

INFORMATION REPORTS



DEVELOPMENT APPROVALS – JULY 2014

Below is a list of Development approvals determined during the month of July 2014 for your information.

DA No.	Applicant	Construction	Address	Determination Date/Method	Value of Works	Type: DA/CC, Mod, s68, s96 etc.
DA2014/61	P Caldwell (Nestle)	Erection of a Canteen	1 Jarman Crescent, Blayney	2 July 2014 Delegation Approval	1,000,000	DA
DA2014/62	M & C Bonanno	Erection of a Shed	33 Graham Road, Blayney	11 July 2014 Delegation Approval	44,000	DA
DA2014/65	F Akehurst	A-Frame Sandwich Sign & Use of Footpath	122 Adelaide Street, Blayney	30 July 2014 Delegation Approval	500	DA
DA2014/50	T & J Leggatt	Erection of a Garage	5 Mount Errol Street	30 July 2014 Delegation Approval	38,000	DA/CC
DA2014/26/1	Mackintosh Development s Pty Ltd	Modification – Delete Condition No.16	158 Walkom Road, Kings Plains	30 July 2014 Delegation Approval	N/A	S96

DA's Approved in July 2014: 5

DA's Lodged in July 2014: 18

Total Value of Works approved in July 2014: 1,082.500

DA's Approved in July 2013: 24

DA's Lodged in July 2013: 14

Total Value of Works approved in July 2013: \$ 7,029,050



Ref: OBJ: fB100289

18 July 2014

Mr Glenn Wilcox
General Manager
Blayney Shire Council
PO Box 62
Blayney NSW 2799

via email: council@blayney.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Wilcox

In response to feedback from Councils, and comments on Essential Energy's 2014-19 Substantive Regulatory Proposal (SRP) received at the Australian Energy Regulator's (AER) Public Forum, I'd like to clarify some elements of our recommendations. In particular, the drivers behind our proposal to move to a cost recovery model for public lighting services during this regulatory period.

As previously advised, the AER's 2009-14 determination did not allow Essential Energy to fully recover public lighting costs. In fact, we lost \$5 million per annum, placing the sustainability of our public lighting services under question.

While we have contained public lighting price increases for 2014-15 in line with CPI, our proposal for 2015-19 incorporates more substantial increases. These will help Essential Energy move towards better cost recovery and support ongoing effective, efficient operations in compliance with the NSW Public Lighting Code.

Our proposed model is based on the 'user pays' system, aimed at ensuring that Councils requiring public lighting pay for these services accordingly, rather than the costs having to be passed on and shared by all Essential Energy customers.

If you haven't done so already, I encourage you to view our [Public Lighting Proposal](#) (follow [link](#)) on the AER's website.

As you'll see, tariff changes will vary according to each Council's individual circumstances. I encourage you to identify the dollar value of increases relevant to your Council, rather than focus on percentage or average increases.

You can find all public lighting information specific to your Council – including a user guide, inventory list, fault and rectification data, and billing details – on Essential Energy's website [Council Portal](#) (<http://www.essentialenergy.com.au/content/council-dropbox>). Information is updated monthly by Essential Energy and all your historical data – back to when the service was first launched in January 2012 - remains available on the portal for your review.

It's important to remember that the new public lighting model is still under review by the AER. You have the opportunity to provide feedback, either to Essential Energy by e-mail to ourplans@essentialenergy.com.au, or through the AER's website at www.aer.gov.au.

AER feedback submissions close on 8 August 2014, and we expect a draft determination on Essential Energy's SRP in November 2014.

If you have any questions, or require new log in details for your Council Portal, please contact Essential Energy's Chief Engineer, Ken Stonestreet on 02 6589 8885 or via ken.stonestreet@essentialenergy.com.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Humphreys', written in a cursive style.

Gary Humphreys
Chief Operating Officer




Troy Grant MP

21 JUL 2014

Minister for Hospitality, Gaming and Racing
Minister for the Arts

IM14/17661

Mr Anton Franze
Director – Corporate Services
Blayney Shire Council
PO Box 62
BLAYNEY NSW 2799


Dear Mr Franze

Thank you for your letter dated 23 June concerning NSW Public Libraries funding.

I am pleased to advise that the NSW Government has increased public library funding in the 2014/15 Budget to help public libraries better meet the needs of local communities.

The NSW Liberals and Nationals will provide an additional \$15 million over four years for the new Public Library Infrastructure Grants program. This brings the Public Libraries Grants and Subsidies to a record \$27.5 million in 2014/15.

The NSW Liberals and Nationals have a strong track record of delivering for our public libraries. Following the 2011 election we rolled out the successful Revitalising Regional Libraries Program which has delivered excellent results. To date 112 regional libraries have installed WiFi hotspots and 83 regional councils have received grants of \$16,000 above their annual State Government subsidy to improve public library facilities.

Under the new Public Libraries Infrastructure Grant program, councils will be able to apply for funding to improve accessibility for the broader community, as well as for projects which focus on demonstrated need and community benefit.

The State Library of NSW will manage the competitive Public Libraries Infrastructure Grants and it is expected that the first round of applications will be considered by the end of 2014.

I am aware of stakeholder views on the need for increased support for public libraries and I am pleased that the NSW Government is able to provide this funding to those libraries which need it the most.

Yours sincerely


Troy Grant MP

BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL	24 JUL 2014	Doc. No.	Verified:	Disp. GA39:	Sent.

Blayney Shire Council



23 June 2014

The Minister for Hospitality, Gaming and Racing, and Minister for the Arts
Mr T. Grant MP
Member for Dubbo Electorate
PO Box 1327
DUBBO NSW 2830

RECEIVED
BY:



Dear Mr Grant MP,

RE: NSW PUBLIC LIBRARY FUNDING

Reference is made to the campaign by the NSW Public Library Associations (NSWPLA), representing country and metropolitan libraries, to bring the Public Library Funding in NSW to the attention of politicians and funding decision makers to address the problem.

Council at its meeting held 12 May 2014 resolved the following:

NSW LIBRARY FUNDING **1405/009 RESOLVED:**

1. *That Council provide support to the campaign mounted by the NSW Public Library Associations for increased State funding to local government for public libraries by:*
 - a. *Making representation to the local State Member in relation to the need for additional funding from the NSW State Government for the provision of public library services;*
 - b. *Writing to the Hon. Troy Grant, Minister for the Arts, calling upon the Government to implement the Reforming Public Library Funding submission of the Library Council of NSW in 2012 for the reform of the funding system for NSW public libraries;*
 - c. *Taking a lead role in activating the campaign locally.*

The funding demise has now reached a crisis point. The key issues are:

- NSW receives the lowest per-capita funding for public libraries from the State Government of all states in Australia;
- State Government expenditure on public libraries has decreased as a proportion of total public library expenditure from 23% in 1980 to 7% in 2013.

- NSW Local Government councils are currently paying 93% of the costs to operate public libraries in NSW (which are governed by state legislation);
- The current NSW Public Library Funding Strategy includes three components:
 - Per capita subsidy (legislated at \$1.85 per NSW resident) - \$13,503,243 in 2012-13,
 - Disability & Geographic Adjustment (DGA) - includes a component of population-based payments and a proportion of payments based on five disability factors developed by the NSW Local Government Grants Commission (pre-school children; people over 65; people from a NESB; population distribution; isolation) - \$6,551,966;
 - Library Development Grants - \$549,996 (this amount has reduced from \$3.3m in 2005-06)
- The NSW Public Library Funding Strategy is not indexed to population growth or CPI. This means that:
 - Funds have been taken from the Library Development Grant pool over a number of years to meet the increased per capita subsidy costs (and the per-capita component of the Disability and Geographic Adjustment fund) as the NSW population increases each year. If the government had not provided an "additional" \$2m to maintain the Country Public Libraries fund contribution in 2013-14, there would be no funding left for Library Development Grants; and
 - If the current funding situation is not addressed urgently, NSW councils will suffer a reduction in their Disability and Geographic Adjustment payments to meet the increase in legislated per-capita subsidy costs for additional NSW population.

Whilst it is acknowledged that the recent State budget deliberations have slightly improved Library funding the challenge remains.

Accordingly your assistance is sought to support NSWPLA in its quest for an improved funding model.

Should you have any queries please contact the undersigned on telephone 6368 2104.

Yours faithfully,



Anton Franze

DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES

For the General Manager

Message to Local Councils

Natural Disaster Relief: Implementation of the 2012 NDRRA Determination.

The Office of Finance and Services (NSW Public Works), on behalf of NSW Treasury, administers the Natural Disaster Relief Assistance Program for local councils, county councils and certain trusts in New South Wales. The assistance is to help councils return eligible essential public assets (EPA), excluding roads, to their pre-disaster condition. Depending on the State meeting certain expenditure thresholds, the assistance is co-funded on a reimbursement basis under the Commonwealth's Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA).

The terms and conditions of this financial assistance are governed by the NSW Disaster Assistance Guidelines and the Determination. A new Determination was issued by the Commonwealth Attorney-General in December 2012. While the NSW Government considered its response to the December 2012 Determination, a decision was made to continue to provide assistance to local councils in line with the prior Determination issued in 2011.

On 23 October 2013, the NSW Government formally adopted the eligibility criteria established by the December 2012 Determination. This means that for all declared natural disasters after 23 October 2013, the terms and conditions of the December 2012 Determination will apply.

The December 2012 Determination introduced a number of changes including the following:

- A clear and consistent approach across all states to the definition of essential public assets (EPA) that are eligible for assistance
- The need to seek the concurrence of the Commonwealth Department of Attorney-General for individual assets requiring repair that will cost in excess of \$1 million.
- The need to prepare joint NSW Government/Commonwealth Government press releases with respect to the funding of grants and payments.

The full text of the December 2012 NDRRA Determination may be found at <http://www.disasterassist.gov.au/NDRRADetermination/Pages/default.aspx>

Those council EPAs that are, or continue to be, eligible for funding assistance include: levees; footpaths; stormwater infrastructure; tunnels, culverts; and council offices.

Those assets that are now not eligible for funding include: sporting and recreational facilities; community facilities; memorials; patrolled beach clean-up; and walking tracks.

For those EPAs that are now not eligible for funding, where councils feel that an extraordinary case for Commonwealth/State Governments funding exists, they should contact the Office of Finance and Services to discuss any options that might be available to them.

As is currently the case, Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery details are available on the NSW Public Works website. This site has now been updated to reflect the changes. Details of the website are <http://www.publicworks.nsw.gov.au/environment-sustainability/natural-disaster-relief-recovery>

The relevant NSW Disaster Assistance Guidelines on the Ministry of Police and Emergency Services website are being updated to reflect this change.

Message to Local Councils

Any enquiries concerning this change are to be directed to either Dave Cullen on 9372 8880 or Stuart Miller on 9372 8871.