.

Conclusion

In considering those matters to be addressed, when seeking a building setback variation, the application can be supported. Adjoining landowners were notified of the application and no submissions were received by Council in response.

RECOMMENDATION

Council vary the setback contained in its *Building Setbacks Development Control Plan* to allow for a reduced front building setback of 5.4 metres (verandah) and 650 mm (open carport) from Dight Street in accordance with the proposal contained in Development Application 40-08/09.

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GOVERNANCE

2. INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ALGA CONSTITUTIONAL SUMMIT

Report prepared by General Manager – Steven Pinnuck

REASON FOR REPORT

To seek approval for the Mayor to attend the inaugural meeting of the Australian Council for Local Government and the ALGA Constitutional Summit.

DISCUSSION

The Mayor has received invitations to attend two up coming conferences.

1. Inaugural meeting of the Australian Council of Local Government

The Federal Government has created an Australian Council for Local Government to establish a regular dialogue with local government on issues of national significance, particularly addressing national infrastructure challenges.

The inaugural meeting will be held on Tuesday 18 November 2008, with an official welcoming function on the evening of 17 November. The Federal Government will meet the costs of holding the meeting, but each attendee will bear their own travel and accommodation costs.

2. ALGA Local Government Constitutional Summit

During the Federal election campaign in November 2007, the Australian Labor Party announced that Constitutional Recognition for Local Government was clearly on the Agenda.

As a result, the ALGA has developed the Local Government Constitutional Summit in Melbourne from 8-11 December 2008. This Summit will compliment the Inaugural meeting of the Australian Council of Local Government.

Early bird registration (received before 24 October 2008) for the summit is \$770.00. A copy of the program is included as **ANNEXURE 3**.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Attendance at the above events can be funded from existing allocations.

CONCLUSION

Indications are that the Federal Labour Government is keen to work with Australian Local Government and therefore attendance at the inaugural meeting of the Australian Council of Local Government and the ALGA Local Government Constitutional Summit should be supported.

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INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND
ALGA CONSTITUTIONAL SUMMIT [CONT'D]

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. Council be represented by the Mayor, Cr Denise Osborne, at the Inaugural meeting of the Australian Council for Local Government and ALGA Local Government Constitutional Summit; and
2. conference fees and reasonable out of pocket expenses be reimbursed in accordance with Council's Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Mayor and Councillors Policy.

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3. HOLBROOK BYPASS – CONSIDERATION OF A SERVICE CENTRE

Report prepared by General Manager – Steven Pinnuck

REASON FOR REPORT

To consider the issue of a Service Centre in or in close proximity to Holbrook.

DISCUSSION

The duplication of the Hume Highway and impending construction of the Holbrook Bypass (scheduled for completion by December 2012) necessitates that Council give careful consideration to the issue of a Service Centre in or near Holbrook.

Council has attempted to raise this issue in the Holbrook Community over the past 12 months without a great deal of success.

Council undertook a study of the impact of bypasses on small rural centres as part of the Economic and Social Development Plan. A copy of the document "Impact of Bypasses on Small Rural Centres" is **ENCLOSED SEPARATELY** with the Agenda.

This document was also forwarded to the Holbrook Community and Business Forum and to all businesses located in Albury Street, Holbrook. In addition the General Manager has attended meetings of the Holbrook Community and Business Forum to put the issue on the Agenda.

Further a front page story appeared in the Eastern Riverina Chronicle on 8 June 2008. This story resulted in only one response and a copy of the article and the "Letter to the Editor" are included as **ANNEXURE 4**.

More recently correspondence has been received from the Holbrook Community and Business Forum which in part stated:

"From those present at the Holbrook Community and Business Forum meeting of 4 August, it is of the opinion that we would sooner not have a service centre in or near the Holbrook Bypass. However if this is not an option, our preference is to locate a proposed service centre as close as possible to an entry of Holbrook".

A copy of the correspondence is included as **ANNEXURE 4**.

The General Manager's understanding is that there were approximately 16 people in attendance.

As reported verbally to the September meeting, Council has also received correspondence from the Roads and Traffic Authority seeking Council's position on the establishment of a Service Centre and requesting that Council indicate its desire or otherwise for a service centre on the highway and a desirable location for it. A copy of the correspondence is included as **ANNEXURE 4**.

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HOLBROOK BYPASS – CONSIDERATION OF A SERVICE CENTRE [CONT'D]

Clearly Council has a leadership role in ensuring that the community is informed as to the pros and cons of a Service Centre.

The document "Impact of the Bypass on Small Rural Centres" prepared by IRIS Research studies the small town of Karuah on the Pacific Highway that suffered a significant downturn as a result of a by pass in 2004.

In the Karuah example, the town and the Port Stephens Council opposed the establishment of a Service Centre on the basis that it would have both a negative economic and social impact on the town of Karuah. The end result was that an existing Service Centre 20km from Karuah was upgraded further impacting on the economy of the town.

In this example Karuah experienced the worst of both worlds – negative impact of the bypass and the negative impact of a nearby Service Centre. Holbrook should be very wary of this example.

A further study completed by the Western Research Institute for the Bells Line Expressway Group reviewed the impact of bypasses of Goulburn and Yass.

Certainly the bypass did have an economic impact on both towns; however, the additional employment created by Services Centres has proved to at least partially offset the loss of employment as a result of the bypass.

Most studies indicate that the social environment improves post the bypass with communities able to reclaim their main street.

Mitigation measures are extremely important and a Service Centre can form part of those measures as well as:

- Appropriate signage
- CBD beautification
- Marketing and Promotion (increase awareness of attractions -Submarine etc.)
- Business and Industry diversification

Council has been proactive in pursuing some of these initiatives with the acquisition of the Holbrook Common and applying for funding through the Department of State and Regional Development for an image and branding strategy, creation of new website and a tourist brochure.

There is little doubt, however, that the business mix in Holbrook will change following the opening of the bypass with food outlets, service stations and accommodation providers most under threat.

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HOLBROOK BYPASS – CONSIDERATION OF A SERVICE CENTRE [CONT'D]

One thing that we do know is that the bypass will come and that Greater Hume Shire Council and the Holbrook community will need to embrace it and identify potential opportunities – a Service Centre is one of these opportunities that if Holbrook does not embrace another community most probably will.

Whilst Council has a leadership role to play in the Service Centre debate and has already raised the issue more work needs to be done to garner the thoughts of the wider Holbrook community.

It is proposed that Council engage IRIS Research to survey the Holbrook Community on the issue by undertaking a Deliberative Poll. The approach would be for IRIS Research to distribute a communication package to potential survey respondents, who would deliberate on the issues at hand before they are surveyed.

Based on the size of the Holbrook community IRIS Research recommend that a sample size of around 225 households which should provide a confidence level of 95%. The cost of conducting the survey is \$8,264 (exc. GST). This could be funded from the Urban Design allocation given that the Roads and Traffic Authority has committed to funding the Urban Design Plan for Holbrook. A copy of the proposal is included as **ANNEXURE 4**.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The Service Centre Deliberative Poll could be funded from the Urban Design allocation given that the Roads and Traffic Authority has committed to funding the Urban Design Plan for Holbrook.

CONCLUSION

Whilst Council has a leadership role to play in relation to planning for the bypass (before and after) the issue of a Highway Service Centre will be contentious and therefore community engagement and participation in the process is essential.

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. Council engage IRIS Research to undertake a Deliberative Poll on the issue of a Highway Service Centre at Holbrook
2. the Poll be funded from the existing Urban Design allocation and a
3. further report on the issue be submitted to the December meeting with the view of making a determination on the matter.

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4. GENERAL MANAGER'S PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Report prepared by General Manager – Steven Pinnuck

REASON FOR REPORT

To enable the General Manager to nominate a Councillor to the General Manager's Review Committee.

DISCUSSION

The General Manager's Review Committee consists of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and one other Councillor nominated by the General Manager. It is important to note that whilst the General Manager has the ability to nominate a Councillor to the General Manager's Review Committee that Councillor is not the General Manager's representative.

The review process is as follows:

1. The General Manager prepares a report for consideration by the full Council.
2. The full Council meet to consider the Report and any other issues relevant to the performance of the General Manager.
3. The Review Committee meet with the General Manager to discuss any issues raised by Councillors.
4. The Mayor (on behalf of the Review Committee) prepares a report on the assessment of the General Manager's performance for Council's consideration.

At the December 2007 meeting Council resolved that the General Manager's Performance would be reviewed on a six monthly basis with the first annual review being conducted in May 2007.

With the finalisation of the 2007/2008 Financial Statements imminent it is appropriate that a six monthly review be undertaken prior to the end of the calendar year.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil

CONCLUSION

It is important that a structured performance management process be continued for the benefit of both Council and the General Manager.

RECOMMENDATION

That Councillor Scheuner be endorsed as the General Manager's nominee to the General Manager's Performance Review Committee.

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5. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS RETURNS

Report prepared by Steven Pinnuck – General Manager

REASON FOR REPORT

Tabling of Disclosure of Interest returns in accordance with section 450A of the Local Government Act.

DISCUSSION

The Register of Disclosures, containing completed Disclosures by Councillors and Designated Persons for the period 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006, is tabled as required by Section 450A of the Local Government Act 1993.

It should be noted that declarations for Councillors elected for the first time at the 2008 elections are due three months after becoming a Councillor, in this case being 19 December 2008 (Poll declared on Friday 19 September).

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil

CONCLUSION

A procedural matter only.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received and noted.

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CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

1. WIRRAMINNA ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTRE - REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Report prepared by General Manager – Steven Pinnuck

REASON FOR REPORT

To present an application from the Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre for a loan of \$5,000 from Council to assist in the installation of a Solar Power System at the Centre.

DISCUSSION

Council has received correspondence from the Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre outlining their plans to install a Solar Power System at the Centre. The correspondence also includes a request for a loan of \$5,000 (repayable over 5 years) from Council to assist in completion of the project (see attached **ANNEXURE 5**).

The estimated cost of the project is \$26,050. As the project budget indicates, the Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre have been successful in applying for a grant of \$13,025 (exc. GST) from the Australian Government's Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts.

At the July meeting Council adopted a policy – "Financial Assistance Grants to Community Groups – Loans". This policy provides a maximum pool of \$250,000 and as at the date of writing this report \$180,000 had been loaned or committed.

The policy also provides for an interest component equal to Council's average investment income at the time of drawing currently 7.73%

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil

CONCLUSION

The Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre has developed into an excellent award winning eco tourism initiative and it is recommended that this modest request be approved.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council provide a loan of \$5,000 to the Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre repayable over a term of 5 years at a rate of interest equal to the average interest rate payable on Council investments at the time of drawing of the loan, currently 7.73%.

**ORDINARY MEETING OF GREATER HUME SHIRE COUNCIL
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2. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND AUDITORS REPORTS FOR YEAR ENDED JUNE 2008

Report prepared by Steven Pinnuck – General Manager

REASON FOR REPORT

To advise Council of the outcome of the audit of the 2007/2008 Financial Statements.

DISCUSSION

Council Auditors WHK Albury commenced the 2007/2008 financial year audit on Monday 29 September and it is well progressed.

At the Council meeting on 20 August 2008 it was projected that Council would have a healthy cash surplus for the 2007/2008 financial year

Whilst the Audit is yet to be finalised and financial statements confirmed Council's unrestricted cash has risen from \$1,014,000 at 30 June 2007 to \$3,210,000 as at 30 June 2008. This result has been achieved whilst internal restrictions have also been increased by \$507,000.

At the time of writing this report Council's available working capital has not been calculated.

General Fund

Detailed below is a snapshot of Council's activities during the 2007/2008 financial year.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE `000			
	2007/2008	2006/2007	2005/2006
Operating Income	\$22,737	\$22,143	\$21,359
Operating Expenditure	\$23,423	\$22,498	\$23,254
Result from Continuing Operations	(\$686)	(\$355)	(\$1,895)
Capital Grants and Contributions	\$3,333	\$1,336	\$2,410
Result Surplus/(Deficit) from Ordinary Activities	\$2,647	\$981	\$515
Gain on Restructure of Council	0	0	0
Net Surplus for Year	\$2,647	\$981	\$515
Capital Expenditure (Net disposals) of	\$6,482	\$4,170	\$2,669
Total Current Assets	\$18,436	\$16,273	\$13,830

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FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND AUDITORS REPORTS FOR YEAR ENDED JUNE 2008 [CONT']

Total Current Liabilities	\$5,382	\$5,113	\$4,764
Total Non Current Assets	\$231,514	\$219,093	\$207,911
Total Non Current Liabilities	\$4,680	\$4,332	\$9,471
Total Equity	\$239,888	\$225,921	\$212,270

External/Internal Restrictions (Reserves)

Council has maintained strong externally restricted reserves of \$6,370,000 (includes \$978,000 held in Trust) and internal restrictions of \$6,382,000.

External Restrictions are generally unexpended grants, water, sewerage and town improvement funds and can only be used for the purposes for which they were raised. Council has more flexibility with internal restrictions whereby Council can, by resolution, vary the purpose of restriction or remove it all together.

An amount of \$1,024,000 has been restricted for uncompleted works across the Shire.

Full details of External and Internal Restrictions, uncompleted works and unexpended grants have been included within **ANNEXURE 6**.

PERFORMANCE RATIOS			
	2007/2008	2006/2007	2005/2006
<p>Unrestricted Current Ratio Assesses the adequacy of working capital and the ability to satisfy obligations in the short term the unrestricted activities of Council. (Benchmark > 2:1)</p>	4.95:1	4.98:1	3.81:1
<p>Debt Service Ratio Assesses the impact of loan principle and interest repayments on the discretionary revenue of Council</p>	3.71%	3.95%	3.98%
<p>Rates & Annual Charges Coverage Ratio Assesses the dependence upon revenue from rates and charges and to assess the security of Council's income</p>	23.61%	24.94%	24.03%

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FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND AUDITORS REPORTS FOR YEAR ENDED JUNE 2008 [CONT']

PERFORMANCE RATIOS			
	2007/2008	2006/2007	2005/2006
Rates & Annual Charges Outstanding Percentage To assess the impact of uncollected rates and charges on Council's liquidity and the adequacy of recovery efforts. (Benchmark < 5%)	5.79%	6.21%	6.58%
Asset Renewals Ratio Assesses the rate at which asset are being renewed against the rate at which they are being depreciated. (Benchmark >100%)	68.26%	N/A	New ratio

In accordance with Local Government Accounting Code and Financial Reporting Operational Land, Buildings, Plant & Equipment assets have been revaluated at "Fair Value".

The revaluation was undertaken as a RERO project by Cosgraves Pty Ltd and has resulted in Council's net assets increasing by \$11,320,000.

Minor Funds

Satisfactory reserves are held in most schemes, however the replacement of the concrete reservoir at Culcairn has been included in the 2008/2009 Budget although existing reserves are unlikely to be sufficient. A further report will be presented to Council for consideration when full details of the condition of exiting reservoir and the cost of a replacement reservoir are known.

Scheme reserves are detailed below:

FUND	\$ `000
Burrumbuttock Sewerage	58
Jindera Sewerage	354
Culcairn Sewerage	Note 1 -36
Henty Sewerage	328
Walla Walla Sewerage	47
Holbrook Sewerage Fund	995
Villages Water	511
Culcairn Water	501
TOTAL	2,758

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FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND AUDITORS REPORTS FOR YEAR ENDED JUNE 2008 [CONT']

Note 1: Council has not yet received the Community Water Grant of \$227,269 for the construction of the Effluent Reuse Scheme. It is anticipated that this payment will be received before the end of November.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

CONCLUSION

Once again, the audit has been completed in a timely manner and Council will be able to submit the financial reports to the Department of Local Government within the statutory timeframe.

The Finance Team has worked tirelessly to achieve this result and should be congratulated on their efforts.

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. the progress report on the completion of the audit be received and noted; and
2. Council auditors WHK Albury be invited to present the audited 2008/2009 Financial Statement to the November meeting of Council to be held at Community Meeting Room, Holbrook commencing at 4.30pm.

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**3. 2007/2008 ANNUAL AND SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS –
CERTIFICATE BY COUNCIL [G.10.4]**

Report prepared by Director Corporate & Community Services – David Smith

REASON FOR REPORT

To obtain authority for the Mayor and one other Councillor to sign the 2007/2008 Annual and Special Purpose Financial Statements and also for the Mayor to sign the Hostel Financial Statements

DISCUSSION

The preparation of the 2007/2008 Annual and Special Purpose Financial Statements has been completed and it is necessary for Council to resolve to certify the manner in which they have been prepared.

Council's Auditors, WHK Albury attended the Holbrook Office between 29 September and 1 October 2008 to undertake the audit of the accounts for the 2007/2008 financial year.

In relation to the Annual Financial Statements, the General Manager advises that the Statements have been drawn up in accordance with:-

- The Local Government Act 1993 (as amended) and the regulations made thereafter
- The Australian Accounting Standards and professional pronouncements
- The Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting
- The Local Government Asset Accounting Manual

Further it is advised that they will:

- Present fairly the financial position and operating result for the year; and
- Accord with Council's accounting and other records.

The General Manager is not aware of any issue that would make the reports false or misleading in any way.

In relation to the Special Purpose Financial Statements, it is advised that the Statements have been drawn up in accordance with the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting and the:-

- NSW Government Policy Statement "Application of National Competition Policy to Local Government"
- Department of Local Government Guidelines "Pricing & Costing for Council businesses: A Guide to Competitive Neutrality".
- Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability "Best Practice Management and Water Supply and Sewerage" Guidelines.

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2007/2008 ANNUAL AND SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – CERTIFICATE BY
COUNCIL [G.10.4] [CONT'D]

It is further advised that these reports:

- Present fairly the financial position and operating result for each of Council's declared Business Units for the year; and
- Accord with Council's accounting and other records.

In relation to compliance with National Competition Policy, the allocation of overhead expenses to water and sewerage undertakings of the former Councils continues to be applied, however, this should be reviewed during the course of the 2008/2009 financial year.

From the 2005/2006 Financial Year Council has also been required to prepare a separate set of financial statements for Hostel operations. These statements are required to be audited, together with an audit certificate forwarded to the Australian Governments Department of Health and Ageing.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil

CONCLUSION

As the audit has been completed and the General Manager has provided assurances as to the manner in which the Statements have been prepared this is primarily a procedural matter.

A copy of each certificate is included as **ANNEXURE 7**.

RECOMMENDATION

That on the basis of the assurances provided by the General Manager:

1. the Mayor, one other Councillor, the General Manager and the Finance Manager be authorised to sign the Statement by Councillors and Management for the 2007/2008 Annual Financial and Special Purpose Financial Statements.
2. the Mayor be authorised to sign the Statement by Council for the 2007/2008 Hostel Financial Statements.

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4. WALLA WALLA CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Report prepared by Manager Community Services – Ian Gilbert

REASON FOR REPORT

To advise Council on an increase in funding to Walla Walla Children's Services

DISCUSSION

The New South Wales Department of Community Services (DoCS) have advised Council that a new model of funding has been developed for DoCS funded preschools under the Preschool Investment and Reform Plan. The aim of the new funding model is to provide a direct link between services received and outcomes achieved for children, and to ensure that future allocations are fair and targeted to those children and families most in need. Funding for Walla Walla Children's Services under the new model for 2008/2009 financial year is \$38,583.00

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. Council accept the variation of funding of \$38,583.00 from the NSW Department of Community Services to Walla Walla Children's Services for the 2008/2009 financial year.
2. Mayor and General Manager be authorised to sign the Variation to the 2008/2009 Service Agreement under the Common Seal of Council.

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ENGINEERING

1. FUNKS GRAVEL PIT AGREEMENT [1397.3022]

Report prepared by Director Engineering – Greg Blackie

REASON FOR REPORT

To enter into an agreement to extract gravel from the property known as "Red Hill" Jindera for use on Council roads.

DISCUSSION

Council's current agreement for the extraction of gravel from Funks Pit has expired, and for Council to continue extracting gravel, a new agreement is required to be entered into.

A new agreement has been drawn up to the satisfaction of both the owner Barry Funk and Council staff. To legalise this agreement Council is required to sign and seal the agreement.

The Contract is for a period of five (5) years, with an option for a further 5 years.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Costs to extract gravel including royalties from this pit, are factored into Council's Roads Budget.

CONCLUSION

The availability of gravel from this pit is very important to the ongoing maintenance of the roads in the southern area of the shire.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Mayor and General Manager be authorised to execute the Quarrying Agreement for the extraction of gravel from "Funks Pit" with Barry Funk of "Red Hill" Jindera under the common seal of Council.

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1. LOCAL GOVERNMENT TENDERING

Report prepared by Director Engineering – Greg Blackie

REASON FOR REPORT

For Council to decide, between the process of open tendering or selective tendering.

DISCUSSION

As prescribed under Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 – Reg166, Council is to decide whether tenders are to be by open tendering or selective tendering procedures when required under Section 55 of the Local Government Act. This is generally when the purchase price or value of a contract to be is estimated to be over \$150,000.00.

This regulation states that:

Whenever a council is required by section 55 of the Act to invite tenders before entering into a contract, the council must decide which of the following tendering methods is to be used:

- (a) the open tendering method by which tenders for the proposed contract are invited by public advertisement,*
- (b) the selective tendering method by which invitations to tender for a particular proposed contract are made following a public advertisement asking for expressions of interest,*
- (c) the selective tendering method by which recognized contractors selected from a list prepared or adopted by the council are invited to tender for proposed contracts of a particular kind.*

As this process is required before any tender is to be proceeded with, it is appropriate for Council to adopt one method, so the administrative issue of providing a report on the tender process to Council before actually going to tender can be avoided in the future.

As with most Councils, Council will normally select item (a) for the process of tendering. Items (b) and (c) are usually only utilized in very large or complex contracts, where preliminary selection of companies to tender is required due to the cost of tendering.

This Council has not used (b) or (c) previously and it would be logical to adopt item (a) as the process to deal with all future tendering requirements under Section 55 of the Act.

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT TENDERING [CONT'D]

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil

CONCLUSION

The adoption of one tender process for all requirements under Section 55 will alleviate a time impasse on the process of tendering in Council, by removing the need to go to Council to decide the process to be followed.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt item (a) of Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 – Regulation 166 whereby *the open tendering method by which tenders for the proposed contract are invited by public advertisement.* as the tendering method before entering into a contract as required under Section 55 of the Local Government Act

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2. VILLAGES WATER SUPPLY EXTENSION

Report prepared by Director Engineering – Greg Blackie

REASON FOR REPORT

To advise Council on a request to extend the Villages Water Supply scheme in Hawthorn, Molkentin, Sawyer and Rocks Road.

DISCUSSION

Council has received correspondence from Don & Margaret Hews who live on corner of Molkentin Road and Rocks Road advising that there is support from property owners for the extension of the Villages Water Supply system in Molkentin and Rocks Road.

As stated from previous Council resolutions watermain extensions to non rated properties shall be installed at the cost of the property owners including payment of contributions and charges in accordance with prevailing policies (eg Section 64 contributions, headworks charges etc).

An estimate is being prepared for the cost to install the watermain, so individual owners can be advised of their contribution towards the proposal.

Although not required to contribute under Council policy, for the works, It is proposed Council contribute a proportion of the costs to link the main in Molkentin Road to main in Hawthorn Road (where a new a main is being constructed as part of the Cummings Subdivision) to give added security to users if a break occurs and alleviate the dead ends in the main which will improve water quality.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Council has allocated \$30,000 in the 08/09 Villages Water Supply Budget for extension of mains.

CONCLUSION

It is appropriate for Council to investigate the opportunity for these residents to connect to the Villages Scheme in these times of drought. However, the scheme will only proceed subject to all property owners being willing to contribute to the extension.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received and noted.

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3. YENCHES ROAD B- DOUBLE APPLICATION

Report prepared by Director Engineering – Greg Blackie

REASON FOR REPORT

Council has received an application from Willmott Forests for use of B-Doubles on Yenches Road. Council as the road authority is the approval body for the use of B-Doubles on local roads.

Usually Council approves B-Double Routes through adoption of Local Traffic Committee Minutes whereby the LTC has assessed the route and considered it appropriate for use by B- Doubles. This can be done where an assessment of the route clearly indicates no major issues are prevalent, and the impact of B-Doubles would be minimal

In this instance it is appropriate for Councillors to have a full understanding of the issues prior to making any decision, due to the impacts on all parties involved.

DISCUSSION

Yenches Road is located approximately 40 Km from Holbrook on the MR331 (Holbrook – Jingellic Road). Willmott Forests manages numerous plantations along Yenches Road and their application for B-Double Use is for the first 7 kilometres of the road. Eight other property owners live along the road (all within the first 7 kilometres). Birnam Forests and some other private owners also have plantations that have access from Yenches Road.

At the time of preparation of this report one land owner (Mark & Anna Reeves) has written to Council objecting to use of B- Double on this road (see **ANNEXURE 8**). Willmotts has written to all property owners on Yenches Road advising that it is their intention to start 'thinning' shortly which will entail the transporting of logs along Yenches Road. Willmotts wish to use B-Doubles for this process, however if not approved have the option of transporting logs using conventional semi trailers. Council cannot prevent the use of semi trailers at present as Yenches Road is a public road with no load limit.

Yenches Road is a gravel road with a varying pavement width between 4 to 5m, but generally could be described a 'single lane' road. It traverses undulating terrain which leads to limited sight distance on numerous bends, and due to this terrain and "narrowness" of the road there are limited areas for passing of large vehicles.

Due to resident complaints about the condition of the road and Birnam Forests commencing cartage of small volumes of logs, a meeting was held with residents in March this year and was subject of a Council Report (see **ANNEXURE 8**). From this meeting and subsequent report, Council budgeted \$100,000 in 08/09 Council Budget for improvements to the road, which will be commenced shortly.

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YENCHES ROAD B- DOUBLE APPLICATION [CONT'D]

These works will mitigate some of the issues, however, this amount of funding will not allow any major works to take place.

Willmotts in their application advise that B-double configurations allow for the most efficient extraction of timber and least possible disturbance to residents by the way of reducing trucking movements.

It is noted in the assessment for B-Doubles Routes that consultation with all parties involved including operators, landholders and road managers is encouraged so all issues can be raised. The assessment should address safety, technical, economic and environmental issues.

It should also be noted B-Double approvals can be conditioned based, so B-doubles may only be operated at certain times, or speeds, etc.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

To upgrade Yenches road to a 'two way road' with a pavement of 8m+ would require considerable funding, which cannot be justified against Council's other road maintenance priorities; however, with contributions from other parties as has been the case on Tunnel Road (from Forest Managers), jointly funded works could allow certain road improvements to be undertaken to improve the road.

CONCLUSION

Clearly there are a number of issues to be considered by Council before a decision can be made. The plantation forests are in place and operations involving them will be around for many years to come. Property owners and residents expect appropriate levels of safety when driving on public roads; however, public roads are there for all the public not just adjoining residents.

To further understand the issues relating to the proposal, it would be deemed appropriate to adjourn a public meeting with all the people affected by the proposal on site with councillors, so all Councillors can be advised first hand of the issues.

RECOMMENDATION

That an onsite meeting be held with property holders of Yenches Road, representatives of Willmott Forests, Councillors, and members of the Local Traffic Committee to discuss the issues relating to the application for the use of B-Doubles on Yenches Road.

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4. BITUMINOUS SPRAY SEALING TENDER – TENDER NO. 2009/1 [G.128.2.67]

Report prepared by Director Engineering – Greg Blackie

REASON FOR REPORT

To enter into a contract for the Bituminous Spray Sealing of pavements within the Greater Hume Shire Council area for the period commencing October 2008 to October 2011.

DISCUSSION

The existing contract has expired and needed to be re-tendered.

Five (5) sets of tender documents were issued and four (4) tenders were received prior to closing at 2pm on Wednesday 8th October 2008. These are listed alphabetically below.

	COMPANY	UNIT RATE	COMMENT
A	Downer EDI Works	\$2.86/m ²	No minimum spray volume applies
B	Patches Asphalt Pty Ltd	\$2.88/m ²	Applies minimum spray volume penalty
C	SprayLine Surfacing Services	\$3.88/m ²	No minimum spray volume applies
D	SRS Roads Pty Ltd	\$3.55/m ²	Applies minimum spray volume penalty

Four (4) tenders were conforming (refer to Attachment A in **ANNEXURE 9**).

The tenders were assessed for their financial performance (refer to Attachment B in **ANNEXURE 9**).

The lowest tender is from Downer EDI Works. Downer EDI Works have performed the bituminous spray sealing for the past two (2) years and have performed satisfactorily meeting their commitments with respect to Quality Safety and the Environment. They are accredited to ISO 9001:2000 Quality Management System, to AS 4801:2000 Safety Management System and to AS ISO 14001:2004 Environment Management System.

The contract is for a period of three (3) years.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications as the works are in accordance with Council's Management Plan.

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BITUMINOUS SPRAY SEALING TENDER – TENDER NO. 2009/1 [G.128.2.67] [CONT'D]

CONCLUSION

Downer EDI Works is the preferred tenderer.

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. the Mayor and General Manager be authorised to execute the Bituminous Spray Sealing agreement for spray sealing of pavements within the Greater Hume Shire Council area for the period of October 2008 to October 2011 with Downer EDI Works
2. all tenderers be advised of the decision.

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ITEMS TO BE REFERRED TO CLOSED COUNCIL

1. PUBLIC LIABILITY CLAIM – MORVEN GEROGERY ROAD [35A]

Report prepared by General Manager – Steven Pinnuck

REASON FOR REPORT

To update Council as to the progress of the legal action regarding an Incident on the Morven-Gerogery Road in April 2001.

DISCUSSION

It was reported to the July meeting that Council had been advised of the hearing date for public liability claim arising from an incident on the Morven Gerogery Road on 7 April 2001.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Council has public liability insurance in place with Statewide Mutual should the Plaintiff be successful in the action.

CONCLUSION

That the matter be referred to Closed Council in accordance with section 10A 2(g) Advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege.

RECOMMENDATION

That the matter be referred to Closed Council in accordance with section 10A 2(g) Advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege.

2. RELOCATION OF THE CULCAIRN LIBRARY

Report prepared by General Manager – Steven Pinnuck

REASON FOR REPORT

To consider tenders received for the relocation of the Culcairn Library and Culcairn Customer Service Office.

DISCUSSION

In February 2007 Council received NSW Library Development Grant funding of \$199,424 for the relocation of the Culcairn Library and the establishment of a Customer Service Centre in the former Booths building. In addition \$125,000 was being provided from former Culcairn Shire Reserve funds for a total estimated project cost of \$324,424.

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RELOCATION OF CULCAIRN LIBRARY [CONT'D]

The project has a number of advantages in that it will:

1. Provide a safer working environment of the stand alone staff member in comparison to the isolation of the existing library
2. Enable longer library opening hours (currently the Culcairn Library is only open for 12 hours pw in comparison with Henty 20 and Holbrook 21.5 hours pw).
3. Facilitate the expansion of Government Access Services at Culcairn and
4. Improve the working environment of Culcairn based staff.
5. Reduced long term costs by consolidating operations onto one site.

Tenders have closed and following assessment it is clear that the project cannot be completed within initial project estimates.

Whilst the Tenders have been submitted to Closed Council to protect commercial in confidence detailed below are two options for consideration and funding alternatives assuming the lowest tender is accepted.

Further the original scope of works included fire proofing a storage area for records and conversion of an existing toilet to a shower. An amount of \$18,000 was included in the 2008/2009 Budget for these works however tenders have been submitted in the region of \$28,000. Accordingly it is recommended that these works be deferred pending a more in depth review of records storage in the 2009/2010 Budget and that the \$18,000 be reallocated to the library relocation project.

Option 1

Retaining existing floor levels of existing Council building and Booths building and connecting the two buildings via ramps.

Tender price	\$302,435
Floor coverings- Estimated	\$30,000
Air conditioning – Estimated	\$50,000
Furniture and shelving (est.)	\$20,000
Total	\$402,435

Option 1 Funding

Grant – NSW State Library	\$199,423
Reserves (\$125,000-\$2,003)	\$122,997
Unexpended Local Special Projects Funding (NSW State Library)	\$40,000
Interest on grant and reserve (12 months @ ave. interest of 7.5%)	\$24,375
Records storage etc. funds reallocated	\$18,000
Total	\$404,795

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RELOCATION OF THE CULCAIRN LIBRARY [CONT'D]

Option 2

Increasing the floor level in the former Booths building by approximately 150mm.

Tender price	\$302,435
Floor coverings- Estimated	\$30,000
Air conditioning - Estimated	\$50,000
Raise floor	\$25,954
Furniture and shelving (est.)	\$20,000
Total	\$428,389

Option 2 Funding

Grant – NSW State Library	\$199,423
Reserves	\$122,997
Unexpended Local Special Projects Funding (NSW State Library)	\$40,000
Interest on grant and reserve (12 months @ ave. interest of 7.5%)	\$24,375
Records storage etc. funds reallocated	\$18,000
Total	\$404,795
Shortfall	\$23,594

There is little doubt that Option 2 will provide the best long term solution and that should Council prefer this Option the proceeds of the sale of the Gordon/Baird Street Lot (\$45,000 less costs) could be utilised to fund the shortfall.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Additional expenditure will be incurred, however if any shortfall is funded from the sale of the Gordon/Baird Street land will not affect the projected budget surplus.

RECOMMENDATION

That consideration of tenders for the relocation of the Culcairn Library and establishment of a Customer Service Office be referred to Closed Council in accordance with section 10 A (2)(d)(i) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

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OFFICERS' REPORTS - PART B – FOR INFORMATION

GOVERNANCE

1. REVIEW OF THE OPERATION OF THE WYMAH FERRY

Report prepared by General Manager – Steven Pinnuck

REASON FOR REPORT

To table correspondence from the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) on the progress of the review of the Wymah Ferry Service.

DISCUSSION

Correspondence has been received from the RTA advising of the progress of the review of the Wymah Ferry Service. A copy is included as **ANNEXURE 10**.

Whilst it is anticipated that the review will be complete by late 2008, the RTA has advised that changes have already been implemented following the community consultation.

These include the removal of the gate on the Victorian side of Lake Hume and changing the morning break time, which is now 9.30am to 10am.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil

CONCLUSION

For information.

2. 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 37 to 39. Copies of DLG Circulars are available from the website www.dlg.nsw.gov.au or alternatively by contacting Council.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

CONCLUSION

For Information.

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3. 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 24 to 26. Copies of LGSA Weekly Circulars are available from the website www.lgsa.org.au or alternatively by contacting Council.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil

CONCLUSION

For Information.

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

1. STATEMENTS OF BANK BALANCES AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2008. COMBINED INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2008.

Attached, at **ANNEXURE 11**, are statements of bank balances as at 30 September 2008 and the summary of investments as at 30 September 2008.

2. CUSTOMER REQUEST MODULE

The Summary of All Customer Action Requests Report has been produced and has been distributed to Councillors as part of their Business Paper package.

**ORDINARY MEETING OF GREATER HUME SHIRE COUNCIL
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ENGINEERING

1. SEPTEMBER REPORT OF WORKS

Grants Program

State Roads Maintenance:

General maintenance has been carried out on MR284 (Tumbarumba Road) and MR78 (Olympic Highway).

Regional Roads Block Grant:

A recent storm caused rock falls on MR331 east of Holbrook, which resulted in considerable repair works to be carried out

Shoulder grading, maintenance and preparation for the resealing program on regional roads has been carried out.

Heavy patching is continuing on MR331 (Holbrook/Culcairn Road) east of Culcairn to repair road damage due to the increased truck volumes associated with the Hume Highway construction.

Shoulder widening has commenced on the Hawthorn Rd and MR125 (Urana Road) intersection.

Local Roads

General pavement maintenance and grading of shoulders has continued on local roads.

Road construction work is continuing on Stoney Park Road, Bethel Road and Methodist Road in conjunction with the Roads to Recovery program.

Major realignment of the hill section of Coppabella Road south of Magginity's Gap Road is continuing.

General grading and drainage cleaning has taken place across the Shire. The following roads have received attention:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| ▪ Bahrs Road | ▪ Mahers Road |
| ▪ Bowlers Road | ▪ Molkenntin Road |
| ▪ Burges Lane | ▪ Parnella Lane |
| ▪ Flaxvale Road | ▪ Quartz Hill Road |
| ▪ Funk Road | ▪ Ross Road |
| ▪ Hanel Road | ▪ Sutherland Road |
| ▪ Hovell Road | ▪ Trebleys Road |
| ▪ Howard Road | ▪ Vokins Road |
| ▪ Howlong-Goombargana Road | ▪ Wymah Road |
| ▪ Jelbart Road | ▪ Yarra Yarra Road |
| ▪ Luther Road | |

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SEPTEMBER REPORT OF WORKS [CONT'D]

Urban Streets

The reconstruction of Recreation, Eastick, King and Elgin Streets in Brocklesby is still in progress and Road construction works are in progress on, Back Henty Road and Baird Street, Culcairn in conjunction with the Roads to Recovery program.

Kerb and gutter works in Adams Street, Jindera has been installed by the contractor with the earthworks to be completed shortly.

General

The upgrade of Balfour Park in Culcairn has been completed.

ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING SERVICES

1. DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS PROCESSED FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2008

Attached, at **ANNEXURE 12**, is the schedule of development applications processed for the month of September 2008.

2. ACTING SENIOR WEED OFFICERS REPORT - OCTOBER 2008

1. The removal of unwanted fruit trees in towns across the Shire was carried out on weekend of 20 and 21 September 2008. As this was the first attempt to remove these unwanted trees, the result was pleasing as can be seen by the number of truck loads taken to the tips. (Henty 1, Walla 2, Jindera 2, Culcairn 2, Holbrook 4, and 1 from all the small villages).
2. The selling of the Fruit Fly baits is progressing satisfactorily. To date, units sold are as follows: Henty 40, Culcairn 15, Jindera 40, Holbrook 40 and Walla Walla 12. This may increase as the fruit fly season progresses and residents become aware of the baits being available at Council offices.
3. Bayer Science has indicated that registration for Silver Shield (the chemical to be used for the control of Elm Leaf Beetle) should be finalised by the end of October 2008, allowing the production of the chemical to commence approximately 1 week later. Therefore, it is planned that Elm Savers commence stem injection treatment on selected trees across the GHSC area from second week of November 2008.

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ACTING SENIOR WEED OFFICERS REPORT - OCTOBER 2008 [CONT'D]

Council has received about 50 requests from ratepayers to have trees on private property treated at the same time. The names, addresses and contact numbers have been recorded and they will be contacted when the treatment on Council trees commences in the vicinity. Landholders will be given the option of Elm savers as well as 2 other companies who offer the same service. They are then free to decide just who is right in their specific circumstances; and therefore Council is not seen to be recommending one operator over another.

4. The issue with rabbits is ongoing with requests from the Hume RLPB to carry out rabbit control on Beach Road and in the Bowna-Wymah area. The control on Beach Road should commence in the second week in October with a representative from the weeds staff in attendance.

The area at Bowna- Wymah is not as urgent; Neil Hibberson will meet with a representative from the RLPB to look at all the areas of concern in the coming weeks and report back to Council.

Five phone calls about the damage rabbits are doing in the town of Holbrook have been received. These are on private property and have been passed onto the RLPB officer at Holbrook. The ranger is presently on leave but a meeting will be held on his return to work to try and work out some type of control program.

5. Neil Hibberson and Graeme Coysh met with the environmental managers for Southern Hume Alliance to discuss the commencement of weed control work on the new highway alignment prior to their revegetation program starting. A discussion on future works took place with the weeds staff approaching what is our busiest time of the year. To fit in with Council's spraying program no further spraying will be required until 2009.

Graeme Coysh sprayed an area of approximately 5 kms from Bells Road to Ettamogah (evening and early morning to obtain the best conditions) using Roundup to remove all grasses prior to the sowing of native trees and shrubs.

6. The spraying of roadside shoulders has continued and is almost complete. The strong winds and the possibility of chemical drift has prolonged the time it normally would take to carry out this work.
7. The Holbrook Airpark runways have been sprayed in time for the proposed fly-in. Additionally, the roads within the new subdivision around have been sprayed to remove all excess vegetation.
8. The sports ground at Holbrook and at The Billabong High School have both been sprayed for broadleaf weeds.

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ACTING SENIOR WEED OFFICERS REPORT - OCTOBER 2008 [CONT'D]

9. Neil Hibberson attended the Alligator Task Force meeting in Griffith on 2 October 2008. Reports on the various control sites across the Riverina were presented as well as a tour around the Wah Wah area to look at the various sites where Alligator Weed has been found.

The situation at Woomargama is that the mesh screens at the overflow are being checked and cleaned at regular intervals. With the weather warming up and promoting the growing season the areas around the dam and the sites along the creek will now be inspected on a monthly basis for any new germination.

10. Inspections carried out on private property included Chilean Needlegrass, Serrated Tussock, and Coolatai Grass. Roadside inspections on known infected areas have also been carried out for the same the above emerging noxious weeds.

11. Inspections carried out at the Holbrook airpark has revealed a large infestation of Wild Radish on the areas that in the past have been cropped. The lessee of the neighbouring land had requested a buffer zone be put in place. This was completed by the lessee while he was completing his own fire breaks around the fence lines at no cost to Council. Follow up work spraying the Wild Radish will take place.

12. The Noxious Weeds Stand prepared by the Eastern Riverina Noxious Weeds Group at the Henty Field Days was well attended by the visiting public. After a relatively quiet first day the stand became a focal point on the second and third days. Comments from the public proved that the stand is continuing to attract attention. The idea of looking at the plant rather than a photo is proving to be a great advantage when it comes to identifying a weed. (Noxious, or Environmental) Officers from DPI Victoria were also on hand to answer questions from the Victorian visitors.

3. RANGER'S REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2008

Companion Animals

No. of Complaints Received		23 including 1 barking dog, 8 roaming dogs, 2 dogs acting aggressive and still dealing with 1 excessive number of dogs kept complaints	
No. of Dog attacks:	2	Location:	Woomargama and North of Holbrook
Comments:	Sheep chased and bitten 1 dog surrendered and Euthanased no dog identified for second attack 1 sheep put down		

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RANGERS'S REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2008 [CONT'D]

	Dogs	Cats
In Council's Facility at beginning of month	0	1
Captured & Returned to Owners	5	
Captured & Impounded	14	7
Released from Pound to Owners	4	2
Surrendered by Owners	2	
Rehomed	2	2
Euthanased	4	2
Remaining in Council's Facility at end of month	6	2

Feral Cats

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

Livestock

	Cattle	Sheep	Horses	Goats	Other
No. of Reports of Stock on Roads	4	1			
Instances - Returned to owners	4	1			
Impounded					
Vehicle accidents involving stock	1 Hume Hwy truck hit				

Other Livestock complaints

Nil.

Abandoned Vehicles

2 abandoned vehicles remain impounded.

Other Vehicle Incidents

Complaint; trailer parked in Laneway, affecting vehicle access to other property, owner of trailer removed.

Hazard Reduction

Green waste hazard reduction burns were conducted at the Gerogery and Jindera Transfer station sites.

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RANGERS'S REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2008 [CONT'D]

Pollution Incidents: 2 rubbish dumped roadway	
Inspection conducted: owners not identified	Rubbish removed by Council employee

Trees and Firewood Permits

No of Complaints	

Other

HOLBROOK POOL - Renewal of damaged filter return pipes, on the wading pool and the northern side of large pool. Replace damaged concrete for painting and replace sealant along all the expansion joints.

Training

Nil.

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 Meetings:

- Minutes of the Greater Hume Shire Council Occupational Health and Safety/Risk Management Committee Meeting held on 29 September 2008

RECOMMENDATION

That Part C of the Agenda be received and noted.