

**MINUTES for the MEETING of GOLDENFIELDS WATER COUNTY COUNCIL  
held in the TEMORA office on 25 AUGUST 2010.**

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The meeting commenced at 1.11pm.

**PRESENT**

Cr P Speirs (Chair), Cr C Manchester, Cr D Palmer, Cr J O'Brien, Cr J Macaulay, Cr J McGregor and Cr K Morris.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr P Wearne (General Manager), Mr T McClellan (Manager Administration), Mr B West (Manager Engineering), Mr C Perry (Acting Manager Production & Distribution) and Miss K Turner (Executive Assistant).

**1. APOLOGIES**

At the June 2010 meeting Cr Mangelsdorf sought and was granted leave of absence for this meeting (minute 10/063).

*Cr McGregor entered the meeting at 1.13pm.*

**2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

No interests were declared at this time.

**3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 24 JUNE 2010**

**10/070 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs O'Brien and Manchester that the minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2010, having been circulated and read by the members, be confirmed.

**4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

No Business Arising from the Minutes was raised.

**5. PUBLIC ACCESS**

No requests for public access were received.

**6. NOTICES OF MOTION / RESCISSION MOTIONS**

No Notices of Motion or Rescission Motions were received.

**7. ADMISSION OF LATE REPORTS**

No late reports were received.

**8. CHAIRPERSON'S MINUTE**

The Chairman did not submit a Chairperson's Minute to the meeting.

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**9. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORTS**

**9.1 FINANCIAL REPORTS**

**9.1.1 COUNCIL INVESTMENTS (G35507005)**

**10/071 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Manchester and Palmer that the report detailing Council Investments as at 31 July 2010 be received and noted.

**Report prepared by Manager Administration**

This report is presented for information on Council Investments in accordance with clause 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005. The following details Council Investments as at 31 July 2010:

<b>Institution / Investment Type</b>	<b>Amount Invested</b>	<b>Term (days)</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Maturity Date</b>
NSW Treasury Hour Glass Facility	6,994,609.77	At Call	5.40%	
LG Financial Services FOCF	2,059,663.26	At Call	5.58%	
Commonwealth Bank At Call A/c	200,000.00	At Call	4.45%	
Defence Force Credit Union	1,300,000.00	90	6.15%	4/08/10
Savings & Loans Credit Union	1,000,000.00	63	5.80%	9/08/10
Local Govt Financial Service	1,800,000.00	90	6.20%	10/08/10
SGE Credit Union	1,050,000.00	62	5.69%	16/08/10
Police & Nurses Credit Union	600,000.00	63	5.60%	23/08/10
Local Govt Financial Service	2,100,000.00	60	5.78%	27/08/10
Westpac Bank	1,000,000.00	90	5.83%	30/08/10
Defence Force Credit Union	1,200,000.00	63	5.80%	6/09/10
Community CPS Australia	600,000.00	58	5.88%	17/09/10
Qld Teachers Credit Union	900,000.00	61	5.75%	20/09/10
Local Govt Financial Service	900,000.00	60	5.70%	24/09/10
<b>Total Invested</b>	<b>\$21,704,273.03</b>			
<b>+ General Bank A/c (with CBA)</b>	<b>\$665,341.15</b>			
<b>TOTAL CASH</b>	<b>\$22,369,614.18</b>			

**Movements within Bank account for the reporting period**

Cash Book balance at 31 May 2010	\$270,536.32
Plus Deposits	
June	\$812,897.14
July	\$2,910,108.78
Less Payments	
June	-\$1,069,898.98
July	-\$2,252,137.35
Cash Book balance at 31 July 2010	\$671,505.91
Less Outstanding Deposits	-\$25,773.41
Plus Unpresented Cheques	\$19,608.65
Bank balance at 31 July 2010	\$665,341.15

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It is hereby certified that the above investments have been secured in accordance with:

- Local Government Act 1993;
- Local Government (General) Regulation 2005;
- Investment Order – gazetted 15 August 2008; and
- Goldenfields Water County Council's Investment Policy (adopted 27/10/05).

**Recommendation**

Recommendation made was adopted.

**9.1.2 OUTSTANDING DEBTORS (G35307005)**

**10/072 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs O'Brien and Manchester that the report detailing Council's outstanding debtors as at 31 July 2010 be received and noted.

**Report prepared by Manager Administration**

This report is presented for information on Council's outstanding debtors as at 31 July 2010:

	<b>Arrears</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Total</b>
Access Charges	\$38,191	\$24,261	\$64,778	\$127,230
Consumption Charges	\$83,468	\$6,527	\$260,018	\$350,013
Deferred Headworks	\$58,800	\$0	\$30,800	\$89,600
<b>Sub-Totals</b>	<b>\$180,459</b>	<b>\$30,788</b>	<b>\$355,596</b>	<b>\$566,843</b>
Less Overpayments Received				<b>-\$98,452</b>
<b>Total Outstanding</b>				<b>\$468,391</b>
Less Bulk Council Accounts Outstanding				\$0
Less Headworks Accounts Outstanding				<b>-\$89,600</b>
<b>Total Outstanding from Retail Customers</b>				<b>\$378,791</b>

**Recommendation**

Recommendation made was adopted.

**9.1.3 OUTSTANDING DEBTORS HISTORY (G35307005)**

**10/073 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs O'Brien and Palmer that the report detailing Council's fluctuating recent outstanding debtors' history be received and noted.

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**Report prepared by Manager Administration**

This report is presented for information on Council's customers' outstanding debtor history from January 2008 to July 2010. It is presented in response to a question from Councillor O'Brien at the last Council meeting in relation to Council's customers outstanding account cycle and the value of core amounts that were not being recovered.

Attached to this report is a graph that details peaks and troughs for both Council's bulk council customers (blue line) and retail customers (red line). The bulk customers invariably come back to nil outstanding at some point in the cycle; however the retail customers outstanding value generally bottoms out around the \$60k to \$100k mark. Presently there is approximately \$63k worth of temporary and permanent disconnections included in the retails outstanding.

**Recommendation**

Recommendation made was adopted.

**9.1.4 CARRY OVER OF INCOMPLETED WORKS (G35201005)**

**10/074 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs O'Brien and Manchester that the following items be carried-over into the 2010/11 capital works program, with funding via the Infrastructure Replacement Reserve (internal restriction): -

<u>Budget Item</u>	<u>(\$)</u>
Betric Reservoir Acquisition (Legal Costs)	5,000
Additional Storage - Junee	100,000
Mains Replacement - Junee Aerodrome Lane, Roediger's Lane	275,000
Total	380,000

**Report prepared by Manager Administration**

In order to carryover incomPLETED works at 30 June into the new financial year, it is necessary for Council to revote the unexpended portion of those votes. In the case of the Betric Reservoir Acquisition, the budget was fully exhausted and additional funds for the legal expenses will be required.

Below is a list of capital works not completed during 2009/10. It is requested that these works, together with the required funding to complete them, be carried-over into the 2010/11 capital works program.

<u>Budget Item</u>	<u>Approx. Funds Req'd (\$)</u>
Betric Reservoir Acquisition (Legal Costs)	5,000
Additional Storage - Junee	100,000
Mains Replacement - Junee Aerodrome Lane, Roediger's Lane	275,000
Total	380,000

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These additional capital works are to be funded from the Infrastructure Replacement Reserve (internal restriction) and will be reflected in the September quarterly budget review. They are also now included in the updated *Capital Works Progress Report* listed elsewhere in this business paper.

**Recommendation**

Recommendation made was adopted.

*Cr Macaulay entered the meeting at 1.37pm.*

**9.1.5 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW – JUNE 2010 (G35201005)**

**10/075 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Manchester and McGregor that the Budget Review for the period ended 30 June 2010 be adopted with the variations to income and expenditure duly noted.

**Report prepared by Manager Administration**

This report is presented to Council to revise estimates of income and expenditure in accordance with clause 203 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005. The review is for the quarter ending 30 June 2010 and is attached for Council's consideration.

It should be noted that the Financial Statements for 2009/10 have been unofficially audited, subject to Council actually referring them for audit (the focus of the following report titled *2009/10 Financial Statements*).

At the March Review, Council's Budget Result forecast a surplus of \$26,887 for the year. The June QBR result, as presented, reflects an increase in available working capital beyond that projected at March of \$484,261, resulting in a budgeted surplus result of \$511,148. This result is reflected in Note 27 of the Financial Statements as a movement in Council's Available Working Funds (from last year's balance to this year's balance) and results in an increased level of Available Working Capital at year end which now totals \$2.092M (2009 : \$1.581M).

As far as Council's Operating Result is concerned, a loss of \$733,270 was recorded.

The variation between the "Operating Result" and the "Budget Result" is detailed on page 3 of the Budget Review statement, with the main factors being the adding back of depreciation (an expense not involving the flow of funds), the cost of acquiring assets (funds employed for non-operating purposes) and movements in Council's internal restrictions.

Major adjustments impacting on this review (being those > \$50,000) include: -

- ✓ Other Usage Charges - a loss of \$57,912 as a result of reduced sales to rural customers;

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- ✓ Interest on Investments - a gain of \$182,891 due to a quicker than expected national economic recovery that led to higher interest rates and also due to Council's capital works program not advancing as expected (reflected in the gain of \$1,297,521 recorded against Acquisition of Assets on page 3), resulting in less need to draw upon restricted funds;
- ✓ Headworks Income - a gain of \$62,608 offset most of the revised downward estimate of \$100,000 in the March QBR;
- ✓ Management Expenses - a loss of \$244,306 mainly due to increased costs for superannuation, workers compensation and payroll tax and the associated discounting of expected future costs of these expenses being recognised in the current financial year (total cost \$225,314 over budget);
- ✓ Pumping Stations Maintenance - a loss of \$59,181 resulting from unscheduled maintenance works being required to repair two low-lift pumps at Jugiong that had seals fail; and a pump at Mt Arthur required immediate refurbishment including the replacement of electrical cables;
- ✓ Depreciation - a loss of \$67,989. This item can vary significantly in terms of dollars (percentage variation is 1.1%) due to the high value of Council's infrastructure assets and is the subject of an annual revaluation of these assets;
- ✓ Increase/Decrease in Provisions - a loss of \$91,733 resulting from the retirement of some long serving employees (ELE Provision) and the payment of a part contract retention;
- ✓ Advances to Deferred Debtors (\$197,600) - reflect the initial cost of advancing a staff housing loan together with an annual increment to existing deferred headworks customers; and
- ✓ Transfers to/from Internally Restricted Assets will be further discussed below.

Below is an extract from the report presented to Council at its October 2009 meeting that describes Council's approach to recording movements in its internally restricted assets (reserves).

*"Note 6 details cash assets and investments held by Council at year end. It also highlights Council's restricted cash. Council currently has four internal restrictions (reserves) in place. These funds are reserved for the specific purposes described below:-*

***Plant Reserve***

*Transfer to Restriction - is made up of the following; plant depreciation (equivalent value) plus the written down value of plant sold throughout the year plus an interest calculation to negate inflationary pressures.*

*Transfer from Restriction - all plant purchases are funded from this reserve.*

***Infrastructure Replacement Reserve***

*Transfer to Restriction - is made up of infrastructure asset depreciation (equivalent value) as per Note 9.*

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*Transfer from Restriction - all infrastructure asset additions (as per Note 9) are funded from this reserve.*

**Employee Leave Entitlement Reserve**

*Transfer to / from Restriction - is determined by the balance of Council's ELE liability provision at yearend. Currently Council reserves 100% of its provision. It is common practice for Councils generally to only fund between 20% and 30% of their liabilities.*

*In future years, as Council is progressing through its extensive capital works program, this current policy to fund 100% of ELE liability should probably be reviewed to better employ these funds.*

**Sales Fluctuation Reserve**

*Transfer to / from Restriction - is determined by the shortfall or excess of sales verses budget to elevate the potential fluctuations Council is susceptible to given the high percentage of Council's revenue coming from water usage charges. There are a number of external factors that can have a significant impact on the level of revenues such as climatic conditions (wet verses dry years) and water allocation reductions. An interest calculation is also added to this reserve to negate inflationary pressures."*

This year, due to the ever increasing cost of infrastructure depreciation (due mainly to the requirement to annually revalue these assets), it has not been possible to maintain Council's Sales Fluctuation Reserve, the transfer to the Infrastructure Reserve has been reduced to 89% of the value of infrastructure asset depreciation costs and a new Deposits and Retention Reserve has been established to meet statutory requirements. These movements are reflected at the bottom of page 3 of this review and also in Note 6 of the Annual Financial Statements.

All other adjustments are relatively insignificant or involve general housekeeping.

It is the Responsible Accounting Officer's opinion that the revised estimate of income and expenditure is such that the short term liquidity position of Council is satisfactory.

**Recommendation**

Recommendation made was adopted.

**9.1.6 2009/2010 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (G35401005)**

**10/076 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Manchester and O'Brien that

1. The Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2010 (including movements in restricted assets) be formally adopted, as presented, for referral to Council's Auditor;
2. The Chairman, Deputy Chairman, General Manager and Responsible Accounting Officer be authorised to sign the Statements by Councillors and Management on the preparation of the General Purpose and Special Purpose Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2010;

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3. The General Manager be delegated the authority to issue the audited Financial Statements immediately upon receipt of the auditors reports subject to their being no material audit changes or audit issues; and
4. Council present the final audited Financial Statements and Auditors Reports to the public at a public meeting to be held in conjunction with its ordinary meeting in October.

**Report prepared by Manager Administration**

Council's draft Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2010 have been prepared with Council's auditors actually completing their onsite audit on 12 August.

Under section 413 (1) of the Local Government Act 1993, Council is required to refer its draft Financial Statements for audit. The Auditor's Report will be made available to Council after it has formally resolved the referral.

It is envisaged that Council will present its Financial Statements to the public in conjunction with its ordinary October meeting.

The primary statements of the General Purpose and Special Purpose Financial Statements (statements subject to audit) are attached. Councillors will be supplied with a complete set of reports, including the Auditor's Reports, for the public meeting.

Preliminary results are as reported to Council in the *June Quarterly Budget Review* report earlier to this meeting.

**Recommendation**

Recommendation made was adopted.

**9.1.7 DISPUTED ACCOUNT CHARGE (ACCOUNT 80473)**

**10/077 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Palmer and Manchester that

1. The request for a compromise resulting in an effective reduction in water usage charges on Account No. 80473 of \$1,380.16 to 26 May 2010 be accepted.
2. The 397 kilolitres that has been metered from 26 May to 11 June 2010, which is yet to be billed, be calculated at \$54.70 (16 days @ 2.249kl/day x \$1.52/kl).
3. Any further usage during the current billing period (from 11 June) be billed as per the metered usage.

**Report prepared by Manager Administration**

Council has received a letter from a rural customer concerning water usage charges of \$1,711.52 issued on the 30 June 2010, being for 1,126 kilolitres recorded for the period 7 April to 26 May 2010. The customer also advises that a



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further 397 kilolitres has been metered from 26 May to 11 June which is yet to be billed.

The following is an account of events that have led parties to this point: -

- A review of a nil usage in the previous quarter instigated a routine meter inspection and possible replacement;
- The meter was subsequently replaced 7 April, however the customer was not notified of the replacement until sometime in June (25 June according to the customer);
- The customer, while undertaking an inspection of his property on 11 June, became bogged. This led him to the meter to discover that it had been replaced and that his internal isolation valves were open. He has previously stated to staff that he had turned the valves off in February and was not intending to use GWCC water during this period;
- It is standard procedure for staff who replace water meters to leave valves as they are found, however it cannot be substantiated that this was the case in this instance as there is no record of such occurring.

The customer has instigated a compromise by already paying the equivalent of his average daily usage based on past use, for the full billing period (18 February to 26 May 2010), being \$331.36.

This situation has instigated an immediate review in Council's procedures when undertaking water meter replacements.

**Recommendation**

Recommendation made was adopted.

**9.2 WORKS REPORTS**

**9.2.1 JUNE / JULY 2010 (G95507005)**

**10/078 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Morris and O'Brien that the Works Reports for June and July be received and noted.

**Water Losses & Mains Repairs**

NUMBER	DATE	TIME		LOCATION	PIPE DIAMETER	CONSUMERS AFFECTED	ESTIMATED LOSS (KI)	REASON
		Off	On					
1.	1/6	-	-	Rose Hill Road, Cootamundra	375	-	1	Joint Failure
2.	1/6	-	-	Rose Hill Road, Cootamundra	375	-	10	Joint Failure

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3.	1/6	-	-	Rose Hill Road, Cootamundra	375	-	3	Joint Failure
4.	1/6	3.00	5.00	Boundary Lane, Marrar	80	30	20	Split Pipe
5.	1/6	2.00	4.00	Marrar / Wagga Road, Marrar	80	15	500	Split Pipe
6.	2/6	10.00	12.00	Spring Street, Ganmain	100	-	2	Split Pipe
7.	2/6	-	-	Lord Street, Junee	-	-	-	Other
8.	3/6	-	-	Pinkerton Road, Cootamundra	375	-	2	Joint Failure
9.	3/6	3.30	7.30	Buralyang Road, Tallimba	150	-	10	Split Pipe
10.	4/6	-	-	Young's Lane, Weethalle	80	-	-	Split Pipe
11.	4/6	-	-	Jansen's Lane, Weethalle	80	-	50	Other
12.	7/6	5.00	7.30	Golden's Lane, Malebo Range	50	5	500	Split Pipe
13.	7/6	4.00	8.30	Buralyang Road, Tallimba	150	-	800	Split Pipe
14.	9/6	2.00	4.00	Douglas Street, Coolamon	100	-	1	Hole in Pipe
15.	10/6	-	-	Pinkerton Road, Cootamundra	375	-	1	Joint Failure
16.	14/6	10.00	2.30	Mid Western Highway, Weethalle	150	10	-	Split Pipe
17.	16/6	-	-	Bauloora Hill, Cootamundra	375	-	1	Joint Failure
18.	16/6	4.30	5.00	Strathmore's Lane, Malebo Range	80	-	-	Split Pipe
19.	16/6	1.00	3.00	Lake Street, Ganmain	100	20	80	Split Pipe
20.	16/6	-	-	Suttons Lane, Cootamundra	100	-	2	Split Pipe
21.	16/6	-	-	Dirnaseer Road, Cootamundra	100	-	20	Split Pipe
22.	16/6	-	-	Burley Griffin Way, Kamarah	100	-	10	Hole in Pipe
23.	20/6	1.30	4.00	Newell Highway, Ardlethan	150	20	150	Split Pipe
24.	21/6	8.30	10.00	Newell Highway, Mirrool	100	5	150	Joint Failure
25.	25/6	-	-	Olympic Highway, Cootamundra	100	-	2	Split Pipe
26.	26/6	7.00	10.00	Mann Street, Coolamon	100	50	100	Split Pipe
27.	27/6	-	-	Douglas Street, Coolamon	100	-	2	Other
28.	27/6	7.00	8.30	Ungarie Street, Ungarie	150	-	50	Split Pipe
29.	27/6	7.00	8.30	West Wyalong / Condobolin Road, Ungarie	150	5	50	Split Pipe
30.	27/6	7.00	8.30	West Wyalong / Condobolin Road, Ungarie	150	5	50	Split Pipe

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31.	28/6	-	-	Stinson Street, Coolamon	100	-	-	Split Pipe
32.	29/6	10.30	11.30	Cowabbie Street, Coolamon	100	8	10	Split Pipe
33.	1/7	9.30	10.15	Mid Western Highway, Weethalle	80	-	-	Other
34.	6/7	-	-	Barellan Road, South Weethalle	100	-	10	Split Pipe
35.	8/7	10.00	3.00	School Street, West Wyalong	150	-	5	Other
36.	11/7	10.30	12.30	Thanowring Road, Temora	250	-	900	Split Pipe
37.	12/7	3.00	4.00	Double Day Lane, Coolamon	100	-	2	Split Pipe
38.	13/7	2.30	5.30	Stinson Street, Coolamon	100	20	20	Split Pipe
39.	13/7	-	-	Jugiong Road, Cootamundra	375	-	200	Joint Failure
40.	14/7	-	-	Pinkerton Road, Cootamundra	375	-	2	Joint Failure
41.	16/7	-	-	Mallee Street, Wyalong	100	-	20	Split Pipe
42.	18/7	12.30	2.30	McCrae's Lane, Coolamon	100	-	2	Split Pipe
43.	19/7	3.30	5.00	Dollarvale Lane, Eurongilly	100	-	100	Split Pipe
44.	22/7	-	-	Burley Griffin Way, Temora	375	-	5	Joint Failure
45.	22/7	-	-	Burley Griffin Way, Temora	375	-	5	Other
46.	22/7	-	-	Jugiong Road, Cootamundra	375	-	2	Joint Failure
47.	23/7	1.00	2.30	Newell Highway, Mirrool	100	4	-	Joint Failure
48.	23/7	-	-	Monash Street, West Wyalong	100	-	5	Split Pipe
49.	23/7	-	-	Sutton's Lane, Cootamundra	100	-	2	Split Pipe
50.	23/7	7.00	10.30	King Street, Junee	100	-	-	Split Pipe
51.	26/7	-	-	Pinkerton Road, Cootamundra	375	-	5	Joint Failure
52.	27/7	-	-	Moss Road, Junee	-	-	-	Split Pipe
53.	28/7	9.30	11.30	Hare Street, Marrar	100	10	20	Split Pipe
54.	29/7	8.30	2.00	Burley Griffin Way, Temora	375	-	10	Other

**Complaints**

Water Quality

Dirty Water

Nil.

Other Problems:

Nil.

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A total of 44 service difficulty and fault reports were received for June / July.

**Construction & Major Maintenance**

The following significant works were undertaken in June / July 2010:-

- Put in magflow at Thanowring Road.
- Cut in new 250mm valve at Aria Park Pump Station near reflux.
- Cut in new 100mm valve at Ethel Street, Ungarie.
- Cleaned Weethalle and Eurongilly Reservoirs.
- Finished meter reading.
- Replaced air valves on Frampton/Brawlin line.
- Fabricated raw water pump stands to pull base off pump and be able to turn over by hand at Jugiong.
- Fabricated pit lid for cylinders.
- Continued cleanup of Cootamundra Depot.
- Replaced legs and bracing on platform as rusted out at Weethalle Town Reservoir
- Erected, fabricated and installed pump at Ganmain Pump Station.
- Erected, fabricated and installed pipe in creek crossing at Brawlin.
- Fabricated new floor and tailgate for Wyalong box trailer.
- Serviced ACV's and PRV's across the scheme.
- Serviced and inspected vehicles, small plant and power tools.
- Serviced pumps across the scheme, changed oils and greased.
- Overhauled and installed pump and motor at Ardlethan Pump Station, Oura Bore No.4 and Demondrille Pump Station.
- Installed and conducted test run on No.1 pump and motor at North Weethalle Pump Station and Weethalle Town Pump Station and No.2 pump and motor at Naradhan Pump Station.
- Pulled out No.2 pump at Daylight and replaced seal.
- Conducted maintenance at Jugiong Filtration Plant.
- Constructed paint shed at Cootamundra Depot.
- Built sheet racks, removed old gutter, fitted new gutter and downpipes on workshop at Cootamundra.
- Blanked off 375mm spiral pipe at Rosella Street, Temora.
- Fabricated stainless steel spiders and valve extension on site and fitted at Matong bores.
- Fabricated and fitted handrails at Jugiong No.1 Pump Station.
- Completed chlorination of new main in Coolamon and recorded residuals.
- Began Roediger's Lane, Junee project.
- Began refurbishment work on Weethalle Pump Station, painted fascia and ordered new guttering.
- Completed cut-ins on Coolamon interconnection project.
- Completed numerous locations at Cowangs Reservoir for Engineering staff so design work could commence.
- Investigated design gear required for Demondrille Pump Station upgrade.

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- Disconnected old bypass at Barmedman Pump Station.
- Started work on the oil separator at Cootamundra Depot as part of the new wash-down bay.
- Repaired defective stormwater pipework at Cootamundra Depot.
- Organised gear for cut-in at Kaiser Subdivision, Junee.

**Recommendation**

Recommendation made was adopted.

**9.2.2 CAPITAL WORKS PROGRESS REPORT (G35201005)**

**10/079 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Manchester and McGregor that the Capital Works Progress Reports for the year ending 30 June 2010 and for the period ending 31 July 2010 be received and noted.

**Report prepared by General Manager**

Attached for the information of Councillors is the Capital Works Progress Reports for the year ending 30 June 2010 and for the period ending 31 July 2010. Reports relating to the “rollover” of projects and specific matters are contained elsewhere within the Business Paper.

**Recommendation**

Recommendation made was adopted.

**9.2.3 COWANGS RESERVOIR INLET PIPEWORK REPLACEMENT  
(G35201005)**

**10/080 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Manchester and O'Brien that

1. The Cowangs Inlet Pipework report be received and the information noted.
2. Council vote an amount of \$20,000 in the 2010/11 Budget to be funded from the Infrastructure Replacement Restricted Asset for the purpose of further investigations.

**Report prepared by General Manager**

Council has previously allocated (in 2006/07) \$250,000 for the replacement of the inlet pipework to Cowangs No 1 & 2 Reservoirs. To date approximately \$53,000 has been spent on investigation and the purchase of some pipe and fittings. These funds have been “rolled over” in subsequent years without significant progress being made on the project.

Investigations have proved that the project is more complex than previously anticipated due (in part) to the following:-

- The inlet pipework is situated in a tunnel that grades to a maximum depth of 10 metres below ground level.

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- The surrounding ground contains a high concentration of hard (90+ mpa) rock.
- The close proximity and connection to the Cowangs Reservoirs 1 & 2.
- The inability to be able to take the reservoirs “off line” for an extended period of time.
- The subsequent construction of Cowangs No 3 Reservoir.
- The availability of suitable “cold explosives” experts.
- OH&S issues associated with working at depths.
- The bringing forward of the Cowangs to Bauloora mains replacement project.
- The requirement to undertake the replacement of the outlet pipework.

Staff is presently investigating alternative designs and alternative methods of operating the three reservoirs in an effort to eliminate/mitigate these issues. There is also the possibility of offering the project as an addition to the Cowangs to Bauloora mains replacement project.

It would also be prudent for these investigations to include Bauloora Reservoirs as the inlet and outlet pipework does require replacement.

To allow further investigation (including geotechnical investigation) it is requested that Council vote an amount of \$20,000 for this purpose in the 2010/11 Budget. The unexpended balance of the previously allocated funds remains in the Infrastructure Replacement Reserve.

**Recommendation**

Recommendation made was adopted.

**9.3 OTHER REPORTS**

**9.3.1 CRITICAL WATER AVAILABILITY FOR 2009/10 (G95809505)**

**10/081 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Manchester and Palmer that the Critical Water Availability report on the 2009/10 water year and to the end of July 2010 be received and noted.

**Report prepared by General Manager**

Included in the Business Paper (refer Attachments 9.3.1.A to 9.3.1.L) are the water production graphs for the five sources and the three bulk councils to the end June 2010 and for the month of July 2010. Tables 1 and 3 below provide more detail on the total consumption during the periods.

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**2009/10 Water Year**

**Table 1 - Period - 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010**

Source	Current Allocation (%)	YTD Consumption	YTD Maximum Allocation	Revised YTD Maximum Allocation	Percentage of Revised Allocation
Jugiong	95%	3,817	5,590	5,311	71.88%
Oura	100%	4,007	6,000	6,000	66.78%
Mt Arthur	100%	503	762	762	66.01%
Mt Daylight	100%	247	295	295	83.73%
Hylands Bridge	95%	143	165	157	91.23%
<b>Total All Sources</b>		<b>8,717</b>	<b>12,812</b>	<b>12,524</b>	<b>69.60%</b>
Cootamundra	95%	707	1,561	1,483	47.68%
Harden *	95%	465	1,213	1,152	40.35%
Young	95%	1,321	2,076	1,972	66.98%

**NB:**

*YTD Consumption for Harden does not include Harden Minor Consumers.*

The total consumption as at the end of June 2010 was just under 70% of the revised allocations. It was also 4.6% below the 2008/09 year. The two main factors contributing to this were the imposition of relatively stringent restrictions in the later half of 2009 due to reduced water allocation during that time and the improved weather conditions (better rainfall) that occurred in the first half of 2010. While this result is commendable in respect of water savings it is less than ideal from a financial perspective.

**2010/11 Water Year**

Council received notification from the NSW Office of Water (NOW) via Media Release on 1 July 2010 that (generally) Local Water Utilities (LWU) in the Murrumbidgee valley would commence the 2010/11 water year with an allocation of fifty (50) percent of entitlement. The notification also advised *“that if the water resources situation does not improve significantly, that Level 4 water restrictions will be required from 1 September.”* A copy of the notifications was forwarded to Councillors upon receipt in early July.

Clarification was sought from NOW as to the actual allocations for all GWCC sources. Table 2 below provides a summary of allocations as at 1 July 2010.

**Table 2 – Allocations as at 1 July 2010**

SOURCE	REGION	ALLOCATION
Jugiong (Surface Water)	Mid Murrumbidgee	50%
Oura (Ground Water)	Mid Murrumbidgee	100%
Mt Arthur (Ground Water)	Mid Murrumbidgee	100%
Mt Daylight (Ground Water)	Lachlan	100%
Hylands Bridge (Surface Water)	Murrumbidgee Irrigation	50%

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Consumption during July is detailed in Table 3 below.

**Table 3 – Period – 1 July 2010 to 31 July 2010**

<b>Source</b>	<b>Current Allocation (%)</b>	<b>YTD Consumption</b>	<b>YTD Maximum Allocation</b>	<b>Revised YTD Maximum Allocation</b>	<b>Percentage of Revised Allocation</b>
Jugiong	50%	200	318	159	125.79%
Oura	100%	181	309	309	58.58%
Mt Arthur	100%	19	28	28	67.86%
Mt Daylight	100%	8	24	24	33.33%
Hylands Bridge	50%	5	4	2	250.00%
<b>Total All Sources</b>		<b>413</b>	<b>683</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>79.12%</b>
Cootamundra	50%	43	83	42	103.61%
Harden *	50%	23	62	31	74.19%
Young	50%	63	118	59	106.78%

**NB:**

*YTD Consumption for Harden does not include Harden Minor Consumers.*

Total consumption during July was 24% below the corresponding period last year and can be attributed to the relatively “wet” month with many centres within the GWCC area recording above average rainfall.

Council received notification from NOW via Media Release on 2 August 2010 that the surface water allocations to Local Water Utilities in the Murrumbidgee valley had been increased to eighty (80) percent of entitlement. A copy of the notifications was forwarded to Councillors upon receipt.

It would appear that a directive from the State Government to impose a specific level of restriction is now unlikely. Therefore, subject to change, the minimum level of restriction, Level A, will be introduced at the commencement of Daylight Savings in accordance with Council policy. Consumption continues to be closely monitored.

**Recommendation**

Recommendation made was adopted.

**9.3.2 GOLDENFIELDS AWARD NEGOTIATIONS (G70204505)**

**10/082 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Palmer and Manchester that negotiation continues to proceed towards a Goldenfields Award that is linked to the Local Government (State) Award and a salary system based on the fundamental principles contained within this report.

**Report prepared by General Manager**

The review of the Goldenfields Enterprise Award is continuing albeit slower than previously anticipated. Factors influencing this include, but are not limited to:-



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- Legislative changes relating to Industrial Relations;
- Past practices/actions/inactions/workplace culture;
- Management staff changes;
- Changes in membership of the Staff Consultative Committee; and
- Lack of resources dedicated to Human Resources activities.

Council will recall that at the February 2010 meeting it endorsed amendments to the composition of the Staff Consultative Committee (CC). This resulted in the calling of nominations and the subsequent election from within the workforce of Employee representatives to the CC. This committee is now meeting monthly and is addressing the task at hand proactively. A copy of the Minutes from these meetings will be tabled at the Council meeting.

The present Goldenfields Water County Council Enterprise Award 2007 (GWCC EA) is underpinned by the Local Government (State) Award 2007 (State Award) in that where the GWCC EA is silent, the terms and conditions of the State Award become applicable.

It is the position of the United Services Union (USU), a signatory to the GWCC EA, and the consensus of the Employee Representatives on the Consultative Committee that any new "Award" should be a stand alone document with very little if any affiliation with the State Award.

The primary benefit of affiliation with the State Award is that it ensures a link/connection with the Local Government industry in NSW and that when this award is reviewed any change in conditions and/or rates of pay take into consideration the industry state wide thus giving Goldenfields a basis from which to start. Conversely, the primary benefit of a stand alone award for Goldenfields is that it is unique to the organisation and (hopefully) specific to the organisations needs.

The present GWCC salary system is relative to the State Award in that entry level rates of pay to the various bands and levels are linked to the State Award with GWCC rates currently ranging from 2.85% to 4.85% above the State Award. Progression steps within each band and level are approximately 3.0% above the previous step ranging from 2.44% to 3.91%. The number of progression steps above entry level per band and level range from 6 to 8.

A model salary system (prepared by the General Manager) has been submitted to the Consultative Committee and has been endorsed as a position from which to enter negotiations with the signatories to the award. The fundamental principles in the model are:-

- The entry levels to bands and levels are those currently in the GWCC EA
- There is four (4) progression steps above entry level for each position
- Each progression step is a set percentage above the previous step (the model uses 5%).
- The entry level for individual positions within a particular band and level may vary dependent on actual duties to be undertaken.

The review of Position Descriptions is continuing with the Skill Descriptors from the State Award being used as the method of classifying the band and level of the particular position. Specific skills and competencies that are required to be achieved/attained/demonstrated to enable progression within the position are being developed in consultation with current position holders.

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To enable the continued development of an award and salary system from which negotiations with the ultimate signatories can be undertaken, Council's position on the following questions is sought: -

- Does Council favour the "Award" linked to the NSW Local Government (State) Award with locally negotiated variations or does it favour a completely stand-alone version to be negotiated entirely locally?
- Is a salary system based on the principles outlined above acceptable?

**Recommendation**

That negotiation continues to proceed towards a stand-alone Award and a salary system based on the fundamental principles contained within this report.

**9.3.3 ONE ASSOCIATION CONVENTION (G05055010)**

**10/083 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Palmer and McGregor that the One Association Convention report be received and noted.

**Report prepared by General Manager**

The Local Government & Shires Association of NSW conducted the One Association Convention in Sydney on 16 and 17 August 2010. Council was represented by Cr O'Brien and the General Manager. As the Business Paper was prepared prior to this event a verbal report will be provided at the meeting.

**Recommendation**

Recommendation made was adopted.

**9.3.4 MURRAY DARLING BASIN PLAN (G45405505)**

**10/084 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs O'Brien and Palmer that the Murray-Darling Basin Plan report be received and noted.

**Report prepared by General Manager**

As previously reported the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) is presently preparing a Basin Plan with the Draft being scheduled for release in July of this year. The release of the plan has now been deferred until after the Federal Election and Councillors will be aware of references to it by all political parties during the election campaign.

The following extract from Issue 6, July 2010 of the MDBA eLetter is provided for the information of Councillors.

***"Comprehensive Guide to draft Murray-Darling Basin Plan***

*The Murray-Darling Basin Authority announced recently that it will hold an additional stage of consultation on the Murray-Darling Basin Plan, before the release of the Proposed Basin Plan later this year.*

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*Given the importance of community feedback, the Chair of the Authority, Mike Taylor, said the Authority would publicly launch a comprehensive Guide to the Proposed Basin Plan in early August..*

*“This will enable people to see all the details of what is being proposed in plain English and to build a good understanding of the issues,” Mr Taylor said.*

*“In addition, it will give interested parties the opportunity to provide us with feedback ahead of the release of the Proposed Basin Plan later in the year.”*

*The guide will feature key content of the Proposed Basin Plan including:*

- proposed Sustainable Diversion Limits on water use;*
- environmental watering requirements;*
- the minimum supply of water required to meet critical human water needs;*
- water quality and salinity objectives; and*
- separate, detailed guides for each of the Basin’s 19 catchments.*

*“We understand that there’s significant community interest in what the Proposed Basin Plan will put forward,” Mr Taylor said.*

*“The release of the Guide will provide an additional opportunity for stakeholders, irrigators and Basin communities to find out what the Authority is proposing.*

*In accordance with the Water Act 2007, the Proposed Basin Plan will be followed by a formal, 16-week consultation period. The Authority will then consider all submissions before the Plan is finalised in 2011.*

*Release of the Guide will help to ensure stakeholders are fully informed before lodging their submissions as part of the formal consultation phase later this year. To assist in this process, the Authority will conduct a series of regional public information sessions across the Basin, where local communities will be able to discuss the guide with senior Authority staff.*

*Feedback from these information sessions will be taken on board by the Authority in helping to fill any information gaps prior to the release of the Proposed Plan later in the year.*

**For more information** go to [www.mdba.gov.au/basin\\_plan](http://www.mdba.gov.au/basin_plan)

***Why the Basin Plan is still needed***

*Despite the heavy rainfall and floods in the northern part of the Basin earlier this year, water availability in much of the Basin is still at critically low levels.*

*Rainfall and inflows in the lower Basin have continued well below long term averages and the historical damage to the environment has not improved.*

*The need for a basin-wide plan to sustainably manage surface and groundwater water remains as urgent as ever.*

*In less than a century, water extracted from the Murray–Darling Basin has increased five-fold, from 2,000 GL a year in the 1920s to over 10,000 GL a year.*

*A century of regulating the rivers for transport and irrigation has also had an impact by generally confining river flow to within the banks and reducing the frequency of flooding.*

*The temporal pattern of flows has been altered with flows now received in summer each year, compared to pre-regulation flow patterns.*

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*During the last 10 years, the average annual inflows to the Murray have shrunk from 11,000 GL to about 5,000 GL which is the lowest 10 year period on record.*

*The long drought, the impacts of climate change and population growth and water distribution decisions have added to the pressures on the river systems and in 2002 the Murray stopped flowing to the sea.*

*The first environmental report card on the ecological health of the Murray–Darling Basin, the Sustainable Rivers Audit (2004-2007) which covered 96,000 km of rivers and streams, found long-term degradation in most of the Basin's valleys and that 20 of the Basin's 23 river valleys were in poor or very poor health.*

*A report for The Living Murray program found that 70% of river red gums in the Koondrook–Perricoota Forest (the second largest river red gum forest in the world) were stressed, dying or dead, largely due to the drought, combined with 12 years of no flooding.*

*Salinity levels have increased and algal blooms have risen in frequency in line with the increased frequency of periods of low river flow.*

*The first Basin Plan will be completed in 2011 and approved by the Minister for Climate Change and Water, after which it will be regularly reviewed and updated.*

**For more information** go to [www.mdba.gov.au/basin\\_plan](http://www.mdba.gov.au/basin_plan)

Once the Draft Plan has been released a submission will be prepared.

**Recommendation**

Recommendation made was adopted.

*The Manager Administration left the meeting at 3.00pm and did not return.*

**9.3.5 DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS WITHIN BULK COUNCIL AREA  
(G95300515)**

**10/085 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Palmer and O'Brien that in the absence of any prior knowledge/correspondence/arrangements in respect of this particular development the Developer Contributions payable by Young Shire Council will be in accordance with Goldenfields Management Plan and Policies as at the time of payment.

**Report prepared by General Manager**

A request (refer Attachment 9.3.5.A) has been received from Young Shire Council (YSC) regarding the payment of Developer (Headworks) Contributions for a 13 lot residential subdivision within the town of Young. This is the first contact Goldenfields has had in relation to this particular development. The conditions relevant to water (and to Goldenfields) referred to in the above correspondence are:-

*"DETERMINATION DATE: 18<sup>th</sup> August 2004*

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*DETERMINATION:* Consent granted subject to the conditions described below

*CONSENT TO OPERATE FROM:* 18<sup>th</sup> August 2004

*CONSENT TO LAPSE ON:* 18<sup>th</sup> August 2007

and

**“Water**

11. Council’s existing water main shall be extended to facilitate connection to each allotment proposed to Council’s system, in accordance with Council’s Engineering Guidelines for Subdivision and Developments.

12. The payment of the Golden Fields County Council Buy-in Contribution Charge of \$2,000 per additional tenement created, being in total \$24,000.

13. The payment of Council’s Section 64 Contribution towards the augmentation of the water reservoir on the northern side of Young, of \$469.00 per additional tenement created, being in total \$5,628.”

Discussions with YSC have revealed that as works were substantially commenced prior to the Consent Lapse date the consent remains valid.

With respect to consent condition 11, YSC have advised that the internal mains have been constructed with the developer only awaiting the interconnection to the YSC system and the “commissioning” of the main by YSC. The “commissioning” is subject to the payment of all relevant fees. The developer is prepared to remit the amount identified in consent condition 12.

The following extracts from Goldenfields Management Plan 2010/13 are reproduced to assist Council in its deliberations:-

**“5.1.5.3 Bulk Consumer Developer (Infrastructure) Contributions**

*In accordance with Council’s adopted Development Servicing Plans, Bulk Consumer Councils are required to raise and make payment to this Council for Infrastructure Contributions per standard 20mm connection for all new Reticulated connections.....”*

And

**“5.1.5.4 Collection of Contribution**

*The contribution will be levied by this Council on each Bulk Consumer Council. It will be their choice whether to pass the contribution on to landowners, or to fund the contribution by other means. Bulk Consumer Councils will, should they deem it necessary, be responsible for the incorporation of the contribution into any Planning or other Instrument.*

*Bulk Consumer Councils will, within twenty-eight (28) days of the completion of each quarter, submit to this Council a Statement detailing the location and size of all new or altered supply connections which have been made during the quarter. This should also include advice as to those assessments which contributions are applicable.*

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*As full compensation of all costs incurred in administration, collection or any other activities associated with the implementation of these procedures, a commission of 3% may be retained. The appropriate payment (less Commission) shall, either be forwarded with such statement, or become payable within thirty days of the issue of an account for same by Goldenfields Water."*

Goldenfields requires its constituent Bulk Councils to remit to it the applicable developer contribution relevant at either the time of commissioning the mains extension or the time of connection/sale of each allotment. While there are provisions available, subject to Goldenfields approval, for the deferment of developer contributions any deferment is subject to increases which may have been made during the interceding period between commissioning and sale by the developer. It is acknowledged that YSC have now amended the wording of its Development Consents to incorporate any increase in contributions.

The financial implications for the 12 additional lots are:-

Applicable contribution in 2004 (i.e. 12 x \$2,000)	= \$24,000
Applicable contribution in 2010 (i.e. 12 x \$5,275)	= <u>\$68,575</u>
Variation	= (\$44,575)

Young Shire Council is requesting that Goldenfields deviate from its present policy position and backdate the contributions to the time of Development Consent in 2004. This request, if granted, would equate to a potential loss of earnings for Goldenfields of \$44,575. Clause 5.1.5.4 of the aforementioned Management Plan does state that it is the prerogative of the Bulk Council as to whether to pass on the full contribution or to fund the contribution by other means.

As Developer Contribution transactions within the Bulk Council areas are between Goldenfields and the relevant Bulk Council, Goldenfields have no direct contact with individual developers. Therefore any negotiations / agreements / conditions are between, in this instance, YSC and the developer.

### **Recommendation**

Recommendation made was adopted.

### **9.3.6 OURA AQUIFERS YIELD STUDY (G45406505)**

**10/086 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Palmer and Manchester that

1. Council accept the offer from Riverina Water to be party to the project and agree to the cost sharing arrangements negotiated by staff.
2. Council vote additional funds of \$15,000 in the 2010/2011 Budget for the project.

### **Report prepared by General Manager**

Council has been approached by Riverina Water County Council (RWCC) (refer Attachment 9.3.6.A) to be part of a pilot study in partnership with it and the NSW Office of Water (NOW) to identify the sustainable annual extraction volumes (the

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yield) from the Mid Murrumbidgee Zone 2 Aquifer which are commonly referred to as the "Oura Borefields". The project will complement previous work undertaken in 2007 and 2008 by RWCC and NOW to model the Mid Murrumbidgee Zone 2 Groundwater Management Area.

A Project Brief has been prepared by RWCC with a copy attached for the information of Councillors (refer Attachment 9.3.6.B). RWCC have approached Professor Noel Merrick, a suitably qualified and experienced Hydrogeologist, to undertake the work. Professor Merrick is very familiar with the area through his involvement in the modelling work referred to above. A proposed fee from Professor Merrick is anticipated to be available by meeting day. Preliminary indications from RWCC are that the total cost of the project will not exceed \$50,000.

During discussions between GWCC and RWCC staff, agreement in principal was reached with regard to a cost sharing arrangement based on the volumetric entitlements of each utility (i.e. RWCC 70%, GWCC 30%). This would equate to a financial contribution from GWCC of not exceeding \$15,000.

The benefits for Council in forward planning are significant as are the cost saving provided by the partnership arrangements.

**Recommendation**

Recommendation made was adopted.

**9.3.7 2011 G DIVISION OF THE SHIRES ASSOCIATION OF NSW  
CONFERENCE (G45405005)**

**10/087 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Macaulay and O'Brien that

1. Council accept the offer to host the 2011 'G' Division of the Shires Association of NSW Annual Conference at a suitable venue in Temora; and
2. Council make a "No Preference" response in respect of a preferred date.

**Report prepared by General Manager**

The hosting of the annual 'G' Division of the Shires Association of NSW Conference is rotated between member councils. The secretariat of the Division has contacted Goldenfields to host the 2011 Conference and also requested that a preferred date for the meeting be nominated by member councils from the following dates;

Wednesday 23/03/2011

Thursday 24/03/2011

Wednesday 30/03/2011

Thursday 31/03/2011

No Preference

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The hosting of the conference provides Goldenfields with the opportunity to showcase the organisation to member councils and it is therefore recommended that Council accept the offer however the matter of where it is held needs to be determined. A venue in Temora would seem appropriate given the involvement/input required by staff to assist with the organisation of the event.

It is also suggested that a "no preference" response be given with respect to the date as input from other member councils will need to be taken into consideration.

**Recommendation**

Recommendation made was adopted.

**9.3.8 MEMBERSHIP OF SAVEWATER (G03100505)**

It was **MOVED** on the motion of Crs Manchester and McGregor that Council take no action.

An **AMENDMENT** was moved by Crs Palmer and O'Brien that Council adopt the recommendation.

The amendment was put and was **LOST**. The motion was put and was **CARRIED**.

**10/088 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs O'Brien and Manchester that Council take no action.

**Report prepared by General Manager**

All water supply authorities are required to consider water efficiency measures to demonstrate responsible use of a finite resource. Education programs and actual measures to save water form part of best practice plans such as Drought Management and Demand Management. To deliver efficient water saving program it is proposed to become a member of the organisation Savewater.

The Not for Profit organisation Savewater commenced 5 years ago and provides water saving measures, targeted education schemes and resources, for a co-ordinated water saving and water efficiency program. The organisation currently has exposure to 3,000,000 water customers Australia-wide with local member councils like Tamworth, Narrabri, Dubbo, Orange, Griffith and Port Macquarie-Hastings, to name a few, current member councils in NSW. Recently Hunter Water joined Savewater because of the value for money membership of Savewater can bring to the organisation.

Benefits of membership to Savewater include;

1. Access to all the features of the existing website with members gaining access through passwords and codes to another 210 pages including interactive sites, schools programs, knowledge about water products etc.
2. Free access to a mobile display van with 2 more being built for NSW this year.



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3. Water efficient product library with another 78 products to come online this financial year.
4. Survey results from around Australia to tailor message to residents and businesses.
5. Innovation through in-house research and development resulting in products like 'Blackbox' of water with free installation to members. Non-members pay \$2,500 but limited access as members are served first.
6. Co-branding with the member on various publications etc.
7. Maximum 21 business day turnaround for requests.
8. Questions from members about products and general questions that lead to Savewater conducting Australia-wide surveys with results available to members only.
9. Personalised council access codes to 210 pages of deep links of knowledge on website.
10. Access to other R&D products exclusive to Savewater- such as AFD (Automated Flushing Device) designed for operational and maintenance of utility water system.
11. Access to International Water Awards network through Savewater network annually in Melbourne and Sydney.

Membership to Savewater is \$8,985.60 per annum payable by quarterly instalments for a 2 year membership. Membership could reduce costs in other sectors of council as communication to residents via printed material could be considerably cheaper utilizing Savewater significant purchasing power for printed material.

Copies of brochures and resource material from Savewater will be tabled at the meeting.

**Recommendation**

1. Council become a member of Savewater organisation for a minimum 2 year period.
2. Additional funds of \$9,000 be voted in the 2010/11 Budget for membership fees.

**9.3.9 STAFF PICNIC DAY (G70204010)**

**10/089 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs O'Brien and Manchester that approval be granted for the Union Picnic day to be held on Friday 1 October 2010 and those employees who work on that day be credited with one (1) day of leave as per Award conditions.

**Report prepared by General Manager**

In accordance with Award provisions a request has been received from the Local Delegates of the United Services Union that the Union Picnic Day be held

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on Friday 1 October 2010. As approximately 60% of staff members are non-union members, the availability of staff on that day is adequate to keep all functional areas operational.

Union members that are rostered "on call", as Duty Officers or required to work were credited with one (1) day of leave as per Award conditions.

Information from the Local Government & Shires Association contained in Item 8 of Local Government Weekly 05/06 states in part:-

*"It is the Associations' view that discriminating against a person by restricting access to benefits under an industrial instrument because they are or are not members of a union may offend the Act's [Workplace Relations Act 1996] freedom of association provisions and such action will potentially expose councils to penalties. Consequently, councils are advised to extend the award holiday to all employees regardless of their union membership."*

To maintain continuation of service on that day, it is suggested that non union members who would normally work on that day be required to work and they be credited with one (1) day of leave.

Therefore it is recommended that approval be granted for the Union Picnic day to be held on Friday 1 October 2010 and those employees who work on that day be credited with one (1) day of leave as per Award conditions.

**Recommendation**

Recommendation made was adopted.

**9.3.10 REQUEST FOR WATER CONNECTION (G95151005)**

**10/090 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs O'Brien and Macaulay that the request from the Frampton Rural Fire Brigade be denied.

*Cr Palmer requested his vote in the negative be recorded in the minutes.*

**Report prepared by General Manager**

Following previous discussion between staff and the Rural Fire Service correspondence has been received from the Secretary/Treasurer of the Frampton Rural Fire Brigade (refer Attachment 9.3.10.A) requesting a water connection to their new shed/station. Council's response (refer Attachment 9.3.10.B) acknowledged the valuable work that volunteers provide to our communities and attempted to relay some of the factors that influenced the present policy position regarding new connections to rural mains. Further correspondence has now been received (refer Attachment 9.3.10.C) requesting that the matter be placed before Council for consideration.

Council's current policy position does not permit connections to rural mains in this area. Since the adoption of the policy, a number of applications for connection have not been approved therefore, to be consistent with all prospective customers, the request from the Frampton Rural Fire Brigade should be denied.

**Recommendation**

Recommendation made was adopted.

**9.3.11 COWANGS TO BAULOORA PIPELINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT  
(G95207002)**

**10/091 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Manchester and Morris that Council endorse the following:-

- The alignment presented be adopted for the basis of detailed design,
- PN 35 DICL pipe be adopted as the preferred pipe,
- The Autovalve at Edwards corner, and associated infrastructure, be relocated to opposite the Bradman Street pump station on Pinkerton Road,
- The scope of works include separate Schedule items for the inlet - outlet connection to Cowangs and Bauloora Reservoirs,
- GWCC acquires both a permanent 6 metre pipeline easement and temporary 15 metre construction easement,
- Pipeline easements which are no longer required to be extinguished,
- Both stabilisation and restoration will be to the satisfaction of an appropriate authority.

**Report prepared by Manager Engineering**

Following is a preliminary design report on the progress of the investigation and preliminary design component of the consultancy awarded to GHD by Council (minute 10/041).

Tabled at the Council Meeting will be Consultant's Reports and plans of the proposed pipeline route including maps of pipeline realignments.

The brief for the consultancy split the project into five broad stages:

- Stage 1 – Preliminary Investigation,
- Stage 2 – Investigation and Preliminary Design,
- Stage 3 – Detailed Design and Documentation,
- Stage 4 – Construction Tendering,
- Stage 5 – Construction Management.

Stages 1 and 2 have now been completed and focused on: Route selection and proposed pipeline route, Stakeholder issues, Transfer system hydraulics, Pipe material selection, Constructability, Environmental constraints, Statutory and non Statutory requirements, Geotechnical investigations, and Works program and cost estimates.

***Pipeline Route and Environmental Constraints***

The pipeline route generally follows the original route as the options for relocation were limited by the six immovable service off-takes e.g. Off-takes to Brawlin, Cootamundra Reservoirs, Frampton, etc plus approximately 120 rural connections.

However, the Review of Environmental Factors (REF) to assess the potential environmental and social impacts associated with the construction and ongoing operation of the works under Part 5 of the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act) indicated that following both ecological and cultural heritage field surveys some realignment of the pipeline was required due to the following environmental issues:

- High value remnant vegetation in pipeline corridor, particularly around Turner's Lane,
- Four threatened fauna species listed as vulnerable under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) were observed during the survey,
- Twenty-two fine scale vegetation types qualifying under the NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TSC Act) present along the pipeline,
- Construction of the pipeline will involve the clearing and disturbance of 5.05 ha of native vegetation.

The cultural heritage assessment for the project has been completed with sixteen Aboriginal sites and three known European heritage sites identified, these were not considered to pose an absolute constraint to the project, because where impacts are unavoidable, an archaeological subsurface testing program and an archaeological salvage program (artefact collection) could be conducted.

***Stakeholder Issues***

Preliminary discussions have been held with many of the landowners regarding the alignment of the proposed pipeline through their property. The majority of landowners, particularly those who have existing pipelines on their property, support the project and have a general understanding for the need of replacing the aging infrastructure.

The main concern that has been consistently raised is the timetable of construction relative to the proposed cropping cycles. Landowners have been eager to understand how any effect on cropping regimes will be compensated.

Thirty nine landowners have been identified as being affected by the proposed pipeline alignment. GHD has received consent to survey and investigate (either verbal or written) for all but two of the properties, consents for the outstanding two properties are believed to be forthcoming. A follow-up landholder visit is required to discuss the project in further detail.

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In many cases the existing dual pipelines are greater than 6 metres apart and thus the new pipeline is unlikely to be inside existing easements, also some realignments will make existing easements superfluous. In these cases the existing easements will be extinguished following the establishment of the new easement. It is intended that compensation will be payable for the acquisition of a 6 metre wide pipeline easement and for a temporary 15 metre wide construction corridor during the construction phase.

All service utility owners, APA (Gas Pipeline), Country Energy, ARTC, AAPT (Powertel – Optic Fibre), and Optus have given in principle support for the project subject to their standard conditions of crossing being met.

Cootamundra Shire Council has identified a number of requirements regarding the alignment and construction of the proposed pipeline; these will likely form conditions of consent for the project. These include the requirements that: All paved roads are to be crossed at right angles and under-bored, the pipeline cannot be laid longitudinally underneath a paved road, and all street trees removed during construction are to be re-planted with trees of similar value.

Further discussion is required regarding the construction of PRV installations at or below ground level. Due to the close proximity of the proposed pipeline to premises in the residential areas of Bradman Street, Florence Street and Pinkerton Road, the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water's Construction Noise Guidelines require a quantitative assessment which requires measurement of existing background noise levels for specific locations and specific noise goals to be set for those areas.

***System Hydraulics, Pipe Material and Estimated Cost***

The first 9 kilometres of original pipeline from Cowangs Reservoir towards Cootamundra consists of dual 375 mm concrete and 450 mm mild steel pipe. The pipeline then proceeds for 7.3 km in single 450 mm mild steel pipe to pump station No 4 in Cootamundra. The final 13 km from pump station No 4 through Cootamundra and onto Bauloora Reservoirs, is 375 mm spirally welded steel pipe.

The proposed pipeline will consist of approximately 9 kms of 600 mm Ductile Iron Cement Lined (DICL), 7.50 kms of 450 mm DICL and 12.45 kms of 375 mm DICL.

Assessment of the hydraulic capacity of the new pipeline indicates that the new replacement pipeline would have an increased transfer capacity (20.21 MLD from Cowangs) relative to the existing pipeline of 17.66 MLD. Should a greater future peak demands at the Bauloora Reservoirs be required, then the installation of a booster pump station opposite the Cootamundra Depot will be required. However this is deemed not to be required in the foreseeable future, therefore the only provision included in the design for a possible future pump station will be upgrading the DICL pipeline (full length for consistency) from PN25 to PN35 and the installation of two flanged tees for the inlet and outlet at the anticipated site.

The Consultants have prepared a preliminary construction cost estimate; the estimated construction cost of the project is \$17.8 million, GWCC's application for subsidy estimated the project to cost \$15.7m.

***Constructability***

The most difficult portion of terrain occurs around the section of the route around Cowangs Reservoirs, containing significantly hard rock requiring hammering or minor blasting, relatively steep slopes and cross slopes. While other parts of the route also include local sections of rock and steep terrain they are not considered to cause significant difficulty for construction. It is expected that the only watercourse crossing that will pose any difficulty to construction will be the second crossing of Stockyard Creek at CH 1,600 due to its close proximity to the underbore under Rosehill Road, the relatively steep banks and the close proximity to the existing pipelines. Difficult road crossings will be underbores at Rosehill Road, Pinkerton Road at two locations, Parker Street (Yass Road) and West Jindalee Road. There are also four railway underbores, two of which will be combined to maximise the usefulness of the ARTC property should they ever consider disposing the property.

Stabilisation and restoration are sensitive issues, stabilisation is the erosion and sediment management which is to undertaken during the construction of the works, and restoration is the revegetation and reinstatement activities required to return the land as near as practical to the original state after all work has been completed in the area. It is intended that both stabilisation and restoration (to the satisfaction of an appropriate authority) will be the responsibility of the pipeline contractor under the construction contract.

***Extended scope of works***

In order for GWCC to benefit from the economies of scale expected from this large project, the interconnection pipework to the Cowangs Reservoirs, initially included in the Jugiong to Cowangs contract will now be included (subject to Council concurrence) as a scheduled item in the construction tender documents, being a separate item will enable the separation of this work from the works already approved under the Strengthening Basin Communities Program grant. Also included as a separate schedule item will be the Bauloora Reservoirs interconnection.

**Recommendation**

Recommendation made was adopted.

**9.3.12 STRENGTHENING BASIN COMMUNITIES PROGRAM (G47050505)**

**10/092 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Manchester and Palmer that the report on Strengthening Basin Communities Program be received and noted.

**Report prepared by Manager Engineering**

Following the success of the first round of the Water Saving Initiatives component of the Strengthening Basins Communities Program, the Australian Government has announced the second round of 50% funding for eligible projects exceeding \$500,000 with the Australian Governments contribution capped at \$10,000,000.

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As the second round applications will be assessed on merit using the same criteria as the first round, Council will again submit an application for 50% funding, with this application for the construction of the proposed Junee terminal storage reservoirs which is included in Council's 2010/11 and 2011/12 Capital Works Program.

Applications close on 17 September 2010 and it is expected that notifications of successful applications will be made in November 2010.

**Recommendation**

Recommendation made was adopted.

**9.3.13 REQUEST FOR LEAVE (P109)**

**10/093 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs O'Brien and Morris that Council authorise the recreational leave requested by the General Manager.

**Report prepared by General Manager**

To allow the General Manager to fulfil some family commitments during early to mid September it is requested that Council authorise leave for the General Manager from Friday 10 September 2010 to Monday 20 September 2010 inclusive. As per past practice, during this period the Manager Administration will assume the position of Acting General Manager.

**Recommendation**

Recommendation made was adopted.

**9.3.14 NEXT MEETING**

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council is scheduled to be held on Thursday 28 October 2010 at Council's Temora office commencing at 1.00pm.

**10. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS**

Cr Macaulay sought and was provided with information on the negotiations with land owners in relation to the Junee Reservoir.

**11. CLOSED SESSION – 3.49PM (pink pages)**

**10/094 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs McGregor and Manchester that Council meet in Closed Session.

**11.1 JOINT INTEGRATED WATER CYCLE MANAGEMENT PLAN  
(G95870505)**

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

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

**10/095 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Palmer and Macaulay that the calling of Expressions of Interest to undertake a Joint Integrated Water Cycle Management Evaluation Study be deferred until the completion of the REROC project A World with Less Water – Climate Change Impact in the South Eastern Riverina which has secured funding under the Federal Governments Strengthening Basin Communities program.

**11.2 REQUEST FOR ACCOUNT RELIEF (ACCOUNT 74100)**

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

*(b) the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer*

**10/096 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Manchester and Morris that Council make a donation to the Ganmain Literary Institute equivalent to the amount outstanding on water account 74100 on the express condition that the monies be used to clear the outstanding balance on this account.

**OPEN SESSION – 4.04PM**

**10/097 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Palmer and Manchester that Council revert back to Open Session and that the resolutions made in Closed Session be made public.

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There being no further business requiring the attention of the Council, the Meeting closed at 4.05pm.

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