

March 25, 2015

ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

TO BE HELD

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2015

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA NO. 2

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Manns' with a stylized flourish.

THERESE MANNS
GENERAL MANAGER

FURTHER BUSINESS

1. BROKEN HILL CITY COUNCIL REPORT NO. 68/15 - DATED MARCH 25, 2015 - REQUEST FOR ACCESS TO WILLYAMA RESERVE FUNDS TO ADDRESS ASBESTOS ISSUE (11/263) 3

ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

March 25, 2015

BROKEN HILL CITY COUNCIL REPORT NO. 68/15

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ACCESS TO WILLYAMA RESERVE FUNDS TO
ADDRESS ASBESTOS ISSUE 11/263

Recommendation

That Broken Hill City Council Report No. 68/15 dated March 25, 2015, be received.

That Council as Trustee of the Willyama Common authorise the General Manager to expend the required funding for emergency fencing and signage for the old South Landfill from the Willyama Common Reserve Fund.

Executive Summary:

The NSW EPA has received correspondence from a member of the public in regard to dumped and exposed asbestos located at the old South Landfill near the Broken Hill airport.

Following two site inspections Council staff have found asbestos to be scattered throughout the site. The asbestos is in the non-friable form reducing the risk of wind borne fibres; however open access to the site increases this risk of exposure. Funds are required to take urgent action to minimize the risk of exposure to the Broken Hill community.

Report:

The asbestos appears to have been in situ for a period of time, dumped after the closure of the site as an official landfill. The site operated as a landfill from the late 1890s and closed in the early 1950s.

The dumping of asbestos is an offence under the Protection of Environment Operations Act 1997. The site is predominately Willyama Common, Regeneration area and Crown Land. Council staff have been working with Crown Lands and EPA to progress the best options to reduce the impact of this site.

The initial and immediate steps for the site include temporary signage warning people to not enter the area. These signs are expected to be in place by Friday (27th March). Following this fencing will be installed to prevent easy access to the site with permanent signage.

The initial fencing and signage will identify the area to the community to prevent access, this will then allow the development of a site remediation plan which will outline the best plan of action to remediate the site and reduce the risk of health and environmental issues on site.

Funding will be applied for through the Public Reserves Management Fund for the development of the remediation plan. This application is due April 10, 2015, and Crown Lands will be a partner on the application. The outcome of these grants will be known in July 2015. Crown Lands may have some internal funds available to provide to the area (the

request has been submitted). There may also be opportunity to apply directly to the EPA to access clean up funds towards the remediation works.

Strategic Direction:

Delivery Plan 3.3.1.5 – ensure compliance activities promote a public safety and environmental control.

Relevant Legislation:

Protection of the Environment Operations Act (POEO) 1997 and POEO Regulation
Work Health and Safety Act 2011
Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011

Financial Implications:

Quick estimates in relation to the cost for the erection of the fence and signage expect funding of \$6,200 to be required.

This should be funded from the Willyama Common Reserve.

Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

SHARON HUTCH
DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER

THERESE MANNS
GENERAL MANAGER