

A new Central Darling Shire Council

-Frequently asked questions

1. What changes are being made to Central Darling Shire Council?

New laws have created a new type of local government model for Central Darling Shire called a Rural and Remote Council.

The new model will perform the same functions as a local council but will have a different structure made up of a mix of three locally elected councillors –one from each ward –and three government appointed councillors.

The new model will mean that Central Darling Shire Council can represent the community, make decisions easily and provide much-needed local services, while keeping governance and administrative costs low.

The new model will apply for 10 years.

2. When will the Central Darling Shire Council election be held?

An election for the elected councillors will be held on Saturday 20 September 2025.

In the lead up to the election, the Council will provide information to the community about the election process and what it means to be a councillor.

3. Where can I get further information?

Council information –for further information, visit Council’s website at www.centraldarling.nsw.gov.au, telephone 08 8083 8800, or email council@centraldarling.nsw.gov.au for more information.

NSW Government information on councillors –for information on becoming a councillor and what councillors do, go to the Office of Local Government website at <https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/public/local-government-elections/become-a-councillor/>, or contact OLG for more information via email olg@olg.nsw.gov.au or telephone 02 4428 4100.

NSW Government information on elections –for information about getting on the electoral roll, and nominating to stand for election, go to the NSW Electoral Commission website at <https://elections.nsw.gov.au/>, or telephone 1300 135 736. Further information about the Central Darling Shire Council local government election will be on the Electoral Commission’s website from mid 2025.

Council ran candidate workshops and drop-in sessions for locals interested in being a councillor between late November and early December 2024, and further sessions are planned for mid 2025.

Further information from the workshops is available here: <https://www.centraldarling.nsw.gov.au/News-articles/Council-2025-election-information-workshops-drop-in-sessions>.

4. Why have a mix of elected councillors and appointed councillors?

Having a mix of elected and appointed councillors is the best way of making sure the community has both democratic representation and stable, experienced governance.

Elected and appointed councillors may bring different skills, experience and attributes but will all have the same role, responsibilities and rights.

All councillors will need to represent the interests of the community and work together for the benefit of the whole community when deciding how to allocate resources and deliver services.

5. How will the appointed councillors be selected?

The Minister will appoint three people as appointed councillors just after the election.

This will enable the Minister to look at who is locally elected and consider the right people to appoint to make sure there is a good mix of skills, experience and attributes on Council to meet the needs of the community.

This will ensure both fair and diverse representation and that Council is run effectively.

6. Can a local community member be selected for the appointed councillor positions?

Yes, the Minister may select local members of the community to be appointed councillors.

7. Will there be Aboriginal representation on Council?

The new laws require the Minister to ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, that the Council collectively is able to represent the interests of the Aboriginal population of the area. There will be three elected representatives, one from each ward. This will provide an opportunity for Aboriginal people in the community to stand for election.

Following the election, the Minister may also choose to appoint a person to represent the interests of Aboriginal people.

8. How will the new model help Central Darling Shire Council deal with the significant financial challenges it faces?

The NSW Government has previously provided a grant of approximately \$475,000 to Central Darling Shire Council to support the Council in the transition to the Rural and Remote Council model, including running the election and supporting the councillors in their new roles.

Additionally, to support the Council as it comes out of administration, the NSW Government is providing Council with a \$6 million funding boost that will help achieve financial sustainability, supporting capacity building and essential infrastructure projects over the next two years.

Council will continue to be eligible for Government grants, including Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants and NSW Government roads grants and contracts.

Appointed councillors will bring additional expertise to support Council build financial sustainability so that Council can continue to provide services to communities across the Shire into the future.