

# Giving Central Darling Shire communities a say

## Working together on a way forward

The NSW Government recognises that communities across Central Darling Shire need and deserve community representation and a stable council to deliver local government services.

Central Darling Shire is unique because of its remoteness, small populations and rates base and long distances between towns. This makes providing local government services challenging and costly.

Following discussion with the community and state agencies, the NSW Government has developed a new council model that will give communities a voice and a more effective local council.

## Why are we doing this?

In December 2013 Central Darling Shire Council was placed in administration because of major financial and governance issues.

The unique characteristics of the shire make it difficult for a council to provide services under the typical local government model.

We know communities need a way forward and a council that can represent them and provide important local services and infrastructure for years to come.



## A new type of council for Central Darling Shire

The NSW Government will introduce legislation that will allow Central Darling Shire Council to be classified as a 'Rural and Remote Council'. This will be a new type of council that will represent the community, make decisions easily and provide much-needed local services. It will make sure the shire is well-managed and community needs are being met.

## What this means for the Central Darling Shire community

These changes will bring back local government representation for the first time in over 10 years.

The new council model will:

- Be made up of three councillors voted for by the community and three councillors appointed by the NSW Government
- Perform the same functions of a local council
- Make decisions with input from the community
- Work with the NSW Government to develop a funding strategy to make the Council financially sustainable into the future

## Next steps

A Bill will be introduced shortly to NSW Parliament to change local government laws to create the new Rural and Remote Council model.

Once new laws and regulations are in place, elections will be held in the first half of 2025 for the community to elect three councillors.

The NSW Government has provided a grant of \$477,782 to Central Darling Shire Council to help with the transition to the new model.

## Further information

For more information visit [www.olg.nsw.gov.au](http://www.olg.nsw.gov.au)

Contact the Office of Local Government on 02 4428 4100.

## Central Darling Shire as a Rural and Remote Council



## Timeline

