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1. **MEETING OPENING**

   **Live Streaming of Council Meetings**

Federation Council wishes to advise members of the public that Council meetings will be recorded and will be available after each meeting on Council’s website [www.federationcouncil.nsw.gov.au](http://www.federationcouncil.nsw.gov.au)

All care will be taken to maintain the privacy of those in attendance, however as a visitor in the public gallery, your presence may be recorded. By remaining in the public gallery, it is assumed your consent is given in the event your image is broadcast.

**Acknowledgement of Country**

I would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we are meeting today, the Bpangerang people, and acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who now reside in this area. I extend that respect to Elders – past and present of the Bpangerang nations.

**PRESENT:**

The Mayor, Councillor PMJ Bourke (Chairperson), Councillors AC Kennedy, GJ Law, DS Longley, FT Longmire, PI Miegel, BJ Thomas, NW Wales APM and SM Whitechurch.

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Mr A Butler (Interim General Manager), Ms KJ Kay (Director Corporate and Community Services), Mr KC Parker (Director Finance and Organisation Development), Mr P Gall (Director Infrastructure and Environment) and Rachelle Henson (Executive Assistant).

**APOLOGIES:**

Nil.

2. **NOTIFICATION OF PECUNIARY/CONFLICTS OF INTEREST IN MEETING BUSINESS ITEMS**

Nil.

3. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

   **32/18FC** **RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Miegel and Kennedy that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 23 January 2018 be confirmed.

   **33/18FC** **RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Wales and Miegel that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 8 February 2018 be confirmed.

4. **MAYORAL MINUTES**

The Mayor congratulated Mrs Brody for her 80th birthday.
5. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

5.1 FEDERATION COUNCIL - MERGER IMPLEMENTATION PLAN - MID YEAR REPORT

Summary
This report allows for tabling of the end of the mid-year report on the Merger Implementation Plan. Much of the content in this report was prepared by Council’s Merger Project Management Officer (PMO), Ms Jennifer Lewis.

30 December 2017 ends the second quarter of operations in the 2017/18 financial year. It has been an extremely busy and challenging quarter in relation to progressing the activities that support the merger.

Having achieved all the legislative ‘housekeeping’ style requirements and tasks required in the creation of Federation Council, it is considered critical to ensure Council applies the remaining merger implementation funding towards tasks and projects that aim to achieve the best possible, sustainable results going forward.

Staff are now busy assessing and prioritising these opportunities we have recognised with less haste and more strategic planning.

Background
Progress
Council adopted the Merger Implementation Plan at the August 2016 Council meeting with 364 tasks identified to bring the new Council together. Many of these tasks related to undertaking an audit of existing conditions, services, processes and procedures and selecting the best to go forward with. Funding was allocated to 38 projects in the first cut. Many of the tasks were urgent and were completed within the first few months of the merger.

During the month of July 2017, a review of the remaining tasks revealed a further 51 tasks had been satisfactorily completed, and the 94 remaining were carried forward. Since 30 June 2017, further projects have been considered and added to the list of tasks and many have been completed.

At the end of December 2017, a further review showed the list included 68 active projects, some of which could be grouped together. Some will be ongoing until the end of the merger period.

Funding
The State Government provided the new Council with $5,000,000 for implementation/merger projects. At 31 December 2017, $4,005,208 had been allocated to projects. A balance of approximately $994,792 remains unallocated.

Current project allocations are constantly being reviewed and new projects are being considered as officers become aware of opportunities to drive further improvements. Councillors should feel comfortable in suggesting any actions that they consider are needed because of, or out of an opportunity from the merger process.

Planning (Service) reviews of the many services delivered by Council, are one of the key priority tasks aimed to be completed over the next 12 months. An information gathering process began in April 2017 at which time the executive team identified approximately 54 services delivered by Council. A process to renew and update, where they existed, and develop new plans in most cases where none existed, was commenced. Developing new business plans for the identified Business units, is critical to then inform the service reviews.
This planning process is aimed at –
- identifying the true cost of each service
- identifying the resources and support required
- reviewing and considering legislative compliance
- considering delivery objectives and constraints (SWOT analysis)
- investigating opportunities for efficiencies and cost savings

Some of the services identified for review in this financial year include –
- Records management
- Planning and Environment
- Council Owned or Managed Property and Council Facilities

Other services will be included as the required information comes to hand and staff resources permit.

Finance System
Because of the merger there was a requirement to merge two separate financial planning and reporting systems. A considerable amount of work, over and above business as usual, was required to enable the financial statements to be reported for the 2016/17 financial year. Having completed the integration of the two systems, work now focusses on actions to take advantage of the opportunities available using more modern and state of the art financial recording and reporting systems.

Council has chosen to utilise systems developed and supported by the Civica firm and are now in the process of project planning the implementation of each module to ensure the Civica systems is utilised to its full capacity. There are many efficiencies to be gained, and greater available information to assist staff and Council in tender cases, to make better decisions. It also allows for more effective risk management, such as better cost controls and procurements methods, through this implementation.

Land Use Planning – combining the Urana and Corowa Local Environmental Plans (LEP) and Development Control Plan (DCP)
The development and implementation of a new LEP and DCP is another implementation plan activity scheduled for the coming year. A strong focus prior to making the new instruments will be some strategy work in and around the main towns, to identity issues such as adequacy of current zoning, future growth areas, and strategic transport and flooding issues.

Asset Management
A review of Council’s Asset Management Systems is also planned which will provide a combined asset management strategy, policy and system, and the necessary data to strategically plan asset management into the future, for maintenance and capital works.

Cultural and Staff Development – Upcoming Organisational Review
Changes within and around Council’s staffing structure environment has been challenging for all officers of Council, both pre and post-merger. Council embarked on a major cultural awareness and support program over the last 12 months to provide staff with an opportunity to participate in building an engaging and empowering culture.

As outlined the recent Council briefing session, Council are required under the Local Government Act to review the organisational structure within the first 12 months of their election. An external review will be undertaken as part of this. During this process, staff and Councillor surveys and other works will be undertaken including review of the extensive restructures that have occurred since merger, to inform Council of the recommended way forward. It is not considered effective to continue a staff cultural journey until after this process is complete, and the structure is settled.
Total Merger Funding
As part of the total of $15 million in merger funding, in addition to the $5 million being spent on the merger tasks discussed in this report, Council also received $1,000,000 funding for Stronger Communities Minor Grants and $9,000,000 for Stronger Communities Major Projects. The attachment to this report outlines the progress of these grants and projects. Supporting the planning and delivery of these mostly community-based projects has placed strain on existing staff resources who are busy doing the business as usual work also. Management are continuing to work through resourcing these demands.

Attachments
5.1.1 Merger Implementation Plan Progress Report to 31 December 2017

Financial Implications
Outlined earlier in the report. Council continues to be under the budget for the merger process.

**RECOMMENDED** that Council note the report on the Merger Implementation Plan, with progress to the end of December 2017.

**34/18FC RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Longmire and Miegel that Council note the report on the Merger Implementation Plan, with progress to the end of December 2017.

5.2 **DRAFT MURRAY (COROWA TO OVENS) EROSION MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**Summary**
The purpose of this report is to allow Council to discuss the draft Erosion Management Plan which is proposed for a trial along the section of the Murray River between Corowa and the Ovens River junction, and decide if it wishes to make a submission on this plan. A multi-agency committee co-chaired by Roads and Maritime Services and the Murray Darling Basin Authority has developed this plan.

Roads and Maritime Services are currently consulting with communities in respect to the draft plan and the closing date for comments is **Wednesday 28 February 2018**.

**Background**
Monitoring undertaken by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) over several years has identified a section of the River Murray between Corowa and the Ovens River junction as experiencing accelerated rates of bank erosion.

The River Murray Erosion Committee was established to manage the implementation of erosion strategies presented in the draft River Murray (Corowa to Ovens River) Erosion Management Plan. This committee comprises NSW, Victorian and Federal representatives and local councils including Federation Council (although Council has no current representative).

The draft River Murray (Corowa to Ovens River) Erosion Management Plan has been developed to address the excessive rates of erosion along with safety and amenity issues for passive waterway users identified in this section of the River.

The plan considers land and water based erosion management strategies, with key components including riverbank protection work and restrictions on high-wash/wake enhancing boating activities. The proposed strategies seek to address environmental and community safety needs while ensuring the community can continue to enjoy the river in a sustainable and responsible manner and minimising economic impact on the various industries directly or indirectly reliant on the river.
The Plan was developed as a result of the Murray Darling Basin Authority’s report on bank erosion in this section of the river.

As part of the plan, the Committee has recommended the implementation of a trial ‘no wake enhancing activities’ zone in the Murray river between South Corowa (chainage 2073) and a location on the river (known locally as ‘the Cut’) which is approximately 1.5 kilometres upstream of the confluence with the Ovens River (chainage 2025), including all anabranches and tributaries under NSW jurisdiction, in addition to the current boating restrictions in place within this reach of the river.

As the regulatory authority Roads and Maritime would administer this new zone.

**Community engagement**

In September 2016, committee members discussed the proposed plan with key stakeholders drawn from local residents, the local boating industry, tourism operators, clubs and associations. Using the feedback from this exercise, the committee finalised a Draft Management Plan to take to the wider community for comment.

Following an information session at Bundalong on 15 January 2018, there were two further public information sessions to be held where the community can see a presentation on the issue, talk to committee members and leave feedback on the Draft Plan. These sessions were scheduled as follows:

- **Yarrawonga**: 6:00pm-8.00pm on Tuesday 13 February 2018 at the Yarrawonga Community Hall, Orr Street, Yarrawonga
- **Corowa**: 6:00pm-8.00pm on Thursday 15 February 2018 at The Memorial Hall, Sanger Street, Corowa.

Council representatives attended the Corowa session. A verbal update will be provided at the Council Meeting on the outcome of the Corowa session.

In addition feedback can be submitted via the interactive map on the RMS website or emailed to MurrayRiverErosion@rms.nsw.gov.au up to 28 February 2018.

While the outcomes of the consultation process is not yet known, a key area of concern is the obvious and immediate impact the proposed trial ban will most likely have on tourism and economic development given this is a key activity driving visitation to the area during summer months. This is also likely to increase demand on the Lagoon boat ramp and amount of skiing/wakeboarding activity from the Corowa Lagoon through to Federation Bridge – given this area is not covered by the proposed trial ban.

**Attachments**


**Financial Implications**

There are no direct financial impacts to Council as a result of the draft plan, indirect economic impact is likely but no data exists to quantify what this would be.

**RECOMMENDED** that Council note the report on the Draft Murray (Corowa to Ovens) Erosion Management Plan, and delegates to the interim General Manager authority to prepare a submission and consult with Councillors prior to submission.
35/18FC  **RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Thomas and Wales that Council note the report on the Draft Murray (Corowa to Ovens) Erosion Management Plan, and delegates to the interim General Manager authority to prepare a submission and consult with Councillors prior to submission.

5.3  **COUNCIL BRIEFING SESSIONS AND WORKSHOP - UPDATED CALENDAR 2018**

**Summary**

This report presents to Council an updated calendar of Councillor Briefing Sessions and Workshops, following the agreement at the February 2018 briefing session, to change the time of the Briefing Sessions until later in the afternoon.

**Background**

Council adopted a report at the January 2018 meeting, with a list of times and venues for Briefing Sessions and workshops proposed for the calendar year 2018.

The updated table below reflects the changes requested by Council. Due to the locations, venue bookings and other logistics, it is not considered that the table will require any further changes for the year. It is important to note other gatherings can still be called on an as needs/as available basis, for important issues.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>BRIEFING SESSION</th>
<th>COUNCIL MEETING (AM)</th>
<th>COUNCIL WORKSHOP (PM)</th>
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<td>TUESDAY 4-6 PM</td>
<td>TUESDAY 9.30 AM</td>
<td>TUESDAY 1.00 – 4.00 PM</td>
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<td>VENUE</td>
<td>VENUE – COUNCIL CHAMBERS, COROWA</td>
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<td>5 June 2018</td>
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<td>Oaklands RSL Club</td>
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<td>Howlong Golf Resort</td>
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<td>Council Chambers,</td>
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<td>Oaklands RSL Club</td>
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* NB. Locations for briefing sessions are subject to availability. Bookings will occur after approval.*
Consultation
As per previous report on this matter in January 2018.

Strategic Implications
No formal strategy is in place however the forums are considered critical to allow Councillors and staff to become more informed and ensure items presented to Council have had adequate consideration and input prior.

Policy Implications
Changes adopted should form part of Council’s next update of the Code of Meeting Practice.

Legislative Implications
N/A.

Attachments
Nil.

Financial Implications
The budget for Councillor travel expenses will be increased marginally if required, by increasing the number of meetings each month to cater for briefing sessions and to consider the extra travel if Councillors adopt the venues to ensure a spread across the Federation Council area.

**RECOMMENDED** that Council meet for briefing sessions and workshops on the proposed dates for 2018 as per the table that forms part of this report.

36/18FC **RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Miegel and Law that Council meet for briefing sessions and workshops on the proposed dates for 2018 as per the table that forms part of this report.

5.4 **JOINT ORGANISATIONS**

Summary
The purpose of this report is to allow Council to discuss and determine a position with respect to becoming a member of a new Joint Organisation (JO) model that the NSW Government plans on being in place from July 2018. Council has considered previous reports on this matter, and the Government has given until the end of February 2018, to resolve if it wishes to be in a Joint Organisation, and if so, with what other Councils.

Background
(extract from https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/content/joint-organisations-strengthen-regional-nsw)

Joints Organisations (JOs) are a key NSW Government commitment to build stronger councils and improve service delivery and infrastructure across rural and regional communities. The Local Government Amendment (Regional Joint Organisations) Act 2017 commenced on 15 December 2017 allowing councils to voluntarily join new JOs in their planning region. JOs provide a forum for local councils and State agencies to collaborate, plan, set priorities and deliver important projects in regional NSW.
The NSW Government is providing $3.3 million (up to $300,000 per JO formed) in seed funding to establish JOs which will focus on the issues that matter most to regional communities. These include building strong businesses, creating jobs, securing water supplies, improving regional transport, and providing community infrastructure, services and facilities.

The principal function of JOs will be –
1) strategic planning and priority setting,
2) intergovernmental collaboration,
3) regional leadership and advocacy.

Councils can also opt to undertake other functions, such as those performed by some of the Regional Organisations of Councils (ROCs) (sharing of staff, joint projects/events) on a voluntary basis. Whilst the regulations are not yet made under this new Act, the following basic elements of a JO are known –

- Will comprise of all member Council Mayors as voting representatives; General Managers do not vote.
- Must employ at least one staff member, being an Executive Officer on a Senior Staff Contract under the NSW Local Government Award.
- Must comprise of at least three Councils.
- Must be within the NSW Planning Boundary relevant to your Council (for Federation, this is the Riverina Murray Regional Organisation) see attached map 5.4.2.
- Must demonstrate a clear community of interest between member councils and regions.
- Must not adversely impact on other councils or JOs, for example, leaving too few councils to form a JO.
- Must be based around a strong regional centre or centres.
- Must be of an appropriate size to partner with State, Commonwealth and other partners.

For further information please refer to https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/content/joint-organisations-strengthen-regional-nsw

Although the process of becoming a member of a JO is voluntary, it is recommended that Council does join one in the interests of being able to work with the State and other Councils in the JO, to progress regional outcomes.

If Council agrees to join a JO, the following steps are required:

1. Identify council’s planning region according to the map provided in the information pack. Only councils in the Far West have the option to join a JO outside their planning region.
   (Note - Federation Council is within the Riverina Murray Planning Region – see attachment 5.4.2).

2. Consult with councils within your preferred regional grouping to reach agreement on JO membership, noting that each JO must have a minimum of three-member councils.
   (Note – Federation Council has met with all neighbouring Councils, most at a RAMROC level and several informal discussions between the Mayor and other Mayors. The Mayor and Interim General Manager also met with a combination of REROC and RAMROC Mayors and General Managers, including County Councils, at a workshop in Narrandera recently. See further into this report for more information.)

3. Once the proposed membership is agreed, ensure each member council endorses the proposal by a resolution of council.
4. By 28 February 2018, submit nomination to form a JO by email to jointorganisations@olg.nsw.gov.au, marked ‘Nomination for Joint Organisation’. This is to include a copy of the resolution and the date council made that resolution;

5. Complete and return a Forming a Joint Organisation – checklist with the nomination.

6. Unlike a normal council resolution, the legislation provides a fixed 28 day period for councils to rescind such a resolution. As such, councils are also asked to undertake a further step, which may fall after 28 February. After the expiry of a period of 28 days from the making of council’s resolution, the General Manager inform the Minister in writing that council’s resolution has not been rescinded.

The JO network and funding allocations will be announced in March, with JOs proclaimed in April and operational by 1 July 2018.

Consultation with other Councils
Offer to join a larger REROC JO
Council received a formal invite to join a larger REROC model, but resolved at the January 2018 meeting, not to take up that offer, as it involved only Albury City and Greater Hume, along with the rest of the REROC Councils. This is not considered to adequately address other matters for Federation such as the Murray River priorities.

Council has workshopped this matter briefly in December 2017, and since that time the Riverina and Murray Region of Councils has met, on the 18 December 2017, to consider the JO matter. RAMROC canvassed all members present, including Federation who was represented by the Mayor and General Manager.

The recommendation that came out of the RAMROC workshop meeting on 18 December 2017 was as follows:

**RESOLVED that it be recommended to the RAMROC Member Councils that they resolve to adopt Option 3 in the Executive Officer’s report, which proposes the establishment of two joint Organisations within the DoP Riverina Murray State Regional Boundaries, these being a Murray and Murrumbidgee Joint Organisation comprising 11 Council areas (i.e. generally comprising current RAMROC councils), and a Riverina Joint Organisation comprising 9 Council areas (generally comprising current REROC councils);**

*and noting that Balranald and Wentworth Shires now have an option to adopt full JO membership for a Murray and Murrumbidgee JO.*

Since then, the Mayor and Interim General Manager met with many Councils and County Councils at Narrandera on the 5 February 2018, at a workshop facilitated by Melissa Gibbs from the Office of Local Government.

RAMROC also further considered this matter at the ordinary Board meeting, on 14 February 2018. At this meeting, although no votes were taken, there appeared growing interest by some, including Federation and Albury City Councils, to propose to the NSW Government, the one JO to span the entire Riverina Murray Region. This is considered to more effectively meet the aims of the NSW Government, by having a more strategic focus, and could also meet the objectives of local Councils in creating a bigger voice at the table. It would also be more cost effective. There are also some possible disadvantages in going so large, but these are not considered enough to outweigh the advantages.

A main issue however appears to be there is still some Councils within RAMROC who would not favor this model, and more so, REROC would not appear to favor this model, and there are also unknowns with what size JO Wagga Council is leaning towards.
It is recommended that Council nominate their preferred option, which in this report, for consideration, is for it to be in the larger single Riverina Murray JO, whilst also retaining a fall back position to be that of the current, or similar, RAMROC model. Albury City Council has strongly supported continuing to be a part of the existing RAMROC model also, if the one large JO fails to get up.

The former Urana Shire was a member of both REROC and RAMROC, largely due to its central position across the Riverina Murray area, and with many services, communities of interest and State Agency linkages to the Wagga area. The former Corowa Shire was a member of both REROC and RAMROC also for many years, but resolved to leave REROC prior to the amalgamation to focus more on RAMROC.

Attachments
5.4.1 Letter from Office of Local Government
5.4.2 Riverina Murray Planning Region Boundary
5.4.3 Joint Organisation Frequently Asked Questions – Office of Local Government

Financial Implications
The NSW Government has indicated that seed funding of up to $300,000 per JO is available. Operating costs of each JO are hard to estimate, due to unknown size, final roles and staffing levels, but would be conservatively estimated to be in the order of at least $500,000 per year. It is envisaged that for RAMROC, the JO would take the place of RAMROC. Council currently pays $20,279.47 annually for RAMROC membership, and based on a RAMROC size JO, costing around $500,000 per year, this would increase Councils contribution to around $40,000 per year.

**RECOMMENDED** that Council note the report on the Joint Organisations; and

In accordance with Part 7 of Chapter 12 of the Local Government Act 1993 (Act), the Federation Council (Council) resolves:

1. **THAT** the Council inform the Minister for Local Government (Minister) of the Council’s endorsement of the Minister recommending to the Governor the establishment of a Joint Organisation (Joint Organisation) in accordance with this resolution;
2. **TO approve the inclusion of the Council’s area in the Joint Organisation’s area;**
3. **THAT** the Joint Organisation be established to cover the Council’s area and any one or more of the following council areas:
4. **THAT before 28 February 2018, the General Manager provide the Minister with a copy of this resolution including the date on which Council made this resolution;**
5. **THAT, on the expiry of a period of 28 days from the making of this resolution, the General Manager inform the Minister that this resolution has not been rescinded;**
6. **THAT** failing acceptance of the entire councils and county councils in the Riverina Murray Regional Planning area to be a singular joint organisation, that a joint organisation be established to cover the Council’s area and any one or more of the following council areas:
37/18FC **RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Miegel and Kennedy that Council defer item 5.4 Joint Organisations to the March Ordinary Council Meeting.

5.5 **MODE CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE REVIEW 2018**

**Summary**

LGNSW is preparing a sector wide submission and councils are invited to make comments or submissions to be included in this. Councils can make their own submission to the Office of Local Government if they wish.

Final submissions close on Friday, 16 March 2018. To contribute to LGNSW’s submission, comments should be provided to Kristy Kay, Director Corporate and Community Services by 28 February 2018.

The draft Model Code of Meeting Practice and the circular from OLG is included as an attachment.

**Background**

Amendments to the Local Government Act 1993 (the Act) in August last year by the Local Government Amendment (Government and Planning) Act 2016 provide for a Model Code of Meeting Practice to be prescribed by regulation.

The NSW Office of Local Government is consulting with councils and other stakeholders on the new Model Code of Meeting Practice for Local Councils in NSW. Once this is finalised, it will replace the meeting rules currently prescribed in the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005.

The NSW Office of Local Government is seeking feedback on its new draft model code of meeting practice for councils.

The draft Model Meeting code has amendments designed to address issues identified in the existing code and to improve ethical standards, more effectively deter non-compliance and lead to improved transparency and accountability.

- The Model Meeting Code has two elements:
  - It contains mandatory provisions (indicated in black font) that reflect the existing meetings provisions of the Act and adapt those currently contained in the Regulation. The existing meetings provisions of the Regulation have been updated and supplemented to reflect contemporary meetings practice by councils and to address ambiguities and areas of confusion in the existing provisions based on feedback from councils.
  - It contains non-mandatory provisions (indicated in red font) that cover areas of meetings practice that are common to most councils but where there may be a need for some variation in practice between councils based on local circumstances. The non-mandatory provisions will also operate to set a benchmark based on what OLG sees as being best practice for the relevant area of practice.

- In making submissions on the draft Model Meeting Code, OLG would welcome feedback from councils on whether any of the proposed non-mandatory provisions should be mandated. If there is a sufficient body of support for these from councils, these may be made mandatory in the final version of the Model Meeting Code.
The draft Model Code of Meeting Practice includes a recommendation that prior to each meeting of council the General Manager will conduct a briefing session to brief councillors on the items of business to considered at the meeting and that the briefing session must not be used to debate or make decisions on items of business.

The workshops are designed to support Councillors in regard to the items outlined in the Councillor Handbook. The draft Model Meeting Code recommends that briefing sessions and workshops should be closed to the public as best practice. In January, this year council resolved to adopt a schedule of briefing sessions and workshops for councillors.

Attachments
5.5.1 Draft Model Code of Meeting Practice
5.5.2 Circular 17/40 – Consultation on the draft Model Code of Meeting Practice for Local Councils in NSW

Financial Implications
Nil.

**RECOMMENDED** Council review the proposed changes to the Model Code of Meeting Practice currently on the Councillor Portal and provide feedback to be submitted by Wednesday, 28 February 2018.

**38/18FC** **RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Longley and Longmire Council review the proposed changes to the Model Code of Meeting Practice currently on the Councillor Portal and provide feedback to be submitted by Wednesday, 28 February 2018.

**5.6 CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY**

10.30 am An Australian Citizenship Ceremony will be conducted for Mrs Fiona Nottle, Mrs Jeannette Champion and Mr Kevan Champion.

**39/18FC** **RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Law and Kennedy that Council defer item 5.6 until 10.30 am.

A BUTLER
INTERIM GENERAL MANAGER
Federation Council Ordinary Council Meeting  
20 February 2018

6. DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

6.1 COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN (INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING)

Summary
Following Councils adoption of the Community Engagement Plan at the January 2018 Council meeting, the purpose of this report is to provide an update in relation to the consultation activities planned.

Background
The Community Strategic Plan is the highest level plan that Council and its community will prepare and serves to identify the community's main long term priorities and aspirations for the future. Whilst Council is proud to have the custodial role in initiating, preparing and maintaining the plan on behalf of other stakeholders, several state agencies and community groups will also have a role to play in the delivery of various aspects of the plan. The aim of the plan is to encourage council, the community and other agencies to work together as one community to deliver on the vision for the future.

The University of Technology – Sydney (UTS) have been engaged to help prepare a Community Strategic Plan for the Federation Council region and a Delivery Program and Operational Plan which will guide the activities and direction of Council.

Consultation has commenced with 260 phone surveys currently being conducted at random throughout the Federation Council area.

A number of workshops have been scheduled for the week commencing 25 February throughout the Council area. These will be facilitated by UTS and it is hoped that members of the community and representatives of key stakeholder groups will attend these workshops to ensure a good cross section of input. Please find attached to the agenda a copy of the flyer promoting these sessions.

The following is the proposed schedule of workshops:

Monday 26 February:
- Urana Bowls Club at 6.30pm with light refreshments provided

Tuesday 27 February:
- Mulwala Public School at 7.30am with breakfast provided
- Savernake School of Arts at 12.00 noon with light lunch provided
- Oaklands RSL and Bowling Club at 6.30pm with light refreshments provided

Wednesday 28 February:
- Corowa Golf Club at 7.30am with a breakfast provided
- Project Reference Group Meeting at the Corowa Civic Centre from 12 noon
- Coreen Football Clubrooms at 6.30pm with light refreshments provided

Thursday 1 March:
- Interagency Stakeholder workshop at the Corowa RSL from 9.00am
- Youth Group workshop at the Corowa RSL from 12 noon
- Howlong Golf Club at 6.30pm with light refreshments provided

Friday 2 March:
- Councillor Workshop at the Corowa Council Chambers from 10am
- Morundah Hotel at 3.30pm with light refreshments provided
- Boree Creek Hall at 6.30pm with light refreshments provided
Feedback from the phone survey and community workshops will be used to prepare Federation Council’s first ten year Community Strategic Plan. It will also help to inform the objectives and activities for Council’s Delivery Program and Operational Plan, in conjunction with the resourcing strategy requirements such as the long-term financial plan, asset management plans and workforce management plans.

Attachments
6.1.1 Consultation Flyer

Financial Implications
This is included within the 2017/18 financial plan.

| RECOMMENDED | that Council note the report on the Preparation of the New Community Strategic plan, Delivery Program and Operational Plan for implementation from 1 July 2018. |

| 40/18FC | RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Longmire and Thomas that Council note the report on the Preparation of the New Community Strategic plan, Delivery Program and Operational Plan for implementation from 1 July 2018. |

6.2 GRANT APPLICATIONS

Summary
The purpose of the report is to update Council on outstanding grant applications. It is hoped that announcements on applications made by Federation Council to the NSW Government Stronger Country Communities Program and the NSW Regional Growth – Environmental and Tourism Fund will be made soon.

Background
NSW Government Stronger Country Communities Program
Federation Council submitted the following four grant applications totalling $1,400,014 to the NSW Government Stronger Country Communities Program.

Council consulted with the community in respect to these applications during August and September 2017 and was required to rank the projects in order of priority. The assessment process by the NSW Government has also included further consultation with residents of Federation Council through a phone survey of 100 people.

In addition to the projects Council identified, a request was received from the Morundah community to support the Bush Entertainment Centre. However, this was not of sufficient size (minimum applications were $100,000) and the project was difficult to consider at the late stage it was put forward.

Council’s applications were submitted on 13 September 2017.

Toilet Block Improvements – total grant request of $396,672
Applications received as part of amalgamation funding under the Stronger Communities Fund demonstrated a strong desire from the community for new and improved public toilet facilities across the council area. The recently adopted Disability Inclusion Action Plan also identified the need to ensure facilities are accessible to all members of the community.
Council recently completed an assessment of all public toilets and considered the condition, accessibility and usage of each facility. Based on this information, previously identified needs and community infrastructure projects currently underway, an application was prepared for the following:

- New toilet block at Bangerang Park in Corowa (including disabled access and baby change facilities). This will support the new Playground at Bangerang Park.
- New toilet block at Purtle Park in Mulwala (including disabled access and baby change facilities). This is an essential component of the new all abilities playground in Mulwala.
- Upgrade of the public toilet facilities at Lowe Square, Howlong to include disabled access and baby change facilities.

Howlong Preschool Expansion – total grant request of $332,300

The Howlong Preschool is a community owned and operated not-for-profit early childhood education facility that has been proudly serving the Howlong community and surrounding areas since 1975.

The current premises was originally built over 26 years ago and demand for early childhood education has increased beyond the capacity of the existing facility.

To ensure the Preschool can cater for families in Howlong and the surrounding area into the future, plans have been developed for an extension of the facility. The project is designed to significantly improve the current facilities from one room that provides 26 places per day, to a two room preschool facility that can support 40 children per day.

It will also provide several other important upgrades including disability access, a central administration area, a community room, replacement bathroom and kitchen facilities.

In addition to the application made by Council through the Stronger Country Communities program for this important project, another application for $200,000 was made through a different program (also from the NSW Government) and was successful, which is excellent news.

Council has since withdrawn its full application for the Preschool Expansion project, however is in the process of requesting part funding be made available from the Stronger Country Communities Program to enable the Preschool to properly complete the project without the need to take up a loan and further fundraise.

Uran Caravan Park Improvements – total grant request of $100,000

The Urana Caravan Park is located on the foreshore of the Urana Aquatic Centre and includes five self-contained cabins, 21 powered sites, 15 unpowered sites and 1 amenities block.

The park is three star rated and attracts visitors wishing to enjoy the local recreational facilities for skiing, fishing and bird watching. In the summer period, the park is often at capacity and the surrounding area benefits from visitor expenditure within the local economy.

To support tourism growth and leverage opportunities associated with increased traffic along Federation Way, an application was made to purchase and install a new large, fully accessible family cabin.

Extension of Corowa Cycleway – total grant request of $371,042

Corowa currently has a network of walking and cycle trails that are a popular way to explore the area. The paths provide strategic connections throughout the township and offer opportunities for residents and visitors to participate in affordable recreational activities.
An existing trail commences in the town centre and extends 3.9km towards the Corowa Golf Club. The bitumen track currently concludes at the entrance to the Corowa Common.

With the establishment of a cinema now at the Golf Club, extending this trail will improve access to the facility and address safety concerns regarding bicycle and pedestrian traffic movement between the Golf Club and town centre.

The application involves extending the existing trail through the Corowa Common and connecting to the Corowa Golf Club. The project will also include signage along the trail.

Council appreciates the support of the Corowa Common Trust in respect to this project.

**NSW Government Regional Growth – Environmental and Tourism Fund**

Federation Council partnered with Albury City and Berrigan Councils to submit a major application to the NSW Regional Growth – Environmental and Tourism Fund for the ‘Murray River Regional Experiences’ initiative. Federation Council’s component of this project was estimated at $7,191,417 with a grant request of $3,853,652.

This project will strengthen the access to, and connection with, the Murray River through the development of extensive public infrastructure across three local council areas. The Murray River Regional Experiences project is aligned with relevant state and local strategic policy and objectives for tourism development and is expected to have a significant economic impact on the region.

For the Federation Council area, this program is an exciting opportunity to support the implementation of two longstanding foreshore development masterplans in Corowa and Mulwala, in addition to constructing a cycleway connecting the destinations. The project is designed to revitalise key foreshore areas and encourage a greater connection to the River and Lake through improved access, amenity and infrastructure.

Federation Council’s component of the project includes;

**Corowa Riverfront Precinct**

The Corowa riverfront redevelopment will revitalise Corowa’s riverfront and improve local and visitor access to the river, creating a destination to encourage outdoor activities and interaction with the environment such as general sightseeing, bushwalking, fishing, bird watching, picnics/BBQs and recreational boating.

Key components of the redevelopment project include:

- Bangerang Park Playground (including accessible amenities block and landscaping);
- Café in Rowers Park;
- Corowa Boardwalk and Riverside Walking Track;
- River Revegetation;
- Interpretive Signage; and
- Lions Park Boating facilities.

The suite of projects will contribute to a revitalised riverfront, encouraging a greater connection to the River through improved access, amenity and infrastructure.

The Corowa riverfront redevelopment is identified as a priority tourism project for Corowa and is supported through the preparation of the Corowa Riverfront Master Plan (almost 10 years ago).

**Mulwala Foreshore Precinct**
The Mulwala foreshore redevelopment will support better utilisation of public open space at the interface of Lake Mulwala for tourism and recreation purposes. It will focus specifically on redeveloping and repositioning four key areas:

- Digger Loughnan Park (construction of a fishing jetty);
- Purtle Park (all abilities playground and amenities block and car parking);
- Owen Bridges Reserve (boat ramp, park furniture and landscaping, BBQ facilities, sewer dump point); and
- Kyffins Reserve foreshore pathway and revegetation works.

The Mulwala foreshore redevelopment is identified as a priority project for Mulwala and is supported through the preparation of a Master Plan some 12 months ago.

**Corowa Mulwala Trail**

The Corowa Mulwala Trail forms part of the Murray River Adventure Trail and includes the construction of a 42.9 km trail connecting Corowa and Mulwala. The trail will enable a bicycle connection between the two destinations incorporating interpretive signage along the trail that builds an awareness and appreciation of the natural landscape of the area.

The proposed Corowa Mulwala Trail will encourage an increase in cycling participation for locals and visitors, as well as promote the dispersal of visitors between the two destinations and cross-destination expenditure.

**Attachments**

Nil.

**Financial Implications**

The total project value was $7,191,417 with a grant request of $3,853,652. The project included $2,489,765 of financial contribution from Council, $290,000 in industry contributions, $86,000 in community contributions and $500,000 from other Government sources.

If successful, Council will need to ensure these projects are included in next year’s operational plan and delivery program.

**RECOMMENDED** that Council note the report on Grant Applications made under the NSW Government Stronger Communities and NSW Regional Growth (Environment and Tourism) programs.

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Longley and Law that Council note the report on Grant Applications made under the NSW Government Stronger Communities and NSW Regional Growth (Environment and Tourism) programs.
7. DIRECTOR FINANCE AND ORGANISATION DEVELOPMENT REPORT

7.1 STATEMENT OF BANK BALANCES AND RECONCILIATION AS AT 31 JANUARY 2018

Balance as per Bank Statement:

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Sub Total 43,001,938.30

Plus Deposits not yet lodged:

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Sub Total 43,006,175.83

Less Unpresented Cheques:

3,047.88

Balance as per Ledger

43,003,127.95

Less External Restricted Funds

28,778,999.55

Balance of General Fund Ledger

14,224,128.40

CERTIFICATE OF RECONCILIATION


S NORMAN
MANAGER FINANCE

RECOMMENDED that the report on Statement of Bank Balances and Reconciliation as at 31 January 2018 be noted.
RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Miegel and Longley that the report on Statement of Bank Balances and Reconciliation as at 31 January 2018 be noted.

7.2 SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS AS AT 31 JANUARY 2018

The following list of investment securities is held as at 31 January 2018. Investment of funds on behalf of Council has been undertaken in accordance with the Local Government Act and Regulations.

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**Federation Council Ordinary Council Meeting**

**20 February 2018**

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<td>16/10/2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$42,813,232.86

**CERTIFICATE OF RECONCILIATION**

I CERTIFY THAT THE INVESTMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 625 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1993, THE REGULATIONS AND COUNCIL’S POLICIES.

S NORMAN
MANAGER FINANCE

**RECOMMENDED** that Council note the report on the schedule of investments as at 31 January 2018.

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Law and Miegel that Council note the report on the schedule of investments as at 31 January 2018.

### 7.3 COUNCIL PAYMENT AND RECEIPTING ALTERNATIVES AND COUNCIL AGENCY RECEIPTS

**Summary**

The purpose of this report is to allow discussion on the decision by Council in 2017 to no longer offer an option to pay rates at post offices, as a cost saving measure.

Payment options still available to Council’s Customers/Ratepayers includes direct payment at Council’s Offices at Corowa, Mulwala, Howlong and Urana, BPAY and Direct Debit payments, (and soon to be added to Council’s Website provision for Credit Card payments).

When the 2017/18 Budget was adopted and revenue policy set, a decision was made to save ratepayers over $20,000 cost per year by phasing out the Australia Post payment option, when alternative options for payment are available at far less cost or no direct cost. Additionally, it is understood that only part of this payment would filter back to the applicable local Post Office agency.
This matter was also discussed at a Local Representative Committee budget meeting before the 30 June 2017. Clearly, from some of the recent contact made by two Post Office Agencies, Council did not communicate the phasing out of this option, and expected the parent organisation ‘Australia Post’ to relay the message through to them, as Council negotiates directly with Australia Post and not individual Agencies.

The three payment services are to be more heavily promoted over the coming weeks, and in particular Direct Debit arrangements where Council and the customer/ratepayer incurs no transaction fees.

**Background**

In regards to payment options, Council has run the Direct Debit payment option for over 10 years, (around 407 customer/ratepayers utilise this service) and once commenced, it means that no attendance is required at any office to make payments and no transaction fees are incurred.

Additionally, for those that want to pay by credit card this service is already available by telephone to Council Main Office(s) and is also to be available on Council’s Website within the coming weeks.

**Current Office hours are as follows:**

Corowa:
Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm.

Urana:
Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.

**Library/ Council Office Hours**

Mulwala:
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday: 10.00am to 1.00pm and 2.00pm to 5.00pm,
Saturday: 10.00am to 12 noon,
Monday & Friday closed.

Howlong:
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday: 10am to 1pm,
Tuesday & Wednesday: 2pm to 5pm,
Saturday: 9.00am to 11.30am,
Monday closed.

**2016/17 Receipts Taken**

From 2016/17 data collected just over 7,325 receipts (around 11%) were made at Post Office counters. Of these 2,442 were Corowa, 1,449 Mulwala, 1,741 Howlong, 3 Urana, 34 Oaklands, 7 Rand and the remaining 1,649 other. The other receipts of 58,164 were made via Council Offices, telephone and internet.

**Report**

The direct negotiations with Australia Post are subject to ‘Commercial In-confidence’ and are not detailed in this report. However, due to the low number of Australia Post transactions by Federation Council customers/ratepayers, Council is unable to obtain a sizeable per transaction cost reduction from Australia Post, even though many of the receipt amounts were being split into $20 or $50 amounts. Therefore, Council is still charged over $2 per receipt whereas Council incurs no cost for ‘direct debit’ arranged payments.

The cost of other services such as BPay are more than half the Australia Post transaction fee for the same number of receipts, and when you consider 70% of Australia Post receipts taken occur very close to existing Council Offices, (refer above for details of Council opening hours at various locations), the potential saving of $20,000 that can be allocated to other Council functions is hard not to justify. Likewise, Council Office/Library opening on Saturdays at Mulwala and Howlong provides an additional opportunity for making payments where Council does not incur a $2 plus per transaction fee.
The Council Office/Library arrangements away from the Council Corowa Office need payment receipting as part of the service offering to ensure justification of Council’s own shop front services at Mulwala, Howlong and Urana. For Council information, in 2003/04 around 80% of receipts were made at face to face Council options and now it is only around 9% of receipts.

Attachments
Nil.

Financial Implications
Council saves approximately $20,000 gross per year by not having this option. Some extra internal costs may be apparent due to increased transactions at Council, but this is not expected to be significant.

**RECOMMENDED** that Council note the report on the Council payment and receipting options currently available.

44/18FC **RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Law and Whitechurch that Council note the report on the Council payment and receipting options currently available.

### 7.4 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW STATEMENT (QBRS) AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2017 (SECOND QUARTER) AND ESTIMATED FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2018

**Summary**
This report allows for tabling of the report on the 2nd Quarterly Budget Review Statement as at 31 December 2017. There is no change to the projected results for Council’s 2017/2018 Budgets as at this time.

**Background**
A Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBRS) is required by the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 at the end of each quarter. For information purposes the following provides details of the adopted Operational Plan budgets for 2017/2018 as at the June 2017 Council Meeting and changes to end of first quarter.

#### 2017/2018 Summary Original Budget by Fund (including Brought Forward & 1st QBR)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
<th>Operating Income '000</th>
<th>Operating Expend. '000</th>
<th>Deprec. Non-Cash '000</th>
<th>Capital Income '000</th>
<th>Capital Expend '000</th>
<th>Loan Income '000</th>
<th>Loan Repayment '000</th>
<th>Transfer to Reserves '000</th>
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<th>Nett Change '000</th>
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<td>-$185</td>
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2017/2018 2nd Quarter Projected Summary Budget by Fund

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<td>-$337</td>
<td>-$185</td>
<td>$11,636</td>
<td>-$3,253</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please find included with the agenda a summary of Council’s financial position as at 31 December 2017. This is prepared in accordance with the format required by the Office of Local Government.

Attachments

7.4.1 2nd Quarterly Budget Review Statement

Financial Implications

Within the attachments is a 2nd Quarterly Budget Review Statement (attachment 7.4.1).

At this time the basic 2017/18 Operating Plan & Budget is on track and a more detailed analysis and recommended budget changes will be included as part of the 3rd Quarter Budget Review in time for the 2018/19 Operating Plan & Budget deliberations.

RECOMMENDED:

1. THAT Council note the report on the 2nd Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBRS) as at 31 December 2017; and

2. THAT Council adopt the Quarterly Budget Review Statement to 31 December 2017 as tabled.

45/18FC RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Longmire and Law:

1. THAT Council note the report on the 2nd Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBRS) as at 31 December 2017; and

2. THAT Council adopt the Quarterly Budget Review Statement to 31 December 2017 as tabled.

7.5 COMMON SEAL - CLOSED ROAD LAND PURCHASE ON EP26454 (LOT 7 DP 585806) - HOWLONG WASTE FACILITY

Summary

Council made application 15 September 2016 to Department of Industry (DPI) to close and purchase an unmade road that crosses (split) the Howlong Waste Facility Lot 7 DP 585806.

DPI has now agreed to the purchase and made an offer to Council for $6,518 (excluding GST). Council will incur an amount for associated fees to affect the purchase.
Background
The purchase of this land and consolidation with Lot 7 DP 585806 will make dealing with only future operations of the site easier as previously the site was split by the section of road to be purchased.

Attachments
7.5.1 Map – Proposed Road Howlong Waste Facility

Financial Implications
The costs associated with the purchase and transfer to Council ownership will be borne by the Waste budget. The land will be incorporated into the one rating valuation so there will be minimum impact on future operating costs.

RECOMMENDED:

1. THAT Council note the report on the purchase of the section of road in relation to Enclosed Permit EP26454 (Lot 7 DP 585806) – Howlong Waste Facility; and
2. THAT Council authorise the purchase of the road section for the amount of $6,518 and associated costs and that the Common Seal of Council to be affixed to the contract of sale and any additional documents.

46/18FC RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Law and Kennedy

1. THAT Council Note the report on the purchase closed section of road in relation to Enclosed Permit EP26454 (Lot 7 DP 585806) – Howlong Waste Facility; and
2. THAT Council authorise the purchase of the closed road section for the amount $6,518 and associated costs and that the Common Seal of Council to be affixed to the contract of sale and any additional documents.

7.6 PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP AND SELL LAND ADJACENT TO THE MULWALA COUNCIL DEPOT SITE

Summary
This report highlights the shortage of industrial land in the Mulwala area and proposes to subdivide and sell land adjacent to the Mulwala Council Depot site surplus to operational requirements (Lot 13 DP 844434 1.46 ha). This will yield approximately six (6) to seven (7) lots (refer draft sketch proposed plan of subdivision) for which there is immediate demand and allow Council consideration of the creation of an Economic Development Reserve Fund for use in promoting development and employment within the Federation Council Local Government Area.

Background
Vacant industrial land is limited in the Yarrawonga and Mulwala areas. The price is also variable with the Mulwala offerings, when available, tending to be cheaper. Demand, therefore is robust.

Council has received an Australian Government grant towards the cost of construction of the last stage of the Mulwala Industrial Estate and the design is complete and about to go to tender. These new lots will satisfy all the existing demand interest with additional blocks remaining for sale.

Within the existing developed area, there are no blocks owned by Council that are available for sale and there is considerable buyer interest in purchasing for immediate development either for owner occupation or for lease. This lack of supply and expressed demand are the reasons for considering the sale of surplus Council land adjacent to the Mulwala depot. Approximately 1.46 ha could be made available.
An allied matter relates to Council’s sale clause that requires development within a twelve (12) month period from the sale date at the same price as purchased and that the buyer is not to sell on without Council approval for a period of 2 years. An investigation into the status of the undeveloped lots is also happening to ensure the desire for development, as opposed to speculation, is met. The findings of this investigation will be the subject of a further report.

**Discussion**

**Supply Issues**

The industrial land supply in Mulwala is low and immediate demand is strong. In at least one instance, that demand is coming from an existing business in the area that requires immediate accommodation.

The area south of the Mulwala Council Depot buildings is currently partly used as a stockpile for soil but this requirement can be catered for elsewhere. Given the dire need for industrial land in the area and the underutilisation of the site, Council’s operations department has agreed to the subdivision and potential sale of the surplus land.

Walpole Surveying has been commissioned to undertake a survey that will create around six (6) to seven (7) new lots of a size that is in current demand, and lends itself to both individual use and provision of small industrial units that are sought after by small service based industries. There is little, if any, expressed demand for a block the size of the surplus at present.

There is capacity in the Corowa Airport Industrial Estate but for most small businesses, the travel distance from the Mulwala area is not desirable. Where it is less of an issue, support is offered to find a suitable site.

**Land Comparability**

Lot 13 DP 844434 is on the corner of Barooga Road and McCarthy St and the site was created with the first stage of the industrial estate. The quality of the estate has progressively improved over time and this development will refocus attention on the quality of this southern entrance to the industrial area. Works such as street tree planting and table drain maintenance will be target improvements.

**Price Considerations**

The most recent sales of Council Industrial land at Mulwala have been at $39 per square metre excluding GST for fully serviced lots.

One offer conditional upon Council agreement has been communicated to a prospective purchaser at the same price for a proposed lot of 1,800 sq/m on the southern boundary of the land. The offer also recognised that this potential lot did not enjoy the same quality of road reserve abutting the property. In particular, the road did not have kerb and channel.

Though other enquiries have been informally told that the same pricing arrangement may exist, market scarcity suggests a higher sales figure should be set at $50 per sq/m (excluding GST), especially as Council’s Industrial Estate stage 2 is likely to be in the $55 to $60 per sq/m range (excluding GST). Additionally, the current proviso should be maintained that if not built on within 12 months it is to be returned to Council (if Council agrees) at the same price as purchased. Likewise, to avoid speculation, the buyer is not to sell on without Council approval for a period of 2 years.

**Attachments**

7.6.1 A draft sketch proposed plan of subdivision
Financial Implications
The sale of these lots will provide revenues to Council that were not anticipated at the time of preparing the annual budget.

The likely gross revenue is in the range of $560,000 to $700,000. Approximately $60,000 to $120,000 may be required for expenses associated with the subdivision, improvements and relocation of stockpiles.

This report recommends that the nett revenue be placed into an Economic Development Reserve fund that will finance staffing, marketing, possible incentives and other business retention and attraction initiatives within the Federation Council area.

RECOMMENDED:

1. THAT Council note the report on proposal to development and sell land adjacent to the Mulwala Council Depot Site;

2. THAT Council proceed with the subdivision of Lot 13 DP 844434 being 1.46 ha of Council Land adjacent to the current Mulwala Council Depot site on McCarthy Street, Mulwala;

3. THAT Council set the sale price for southern proposed lot block at a rate of $39 per square metre excluding GST;

4. THAT Council set the price of the other lots to $50 per square metre excluding GST;

5. THAT Council make the sales subject to conditions that if not built on within 12 months the land is to be returned to Council (if Council agrees) at the same price as purchased, and that the buyer is not to sell on without Council approval for a period of 2 years;

6. THAT Council use the nett funds from the sale to set up an Economic Development Reserve Fund subject to a further report for Council consideration, describing the purpose and operations of the fund; and

7. THAT Council note that if kerb and channel is constructed adjacent to the newly created blocks at a time in the future, that this expense will be borne by Council at the time so as to reflect the fact that recent sales have been for the same price with kerb and channel included.

47/18FC RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Wales and Thomas that Council defer item 7.6 Proposal to Develop and Sell Land Adjacent to the Mulwala Council Depot Site to the March Council Workshop.

KC PARKER
DIRECTOR FINANCE AND ORGANISATION DEVELOPMENT
8. DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT REPORT

8.1 BUILDING APPROVALS – COMPLYING AND CONSTRUCTION CERTIFICATES APPROVED

This report provides for Council’s information, the construction and complying development certificates issued since the report prepared for the 2018 January Council meeting. The report also includes graphs on the value of works approved, over the last three financial years (NB. Data as of 1 July 2016 is for Federation Council. Historical Data is for Corowa Shire Council only).

2017/256 41 Lang Street Mulwala  
2017/269 12 Millthorpe Street Oaklands  
2017/258 188 Bank Street Howlong  
2017/282 Lot 12 Orme Street Boree Creek  
2018/5 93-157 Enfield Street Corowa  
2017/283 4-6 Heather Circuit Mulwala  
2017/277 8/4 Melbourne Street Mulwala  
CDC2018/5 35 Payne Street Mulwala  
CDC2018/1 13 Whitehead Street Corowa

TOTAL $1,018,680

* Data as of 1 July 2016 is for Federation Council. Historical data is for Corowa Shire Council only.
RECOMMENDED that Council note the report on construction/complying development certificates issued since the January 2018 Council meeting.

48/18FC  RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Miegel and Law that Council note the report on construction/complying development certificates issued since the January 2018 Council meeting.

8.2 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS APPROVED UNDER DELEGATED (STAFF) AUTHORITY SINCE LAST ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

This report provides for Council’s information, the Development approvals that have been determined under delegated authority by the granting of consent subject to conditions, since the January 2018 Ordinary Council meeting.

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION REGISTERED NO. 2017/251
Application for a External Lift on Infrastructure Land being Lot 541; DP 726178; 100 Edward Street Corowa.

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION REGISTERED NO. 2017/280
Application for a Private Cemetery on Primary Production Land being Lot 30; DP 752292; Narrow Plains Road Daysdale.

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION REGISTERED NO. 2017/281
Application for a Transportable Dwelling on Village Land being Lot 11; Section D; DP7344; Orme Street Boree Creek.
DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION REGISTERED NO. 2017/284
Application for a Dwelling on General Residential Land being Lot 5; DP 1235748; 79 Jude Street Howlong.

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION REGISTERED NO. 2017/285
Application for a Dwelling on General Residential Land being Lot 4; DP 1210304; 173 Golf Club Drive Howlong.

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION REGISTERED NO. 2017/45
Application for a Shed on General Residential Land being Lot 2; DP258074; 8 Piggin Court Corowa.

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION REGISTERED NO. 2018/10
Application for a Swimming Pool on Low Density Residential Land being Lot 61; DP 1202116; 98 Cypress Drive Mulwala.

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION REGISTERED NO. 2018/6
Application for a Boundary Adjustment on General Residential Land being Lot 1; DP305303; 11 Vera Street Corowa.

RECOMMENDED that Council note the report on the Development approvals that have been determined under delegated authority by the granting of consent subject to conditions, since the January 2018 Ordinary Council meeting.

49/18FC  RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Longmire and Miegel that Council note the report on the Development approvals that have been determined under delegated authority by the granting of consent subject to conditions, since the January 2018 Ordinary Council meeting.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

50/18FC  RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Miegel and Wales that standing orders be suspended at 10.22 am

AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY

The Mayor conducted an Australian Citizenship Ceremony for Mrs Fiona Nottle, Mrs Jeannette Champion and Mr Kevan Champion.

RESUMPTION OF STANDING ORDERS

51/18FC  RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Law and Kennedy that standing orders be resumed at 11.00 am.
8.3 ROAD CLOSURE - ORFORD STREET SOUTH COROWA

Summary
This report provides discussion and recommendations on a requested road closure for Orford Street, South Corowa.

Background
Council has received requests for the partial closure of Orford Street, South Corowa as per the figure below.

This has been a long standing issue for the land owners. The matter has been the subject of numerous earlier reports over the past 3 – 4 years, including the former Corowa Shire Council.

As shown on the photograph there are existing sheds (circled) on the road reserve which are the property of the owner of lot DP758296/49/6. To retain the sheds where they are the owner has requested the road closure. Also, there is a fence erected down the middle of part “B” by the property owner to the west. This would need to be relocated to the boundary if the road remains open.

The requested closure contains part “A” and part “B”. Part “A” would be 11m wide and would match the length of the adjacent property. Council currently has a lease agreement with the owner of lot DP758296/49/6 for this portion of the road reserve. The lease expires on the 30 April 2018. It has been suggested that the lease not be renewed as it supports the placement of the unauthorised structures. Further since the previous Council resolution on this matter, detailed site investigation reveals the full width of the road reserve is now considered necessary to allow a road, and services to be safely established to service several allotments to the south, west and east.
Part “B” of the road closure is proposed in this closure application to be split into two equal widths and sold by the Department of Primary Industries.

The land is zoned R2, low density residential. Current minimum lot size is 1 hectare for this area. The land to the west of the road reserve is subject to flood water inundation.

There is potential for DP8896/2 to be further subdivided into 3 lots (for dwellings), as it currently a 3.09Ha lot. The owner of lot DP758296/49/7 (1.02 Ha) has indicated verbally that the land may be put up for sale in the future. This lot also has potential for subdivision, should there be a future rezoning.

Council Officers have discussed the potential for future rezoning of the land to the east of the road reserve and consider that it is a possibility to rezone the land to R1 – General Residential (minimum lot size 550m²). As such closure of the road reserve would be restrictive on future development of the land adjacent to part “B” of the road closure.

The part “A” closure will compromise the amenity of any future road and be restrictive on the placement of future services.

Unauthorised Structures
Council Officers have searched Council records and cannot find any development applications or construction certificates relating to the sheds on the road reserve. As such they are considered unauthorised structures.

Should Council not support the closure of the road, and adopt the recommendation presented, or a similar one with the same intent, then the sheds will need to be removed from the road reserve.

If Council supports the road closure then the owner of the sheds will need to submit a development application to legalise the existing sheds.

Road Closure Process
The road closure process is a function of the Department of Primary Industries (Crown Lands) and varies depending on the status of the road. In this instance the roads are unconstructed.

Under the Roads Act 1993, unconstructed Crown and Council Roads will vest in the Crown upon closure. Where road closure applications are initiated by a third party, for unconstructed Council Roads, the Road Closure: Public Road Closure application (general) may be lodged by the third party with written consent from Council. The consent should acknowledge the road will vest in the Crown upon closure and that the department may deal directly with the third party through the private treaty sale process.

Consultation
Council Officers have consulted the adjoining landowners on a number of occasions since the proposal was first submitted. The land owners have also put forward a range of correspondence to Council.

There are three landowners adjacent to the proposed closure. Two landowners support the partial road closure as proposed, the third (DP758296/50/2) doesn’t support the closure at the north end.

No consultation with the broader public has taken place, as the Department of Primary Industries would do this, pending the decision of Council. If Council support the recommendation, no consultation is required, other than negotiation with the owner of Lot DP758296/49/6 to remove the sheds, to allow the road to be built (developers cost) and services installed, to service the development (house and shed) approved under DA/2016/214, on Lot DP758296/50/2, approved by Council on 8 March 2017.
Community Implications
The proposed road closure of Orford Street may restrict the ability of the adjoining owners to develop their land in the future.

Environmental Implications
There are no environmental impacts expected due to the proposed road closure.

Strategic Implications
The proposed road closure of Orford Street will impact Councils future ability to develop the road reserve to provide access and service provision to other allotments to the south.

Attachments
Nil.

Financial Implications
There are no financial impacts expected due to the proposed road closure.

RECOMMENDED:
1. THAT Council not consent to the closure of Orford Street, South Corowa;
2. THAT Council advise the adjoining landowners and the Department of Industry – Crown Lands of the decision;
3. THAT Council not renew the lease on the road reserve;
4. THAT Council negotiate with the owner of the sheds on the road reserve for their removal on expiry of the current lease; and
5. THAT Council negotiate with the owner of the fence in part “B” of Orford Street to relocate the fence to the lot boundary.

52/18FC RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Longmire and Kennedy:
1. THAT Council not consent to the closure of Orford Street, South Corowa;
2. THAT Council advise the adjoining landowners and the Department of Industry – Crown Lands of the decision;
3. THAT Council not renew the lease on the road reserve;
4. THAT Council negotiate with the owner of the sheds on the road reserve for their removal on expiry of the current lease; and
5. THAT Council negotiate with the owner of the fence in part “B” of Orford Street to relocate the fence to the lot boundary.
8.4 **FLOOD MANAGEMENT PROGRAM 2017-2018**

**Summary**
This report notifies Council of the awarding of a grant under the Floodplain Management Program for 2017-18. This grant allows for the continuation of the floodplain management program for the towns of Urana, Morundah, Boree Creek and Rand.

**Background**
The NSW Government’s Floodplain Management Program provides an opportunity for Councils to work with the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and the community to manage the risks associated with flooding on a floodplain.

Through this program OEH provides specialist staff, operational guidelines and grant funding to enable Councils to employ specialist consultants to prepare relevant floodplain documentation. This program supports the NSW Government’s Flood Prone Land Policy and allows Council to develop a floodplain model, which provides for informed strategic and emergency planning, and the consideration and mitigation of floodplain risk.

The Floodplain management grants program is offered across four stages

1. Preparation of a Flood Study
2. Preparation or review of a floodplain risk management study and plan
3. Investigation, design and completion of a feasibility study for works identified in stage 2
4. Implementation phase

The former Urana Shire Council received a grant in the 2013-14 round for the preparation of a Flood Study for the towns of Urana, Boree Creek, Morundah, Oaklands and Rand. This Study was completed and acquitted January 2018. Flood Study documents have been completed for each of the five towns. The study revealed Oaklands was not at any risk of flooding that would justify further work.

Council applied for stage 2 of the Floodplain management program in April 2017 for the four towns of Urana, Boree Creek, Morundah and Rand.

Council received notification from the Office of Environment and Heritage on 9 February 2018 of the receipt of funding under the Floodplain Management Program for 2017-18 with a maximum funding amount of $210,000. The total project cost is expected to be $245,000 with Council’s contribution of $35,000. Once the funding agreement has been received Council’s maximum contribution will be confirmed.

This project will take a number of years and will include the following steps:

- Signing of the funding agreement
- Preparation of the projects Work Plan
- Establishment of the Community Floodplain Committee
- Advertising for a Specialist Consultant
- Management of the Contract
- Finalisation

**Attachments**
Nil.
Financial Implications

This grant program has been funded at a 6 (grant): 1 (Council) ratio. Council will be required to contribute funds in the order of $35,000 across the life of the project. Councils final contribution will be dependant on the final contract amount.

**RECOMMENDED:**

1. THAT Council notes the report on the awarding of a Floodplain Management Program 2017-18 grant; and
2. THAT Council commits the required funding to the project.

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Thomas and Longley:

1. THAT Council notes the report on the awarding of a Floodplain Management Program 2017-18 grant; and
2. THAT Council commits the required funding to the project.

P GALL
DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
9. NOTICE OF MOTION / QUESTION WITH NOTICE

9.1 QUESTION WITH NOTICE
Councillor Longmire:

To Mr Peter Gall
Director Infrastructure and Environment

Can you provide an update currently on the budgeted rural road works adopted by the previous Federation Council Administrator.

9.2 NOTICE OF MOTION
Moved by Councillor Longmire:

THAT Council urgently halts the Corowa Skate Park project, until an assurance is given by Council’s project team, that the Corowa Skate Park project, will be in fact an extension to the existing skate park, or at the least, a new park still based at the existing site.

That Council only consider other sites if community consultation on the new design for this site comes out strongly against the site.

Background information to support this motion

I am seeking the support of my fellow Councillors on this matter. The Corowa Skate Park Committee representatives (operating under the Apex group) feel they have been mistreated and misled along this process, where they feel the project has gone from a grant they submitted initially to Council, to extend the current skate park, to a much larger project where it is now looking like a whole new skate park may be built on a site elsewhere in the town, maybe at another park in the town.

The process to create a new skate park in a town as anyone who has any knowledge of this would know is very controversial. Despite the fact that there may be some limits with the current site, with proper design and practices, these should be able to be minimized. If Community consultation comes out strongly against this site, when the design and approvals are consulted for this site, only then should a relocation be looked at.

54/18FC RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Longmire and Law:

1. THAT Council urgently halts the Corowa Skate Park project, until an assurance is given by Council’s project team, that the Corowa Skate Park project, will be in fact an extension to the existing skate park, or at the least, a new park still based at the existing site; and

2. THAT Council only consider other sites if community consultation on the new design for this site comes out strongly against the site.

10. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

NO ITEMS
11. REPORTS FROM DELEGATES

NO ITEMS

12. PRÉCIS OF CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING COUNCIL ACTION/FOR INFORMATION

NO ITEMS

13. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

13.1 MULWALA WATER SLIDE LEASE

Summary
The purpose of the report is to inform Council about a proposed transfer of lease relating to part of the foreshore land at 9 Inglis Street Mulwala. This land has the Mulwala Waterslide situated on it and the report seeks to gain approval following a request for assistance from the new operator.

Background
Please find attached to the agenda a commercial in confidence report in consideration of section 10A (2) of the NSW Local Government Act.

RECOMMENDED that Council move to a Closed Committee to discuss the Mulwala Water Slide lease, due to (Part 10A 2(d) of the Local Government act 1993 and Clause 70 of Council’s Code of Meeting Practice) the matters and information are considered to contain commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

55/18FC RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Thomas and Wales that Council move to a Closed Committee at 11.36 am to discuss the Mulwala Water Slide lease, due to (Part 10A 2(d) of the Local Government act 1993 and Clause 70 of Council’s Code of Meeting Practice) the matters and information are considered to contain commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

CLOSURE OF MEETING TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

CLOSED COMMITTEE

56/18FC RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Kennedy and Law:
1. THAT Council endorse the transfer of the Mulwala Waterslide lease to the proposed new lessee and provide the following financial assistance to support the continued operation of the facility;
2. THAT no lease fee, water usage or general rate charges are charged to the lessee for the 2017/2018 financial year; and
3. THAT from 2018/2019 financial year, charges revert to those stipulated within the lease agreement.
RE-OPENING OF THE MEETING TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

57/18FC RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Miegel and Whitechurch that Council move to open committee and report business from closed committee at 12.13 pm.

OPEN COMMITTEE

The Chairperson advised the meeting of the resolution as adopted in confidential.

13.1 Mulwala Water Slide Lease

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Kennedy and Law:

1. THAT Council endorse the transfer of the Mulwala Water Slide lease to the proposed new lessee and provide the following financial assistance to support the continued operation of the facility;

2. THAT no lease fee, water usage or general rate charges are charged to the lessee for the 2017/2018 financial year; and

3. THAT from 2018/2019 financial year, charges revert to those stipulated within the lease agreement.

14. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The meeting terminated at 12.14 pm.

CONFIRMED: 20 MARCH 2018.

THE MAYOR: __________________________