

BREWARRINA SHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Submission for Ordinary Meeting held on 30 June 2011

TITLE:	Correspondence for Information	DOC REF: Item
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REPORT BY:	Glenda Tasker General Manager	DATE: 16 June 2011
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ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Item 1. Local Government Week and the RH Dougherty Awards 2011

Local Government Week will be held from 1 – 7 August 2011 with the theme being 'Empowering Communities'. The official launch of Local Government Week will be held on Wednesday 3 August.

Local Government Week provides a focus for councils to promote the importance of Local Government to the community. The week provides opportunities for public participation in Local Government and shows the community how they can be part of their council's day-to-day activities.

The RH Dougherty Awards aim to recognise and encourage greater understanding and communication by councils to their local communities.

There are three award categories:

- Reporting to Your Community
- Excellence in Communications
- Outstanding Individual Contribution

Entries close Wednesday 15 June 2011

Item 2. Commonwealth Local Government Reform Fund

NSW Premier and Cabinet have advised that a component of the Commonwealth Local Government Reform Fund is to provide specific assistance to 40 Councils which have been identified as having limited resources and capability. Following assessment Brewarrina Shire Council has been identified as requiring assistance.

This assistance comprises a fully funded Asset Management Maturity and Gap Analysis and a cash grant of \$30,000. The total value of this assistance is \$38,000. Also included is access to asset management tools, training and other resources.

The Gap Analysis is an objective analysis of asset management and financial planning maturity. It will be conducted on-sit by an IPWEA representative.

Item 3. Congratulations of Successful Funding Application

MacArthur Division of General Practice LTD congratulated Brewarrina Shire Council on the successful application for a Local Government Area grant under the Commonwealth's Healthy Community Initiative.

MacArthur Division of General Practice LTD oversee the Healthy Eating, Activity and Lifestyle (HEAL) program which is a 8 week lifestyle modification program and will be training HEAL facilitator for June2011 with assistance offered to train a person to deliver HEAL in the community.

Item 4. Statewide Graffiti Hotline

Premier & Cabinet will be establishing a Statewide graffiti hotline which will allow:

- A single location to receive, register and store graffiti information. This will assist the NSW Government to develop initiatives to reduce the incidence of graffiti
- Improved reporting of incident for referral to Police
- A mechanism for the efficient referral of graffiti incidents to asset owners for maintenance

The proposed operations will involve the NSW Police Call Centre receiving the reports. Council has been requested to establish a contact email (graffiti@brewarrina.nsw.gov.au) to receive the notification of graffiti incidents.

It is intended the hotline will be trialed for 12 months and then evaluated. Feedback from Council will be sought as part of the evaluation.

Item 5 Councillor Bruce Miller, recent past President, LGSA

Councillor Bruce Miller wrote to Council thanking them for the support shown to him over his 4 year term as President of the Shires Association of NSW.

As someone who initially proposed the concept of One Association some 16 years ago, Councillor Miller feels that although he has mixed feelings in leaving the position, "it feels fitting to be stepping down at the time when our members have voted to proceed with forming One Association".

Item 6. Grant - Dept Trade & Investment – ‘Tree change’ participants

Council was notified on 27th June, per telephone, that the State Government (SG) is offering a grant to residents from metropolitan areas of big cities (Sydney, Newcastle, Wollongong and Central Coast) who sell houses in those locations, relocate to and purchase houses in rural Local Government Areas (LGA).

Although letters have not been sent out yet by the department, confirming the proposal and detailing how it will be applied, State Government expects a response by Council by 30th June - if Council is not in favour of the proposal. It was stated that some LGAs may not want to attract new residents and therefore may not want government to offer any grant to residents intending to relocate to their communities.

If no response is received by June 30th then assent will be implied.

Families moving from metro areas to regional – receive a grant likely to be in the vicinity of \$7,000, half of which may be paid ‘up-front’ when property transactions are completed with the remainder payable within one to two years after relocation.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Nil

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Nil

RECOMMENDATION:

That:

1. Council receive the Correspondence for Information report as information.

Glenda Tasker
General Manager