

MINUTES OF THE BINNAWAY COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING HELD AT BINNAWAY MEMORIAL HALL ON MONDAY 1 APRIL 2019 COMMENCING AT 5:30PM

PRESENT: Mayor Denis Todd, Clr Anne-Louise Capel, Clr Peter Shinton, Clr Fred Clancy, Clr Wendy Hill

Bill Tatt, Sally Edwards (CDC Coolah and acting Binnaway), John Irons, Maureen Irons, Malcolm Jones, Marg Haley, Pam Southwell, Kay Fredericks, Bernie McBain, Danielle Meyers, Lyn Petherbridge, Nick Kroh, Inika Kroh, Sean Henderson, Roger Bailey (General Manager-GM), Kim Parker (Director Corporate Community Services-DCCS) Leeanne Ryan (Director Environment & Development Services-DEDS), Kevin Tighe (Director Technical Services-DTS), Cornelia Wiebels (Manager Warrumbungle Water), Kira Alexander (Minutes)

APOLOGIES: Clr Kodi Brady, Clr Ambrose Doolan, Clr Aniello Iannuzzi (Deputy Mayor), Clr Ray Lewis, George Hayley

INTRODUCTION

Mayor Todd welcomed attendees to the meeting and introduced the General Manager (GM), the Director Technical Services (DTS), the Director Environment and Development Services (DEDS), the Director Corporate and Community Services, Manager Warrumbungle Water, Minute taker. The GM outlined how the meeting will be run.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Community Consultation Meeting held in Binnaway on Monday, 1 April 2019. Minutes were tabled at the May 2019 Council meeting and were sent out to attendees of the October meeting as well as being available on Council's website.

BUSINESS ARISING

Concerns were raised by the community regarding the town Swimming pool, these were;

- Swimming pool system for sign in – Concerns that Lifeguards are not enforcing the sign on sheet therefore may not collect the money for those without a season ticket.

Action: DTS will take the sign in book issue on notice and investigate and rectify if needed.

- Season tickets – Noted: Community members who have previously purchased season tickets from the pool did not get a receipt or a key; however, they did receive a card.

Action: DTS to look into an electronic key system for season ticket holders

Director Technical Services stated that there is no office to purchase season tickets from in Binnaway and Mendooran and purchase directly from the pool.

- Acting CDC (Sal Edwards) for Binnaway asked if community members can pay for pool season tickets online just like they do their rates.

Action: DCCS will examine the possibility of implementation of an online payment system for pool season tickets.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

1. Communication Matters

Marg Haley raised concerns about the telephone message call back and records management system (and required actions) not improving at Council.

General Manager said responses were searched and nothing was found to reflect this happening. Responses to her calls were received from GM and DCCS previously and responded to.

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Action: GM to find out who Marg has spoken to/ left messages with and will follow up.

2. Microgrid Feasibility Study

Marg Haley has noted in the Coolah Diary, Mark Coulton has announced a regional & remote reliabilities community study into the viability of communities implementing small, self contained power systems making power inexpensive. This could attract more small business to the region.

Action: DEDES to investigate and advise

3. SMART Recycling Projects Funding

Marg Haley stated interest in setting up alternate recycling options and has looked into the University of NSW project of setting up micro-factories to recycle plastic goods into other products. Marg noted that this had the potential to encourage new business to the region and provide employment.

Action: DEDES to investigate and follow up

COUNCIL UPDATES AND INFORMATION

1. Australia Day Nominations

Director Corporate and Community Services stated that Council had accepted recommendations for the 2020 Australia Day Awards. Nominations are now being taken in the following categories:

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Sportsperson of the Year
- Environmental Citizen of the Year
- Australia Day Award – Senior Citizen of the Year
- Australia Day Award – Cultural Achievement Award
- Australia Day Award – Community Event of the Year

Forms are available at this meeting, at Council offices and on the Council website.

The closing date for nominations is Friday 13 December 2019 and no late emails/ applications will be accepted.

2. Free WIFI

Free WIFI in all town centres was funded by the Federal Governments' Drought Communities Program.

All Shire towns have the WIFI setup (barring Baradine) with test phase going well. Access is only available on the main street of each town and in daylight hours due to various reasons including concerns for use by children and concerns due to potential gathering of persons.

In Mendooran there have been some issues, however Tamworth Regional Council contracted technician is working on improvements and solutions to arising problems.

Due to distance, local workers or community members may be called on to reboot local systems when required. This will need to be set up.

Action: DCCS will work on establishing which workers or community members are available to reboot WIFI system when required.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Update on TRRRC

M Jones asked for an update on the project and what accountabilities were taken when checking workmanship of the builder before the contract was terminated and what costs

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were involved to the community.

General Manager noted that inspectors and engaged contract management did check workmanship and found it to be poor and below standard, subsequently issuing defect notices. The meeting was advised that the builder failed to rectify and in accordance with the contract, the contract was terminated.

Legal action was then taken by the builder against Council for terminating the contract and the GM is confident that on most accounts Council can defend against their claims. However even if successful, there is still a long road ahead to see an end to the project as demolition cannot commence until court proceedings have concluded.

Council has made representations to Members for both State and Federal Governments, however legal costs will be unfunded. The builder made two deposits totaling around \$378,000, however the whole amount likely written off for project which includes both granted and Council Funds totals at least \$3.5million.

Malcolm Jones was concerned that the Asset Renewal's Ratios would be negatively affected and be to Council's detriment (ie Fit for the Future).

Malcolm has since emailed Council and advised the following:

"In relation to the statement I made about the grading intervals being changed, I feel as though it was my misunderstanding in relation to the way the information was presented... I accept the intervals have not changed. But the way it has been reported has."

A concerned community member asked if Dunedoo will in fact get a aged village.

General Manager stated that there is no possibility of finishing the original project with the funds we have, however, a revised plan is being pursued.

2. Binnaway Town Sewerage Scheme

Community wanting to know where Council project is up to

MWW, Cornelia Wiebels advised the gathering that Council has received funding for \$530,000 for the concept design including a 25% contribution from Council with \$30k already budgeted, it was a Council resolution that the remainder of the contribution would be a community payment spread across the shire area. The options assessment had been completed in the past and documentation prepared to call for tenders for the concept design, which is being delayed due to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment - Water requesting additions to the options study.

Community Consultation will happen during the concept design phase.

3. Warrumbungle Way – Safety Concerns

Maureen Irons advised that opposite the railway crossing, past the sale yards, there is a large hole on the side of the road which currently has 2 guide posts near it but requires a guard rail as it is potentially dangerous.

Action: DTS will examine and follow up

4. Speed Limit End of Sale Yards

Southern end of Binnaway (Maureen Irons suggested the need for the speed limit to be reduced to 70) – The speed limit goes from 50 to 100 and there are potential safety matters that should support the change such as:

- higher use access from the tip which has limited visibility. There are also houses along this stretch.

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DTS explained the process of taking of taking the issue to the traffic committee and previously. In the past RMS have said there is no justification for changing the speed limit and the concern is that motorists would not slow down due to the change in any case.

Action: DTS will take photos and a letter from Maureen to a future further consideration.

5. Dead Trees

Community member thanked Council for removing the dead trees and noted that there were two more dead pines in the park on the riverside walkway that needed to be removed.

Action: DTS to address

6. Weeds Sprayed Around Guide Posts

Community member asked why two council workers were spraying dead grass around guide posts in a drought. No details were provided.

Action: DTS to follow up and address as needed

7. Recycling Bottles

Malcolm Jones asked if there was scope for community groups to benefit from the bottles being collected.

DEDS advised funds go back to Council and effectively lowers costs borne by all waste users.

General Manager advised that if community groups want to collect bottles and bring them in for recycling then they will benefit.

DCCS advised that Mr Jones might also consider lobbying the State Member as the tax on bottles is held with the State Government and only a small proportion is paid for bottle returns.

There being no further business the GM thanked those in attendance and the meeting closed.

CLOSE OF MEETING: 6:35pm