



SUPPLEMENTARY STAFF REPORT

S1. COUNCILLOR INFORMATION SEMINARS
Supplementary Staff Report to the 20 January 2009 Ordinary Meeting
File No's. A1.2.3
Prepared by Bruce Fitzpatrick on 15 January 2009

By letter, received 14 January 2009, (**Attachment S1**) the Department of Local Government has written in response to Oberon Council's written advice advising the Department of its decision to conduct an in-house councillor training program, in preference to Councillor's attending the Department's councillor information seminar.

General Managers are required to report to the first council meeting in 2009 the level of councillor attendance at the Department's councillor information seminars.

No Oberon councillors attended the Department of Local Government Councillor Information Seminars. Three councillors attended the first in-house training session conducted by Gerry Holmes, these being Councillors Doney, Fitzpatrick & Handelsmann. A further training day will be scheduled with Gerry Holmes in the near future.

Recommendation:

That the information be received and noted.

S2. LOCAL WATER INQUIRY
Supplementary Staff Report to the 20 January 2009 Ordinary Meeting
File No. E32.1
Prepared by Leigh Robins on 15 January 2009

The report of the Independent Inquiry into Secure and Sustainable Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Services for Non-metropolitan NSW was released on 14 January 2009.

This inquiry which was initiated by the former Minister for Water, Nathan Rees has previously been considered by Council. At Council's meeting of 11 March 2008 it was resolved that:

"Council's preferred option for rationalising NSW Local Water Units be a regional mandatory alliance."

The report in full is available at www.dwe.nsw.gov.au.

The report proposes an alliance with member Council's being Bathurst Regional, Mid-Western Regional, Lithgow City and Oberon. An extract from the executive summary (**Attachment S2a**) explains the alliance as follows;

The binding alliance model is a new organisational concept for local water utilities. A binding alliance establishes a distinct legal entity (the Alliance Entity) that has responsibility for the strategic and financial planning function of member councils and for providing specialist technical skills to the member councils. Assets and the responsibility for service delivery are retained by member councils. However, asset management is directed by the Alliance Entity and service delivery is provided by the member councils in accordance with the asset management plan developed by the Alliance Entity. Service levels are agreed to between the Alliance Entity and member councils. Member councils are compelled to remain members of the alliance and implement the directions of the Alliance Entity.

A map of the proposed regional aggregations is included as **Attachment S2b**. When further information is available a further report will be submitted regarding the operation of the Alliance Entity.

Recommendation:

That the information be received and noted.