



DRAFT 2016/2017 OPERATIONAL PLAN ON PUBLIC EXHIBITION

Western Plains Regional Councils 2016/2017 draft Operational Plan and Budget is now on public exhibition until Wednesday 22 June 2016 and public submissions are invited on Councils priorities and major projects for the coming financial year.

The Draft Plan contains information on the following items:

ROADNETWORK-RURALROADS

The 2016/2017 budget includes \$7.09 million for Rural Roads, which includes allocations for Village and Rural road reconstruction and sealing, seal extension of Old Mendooran Road and Ponto Falls Road.

Councils Director of Technical Services Stewart McLeod said across the Western Plains Regional area there is over 1,300 kilometres of unsealed rural roads.

"In 2016/2017 it is planned to continue with identified rural road sealing projects.

"An allocation of \$500,000 has been made to commence the Village Street Sealing Program covering Ballimore, Brocklehurst, Eumungerie, and Wongarbone with the first year concentrating on streets in Brocklehurst and Wongarbone," Mr McLeod said.

"A seal extension is also proposed on Old Mendooran Road to complement the improvements to the route that resulted from the completion of the Gulambula Bridge.

"Further allocations have been made for sealing at Ponto Falls Road (\$500,000) and regional road renewals of Gundy Creek Bridge and improvements on Cobbora Road (\$1.64M)."

ROADNETWORK-URBANROADS

Capital expenditure in 2016/2017 will reach \$7.63 million with allocation to road construction and reconstruction, including \$1.9M for the Boundary Road extension in Dubbo and reconstruction works in Swift Street Wellington.

"The Boundary Road Extension has been allocated \$1.9M in 2016/2017 for Stage 1 with the project to be funded by Section 94 Contributions and contributions under the Voluntary Planning Agreement with Alkane Resources," Director of Technical Services, Stewart McLeod said.

Other projects include the completion of Mitchell Highway and Capstan Drive Roundabout and Brisbane Street reconstruction in Dubbo as well as road extension and reconstruction works in Swift Street, Wellington valued at \$830,000 and resealing of local and urban roads in Wellington valued at \$200,000.

DUBBO REGIONAL LIVESTOCK MARKETS YARD DUES AND AGENTS FEES TO INCREASE

Small increases in yard dues and agents licence fees have been proposed for the Dubbo Regional Livestock Markets (DRLM) in the 2016/2017 Draft Operational Plan and Budget.

Director of Corporate Development Ken Rogers said the DRLM agents will benefit from significant capital improvements including the \$6.58M upgrade to the cattle selling facilities part funded from the Federal Government National Stronger Regions grant.

Yard dues for cattle will increase 2.51 percent from \$8.35 in 2015/2016 to \$8.56 per head in 2016/2017 and sheep fees will increase 3.75 percent from \$0.80 per head to \$0.83 in 2016/2017.

Agents' Licence Fees proposed for 2016/2017 will also increase by 2.08 percent, with cattle going from \$0.96 per head to \$0.98 and sheep increasing by 2.86 percent per head from \$0.35 to \$0.36.

"In addition to the major cattle facility upgrades other capital upgrades valued at \$370,000 are proposed in 206/2017 including amenities, canteen and workshop upgrades and reseal of the carpark to continually improve the facility," Mr Rogers said.

DUBBO CITY HOLIDAY PARK DYNAMIC PRICING

The Revenue Policy for the Dubbo City Holiday Park proposes the introduction of 'dynamic pricing' to both cabin accommodation and the caravan drive through sites.

"These user fees have been reviewed in conjunction with Australian Tourist Park Management to resect the market," Director of Corporate Services, Ken Rogers said.

"Dynamic pricing is widely used in the airline and accommodation industries in an effort to reward those that book early and places a premium on the product when supply is short.

"When introduced at other parks, this system has seen an increase in revenue of between 10-20 percent with very little negative feedback from customers."

The Dubbo City Holiday Park is predicted to make a contribution of \$200,000 to Rates and Other General Revenue in the 2016/2017 financial year.

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