

**MINUTES OF THE BINNAWAY COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING HELD IN
BINNAWAY BOWLING CLUB ON TUESDAY
1 NOVEMBER 2022 COMMENCING AT 5.30PM.**

PRESENT: Cr Aniello Iannuzzi (Deputy Mayor), Cr Kodi Brady, Cr Zoe Holcombe, Cr Carlton Kopke, Cr Jason Newton, Cr Kathryn Rindfleish, Roger Bailey (General Manager, GM), LEEANNE RYAN (Director Environment and Development Services, DEDES), Nicole Benson (Manager Urban Services and Facilities), Jenni Maundrell (Manager Corporate Services – Minute Taker), Denise Leader, Bernie McBain, Jim Larkin, Jane Phillips, Malcolm Jones, Ray Lewis, Tim Cooper, Mandy Ellis, Lyn Petherbridge, Bill Tatt, James Halliday.

APOLOGIES: Cr Ambrose Doolan (Mayor), Cr Todd, Cr Hogden, Gary Murphy (Director Technical Services, DTS), Lindsay Mason (Director Corporate and Community Services), Pam Southwell, Larry Tolmie, Sally Edwards, Matthew Ciaglia.

INTRODUCTION:

Deputy Mayor Aniello Iannuzzi welcomed attendees to the meeting and introduced councillors, the General Manager, the Director Environment and Development Services (DEDES), and Minute Taker.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING TUESDAY 5 APRIL 2022

BUSINESS ARISING

There was a question of whether an update on the Mayor's Bushfire Appeal (Item 3, 4 May 2021) is available. At this time, there is no update.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

1. TRRRC Brief (Bernie McBain) –

There was discussion about the TRRRC project and legal case:

- Approaching \$3m spent on legal fees;
- Council recently changed pleading to bring Design and Building Practitioners Act in to the defence;
- Council is the defendant and does not have the option to stop proceedings.

2. Costings of the refurbishment of the Dressing Sheds at No 3 oval in Coonabarabran (Bernie McBain) –

\$84,013 spent so far. Works not yet completed.

3. Funding for the dressing sheds at the oval at Binnaway (Bernie McBain) –

Council has recently submitted application under Stronger Country Communities Fund for Shire-wide amenities upgrade, including at Binnaway Oval.

4. Financial statement 21/22 30th June pg. 69 2.(iii) contingency fund 2.37 mil (M Jones) –

The contingency referred to by Mr Jones was for superannuation for Councils across NSW. Council allowed a contingency for legal fees of \$500,000.

5. Road Asset Management Plan and costings (M Jones) –

The Asset Management Plan was adopted 2019 and is currently up for review. The new roads advisory group will provide input.

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6. OLG 430 Report and staff divisions (M Jones) –

The Minister for Local Government has written to advise that Council is no longer subject to the requirements of the s430 investigation.

Mr Jones requested information/comment about morale and division between north/south.

The GM advised it was improving

Cr Iannuzzi stated that the investigation affected councillors as much as staff, it was an insult to the Council and community. Seemed vexatious and targeting some issues unfairly compared to others. Bigger problems in other shires now the subject of investigation.

7. GM Annual Performance Review (M Jones) -

Mr Jones spoke about senior staff and councillor remuneration figures compared to inflation – asked for comment, as senior staff and councillor remuneration exceeds inflation.

Cr Iannuzzi gave information – GM pay negotiated at each appointment; councillors put forward a rate at recruitment; increasingly difficult to recruit in both government and private sector; current pay not considered excessive compared to other councils – feel there is good value for money; GM running \$50m business.

Regarding the GM review committee – last term some councillors sought to expand the review process and included a majority of councillors, this term of Council has included all councillors in the review – the process is quite transparent. Also changed person doing the review to an independent person. Regarding councillors' allowance – the maximum amount is determined by State government based on tiers.

The Council Award sets the base remuneration for workers and progression within the system is provided to staff

8. Development Application Fees (Jim Larkin)

Q: When dealing with a community group trying to improve community asset, can DA fees be looked at.

Staff responded that certain aspects of developments can be exempted from DA fees for community land. There is a provision in the Revenue Policy to reimburse some of the fees.

There was discussion about communication back from Council, with some community members experiencing long delays in receiving responses to their enquiries. A number of community members expressed their dissatisfaction with Council communication and customer service.

GM stated that the organisation is under enormous strain at the moment (natural disaster, REZ, Inland Rail), we appreciate some understanding of what we are dealing with.

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Cr Iannuzzi stated as councillors we hear this a lot, and not exclusive to Warrumbungle Shire Council, very frustrating, councillors have been pushing for better customer service. Staff very stretched and need to prioritise tasks. Agree acknowledging communication very important.

9. Management agreement of Binnaway Showground with Warrumbungle Shire Council (crown land managers) and Binnaway PAH&I Association (Jim Larkin)

Council still intends to enter into a Management Agreement with the group, waiting on recruitment of vacant position.

10. Budget Submission from Community Groups (Jim Larkin)

GM to provide response directly to Mr Larkin.

11. Binnaway Showground, Cypress St, storm water drainage update (Jim Larkin)

Manager Projects appointed, that person will be working on that.

12. Binnaway Tennis Club Resurfacing Project Update (Jane Phillips)

Geotechnical testing and report has been done, tender documents drafted – looking to get that out this calendar year.

13. Binnaway Tennis Club and Boxing Gym – Urgent Repairs (Jane Phillips)

Council acknowledged the poor state of boxing gym and tennis clubhouse, will prepare a submission for next year's budget.

14. Too much grass on the verge of roads (Ray Lewis)

Council acknowledged that table drains etc could be improved and will look at some of that with flood restoration works.

15. Removal of sand in creeks (Ray Lewis)

Council has to work within confines of other levels of government, in this case State Government. Council put a submission to LGNSW annual conference on this issue.

16. Roads (Matthew Ciaglia)

The poor condition of Mancers Lane and Box Ridge Road was raised.

Staff advised that Mancers Lane has been inspected and is too wet for Council equipment to get there and do any work. Further the Council priority list was spoken about along with the natural disaster claims.

17. Leaders Road (Denise Leader)

Request for a timeline for repairs on Leaders Road.

Staff responded that it is a requirement of natural disaster funding that it is spent by 30 June 2024.

18. Woolshed Creek cement causeway (Denise Leader)

Dealt with above

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19. Ramps (or Grids) whose responsibility to maintain (Denise Leader)

Staff advised that the owner that put them in is responsible for maintenance of the grids.

COUNCIL UPDATES AND INFORMATION

20. Council Road Network and Natural Disaster Claim(s)

The Manager Urban Services and Facilities, on behalf of the Director Technical Services, gave an update on the status of Council's road network following three natural disaster declarations over a period of about 10 months from November 2021. Council has put in a claim for almost \$14m worth of funding, about \$1.3m approved so far, which has to be spent by 30 June 2024.

21. Renewable Energy Zone

The Director Environment and Development Services gave update on the Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (REZ).

22. Inland Rail

The Director Environment and Development Services gave update on Inland Rail project.

23. Upcoming calls for submissions (external budget submissions, annual donations, community financial assistance donations)

The Manager Corporate Services provided information on external budget submissions, annual donations and community financial assistance donations.

24. Doing Business with Council

The Director Corporate and Community Services was absent due to local flooding; no Council update provided.

Cr Iannuzzi stated that councillors take this issue seriously and often ask whether things could have been done locally. Encouraged community members to talk to their councillors if they feel work has been sourced from outside the LGA that could have been done locally.

25. Australia Day Nominations

The General Manager provided information on nominating for Australia Day awards; nominations close 25 November 2022.

GENERAL BUSINESS

26 Community Action Plans

Will Council endorse the town action plans arising from Building our Warrumbungle Communities workshops?

Staff advised that Council considered the action plans via the Economic Development and Tourism committee. Council resolved to incorporate some actions into Council plans.

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27. Bungle Rumble

Cr Brady provided information on the upcoming event, Bungle Rumble, being held at Coonabarabran on 26 November 2022.

28 Binnaway Pool

Cr Kopke asked when the Binnaway pool will open.

Staff advised Council working towards opening weekend of 12 November 2022.

Council has been recruiting staff since June 2022.

29 Youth Development

Mandy Ellis and Tim Cooper provided information on youth development activities and events being held at Binnaway supporting local young people.

Cr Iannuzzi thanked everyone for their attendance.

There being no further business, meeting was closed 7:17pm.