

## ON EXHIBITION

### Draft Operational Plan for Financial Year 2013/2014 Available for Public Information and Comment

Council is pleased to report that the budget supporting the Operational Plan 2013/2014 has an operating surplus (including \$515,000 of capital grants) of \$638,383 in the General Fund. This operating surplus will enable a balanced working capital budget after a capital program of \$4,126,750 for the General Fund in the year 2013/2014. The Water and Sewer Funds both have operational and working capital surpluses, providing funds to meet the long term renewal programs for the water and sewer infrastructure. An understanding of the Revenues; Expenditure on Employee costs, Road, Street and Bridges – Construction, Resealing, Re-sheeting and Maintenance; for the ten years to 2022/2023 can be obtained from pages 2 to 7 of the Summary.

The Uralla Shire Council adopted the Draft Operational Plan 2013 to 2014 for the purpose of public information and comment at its meeting of Monday 27 May 2013 (Resolution 129/13). The Operational Plan is in 5 Parts:

- Part 1 Summary
- Part 2 Statements, Principal Activities, Key Elements of the Community Strategic Plan, Resourcing Strategies and Statements relating to the Revenue Policy.
- Part 3 Strategic Objectives, Goals, Strategies, Performance Assessment and Funding of Activities for the year 2013/2014.
- Part 4 Draft Revenue Policy (including a Schedule of Fees and Charges) for the 2013/2014 year.
- Part 5 Budget Estimates 2013/2014 and forward Estimates to 2022/2023 in the Statutory Format (Profit and Loss, Cash-flow Statements and Projected Balance Sheets) together with the List of Capital Expenditure for 2013/2014 to 2022/2023.

The short form statutory format of the budget and forward estimates in Part 5 of the Operational Plan are supported by a Draft Detailed Budget Estimate for the year 2013/2014. This is provided as a supplementary document and provides line item detail of the Council's income and expenditure.

The Operational Plan is one year's slice of the Delivery Program for the term of the current Council, which ends in September 2016. The Delivery Program is a fixed-term plan (4 years) and Council will be held accountable for implementing the Program within its term.

The capital expenditure allocation for all funds totals \$4,453,742 (2012/2013 - \$5,048,102). The major items being Sealed Rural Local Roads \$1,435,247 (2012/2013 - \$2,112,177), Bridges \$855,306 (2012/2013 - \$489,000), Plant replacement \$788,765 (2012/2013 - \$1,123,000), Unsealed Rural Local Roads \$293,247 (2012/2013 - \$267,752), Sealed Rural Regional Roads \$258,387 (2012/2013 - \$353,899), Water Infrastructure \$147,167 (2012/2013 - \$118,609), Sewer Infrastructure \$100,149 (2012/2013 - \$102,848) and the new Kingstown Waste Transfer Station \$100,000 (2012/2013 \$Nil).

The major bridge work, thanks to the promised funding from the State Government of \$3.5 million, will be the replacement of the Emu Crossing in the years 2013/2014 (\$550,000) and 2014/2015 (\$3,350,00). By 2018/2019 the Uralla Shire will have replaced all the timber wooden bridges on its regional and local roads. The sealed road network, which currently stands at 44.8%, will reach more than 50% of the total network by the end of the ten-year financial plan period.

Council is also pleased to report that the ten-year financial plan, based upon the year ended 30 June 2012 actual and the 2013/2014 budget estimates, also provides for balanced forward estimates for each of the nine years 2022/2023 for the General Fund.

The Operational Plan can be read or downloaded from Council's website 'News' or through the direct link: [http://www.uralla.nsw.gov.au/index.cfm?page\\_id=1377](http://www.uralla.nsw.gov.au/index.cfm?page_id=1377). Hard copies are available at the Council Office, Uralla Library, and the General Stores in Bundarra, Invergowrie, Kentucky and Kingstown.

Council encourages its residents and ratepayers to read the Operational Plan and make comment to Council prior to Council adopting the Operational Plan at its meeting to be held on Monday 24 June 2013. Submissions and comments should be addressed to the General Manager.

## CONTACTS

### Uralla Shire Council:

**Mayor:**

Cr Michael Pearce, 0488 752 520

**Deputy Mayor:**

Cr Bob Crouch, 0428 616 885

**General Manager:**

Mr Tom O'Connor

**Council Administration:**

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**Council Website:** [www.uralla.nsw.gov.au](http://www.uralla.nsw.gov.au)

**Tourism Website:** [www.uralla.com](http://www.uralla.com)

**Bundarra Works Depot:**

Phone: 02 6723 7262

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### Emergency Contacts:

**After-Hours and on Public Holidays**

Overseer: 0427 784 982

Water / Sewer: 0427 784 304

Report all Fires: 000

## COUNCIL MEETINGS

**The next meeting of Council is scheduled for:**

**Date:** Monday, 24 June 2013

**Time:** 12noon

**Location:** Council Chambers,  
32 Salisbury Street, Uralla

"Have Your Say" from 1:30pm.  
(Contact Council for registration procedure)

Council Meeting Agendas, Reports and Minutes are available for public viewing at:

☐ Bundarra General Store

☐ Invergowrie General Store

☐ Kentucky General Store

☐ Kingstown General Store

☐ Uralla Shire Council Chambers

☐ Uralla Visitor Information Centre

☐ Uralla Public Library

☐ Council's website: [www.urallansw.gov.au](http://www.urallansw.gov.au)

# PROPOSAL TO 'MERGE' URALLA, WALCHA & GUYRA WITH ARMIDALE DUMARESQ COUNCIL

## They are at it again!

The Uralla Shire Council and its Community have previously fought off amalgamation attempts by the State Government in both 2004 and 2010.

Ten months ago the Minister for Local Government set up an Independent Local Government Review Panel (ILGRP). The members of the panel are Professor Graham Samson from the Australian Centre for Excellence for Local Government; Glenn Inglis, former General Manager of Tamworth Regional Council and Jude Munro former C.E.O. of the Brisbane City Council. The announcement was received by the Uralla Shire Council with great enthusiasm as it promised to listen to local government and our communities, look at what was good and bad in our current system and provide recommendations for a way forward for local government in New South Wales.

After 10 months of research and submissions from local councils the third stage, of a four stage process, has been completed. This is a 64 page "Future Directions for NSW Local Government – Twenty Essential Steps" report, which has been prepared and distributed. The report can be downloaded through the Division of Local Government website at: [www.localgovernmentreview.nsw.gov.au](http://www.localgovernmentreview.nsw.gov.au)

What are these 20 essential steps? They are:

1. Face the Challenges of Change
2. Create a Sustainable System
3. Keep the 'Local' in Local Government
4. Confront Financial Realities
5. Ensure Fiscal Responsibility
6. Bolster the Revenue Base
7. Tackle the Infrastructure Backlog
8. Promote Innovation, Productivity and Competitiveness
9. Advance Improvement and Accountability
10. Improve Political Leadership
11. Enhance the Status of Mayors
12. Revisit Council-Management Relations
13. Build Strong Regions
14. Reconfigure Rural Councils
15. Reshape Metropolitan Governance
16. Strengthen the Hunter, Central Coast and Illawarra
17. Establish a 'Western Region Authority'
18. Progress the State-Local Agreement
19. Refocus Local Government NSW
20. Drive and Monitor Ongoing Reform

## MAYORAL COMMENT

**Mayor, Cr Michael Pearce says...**

*"We wish to retain our independence and autonomy as a stand-alone Rural Council"*



Join the Mayor, Councillors and Council Staff at the Independent Local Government Review Panel **Community Hearing** in the Armidale Town Hall on **Wednesday 12 June 2013** between 5pm and 7pm (refer diary details below).

Remember that the community meeting with Mrs Gabriel Kibble AO at Uralla Bowling Club on Tuesday, 20 April 2010 was attended by more than 1,000 residents and this went a long way towards fighting-off the 2010 Amalgamation proposal.

What does it all mean? Well "Build Strong Regions" and "Reconfigure Rural Councils" are bureaucratise for amalgamations or in the new world - mergers. A table on page 43 of the report within the section headed "Reconfigure Rural Councils" the two options for Uralla are a Council in New England-North CC and merge with Armidale Dumaresq. The Panel's preferred option, for consultation, on page 62 of the report is to merge Uralla, along with Guyra and Walcha with Armidale Dumaresq. The section states that "An over-riding consideration for rural councils is the weakness of their own-source revenue base relative to their service delivery and infrastructure responsibilities."

It is evident that the ILGRP placed great store on the NSW Treasury Corporation (TCORP) Financial Assessment, Sustainability and Benchmarking reports on each NSW Council carried out over the past six months based on financial year 2012 and ten-year financial plans from 2011. The Uralla Shire Council strongly disagreed with the findings of this Financial Assessment, Sustainability and Benchmarking Reports. However our objections were ignored regarding, an assessment that Council has an inability to borrow, TCORP's own source income percentages, the reliance on consolidated rather than General Fund renewal of asset ratios and the cash expense ratio of 3 months as the benchmark.

At the beginning and throughout the ten month review it has constantly been stated the Panel was not looking at a one size fits all for local government. Yet of the 152 existing Councils the report recommends the reduction by mergers of 91 current Councils leaving a State with 61 Councils consisting of 14 Metropolitan Councils, 16 Regional Councils, 30 Rural Councils in County Councils with Regional Councils and 1 Western Regional Council. Of the 91 abolished councils there is proposed to have only 6 local boards. One would question whether this will keep the Local in Local Government.

## DIARY

**Community Hearing with the Independent Local Government Review Panel, Armidale Town Hall, Wednesday 12 June 2013 from 5pm to 7pm**

Council invites Ratepayers and Residents to participate in the Community Hearing in Armidale in relation to the "Future Directions for NSW Local Government Report" (refer article above). The Hearing will provide an opportunity for local People and Organisations to express their views and concerns directly to a Panel Member. Transportation from Uralla is being arranged for those who need it. Contact Council for further details.

**Heritage Advisor Welcome Morning Tea, Council Chambers, Tuesday 2 July 2013 at 10:30am**

Uralla Shire Council would like to invite the Community to attend a Morning Tea to welcome Councils' new Heritage Advisor, Mr Mitch McKay. The Morning Tea will be held at Council Chambers on Tuesday 2 July at 10:30am. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Melody on 02 6778 6314 by Monday 28 June. A short presentation on Councils' Heritage Advisory Service will be included.

## RSL Sub-Branch Schedule of Upcoming Monthly Meetings

The Uralla RSL Sub-Branch will hold monthly meetings at 10.00am on Monday 1 July; Wednesday 31 July and Thursday 31 August 2013. All members and visiting sub-Branch members are welcome to attend. Contact Mr P. McCarthy, Hon. Secretary on 0438 046 198 for further information.