

**MINUTES OF THE MENDOORAN COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING HELD
IN MENDOORAN MEMORIAL CLUB ON MONDAY 23 OCTOBER 2023
COMMENCING AT 5:30PM**

PRESENT: Cr Ambrose Doolan (Mayor), Cr Kathy Rindfleish (Deputy Mayor), Cr Carlton Kopke, Cr Zoe Holcombe, Cr Denis Todd, Cr Dale Hogden, Roger Bailey (General Manager, GM), Nicole Benson (Director Technical Services, DTS), Lindsay Mason (Director Corporate and Community Services, DCCS), Leeanne Ryan (Director Environment and Development Services, DEDS), Ngaire Stevens (Manager Community and Children's Services, MCCS), Jennifer Maundrell (Manager Corporate Services, MCS), Amanda Wherrett (PA to DCCS, Minutes), Debra Bell, Phil Bell, Stuart Neal, Jenny Lloyd, Val Dries, Dianne Mulligan, Anna Ridolfi, Cathy Cummins, Louise Johnson, and Demi Knight.

APOLOGIES: Cr Jason Newton, Cr Kodi Brady, and Cr Aniello Iannuzzi.

INTRODUCTION

Mayor Ambrose Doolan welcomed attendees to the meeting and introduced the councillors, General Manager (GM), Director Technical Services (DTS), Director Corporate and Community Services (DCCS), Manager Community and Children's Services (MCCS), Manager Corporate Services (MCS) and PA to DCCS (Minute Taker).

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING WEDNESDAY, 12 APRIL 2023

Noted correction to previous minutes: present in attendance Jenny Lloyd (was written as Jeremy Lloyd).

BUSINESS ARISING

COMMUNITY MATTERS

- 1. Water Pressure Lawnside Drive and Manus Drive extremely low (Debra Bell)**
DEDS advised that an upgrade is planned for the Mendooran Water Supply Scheme where the water pressure at Lawnside Drive and Manus Drive will be addressed.
- 2. Seating at sports ground update (Debra Bell)**
DTS advised that the Council fencing contractor has scheduled works to commence week starting 23 October 2023.
- 3. Amenities block at the sports ground update (Debra Bell)**
DTS advised that the next step for this project will be the preparation and publication of tender documents for the modular building.
- 4. Main street trees update, and what type of trees will be used (Debra Bell)**
DTS advised that six Crepe Myrtles are to be planted in the main street of Mendooran. Further, protective tree surrounds and root barriers will be installed.

Community member asked whether the barriers will be like the existing ones.

DTS advised that the barriers are fence-like barriers that will be more visible compared to the existing ones.

- 5. Mechanics Institute upgrade. Lights in the body of the hall (Debra Bell)**
DTS advised that Council is awaiting a quote from an electrician for costs of the upgrade.

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Community member asked whether the upgrade quote will include the two light switches on separate stairwell landings?

DTS confirmed the upgrade quote will include the two light switches on separate stairwell landings.

6. Mechanics Institute western door not closing properly (Debra Bell)

DTS advised that maintenance was conducted on the door by a builder during works carried out early this year, and the door was closing when work was finished.

ACTION: DTS to investigate the Mechanics Institute western door not closing properly.

7. Mechanics Institute Hall floor is uneven (Debra Bell)

DTS advised that the only way to fix the floor is to replace the whole floor as a possible major works project, which is not currently budgeted. The community is encouraged to make an external budget submission to repair the Mechanics Institute Hall floor.

8. Mechanics Institute indoor toilets refurbished, to be used for the storage room (Debra Bell)

DTS advised that there is no budget for refurbishment this financial year, however, this project could be a future item. The community is encouraged to make an external budget submission for refurbishment of the Mechanics Institute indoor toilets.

9. Community Centre exterior light not working and the cover of the light is missing (Debra Bell)

DTS advised that Council is awaiting an electrician to commence work. The project is scheduled for completion by mid-November 2023.

10. Yarrow Road Merrygoen Creek Crossing update. Timeline on repair to enable access (Debra Bell)

DTS advised that Council previously resolved to do nothing further as the water level was too high to access the road. The water level has since dropped.

ACTION: DTS to assess the accessibility of Yarrow Road with a view to undertake repairs.

11. Mendooran Oval. Resources for Regions Round 9 program – Mendooran Oval amenity upgrade and expansion stage 1. \$599,879.00 (Dianne Mulligan)

DTS advised that a planning consultant has been engaged for a DA concept.

ACTION: DTS to provide information to community with a costing estimate of the Mendooran Oval amenity upgrade.

12. Mendooran swimming pool. Stronger Country Communities Round 5 program: Project overview includes Mendooran, no updates yet for Mendooran (Dianne Mulligan)

DTS advised that minor electrical works were completed, including new chemical

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resistant power points and a new earth rod.

13. Flood damage roadworks. Grandchester Road. Has the program started yet? (Dianne Mulligan)

DTS advised that works on Grandchester Road were completed in 2022. There are more works scheduled to commence later in the year. Funding provided under Natural Disaster provisions must be spent by June 2024.

14. Park. BBQ and disability access (Dianne Mulligan)

DTS advised that \$140,000 was received under Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Round 4 (LRCI4) program to replace the shelter, seats and BBQ. In addition, works to upgrade pathways have a budget of \$140,000 to be considered in the 2024-25 financial year budget.

15. Disability Inclusion Action Plan. Disability parking at the Community Centre - Impact on item 16 (Dianne Mulligan)

ACTION: DTS to assess tree planting locations in Mendooran, and consider the location of disability parking in Bandulla street.

ACTION: DTS to engage with property owners adjacent to the Community Centre prior to any works commencing.

16. Main Street. Tree planting, kerb and gutter tree damage (Dianne Mulligan)

ACTION: DTS to investigate the tree stump near 76 - 78 Bandulla Street, and assess the area for any kerb and gutter damage.

17. Orana REZ. Wind and Solar farm projects, and EnergyCo D.A. requirements. Impacts to roads, water, lifestyle, housing, doctors, and hospitals (Dianne Mulligan)

GM advised that this would be covered in Item 18.

COUNCIL UPDATES AND INFORMATION

18. Renewable Energy Zone (REZ)

DEDS provided an update on the REZ and associated projects.

Council has made submissions on projects raising various concerns including where water will be obtained. Submissions are available on Council's website.

The transmission line project is deemed a State Significant Infrastructure project and the state government can override local government.

There is an EnergyCo steering group including Council members that discuss local issues relating to REZ projects. There is a regional leadership collective including other councils working on submissions to the project application process together.

The community will start to see activity in the next 12 months including more workers in communities, and the accommodation camps in action.

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Cr Kopke advised that there will be a \$128 million upfront funding payment for the Central West Orana REZ project. EnergyCo initially offered \$250,000 per annum funding to assist Council with assessing REZ projects, Council made a submission for another \$200,000 to cover arising expenses.

Community members may make submissions on the project at planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects.

19. Roads Restoration Program

DTS provided an update on the roads and the Natural Disaster Restoration works. Key points:

- Natural Disaster Restoration works are approximately 50% complete.
- \$10,568,493 in Natural Disaster funding has been approved for restorations. Two claims, \$3,004,143 for sealed roads, and \$594,000 for unsealed roads, were recently made and are under assessment.
- Council has engaged contractors, to supply an unsealed road maintenance crew to assist with the Natural Disaster restoration works.
- Three tenders have been advertised for flood damage road repairs: Sandy Creek area; Upper Lahey's Creek Roads; and North of Oxley area Goolhi and surrounds.
- \$864,683 has been received under the Pothole Repair Program, with over 80% of the funding spent so far. Funds must be spent by January 2024. A second Jet Patcher has been hired to assist with the works and staff are working weekends, as well as rostered days, to get the work done.
- \$4,590,978 has been under the Regional and Local Roads Repair program for urgent repairs to the road network. The program has recently been extended from 29 February 2024 to 31 October 2027.
- A Disaster Resilience Strategy is in development. This strategy will be driven by community consultation and will review road assets, such as bridges, culverts, and causeways, then look at the risk communities face due to natural disasters.

Anna Ridolfi asked who is responsible for the section between the road and the kerb? There is a stretch of dirt on a road for 2-3 meters that needs sealing.

GM advised the resident needs to make an application for permission from Council to proceed with works.

20. Entry to the Pools

DTS provided information on free entry to all pools across the Shire when a pool attendant is rostered on. Season ticket holders will have access from 6am until the pool closes.

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Community member asked whether there is further movement on the request to open pools from 6pm to 7pm.

ACTION: DTS to investigate the possibility of Mendooran pool opening until 7pm.

Community member asked about more staffing at the pool.

DTS advised that Council is in the process of onboarding 2 - 3 more casual pool attendants, which is a process that takes several weeks to complete.

21. Projects and Grants

DTS advised that the projects and subsequent budgets for Mendooran are:

- Mendooran Footpath Renewal – Bandulla Street - \$15,000 General fund.
- Mendooran Urban Road Reseals - 15,000 General fund.
- Tooraweenah Road – TBC.
- Grandchester Road - 30,000 Natural Disaster funded.
- Bus Shelter Redevelopment Project, Coonabarabran \$25,442, and Dunedoo \$24,762 directions - CPTIGS + LRCIP 4 funded \$120,000.
- CCTV for all 6 pools - (all pools) \$150,000 LRCIP 4 funded.
- Mendooran Oval Amenity Upgrade - \$599,879. Resources for Regions 9 funded.
- Mendooran Tennis Courts Resurfacing - \$130,000 LRCIP 3 funded early 2024.
- Mendooran Tennis Courts Fencing - \$120,000 LRCIP 4 funded early 2024.
- Shire Wide Playground Upgrades LRCI4 funded \$400,000.
- Mendooran Park Picnic Shelter and Pathways Upgrade \$140,000 LRCI4 funded.
- Cemetery Signage Renewal Phase 1 \$50,000 LRCI4 funded.

22. Draft Public Gates and Cattle Grids on Public Roads Policy.

DTS provided an update on Public Gates and Cattle Grids on Public Roads Policy. The policy has been reviewed and aims to support procedures for application, issuing of permits, inspections, assessments, and maintenance of public gates and cattle grids. Once finalised, the draft policy will be placed on public exhibition before it is adopted.

23. Budget – Upcoming calls for submissions (External Budget Submissions, Annual Donations, Community Financial Assistance Donations)

DCCS provided information about upcoming opportunities to have input to the 2024/25 Budget.

Additionally, applications will open early in the new year for Annual Donations, and the next round of Community Financial Assistance Donations.

Guidelines for Community Financial Assistance Donations has been reviewed, and moving forward, low priority will be given to groups that have already received a donation in the first round of funding each year.

24. Australia Day

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DCCS advised provided information about nominations for the 2024 Australia Day Awards. These awards are run in conjunction with the NSW Local Citizen of the Year Awards.

GENERAL BUSINESS

25. Water Quality (Anna Ridolfi)

The water quality from the taps is poor and she recommended that people do not drink the water as chlorine is harmful to the body.

GM disagreed that tap water is harmful for drinking and explained that Council drinking water meets the water quality standards required. Council water quality is regularly tested and approved for drinking.

26. Public Toilet Signage (Anna Ridolfi)

Requested a public toilet sign be installed in an area visible to people driving in to town.

Cr Kopke advised that the Traffic Advisory Committee discussed the need for this sign at their last meeting.

27. Water Restrictions (Dianne Mulligan)

Council water restrictions need to have more information available to the public.

ACTION: DEDS to arrange a letterbox drop distribution for water restriction notices in Mendooran, as well as Council website and social media notices.

28. Crown Land Allotments (Dianne Mulligan)

Does Council have a distribution map displaying local Crown Land allotments?

The information regarding Crown Land allotments is available on the Crown Land website.

Mayor Ambrose Doolan thanked everyone for attending, and declared the meeting closed.

There being no further business, meeting was closed 6:38pm.