

Councillors Thank you for the opportunity to address This forum in relation to Agenda item 7.1 Tier 1 recommendations of the Drew report I will not read out the recommendations as councillors have them in the agenda.

**Rec 4** Establish a stronger focus on maintenance – especially road reseals and clearing of table drains. We are very concerned that the backlog is not known with sufficient accuracy. Moreover, it is clear to us that if essential maintenance is not carried out on road infrastructure in a timely manner that Council will not be able to regain financial sustainability

There has to be a two-pronged approach to achieve this 1: scheduling and 2: change of council culture it is time the whole team work as one taking ownership of their work and pride in the end result e.g. Last Tuesday Grading of Corona RD 800m from Jamieson Rd the next rain will result in a return to the ungraded state as the surface is below the shoulders and no drains cut.

Redlands Rd is another example, how many councillors and staff drove over the section from Doyles corner to Hudson's Rd severely deformed and dangerous no caution signs until I notified council then only a half-hearted attempt to warn drivers this is the most heavily trafficked Rd in the council. Last time action was taken was following an accident.

Tom Roberts Rd signs and posts left on the road shoulders after works are completed maybe they leave them for 4 years for next time they re-sheet.

**Rec 12** Consideration needs to be given to outsourcing the Corowa Aquatic Centre for similar reasons.

**Lack of transparency** stated adopt it wasn't adopted, it should read not adopted.

But in making the decision were councillors made aware that under council management lifeguards on a Sunday shift receive just short of \$1000 per shift I believe there are 2 per shift.

*Question from a councillor how did I know that pay for a Sunday I replied a lifeguard told me.*

**Rec 19** As an entirely separate matter, Council should write to the Minister to request a minor boundary review to look at economic spillovers and other inefficiencies associated with the current boundaries. In any such process, it will be important to put measures in place to ensure that political voice is preserved.

With no disrespect to Councillor Fahey

Morundah should be placed in Narrandera 32 KM away Corowa is 130km away it's a no brainer likewise Boree creek 121 km from Corowa 21 to Lockhart another absolute no brainer for a boundary realignment

**Rec 22** Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) need to be established for relevant staff around adherence to budgets. As a general rule, KPIs should always be: (i) specific, (ii) measurable, and (iii) verifiable. No suggestion is being made that KPIs don't currently exist – rather we merely assert that KPIs might be tightened up somewhat

KPIs this is an important measure of staff performance and should be realistic EG The GM is responsible for timely production of monthly meeting papers last meeting you approved that papers should be available a minimum of 3 days prior to the meeting when Industry and Government standard is 7 days?

**Rec 30** We need to consider whether it might be advisable to remove the long-term risk and distraction posed by the saleyard business. One option would be to sell the saleyard business in its entirety (subject to the terms of recent grants or other constraints). In all likelihood, physical saleyards may continue to lose volume to online and direct options in the future and Council could ultimately be left with an unsaleable asset. A second option is to outsource the business on a long-term basis to delay the realisation of risk. Notably, the saleyard situation is slightly different to the caravan park and aquatic centre and needs to be treated with care.

Council have rejected this at this stage and will continue with a service review put a date on this so staff have something to work to.

The premier event of the year for Federation council the opening of the \$12m saleyards

The opening left a lot to be desired nothing on the webpage in the lead up to the opening of the saleyards first most people knew was ABC rural morning programme on the day of the opening I was contacted by a very upset stakeholder who had put a lot of work in helping to secure the funding and wasn't invited.

Were farmers invited? probably one of the most important stakeholders

Didn't anyone think of asking the contractors to take a break for an hour during the opening it was embarrassing for the minister trying to talk over background noise with faulty PA.

MLLS GM said see you at the opening I said I had no idea it was on.

Attention to detail last monthly meeting website says Corowa Civic Centre only if you read the header of the agenda would you have seen at URANA

**Rec 36** Certain positions need to be funded and approved for the Planning and Development Team as soon as possible. Fixed-term positions need to be created for a plumbing inspector and an additional administration assistant until the backlog becomes more manageable. New trainee positions may need to be funded and filled. It may be appropriate to fund the plumbing inspector – and potentially other positions – from the water or sewer fund. This matter has been allowed to go unresolved for too long and it is now evident that the stress of the situation is feeding on itself and having serious implications for the health and welfare of staff. Perceived staff shortfalls represent an important sustainability risk for Federation

Throwing more staff at the planning dept won't solve the problem nor a service review it needs a critical operational review from the director down.

Ask the planning dept users their opinion it is well known they would prefer to build anywhere than Federation Council.

All these points I have raised are so obvious you don't need peer reviewed Drew to point them out .