

05.03 RATING STRUCTURE AND FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOP

File No: Governance/Meetings/Finance Committee Meeting
Author: Lynette Safranek, Finance & Community Services Director

Summary

A Councillor Workshop was held on 5 August 2014 to discuss proposals for changes to the Rating Structure and to consider Council's Financial Sustainability. Further Workshops will be scheduled later in the year, during September to October 2014.

Recommendation

That report item 05.03 is received as information.

Comment

The Workshop started with an examination of the current Rating Structure and what type of rateable properties are/should be in each classification, especially the defined Oberon 'Village' area for Town Improvement Rates.

The Workshop discussion looked at possibility, which was raised at the Community Presentations held for the draft Oberon Community Strategic Plan 2014 (CSP) during the Public Exhibition process, of an Application to the Independent Pricing & Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for a Special Rate Variation (SRV) to improve Council's financial sustainability.

The Special Rate Variation is a mechanism to increase general income by more than the allowable Rate Pegging Limit. An Application to IPART for a SRV from 2015/16 would need to be prepared and notified by mid December 2014, with the Application to be submitted by mid February 2015.

During the Community Presentations for the draft CSP information was provided that "all rating categories will be reviewed leading up to the 2015/16 rating period to ensure that Council meets the Local Government Act 1993 requirements".

It is expected that new rate categories will be introduced for "Mining" and "Wind Farms" to capture rate income from any future developments of Mines and Wind Farms.

For the Town Improvement Rate, which is a "special rate" levied on properties with access to facilities within the town area of Oberon, there are two proposals considered at the Workshop.

Firstly a review of the defined "Oberon" town or village boundaries is proposed to be altered to include the Stratford Downs Estate, and during the Workshop further extensions to the boundary were suggested.

A second proposal is to replace the Town Improvement Rate with specific Special Rates which have identified Programs and individual Projects attached and linked to specific rating areas.

Further Workshops are planned **during September to November** and preferred options are to be presented to our community through an effective community engagement process prior to an Application is made to IPART. Prior to this Council will need to decide on a range of options and be able to demonstrate to the community the reasons for seeking additional rating revenue and how this will achieve an improvement in Council's financial sustainability.

14.04 MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT – FINANCE & COMMUNITY SERVICES

File No: Financial Management/Financial Reporting/Periodic Reports
Author: Lynette Safranek, Finance and Community Services Director

Summary

This report provides a summary of major work within the Finance and Community Services Department during August 2014 plus planned activities for the following months.

Recommendation:

That report item 14.04 is received as information.

Comment

1. PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Our External Auditors, Crowe Horwath Auswild, will be conducting the 2013/14 end of financial year audit from 10 to 12 September. The 2013/14 Financial Statements are being finalised ready for this visit. The Auditors Report and Financial Statements will be submitted to the October Council Meeting. This will allow Council to meet the Office of Local Government's deadline of 7 November, while putting the Statements on public display for 28 days, allowing Council to adopt the 2013/14 Financial Statements at the December meeting.

The Annual Report is also due for submission to the Office of Local Government on 7 November. The Executive Coordinator and Finance & Community Services Director are coordinating input from all areas of Council operations for input to the Annual Report.

2. FINANCE

SECTION 256 DONATIONS

A total of \$52,357 in section 356 donations of cash or in-kind were presented to community groups and schools at the Robert Hooper Community Centre on Monday 25 August 2014. The aim of the donations is that the whole of the Oberon Community will benefit in some way.

STOCKTAKE

The Finance Team conducted a stocktake in August, required for the end of financial year statements, using the new Stocktake Procedure. The stocktake was split into two days due to inclement weather, but ran smoothly. There is an ongoing issue with FuelStart which is causing fluctuation with the fuel figures. We are working with FuelStart and Civica, our corporate software provider, to resolve this issue.

The discrepancy for this stocktake was a very big improvement on the February 2014 stocktake. This small discrepancy is made up of PPE (personal protective equipment) clothing and boots, guideposts, sign posts, sewer joiners, main cock & elbow, stormwater pit, and taper. The Finance & Community Services Director and Storeman are working through the discrepancies as part of the overall Store improvements. A visit has been arranged to the Harden Shire Council Store during September to gain ideas on how to improve stock control and distribution.

RATE FORECASTING

The Finance & Community Services Director has been working on rate forecasting. The forecasts are a tool to assist Council to make a decision on whether or not to apply to IPART for a Special Rate Variation from 2014/15. The options will be discussed at the Councillor Financial Sustainability Workshop to be held during September.

RATES COLLECTIONS

Following are the rates and charges collected as at 31 August 2014.

	Farmland	Residential	Rural Residential	Non-urban Centre	Business	Total
Brought forward						
30 Jun 2014	\$115,266	\$152,672	\$18,945	\$4,709	\$29,422	\$321,015
Current Levy	\$1,570,281	\$1,873,118	\$473,874	\$134,006	\$541,096	\$4,592,376
Payments, concessions and interest	-\$435,620	-\$529,671	-\$155,195	-\$49,714	-\$221,541	-\$1,391,74
Balance outstanding	\$1,249,927	\$1,496,119	\$337,625	\$89,002	\$348,977	\$3,521,650
Overpayments						-\$2,725
Legal charges						\$1,475
Total rates outstanding						\$3,520,400
Collected @ July 2013	35%	32%	38%	41%	47%	36%
Collected @ July 2014	26%	26%	31%	36%	39%	28%

3. GRANTS UPDATE

GRANT SUBMISSIONS

Three separate expressions of interest were submitted for funding under the \$37.5 million *Fixing Country Roads* Grants Program to upgrade sections of the Sewell's Creek, Beaconsfield and Faugha Ballaugha Roads to make them accessible to high productivity vehicles such as modern B-Doubles to improve the efficiency of transporting pine logs to the timber mills. Total funding requested for these projects was \$1.15 million. Over 100 regional Councils submitted expressions of interest and the result is expected in September 2014.

The outcome of the three community applications for the Golf Club kitchen equipment (\$25,140), Leagues Club canteen (\$10,000) and Preschool floor coverings (\$10,295), under the Community Building Partnerships program is expected in December 2014.

Planning for the LiveSmart Health Expo is well underway. An application for the Oberon Health Council for the \$15,000 NSW Healthy Town Challenge will be submitted on 12 September 2014.

An application was submitted on behalf of the Friends of Oberon Library (FOOLs) for funding under the Local Government NSW *Creative Ageing Local Government Grants* 2014 program to run a Seniors Welding Art and Poetry Workshop. Total funding requested was \$3,000. An outcome is expected shortly.

The following list of internal Grants applied for in 2013/14 which we are waiting for an outcome:

Submitted	Details/Description of Project	Amount	Status	Feedback/Summary
Feb 2014	NSW Environmental Trust-LFHW	\$3,900	Unsuccessful	Project too small
Mar 2014	Dept. of Vet Affairs Anzac Centenary Grant Round 2	\$10,000	Decision still pending	
Apr 2014	Sport & Recreation Facilities Program (Recreation Ground O'Connell)	\$22,000	Ineligible	Insufficient time to obtain a DA
Jun 2014	Keep Australia Beautiful - recycling bin	\$6 600	Successful	See notes

SUCCESSFUL GRANTS

Oberon Council's application for a Keep Australia Beautiful National Association Beverage Container Recycling Community Grant funded by Coca Cola was successful. The \$6,599 received will be used to install a triple stream recycling bin in the Oberon Common and to purchase 12 mobile recycling bins for use at public events.

GRANT PROJECTS COMPLETED LAST MONTH

Stage 1 of the Lake Oberon Access Project funded by the Recreational Fishing Trust has now been completed. Stage 2 of this project funded under the Better Boating Program is now due to commence.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES IN SEPTEMBER

The Seniors Week 2015 application will be lodged to fund a bus trip for Oberon Seniors to participate in activities being held in Bathurst.

Community Recycling Centres Round 2 for problem household waste (e.g. batteries, gas cylinders, paint) funded by Environmental Protection Agency under the Waste Less Recycle More (WLRM) program. Application for Recycling facility at the Oberon Waste Facility will be prepared by Netwaste. Estimated cost is \$50 000 fully funded by grant.

Country Passenger Transport Infrastructure Grants Scheme (CPTIGS) funded by Transport NSW. By 2017 the Bus Stop in Fleming Street will need to be upgraded to meet disability standards. Work required is to upgrade and improve access for mobility impaired passengers (including wheel chairs) and to install tactile indicators for the vision impaired. Applications close 31 October. The Regional Transport Coordinator for Transport NSW will be assisting with design and costings for the upgrade.

Country Arts Support Program (CASP), FOOLs and the Oberon Arts Council will be provided with assistance with their applications.

GRANT PROJECTS COMMENCING IN SEPTEMBER

Work on the Anzac Memorial Wall at O'Connell, funded by the Saluting their Service Commemorations Grant and the Roads and Maritime Services, is due to commence this month.

Equipment for the Fitness Trail funded by Sport and Recreation Facilities grant has been ordered and will be installed during October.

4. COMMUNITY SERVICES

LIBRARY

The Oberon Library will be looking to take part in the 75th anniversary of the Library Act Oral History Project. Bev Evans, the original Oberon Librarian, commencing in 1968, has been approached to share her memories of the Library, such as when it opened, what it was like working there and changes over time. It will become part of a special oral history collection to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Library Act 1939 and 75 years of free public libraries in NSW. The oral histories will feature on <http://libraryact75th.tumblr.com/>.

Book Week 2014 was included as part of Local Government Week (refer to article later in this report). The Oberon Public School paid a special visit to the Library during Book Week as they were unable to visit during Local Government Week. They attended three sessions of story reading and a familiarisation of the Library.

The library hosted 19 sessions, or 22 hours, with a variety of activities. There were 22 new memberships; 1,530 items issued; with 111 new items; and there were 275 computer users (with 22 over 65 years).

THE ROBERT HOOPER COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Centre was used for 75 sessions, with a total income of approximately \$925.00.

COMMUNITY TECHNOLOGY CENTRE (CTC)

There were 35 sessions booked in to for Training. This figure no longer includes the Coordinators hours that were previously stated.

COMMUNITY Newsletter

The Oberon and Surrounding Villages Community Newsletter continues to be filled with interested articles on a wide range of community events and activities, with more requests for advertising being received.

HACC

The taxi voucher scheme is proving to be a great benefit to our Oberon clients during winter. During August approximately 28 Transport clients used the taxi vouchers.

There were 25 bookings for the Transport Vehicle during August. Some of these trips used Council vehicles due to clashes in booking times.

SELF CARE UNITS

The internal driveway of Balfour Street units is being resurfaced and repaired during September.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT WEEK

During August the day-to-day operations were showcased to our community by hosting Local Government Week tours of our offices and facilities.

School students from Oberon High, St Josephs, Hampton Public, Black Springs and Burruga schools, along with local residents of Oberon, took part in guided tours by Council Staff and Councillors, giving them the opportunity to go behind the scenes of our buildings and facilities.

Tours included our Administration Centre and Council Chambers where visitors explored the different Departments and Sections such as Planning and Development, Works and Engineering, Administration, Finance and Community Services. The Library tours gave insight into the range of resources available to the community along with special exhibits, children's activities and research support that we provide.

Visitors toured the Water Treatment Plant observing the treatment process and testing carried out daily to deliver the clean and safe water consumed by the public. At the Sewerage Treatment Plant staff explained how sewerage is treated with the use of biological particles through four separate processes.

Tours of the Visitor Information Centre proved captivating for students, learning about tourism activities and attractions in the area, displays and merchandise available at the Centre, along with the services provided at the Community Technology Centre.

The Works Depot tour gave students a look into the role of our Outdoor Staff and services they provide to the community. Visiting the Workshop, Store, the Overseer's and Risk Manager's Offices, students saw the varied jobs and responsibilities involved in working at the Depot.

Council staff provided great information and background into the diversity of jobs available at Oberon Council, along with the tertiary education pathways, traineeship and apprenticeship programs available, and the range of skills and qualifications recommended for various areas within Council.

Photographs of students and members of our community during tours held for Local Government Week.



14.04 MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT – FINANCE & COMMUNITY SERVICES

File No: Governance/Ordinary/December 2014

Author: Lynette Safranek, Finance and Community Services Director

Summary

This report provides a summary of major work within the Finance and Community Services Department during November 2014 plus planned activities for the following months.

Recommendation:

That report item 14.04 is received as information.

Comment

1. PLANNED ACTIVITIES

During December 2014 and January 2015 the Finance & Community Services Director will be meeting with the WWI Commemorations Community Working Party in preparation for the 2015 activities, visiting SR Law on 3 December for debt recovery training with two Finance team members; continuing to facilitate amendments to the Long Term Financial Plan, for use either with the IPART application and/or the 2015/16 budget; attending the LG Professionals Hot Topics on 4 December; attending the Office of Local Government, Fit for the Future Regional Workshop on 5 December; coordinating the OYC Youth Music Festival on 24 January; and participating in Australia Day 2015 activities.

If the Council decide to continue with an IPART application at the Extraordinary Meeting on 9 December, the Finance & Community Services Director will also be involved with the Community Consultations required during January, as well as the preparation of the IPART Application for Council's adoption at an Extraordinary Meeting to be held no later than 10 February 2015.

2. FINANCE

During November, a lot of time and effort was provided by the Finance team, and in particular the Finance Coordinator, on adjustments to the 2015 Budget and Long Term Financial Plan to assist the Councillors make a determination regarding an IPART Special Rate Variation Application for 5 years from 2015/16.

The allocated Town Improvement projects from the August and November Finance and Works Committee meetings will be updated in the next Quarterly Budget Review, along with funds for the Cemetery Plaque Reserve (\$10,640) and O'Connell Land Purchase (\$60,000).

PROCUREMENT WORKING PARTY

The Finance & Community Services Director attended the Centroc Regional Procurement Opportunity Workshop in Blayney on 26 November. This workshop discussed the Regional Roadmap Program outcomes, regional spend analysis and dashboards; opportunities for collaboration, development and support; and Regional Roadmap implementation. There are 14 regional Council's involved in this program. This workshop provided a spend summary for all Council's involved. Oberon spent \$8.56m in the 2013 financial year of which 3.8% of transactions are under \$1,000 and 2.7% of transactions are with top 20 suppliers.

None of the 14 Council's involved in this program have comprehensive Procurement Strategies in place or Council-wide coordinating body for procurement. Most Council's were under resourced with a need to address resourcing of procurement oversight: new procurement resourcing, re-prioritising existing roles, expert contracted resources and stronger regional support.

There is a high level off low value transaction. Most Council's do not have Purchase Order terms and conditions, with a lack of systemic approaches to compliance checking and limited levels of data or reports to show compliance to policy legislation.

Oberon Council is addressing these issues at the moment through its Procurement Working Party. We have developed a 2 year Roadmap as part of the Arc Blue Procurement Program and the working party is half way through its first 6 months. By April 2015, we are aiming at developing and rolling out new procurement policies and procedures, as well as the introduction of online purchasing. A copy of the Procurement Roadmap FOLLOWS.

RATES COLLECTIONS

Following are the Rates and Charges collected as at 30 November 2014.

	Farmland	Residential	Rural Residential	Non-urban Centre	Business	Total
Brought forward 30 Jun 2014	\$115,266	\$152,672	\$18,945	\$4,709	\$29,422	\$321,015
Current Levy	\$1,570,281	\$1,873,118	\$473,874	\$134,006	\$541,096	\$4,592,376
Payments, concessions and interest	-\$888,970	-\$991,828	-\$273,140	-\$79,267	-\$341,888	-\$2,575,092
Balance outstanding	\$796,577	\$1,033,962	\$219,680	\$59,449	\$228,630	\$2,338,298
Overpayments						-\$5,844
Legal charges						\$1,475
Total rates outstanding						\$2,333,930
Collected @ November 2014	53%	49%	55%	57%	60%	52%
Collected @ November 2013	52%	49%	55%	56%	61%	52%

SR Law have been performing debt recovery for Oberon Council for a period of 3 months. In that time, we have almost doubled the payment plans entered into by ratepayers with outstanding debt (20 new plans), thereby avoiding legal proceedings. There was a total of \$31,540 worth of outstanding debt paid. This period also saw \$4,808 worth of legal costs accrued by ratepayers due to legal proceedings.

3. GRANTS UPDATE

Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan (PAMP) Application

An application to the Roads and Maritime Services Walking and Cycling Program for a grant for \$15,000 to engage an external consultant to develop a PAMP and a Bike Plan was submitted on 28 November 2014. Council has committed \$10,000 of funding to this planning project. A PAMP is a comprehensive strategic and action plan to develop pedestrian policies and pedestrian facilities and will assist Council to coordinate investment in safe, convenient and connected pedestrian routes within a 2km radius of the main CBD.

Fixing Country Roads (FCR) Program

The FCR program is a \$37.5 million State Government Program aimed at improving freight networks in country areas. In Round 1 there were 249 expressions of interest submitted, with a total project value of \$450 million. Of these, 109 projects were invited to submit a full application. Oberon Council had three successful EOIs but has since withdrawn the EOI on Faugha Ballaugha Road.

The Engineering and Works Director and Grants Coordinator attended workshops in Dubbo and Blayney to assist in the preparation of full applications under the Fixing Country Roads Program to upgrade sections of the Sewell's Creek and Beaconsfield Roads, to allow access for 23m High Productivity B Double vehicles. These two projects will be combined into one submission as it strengthened the cost benefit modelling that formed a critical part of the submission. Support for this application has been received from Forestry Corporation and Mangan Haulage Pty Limited. Total project cost is \$900,000. The amount of Council funding committed to this project will be determined prior to submission of the application on 5 December 2014.

On 25 November the NSW Premier Mike Baird announced that Rebuilding NSW Funding for Regional Infrastructure will receive a \$6 billion boost. As part of this the government are planning to expand the highly successful Fixing Country Roads and Bridges for the Bush Programs with another \$700 million to support the movement of high productivity vehicles. It is not expected that Oberon Council will be successful with its Round 1 application. Given the complexity of the application process and economic modelling required for the Fixing Country Roads Program it is recommended that planning begins now to identify road projects that would be eligible for future rounds of the Fixing Country Roads (subject to the outcome of the State election in March).

The following table summarises all current grant submissions which are pending a decision.

Submitted	Details/Description of Project	Amount	Status	Feedback
July 2014	Community Building Partnerships-Golf Club Kitchen	\$25,140	Decision Pending	Grants announced Dec 2014
July 2014	Community Building Partnerships- Leagues Club Canteen Stage 2	\$10,000	Decision Pending	Grants announced Dec 2014
July 2014	Community Building Partnerships- Preschool Carpet	\$10,295	Decision Pending	Grants announced Dec 2014
Sept 2014	FRRR Small Grants for Rural Communities. Community Newsletter Printer	\$4,950	Decision Pending	
Sept 2014	EPA Community Recycling Centre	\$32,410	Decision Pending	
Sept 2014	Seniors Week 2015	\$1,000	Decision Pending	
Oct 2014	Country Arts Support Program-Women's Welding Workshop	\$2,175	Decision Pending	
Oct 2014	Public Library Infrastructure Grants 2014/15	\$120,290	Decision Pending	
Oct 2014	NSW Sport and Recreation Participation and Facility Grant Oberon Leagues Club spectator seating	\$7,991	Decision Pending	

Submitted	Details/Description of Project	Amount	Status	Feedback
Nov 2014	Roads and Maritime Services Walking and Cycling Program- Development of a PAMP	\$15,000	Decision Pending	
Dec 2014	Transport NSW Fixing Country Roads – Sewell's creek and Beaconsfield Rd	TBC		

4. COMMUNITY SERVICES

The General Manager and Finance & Community Services Director have a meeting scheduled with the Chairman and Manager of the Lithgow Community Transport on 8 December to commence discussions for an amalgamation and service agreement for Transport Services within Oberon.

Morning tea and reading by members of the FOOLS will take place at the Oberon Library to support the Public Libraries Association 'Day of Action' on Friday 5 December. This is one initiative to support the next phase of the campaign for improved funding from the NSW State Government, for which 70,000 signatures have been gathered so far.

During December, the Library Community Display Area will be exhibiting U3A activities conducted throughout 2014.

The Summer Reading Club Program will be taking place at Oberon Council Library throughout the coming school holidays. The theme for this year is Adventure. Registration is free and is open to participants aged 5 to 18 years. The Program is being launch on Friday on 19 December at the Oberon Library. Registration is open from 19 December and each participant will receive a Summer Reading Club pack. The pack contains lots of goodies, a reading log and instructions on how to qualify for tickets in the prize draw on Friday 23 January 2015. FOOLs, Rotary and the Oberon Arts Council are sponsoring this summer's Program, enabling some great prizes, including gift vouchers, electronic devices and a parents prize.

We are in the process of developing a Community Survey to gauge satisfaction with the level of customer service, collections, programs, inter-library loan, library rules, computer and printers, internet access, facilities, hours of operation, and an overall rating of the Library. It is aimed to have this survey ready for distribution during February 2015.

The *Community Newsletter - Oberon and Surrounding Villages* has been in production for 12 months and has been accepted with enthusiasm by the community and businesses. It is used to promote local activities and events, as well as services provided by business.

The Community Services Coordinator and Councillor Kathy Sajowitz recently attended the NSW Public Libraries Association Conference in Mudgee. The Library Officer and Library Trainee also attended the Central West Zone Library meeting in Dubbo during November. Both these events were stimulating and all attendees came away with exciting ideas and possible events/programs that could be used within the Oberon Library.

05.03 RATING STRUCTURE AND FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOP

File No: Governance/Meetings/Finance Committee Meeting
Author: Lynette Safranek, Finance & Community Services Director

Summary

A Councillor Workshop was held on 5 August 2014 to discuss proposals for changes to the Rating Structure and to consider Council's Financial Sustainability. Further Workshops will be scheduled later in the year, during September to October 2014.

Moved: Sajowitz
Second: Lord

That Report Item 05.03 is received as information.

Carried 03 280814

14.04 MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT – FINANCE & COMMUNITY SERVICES

File No: Governance/Ordinary/November 2014

Author: Lynette Safranek, Finance and Community Services Director

Summary

This report provides a summary of major work within the Finance and Community Services Department during September 2014 plus planned activities for the following months.

Recommendation:

That report item 14.04 is received as information.

Comment

1. PLANNED ACTIVITIES

The Finance & Community Services Director will be involved with the Community Services Committee, Oberon Interagency Committee, Community Precinct Working Party, and the WWI Commemorations Community Working Party during the next month. Finance staff involved with debt recovery will be visiting SR Law offices on 3 December for training.

Oberon Council Library and Friends of Oberon Library are presenting Australian Author, Nicole Alexander on 14 November 2014 for an Author Talk and dinner in the Community Centre. The evening will include a talk by Nicole and supper, with an opportunity to purchase her new book and have it signed.

The *Resourcing Our Future* flyer will be distributed to Oberon LGA Ratepayers week ending 14 November in an effort to gauge their interest in Council seeking an IPART Special Variation increase to General Rates for 5 years from 2015/16. A community information session will be held at the Community Centre on 20 November from 6.00pm, with responses to the survey due back by 28 November, to enable an informed decision can be made by Councillors before the expression of interest deadline on 12 December 2014. A phone survey of approximately 10% of the ratepayers will be conducted in November to ensure that we have sufficient responses from the community to make a determination.

2. FINANCE

More information was requested regarding the 'People's Choice Credit Union' that we have used for one of our investments. The People's Choice Credit Union, previously Australian Central Savings and Loans, is an Australian Credit Union based in Adelaide with offices around the country. It has over 360,000 members, \$7.3 billion in assets under management and is rated A2 by Moody's. The investment with this credit union complies with our Investment policy.

PROCUREMENT WORKING PARTY

The first Procurement Working Party meeting was held on 30 October. There are members from each department represented. The working party has agreed upon a Terms of Reference. The first 6 months of the Roadmap were discussed and the members went about setting a timeframe and assigning responsibilities for completion of the tasks.

2013/14 EXTERNAL AUDIT

Graham Bradley and Clare Wagner, of Crowe Horwath Auswild will attend this meeting to explain the Audited Financial Statements.

RATES COLLECTIONS

Following are the rates and charges collected as at 31 October 2014.

	Farmland	Residential	Rural Residential	Non-urban Centre	Business	Total
Brought forward 30 Jun 2014	\$115,266	\$152,672	\$18,945	\$4,709	\$29,422	\$321,015
Current Levy	\$1,570,281	\$1,873,118	\$473,874	\$134,006	\$541,096	\$4,592,376
Payments, concessions and interest	-\$718,584	-\$779,248	-\$220,417	-\$67,337	-\$296,484	-\$2,082,071
Balance outstanding	\$966,963	\$1,246,541	\$272,401	\$71,378	\$274,034	\$2,831,319
Overpayments						-\$4,560
Legal charges						\$1,475
Total rates outstanding						\$2,828,234
Collected @ September 2013	43%	38%	45%	49%	52%	42%
Collected @ September 2014	42%	38%	45%	48%	49%	41%

The collection rate for September 2014 is consistent with previous years. It is too early to see any reflection as a result of external debt recovery.

3. GRANTS UPDATE

An Application to the Public Library Infrastructure Grants 2014/15 to build a 65m² extension to the Fleming Street side of the Library was submitted on 31 October 2014. Total project budget is estimated at \$167,990.

Assistance was provided to the Oberon Tigers supporters Club in partnership with the Oberon Junior Rugby League Club for a NSW Sport and Recreation Participation and Facility Grant to install two tiered seating mini grandstands at the Oberon Football Ground. Total project budget is estimated at \$15,983.

The following table summarises all current grant submissions which are pending a decision.

Submitted	Description of Project	Amount	Status	Feedback
July 2014	Community Building Partnerships-Golf club kitchen	\$25,140	Decision Pending	Grants announced Dec 2014
July 2014	Community Building Partnerships - Leagues club canteen Stage 2	\$10,000	Decision Pending	Grants announced Dec 2014
July 2014	Community Building Partnerships - Preschool carpet	\$ 10,295	Decision Pending	Grants announced Dec 2014

Oberon Council - Agenda and Business Papers – Ordinary Meeting – 18 November 2014

Sept 2014	FRRR Small Grants for Rural Communities. Community Newsletter Printer	\$4,950	Decision Pending	
Sept 2014	EPA Community Recycling Centre	\$32,410	Decision Pending	
Sept 2014	Seniors Week 2015	\$1,000	Decision Pending	
Oct 2014	Country Arts Support Program-Women's Welding Workshop	\$2,175	Decision Pending	
Oct 2014	Public Library Infrastructure Grants 2014/15	\$120,290	Decision Pending	
Oct 2014	NSW Sport and Recreation Participation and Facility Grant	\$7,991	Decision Pending	

Oberon Council was successful with the application to the Department of Veteran Affairs for Round 2 Anzac Centenary Grant to install a sculptural World War 1 monument at the Oberon RSL sub-branch cenotaph. Council has been awarded \$7,000 and are hopeful of having a further \$2,500 of funding confirmed shortly.

The Oberon Junior Rugby Leagues Club has been awarded \$27,486 from the NSW Footy Facilities Fund to build a new canteen at the Oberon Football Ground.

Council have been invited to submit a full application following the three expressions of interest submitted to the Fixing Country Roads Program in August 2014. Council's Grants Coordinator will be attending an information session along with the Works & Engineering Director about the full application process at Dubbo on 7 November 2014. Refer to Council report 13.03 for more detail.

Oberon Council was unsuccessful with an Expression of Interest for the Sculpture by the Sea Acquisition Program. This is a popular program with many NSW Councils vying to acquire sculpture to add to their art programs.

The National Stronger Regions Fund is a major new program promoting economic development in Australia's Regions. The Fund will invest \$1 billion over 5 years and support investment in major infrastructure projects that deliver economic and social benefits to local regional communities. Grants must be matched dollar for dollar in cash contribution. The General Manager and Directors are considering if there are any major projects in the Oberon Local Government Area that would meet the funding criteria.

4. COMMUNITY SERVICES

The WWI 100 Year Celebrations – Working Party are well underway with the planning of events to honour Oberon's Anzac's between 8 March and 25 April 2015. The Working Party has confirmed a logo for the event.



Council staff offered to coordinate the Military Street Parade through the main street of Oberon, ending at the Oberon Showground for a day of Military Memorabilia and Displays on 11 April.

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

Transport NSW has been advising NSW Transport providers that it may reduce the number of contracts from 1 July 2015. At the Transport NSW Conference in September, they asked the transport groups to work together to amalgamate voluntarily to avoid amalgamations to be forced upon them as they will not be issuing as many contracts from July 2015. Refer to Council report 13.02 for more details.

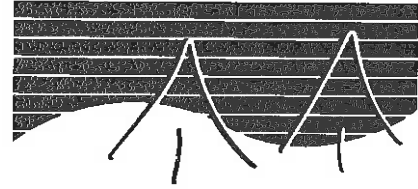
LIBRARY/COMMUNITY CENTRE

The renovations on the inside of the Library are finally finished. Friends of Oberon Library have purchased a wooden coffee table, which creates an inviting area to read the newspapers.

The Summer Reading Program is being promoted at the Library, in the Community Newsletter and Oberon Review. This year's theme is Adventure. There is an afternoon tea to launch the program on 19 December from 3.30pm at the Library. Children can win prizes by reading as many books on adventure, complete a simple questionnaire and play games. Prizes will be awarded in January.

137-139 Oberon Street
PO Box 84
Oberon NSW 2787

Telephone: (02) 6329 8100
Fax: (02) 6329 8142
Email: council@oberon.nsw.gov.au



OBERON COUNCIL

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

**Oberon Council Finance Committee Meeting
Thursday 6 November 2014**

**Commencing immediately following the closure
of the Works Committee Meeting**

at the Oberon Council Chambers

Agenda Items	page
1. OPENING OF MEETING & WELCOME TO COUNTRY.....	3
2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE	3
3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	3
4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.....	3
5. REPORTS	4
05.01 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW STATEMENT – JUL TO SEP 2014.....	4
05.02 POLICY REVIEWS	4
6. CLOSED SESSION / CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS.....	5
7. GENERAL BUSINESS.....	5
8. CLOSURE OF MEETING	6

1. OPENING OF MEETING & WELCOME TO COUNTRY

The Mayor welcomed members and declared the meeting open at 7.02pm.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Members Mayor John McMahon (in the Chair)
Deputy Mayor Kerry Gibbons
Clr Ian Doney
Clr Jill Evans
Clr Neil Francis
Clr Sam Lord
Clr Clive McCarthy
Clr John Morgan
Clr Kathy Sajowitz

Staff Alan Cairney, General Manager
Gary Wallace, Planning and Development Director
Chris Schumacher, Works and Engineering Director
Lynette Safranek, Finance and Community Services Director
Tim Booth, Acting Finance Coordinator
Sharon Swannell, Executive Coordinator

Apologies Nil

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

File No: Governance/Councillors/Declarations of Interest

Pecuniary - Nil

Non-Pecuniary - Nil
Significant

Non-Pecuniary - Nil
Less than
Significant

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Finance Committee Meeting 28 August 2014

Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 28 August were accepted by Council at its Ordinary Meeting held on 16 September 2014, resolution number 03160914.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

Nil

5. REPORTS

05.01 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW STATEMENT – JUL TO SEP 2014

File No: Governance/Meetings/Finance Committee

Author: Lynette Safranek, Finance & Community Services Director and David Mead, Finance Coordinator

Summary

The Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBRs) is presented with variations shown for income and expenditure for the period from 1 July to 30 September 2014.

Moved: Sajowitz
Second: Evans

That the Quarterly Budget Review Statements for the period ending 30 September 2014 be received and noted, and the revised Income & Expenses Budget and Capital Budget items be amended.

Carried 05 061114

05.02 POLICY REVIEWS

File No: Governance/Policies

Author: Alan Cairney, General Manager

Summary

At the April Council Meeting a proposed project outline to have all Policy Reviews completed before the end of 2014 was presented along with a strategy involving each Department Director, and the General Manager, taking a shared responsibility for reviewing each Policy with the General Manager reporting proposed changes to Council.

Moved: Sajowitz
Second: Lord

1. That the following Policies be deleted and removed from the Policy Register and Council Website:

Policy Description / Number	Summary of Reason for Deletion/Removal
1109 Quarterly Budget Review Statements	Deletion repeats existing the statutory requirements

2. That the following Policies be updated and amended as detailed within the report item.

Policy Description / Number	Summary of Update / Amendment
2203 Pensioner Concessions	Amendment updated to remove retrospective claims
2402 Collection Development	Amendment updating with new management practices.
NEW POLICY Workplace Surveillance	Amendment / New Policy Document the arrangements for Workplace Security & Monitoring plus Guidelines for employees.

3. That Council note the progress to date as detailed within the report item.

Carried 06 061114

6. CLOSED SESSION / CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

Summary

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, in the opinion of the General Manager, the following business is of a kind as referred to in Section 10A(2) of the Act, and should be dealt with in a part of the meeting closed to the media and public.

There are no Closed Session Reports listed for Council's consideration.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

Resourcing Our Future

A copy of the DRAFT Resourcing Our Future flyer was tabled by the Finance and Community Services Director seeking a decision from Council regarding distributing the brochure.

The brochure was reviewed and all agreed to the changes suggested. Two options will be presented for the Community to select. Option 1 is for an increase of 7.5% above the rate pegging limit each year for the next five years. Option 2 is an increase of 14.5% spread over 5 years the components of the rate increase are 2.5% or 3.5% each year in addition to the rate pegging limit.

Rural Council Model Workshop

Clr Sajowitz requested a verbal update regarding the Workshop attended by the General Manager in Dubbo on Wed 5 November.

The General Manager outlined the content of the Workshop. Over 40 people attended the Workshop from all over the State. The Office of Local Government (OLG) were seeking input from "rural type" Council's into how they should structure a Rural Council Model. All Council's with a population of up to 10,000 residents were invited to participate. Under the Fit For The Future reform process there is \$4million identified for innovation and it is uncertain how this will progress. The Council's present indicated they did not want to be a reduced entity or "poor cousin".

Council's who attended were not considered as having shown an "expression of interest" to be a Rural Council. The OLG are arranging details of the Workshop to be sent to all participants.

Burruga Mine Meeting

Clr Francis advised that the Burruga Mine will hold a meeting on Tuesday 18 November to provide an update on progress of the mine. This is the same evening as the Ordinary Council Meeting.

Malachi Gilmore Hall

Clr McCarthy asked if the statement in the Oberon Review regarding the possible purchase by Council of the Malachi Gilmore Hall is factual?

The General Manager advised that it is not.

8. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Meeting closed at 8.27pm.

The next Finance Committee Meeting of Oberon Council will be held on:

Tuesday 3 February 2015

commencing immediately following the Works Committee Meeting

in the Oberon Council Chambers
137 – 139 Oberon Street, Oberon.