



I attended the Orange City Council meeting at Bowen Public School Hall on Tuesday 18th February, and the Future City Strategy presentation beforehand. It was lovely to hear from the School Principal about the great achievements at the school over the last few years. It is a pity that the local media did not report on her speech as it was very illuminating and deserves celebration. One of the statistics that I noted was that the since 2010 the success rate in literacy and numeracy had increased from 20% to over 80% now.

I know of some people who were very disappointed that there was no livestreaming of this meeting as they normally watch at home and enjoy the entertainment.

The report on the agenda that I found most interesting was the Quarterly Budget Review and Progress Report for Quarter 2 of 2019/20, and the recommendation that it was acknowledged passed with little comment from Councillors apart from the Mayor congratulating the staff on a hard task well done.

I wrote about the first Quarter Review in September. It is not necessary to report on Performance Indicators as part of the Quarterly Review. The requirement is 'the General Manager must ensure that progress reports are provided to the council, with respect to the principal activities detailed in the Delivery Program, at least every 6 months.... Councils may choose to report on the status of projects and activities that are not running to time, quality or budget.... Councils can, if they wish, adopt a more detailed form of reporting. However, they should

carefully consider the benefits to be achieved by this and the resources required to compile the reports.' (Division of Local Government Integrated Planning and Reporting Manual for Local Government in NSW).

So, it may be a hard task well done by the staff, but apart from the Quarterly Budget Review (on which I will comment another time) there is no need to do quarterly Progress Reports on the 'Delivery/Operational Plans'.

So, this should have been the General Manager's 6 monthly report on the progress of the principal activities detailed in the Delivery Program, not a quarterly report on the Operational Plan. I wrote about accountability and Integrated Planning and Reporting in January and I am critical of Orange City Council's plans and reporting. The Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program need to have static targets/measures so that performance can be assessed. They should not be moved forward a year every year. Essentially, it is hard to hold anyone



SUNDAY 1ST MARCH

GATES OPEN 8AM 1800 Cargo Road,

Everything must go!

GARAGE

Tables, chairs, beds, sofas, bedside tables, framed paintings and prints, lamps, kitchen utensils and small appliances, 2 historic wool presses.

SMALL FARM EQUIPMENT

Quad bikes, childrens motorbike, wide range of tools and implements, metal wool dressing table, 3 point linkage spray unit with 40 foot boom.

CLOTHING

Womens and mens clothing - including shirts, shoes, jackets and woollen garments.

ALL ITEMS PURCHASED ON THE DAY ARE TO BE PAID FOR, COLLECTED AND REMOVED ON THE DAY OR BY 5PM MONDAY 2ND MARCH 2020





Michael Paddison 0414 447 467 Sue Barber 0414 635 526













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