

MINUTES OF THE COOLAH COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING HELD AT COOLAH COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2019 COMMENCING AT 5:30PM

PRESENT: Mayor Denis Todd, Cr Anne-Louise Capel, Cr Wendy Hill, Michael White, Jill White, Kathy Rindfleish, Noel Gilbert, Rodney Parker-Wright, Joan Schiemer, Carol Richard, Susan Kelly, Katie Burgen, Elly Cook, Greg Piper, Margaret Vale, Kay Fredericks, Margaret Camilleri, Ted Miller, Richard Tanner, Roger Bailey (General Manager), Leeanne Ryan (Director Environment and Development Services), Kevin Tighe (Director Technical Services), Kim Parker (Director Corporate and Community Services), Cornelia Wiebels (Manager Warrumbungle Water), Kira Alexander (Minutes)

APOLOGIES: Cr Kodi Brady, Cr Aniello Iannuzzi (Deputy Mayor), Cr Fred Clancy, Cr Ray Lewis, Cr Ambrose Doolan, Cr Peter Shinton, Quinton Hutchinson, Leonie Hutchinson,

INTRODUCTION

Mayor Denis 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 (DCCS), the Manager of Warrumbungle Water (MWW).

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Community Consultation Meeting held in Coolah on Monday, 25 March 2019 were discussed. Minutes were tabled at the May 2019 Council meeting and were sent out to attendees of the March meeting as well as being available on Council's website.

BUSINESS ARISING

1. Extension of Community Drought Funding

Greg Piper asked what has happened with the remaining funds?

GM advised that \$58,000 was applied to the upgrades at Pools in Binnaway and Dunedoo

2. Travelling Stock Route Travelling Stock Route - New cycle track

Concerns raised around the travelling stock route along the new cycle track near the caravan park and the potential damage made from the stock. Greg Piper asked if the lease covered travelling stock and can we close the area off to stock?

DTS advised that it seems unlikely we can stop stock travelling through

Cr Capel asked if fencing can be an option

Sal Edwards suggested white tape can be put up.

Action: DTS will make contact with community members and involve the Local Land Services to resolve issues.

3. Free Camping

Concerns raised that RV friendly sign cannot go ahead if there is no free camping as there is a current DA in place. Is there an economic effect from free camping?

DEDS advised that Council is not required to consider the economic effect of a person seeking to set up free camping. There is a current DA under assessment for free camping.

MINUTES OF THE COOLAH COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING HELD AT COOLAH COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2019 COMMENCING AT 5:30PM

At present, the area should not be used for camping as it has no approval.

4. Ramp into Council Building

Sal Edwards asked for an update on the ramp into Coolah Council Building

DTS advised that Council is still working on a scope of works for the project

5. Bowen Oval

Sal Edwards asked for a recycling update

DTS advised that yellow bins have been installed and the action is complete

6. Cycle Way

Greg Piper advised that he is currently in talks with Premier and Cabinet and will keep Council updated on developments but needs the support of Council.

7. Disabled Parking

Sal Edwards asked for an update on the disability parking space and whether it had gone to the traffic committee?

DTS advised that the design is currently being reviewed as the standard ramp required at the car space would not work at the footpath and the matter is still in the design stage to recognize and follow standards.

Community member asked if we are replicating the Western side of the street to match the Eastern side by installing a cut out instead of a ramp as it doesn't sound comprehensible using a ramp?

DTS advised that Council must comply with current standards and they show that there must be a space on the left side and access onto the footpath from that space.

Community member stated that the bottom end of the street has a driveway with a similar incline.

DTS advised that Council have been focusing on the space outside the Doctors surgery and any other options suggested will still take up an extra car parking space.

8. Public Toilets

Community asked for an update on the public toilets

DTS advised that \$40,000 had been allocated but they haven't finalized works as yet.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

1. Water and Our Town

Noel Gilbert relayed an ongoing community concern about water quality as the aesthetic value is not met and asked about the current study into water quality?

MWW advised that the current study is not concerned with the hardness of the water . Previously, a letter of Opinion had been prepared by a consultant and a report presented to Council with options for water softening plants; due to the high cost it had been resolved to apply for funding as it becomes available, however funding for issues related to non-compliance with aesthetic guideline values has not become available. Water quality modelling and testing had also previously been

MINUTES OF THE COOLAH COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING HELD AT COOLAH COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2019 COMMENCING AT 5:30PM

performed to investigate reservoir deterioration and it was found that the bore water contained carbon dioxide, which makes the water aggressive to some extent. This in turn can potentially cause water safety issues. The current study is looking at removing the aggressiveness from the water through aeration, at the installation of a dedicated rising main and at the relocation of the disinfection and fluoridation systems to the reservoir site.

Community member asked if the State Government could supply funding to deal with the towns water needs including improving the quality of the water?

MWW advised that some funding had been requested and available funding had been used for current projects. This may possibly improve water quality as corrosiveness tends to emphasize the hardness issue but no telling if the taste will improve in this process. There will be a new chlorine room installed at the bore as the current one has WHS issues and \$50,000 will go to that project.

Community member asked if fluoride will be put back into the water once the system is fixed?

GM advised that the NSW Department of Health are working on fixing the system and fluoride will be put into the water supply when the system is operational.

Community member asked if Council can put all the water issues into one project and use drought funding when it is allocated?

MWW advised that currently only disinfection processing is used and a water treatment plant will ultimately increase operational costs resulting in higher water rates.

Greg Piper asked if Council would consider a shire wide application?

GM advised that town water meets requirements and the department is concerned with meeting health standards only.

Community member asked if Council buildings could have water tanks attached for drinking water.

Cr Capel advised that it is illegal to drink tank water in a town.

GM advised that we must meet requirements and that Coolah is only on level 1 water restrictions which are minimal.

Margaret Vale stated that calcium carbonate is not seen as a health problem.

MWW advised that whatever is in the water causing the hardness is measured as calcium carbonate equivalent but could also consist of other ions; calcium carbonate is not of health concern.

2. Town Assets

Noel Gilbert advised that town and community groups have in the last 6 months been looking at initiatives into the future and the main concern is that all groups want a town hall as Coolah doesn't have a community meeting place.

A youth club exists and representations have been made to Council to take on the building without success. The list is big on limitations and restraints to have the facility taken over for the benefit of all community groups. Can we meet with Council to get advice on what actually we can do to make

MINUTES OF THE COOLAH COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING HELD AT COOLAH COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2019 COMMENCING AT 5:30PM

it an asset for community groups in town?

Sal Edwards stated that Community wants a win/win situation to occur with Council. We need to know which way this can happen rather than having only obstacles. What can Community do to meet costs and make it happen?

Cr Capel advised that the matter is back in the November Business Paper and urged attendees to contact Councilors.

Sal Edwards asked if Council can agree to take on the Youth Club pending to negotiations? As whatever the costs are, Community needs to know so it can be organized as there is currently no hall for hire in the town.

GM advised that Council already has too many assets to maintain and Shire rules would need to change to take it on as there are operating costs would need to be covered. The School Hall can be hired and the difficulty is a huge financial deficit run by Council as staff would need to be paid to maintain and run the hall.

Sal Edwards stated that currently three people run the centre and want to join with the Men's Shed, however insurance is the main cost.

Cr Hill stated that in Dunedoo, the town Development group sustained massive insurance costs when the hall was damaged.

GM advised that then Community groups demand free use of the hall which doesn't make it viable. Council will make a decision at the next meeting.

3. Infrastructure Initiatives

Noel Gilbert stated that the Historical Society is hoping to add an attraction focusing on the Centenary to opening of the Coolah railway in April 2020. Part of this would be the publication of Roy Cameron's book.

Action: Manager of Tourism and Economic Development to follow up with Historical Society

4. Rezoning of land in the Shire

Greg Piper advised that currently the Youth Club is zoned as residential and to build the Men's Shed, the land needs to be rezoned as commercial.

DEDS advised that Council is investigating the possibly to change the zoning and requires a letter of request to rezone, at which time Council will look to rezone to Local Centre.

Action: CDDG to provide request to rezone and DEDS will follow up and investigate the request.

5. Revisiting Art Plan

Greg Piper referred to Community plans which had been adopted by Council and have since been gathering dust. How can the Development group work with Council to action these things so they are not shelved?

GM advised that projects need to make their way into the Operational Development Plan and Strategic Plan and into the budget to go ahead.

MINUTES OF THE COOLAH COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING HELD AT COOLAH COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2019 COMMENCING AT 5:30PM

Community members asked if plans be accessed online?

GM advised that if plans have been adopted by Council, they can be available online

Action: DCCS to make adopted plans available online

Community member asked if a working group could be formed to action plans when funding becomes available.

DTS advised that this had been done in the past and is happening gradually.

6. Defibrillator

Greg Piper asked if there is any policy for the Shire or has funding for a defibrillator been applied for?

GM advised that there is currently no policy

DTS advised that Council is not able to apply and sporting clubs can apply for the devices for use at ovals and sporting facilities.

Sal Edwards asked if Council can co fund with the Development group to meet the criteria for the funding to obtain the facility?

GM advised to submit the item to budget for funding or make a request to Council for a budget allocation.

7. Youth Policy

Greg Piper stated that the Community is frustrated with a lack of Council Youth Policy and asked will there be a policy or strategic plan?

DCCS advised that in April 2019, Council agreed that if funding became available then it would be undertaken and the current funding from Justice and Communities is specifically targeted to vulnerable families.

There is no present Youth Policy other than the current structure however, in the last round of Stronger Country Communities funding applications, a letter of support was given to the Coolah Development group to apply for funding of a Youth Officer.

Sal Edwards asked what the estimated cost was to achieve a Youth Strategy?

Action: DCCS to take on notice and investigate

8. Rural Aid

Greg Piper referred to the \$100,000 Rural Aid grant awarded to Coolah with projects yet to be advised. After the \$10,000 for the consultant, \$90,000 will remain. How can Community work with Council to move forward with streetscapes and items on Council land with works potentially including upgrading gardens, giving buildings a facelift and projects along the cycle way, most of which are on Council land. There will also be between 70-100 volunteers turning up and will need to be engaged for a week in April 2020.

Action: DTS to set up consultancy with Community on proposed projects and activities for Rural Aid volunteers.

MINUTES OF THE COOLAH COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING HELD AT COOLAH COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2019 COMMENCING AT 5:30PM

9. Extension of Shared Pathway

Greg Piper asked about extending the pathway out of the Rec ground and taking a lease on it. Who will do the leasing?

GM advised that Council could potentially lease from State Rail but it would not be an easy process.

10. Council Email Communications

Greg Piper referred to emails sometimes still getting lost in the system.

GM advised to be notified on these occasions so he can address any issues.

11. New Footpath

Greg Piper stated that the new footpath is great however; the existing pavement on Binnia St is dangerous. Are there plans for ongoing replacement of footpaths?

DTS advised that \$20,000 is allocated by Council to each Shire town per year.

Community member asked whether the pathway on Goddard St will eventually be connected to the Aged Care facility as there is a gap and it needs a pathway. The facility cannot be accessed through the main hospital entrance and needs a link.

DTS advised that the plan is to get access to the main hospital entrance only and the original plan connected to Hospital Street but the plan is old and some issues need to be overcome before concrete is poured.

Noel Gilbert stated that when the Disability Action Plan was put in place, the southern side of Goddard St already has a footpath and even though it needs improving, the lower part of town needs a lot more work than the hospital in terms of mobility.

DTS advised that funding has been applied for but no response was yet received.

Action: DTS to follow up on funding for pathway projects.

12. Coolah Landcare Group

Greg Piper referred to the shared pathway by the river and the Landcare group wanting to consult with Council regarding regulations which will need compliance for projects.

Action: DTS to meet with Landcare group to discuss proposed additions

13. State of Togee Grave and Black Stump Rest Area

Community member referred to the dreadful state of the areas when taking visitors there, these included:

- Depletion of Signs
 - Black Stump not black and full of rubbish
- Community member asked who's responsibility was it to clean these areas?

DTS advised that Council currently cleans on weekdays only.

Cr Capel advised that King Togee's grave is on Council land but National Parks funded the post and Gilgandra Aboriginal Lands Council funded the sign.

Action: DTS to investigate and liaise with relevant groups to initiate who's responsibility it is to maintain the site.

14. Indigenous History

Greg Piper asked if any funding was available for indigenous history and cultural awareness? Coolah is on the boundary of Geawegal and Wiradjuri country and currently not recognised.

DEDS advised that there was no funding at present however, regular funding is available from the State Heritage Office.

Action: DEDS to look into heritage funding opportunities for Cultural awareness.

15. Black Stump Way

Greg Piper referred to parts of the road that have not been finished on the Southern end of town and the part near the showground trust that need attention.

DTS advised that there is no funding to finish those parts at the moment and the focus has been on going north to Kurrajong Park.

Greg Piper stated that existing lines in the north have faded.

DTS advised that some lines are new but there is not enough funding for edge sides as it is double the cost.

Sal Edwards stated that having no centre line becomes dangerous at night because of lack of visibility.

Cr Capel asked why lines take so long?

DTS advised that Council relies on contractors being available and this is not always the case.

16. Moorefield Road

Greg Piper referred to current works in operation on Moorefield road and asked when drainage issues will be addressed?

DTS advised that it is in design stage presently but no funding has been secured for works at this stage.

17. Plant Operators

Greg Piper referred to watching a trainee operating plant on Moorefield Road. The trainee did not know what he was doing when operating plant on drains. What is Councils policy regarding training operators?

DTS advised that grader operator training is done in house and supervised by experienced operators.

GM advised that on the job training is the only option due to lack of available courses. Supervisors can consult with landholders and an appointment was necessary to do this.

MINUTES OF THE COOLAH COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING HELD AT COOLAH COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2019 COMMENCING AT 5:30PM

Action: DTS to provide contact to supervisors for Community members prior to planned works on request from landholders.

18. Jump the Stump Update

Katie Burgess was not present to give an update on the project – apologies sent

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 due to a tight timeline.

2. Free WIFI

Free WIFI in all town centers was funded by the Federal Governments' Drought Communities Program and put together quickly. All Shire towns have the WIFI setup with Baradine being connected tomorrow and issues with Dunedoo being addressed on Wednesday. The system is currently in test phase and will need a local person to reboot on demand.

Action: DCCS to coordinate a local response

Sal Edwards asked if you have to be outside to gain access?

GM advised that buildings interfere with access and the service is mainly operational in the CBD

3. Potential Projects for Funding

GM advised that sometimes a short application time is given to apply for funding and asked for any ideas for project funding to be forwarded to Council.

Sal Edwards presented a list of ideas. (Below)

Potential Projects for Funding

(NOTE: Please also refer to ALL suggestions made in the Jenny Rand Coolah Workshop 2018 and all submissions made to Council from Community for the \$1M Drought Funding!)

- Youth Development Officer Initiative (CDDG)
- Coolah Art Plan/Public Art/Equine Sculptures (CDDG)
- Historical and tourism interpretive Signage (CDDG)
- Swimming Pool Inflatable Slide (Council)
- Cycle Way – Rec Grounds Path/Trail (CDDG)
- Highway Signage for Coolah/Coolah Tops (CDDG)
- CYCC Hall (CYCC/Men’s Shed/CDDG)
- Campdraft Secretary’s Box/Multi-User Storage Facility/Unisex Toilets (Rec Grounds Trust)
- Pony Club Storage Shed/Pavilion (Pony Club/Rec Grounds Trust)
- Coolah Public Toilets Reno (Council)
- Mr Cameron’s Railway Book (CDDG)
- Bowen Oval Multi-User Storage Shed (Bowen Oval)
- Skate Park (Jump the Stump Committee)
- Tennis Courts resurfacing (Bowen Oval)
- Campdraft Yard Shade Structures (Campdraft Club)
- CCS School Ground Improvements (CCS/ CCS PandC)
- Coolah Sporting Club Renovation/Emergency Evacuation Centre (Sporting Club)
- Coolah Sporting Club – Grey Water Project (Sporting Club)
- Rodeo Infrastructure/Grandstands (Rodeo)
- RockN Festival Funding (RockN)
- Outdoor Fitness Stations (CDDG)
- Cycleway Development (CDDG)
- Coolah Native Gardens/War Memorial (CDDG)
- Horse Sports Activities (Rec Grounds User’s Group)
- Bowen Oval Bubbler Renewal (Council)
- Mountain Bike /Horse Riding in Coolah Tops NP (CDDG)
- BIG TOURISM PROJECTS (CDDG)

Author: Sal Edwards, Nov 2019
Coolah Community Development Coordinator
Coolah District Development Group Inc.

4. Budget Process

DCCS advised that each year, by the end of June, Council adopts an operational plan, followed by a 4 year delivery program and 10 year plan where Council work with Community to meet goals.

The first phase sees financial results from previous years including unspent funds from incomplete projects, investment and asset plans and grants from Government.

In mid January to mid February, Council consult with Community for external budget submissions like benches.

In mid March, a draft for a 1 year plan is formed and presented to Council.

In mid April, submissions are sought on the advertised draft budget and fine tuning occurs with a Council budget workshop which includes sourcing grants from Government and additional funding. This is where Community can comment on the fees and charges for services Council supplies in the Revenue Policy with a final adoption in May.

GM advised if there are any suggestions, to please let us know.

5. Warrumbungle Community Services Expo

DCCS advised that the Warrumbungle Community Care will again be holding a community Services Expo at the Coonabarabran Town Hall on Wednesday 13 November from 10am-2:30pm. The previous Expo held in Dunedoo was a great success. The Expo gives service providers the opportunity to network and also provides an opportunity for Community members to know which services are accessible locally.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Water Pressure Change

Kathy Rindfleish referred to a change of water pressure in the top end of town in the last 2 months.

MWW advised that she was not aware of anything in particular changing that could have caused this issue and that a device has been installed to measure the reticulation pressure 24/7. Data from this device can manually be downloaded for analysis.

Action: MWW to investigate water pressure change

2. Heritage Grants

A community member referred to Hunter Valley Council offering grants to paint shop fronts and does our Council do this?

GM advised not at the moment

DEDS advised that heritage grants applications had been previously advertised but Council only received 4 submissions.

3. Pool Supervisor Certification

Community member asked for clarification on suitable certificates for people to supervise others

MINUTES OF THE COOLAH COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING HELD AT COOLAH COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2019 COMMENCING AT 5:30PM

at the pool?

GM advised that for lifeguards, there is a lifeguard certificate but the Swimming Club is an association with their own requirements and no Council restrictions apply to schools.

4. Uniting Pamper Day

Sal Edwards advised of the upcoming Uniting his and hers pamper day and Community dinner which is free for all Community Members to attend.

5. Banners

Sal Edwards advised that Bike Week banners are still up.

Action: DTS to action change of banners

6. Top Pub Parking

Community member raised the concern of the no standing zone at the top pub being used a regular parking spot and asked if the curb could be painted yellow?

DTS advised that Council relies on signs only

7. Historical sign

Community member advised that the historical sign opposite Turee Creek Rd needs replacing.

Action: DTS will investigate the signs which were part of a campaign years ago.

8. Pandora Pass Bicentenary

Carol Richard advised that in 2023 is the bicentenary of Cunningham discovering Pandora pass and planning needs to be thought out for celebrations.

Action: DEEDS to take on Notice

Mayor Todd Declared the meeting closed

MEETING CLOSED: 7:40PM