

**MINUTES OF THE BARADINE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING HELD IN
BARADINE MEMORIAL HALL ON MONDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2023
COMMENCING AT 5:30PM**

PRESENT: Cr Ambrose Doolan (Mayor), Cr Denis Todd, Roger, Cr Jason Newton, Cr Zoe Holcombe, Roger Bailey (General Manager, GM), Lindsay Mason (Director of Corporate and Community Services, DCCS), Steve Friend (Acting Director Technical Services, A/DTS), Leeanne Ryan (Director Environment and Development Services, DEDES), Amanda Wherrett (PA to DCCS, Minutes), Liz Cutts, Suzanne Fuller, Richard Crawley, Patrick Lever, Ted Hayman, James Brown, Evelyn Hampton, Rose Munro, Basil Kaadi, Daniella Gardener, Rick Crawley, Lorraine Gordon, and Sandra Rees.

APOLOGIES: Cr Kathy Rindfleish (Deputy Mayor), Cr Dale Hogden, Cr Carlton Kopke, Cr Aniello Iannuzzi, Cr Kodi Brady and Nicole Benson (Director Technical Services, DTS).

INTRODUCTION

Mayor Ambrose Doolan welcomed attendees to the meeting and introduced the councillors, General Manager (GM), Director Environment and Development Services (DEDES), (Director of Corporate Community Services (DCCS), Acting Director Technical Services (A/DTS), and PA DCCS (Minute Taker).

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING MONDAY, 27 MARCH 2023

BUSINESS ARISING

Relating to Item 5, Community member asked what the status of the water meter installations is.

DEDES advised that 80 water meters have been replaced in the 2022/23 financial year, and a further 100 water meters are scheduled to be replaced by the end of 2023/24 financial year.

Community member stated that Bligh Street water meter has not yet been replaced.

DEDES advised that Bligh Street water meter replacement has been scheduled.

ACTION: DEDES to investigate the locations of, and how many, water meters are to be replaced this financial year 2023/24.

Liz Cutts stated that the Baradine Progress Association was not advised of water meter replacement action.

ACTION: DEDES to report to Baradine Progress Association what the next scheduled water meter replacement works are.

Relating to Item 20, a community member asked what the update is on the project at the Narran Street property (adjoining the southern end of Baradine pool fence).

DEDES advised that the Narran Street project is ongoing, and that there are staff currently working there.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

1. Update on John's Crossing/Cumbril Road repair work. (Liz Cutts)

**MINUTES OF THE BARADINE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING HELD IN
BARADINE MEMORIAL HALL ON MONDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2023
COMMENCING AT 5:30PM**

A/DTS advised that works on the culvert have not commenced as there is no funding available yet. There is \$23,000 left for John's Crossing/Cumbril Road repair work, however, there is a lot of damage on the causeway. Council may need more funding for the repair work to commence.

Community member asked what the timeframe is for this project.

A/DTS advised: the timeframe for this project is dependent on Transport for NSW (TfNSW). The Shire endured a lot of natural disasters since 2021 and submitted claims for works, and \$10.5 million worth of claims have been approved. Council is halfway through the August - September 2022 works schedule. In addition, more claims have been submitted and are awaiting approval. Council aims to have the John's Crossing/Cumbril Road repair completed by June 2025.

2. Baradine Hall bookings. (Liz Cutts)

Liz Cutts asked if Council is aware that Baradine Progress Association takes the bookings for Baradine Hall. Further, could Council check with the Baradine Progress Association Chair or Community Development Coordinator that the Baradine Hall is booked before advertising the location.

A/DTS commented that Council is grateful to Baradine Progress Association for the work they do maintaining Baradine Hall bookings. Council has acknowledged the internal booking error with staff.

3. Rail Trails – Council vote denying proposal. (Suzanne Fuller)

The Rail Trails proposal was voted down by Council. For 14 years the Rail Trails projects have been submitted to, and approved by, most other councils. For two and half years Ms Fuller's business has increased tourism for Baradine, especially attracting motorcyclists and push cyclists to use her hotel. These cycle clubs use Baradine as part of their advertising which is promotion for the region. The Rail Trails idea has proven to be valuable.

DEDS advised that the Rail Trails project is an Economic Development and Tourism (EDT) committee strategy in progress to be reviewed.

Ms Fuller asked how do individuals obtain a seat on the EDT committee.

DEDS advised Ms Fuller that to obtain a seat on the EDT committee community members may become a representative of the Baradine Progress Association.

Ms Fuller asked could the Department of Planning maps of the Rail Trail routes have the abbreviations explained for the general public.

ACTION: DTS to advise the design team to use less abbreviations/symbols on public displayed maps. For those symbols that are necessary, ensure a key legend is provided.

4. What is happening with the footpath in Lachlan street? (Richard Crawley)

A/DTS advised that Council has completed the concept plan. A community engagement meeting is scheduled to discuss the proposed development.

**MINUTES OF THE BARADINE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING HELD IN
BARADINE MEMORIAL HALL ON MONDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2023
COMMENCING AT 5:30PM**

5. Revisit the nose-to-kerb parking in Baradine. (Patrick Lever)

Mr Lever clarified that the nose-to-kerb parking proposal is for Baradine only, not for the rest of the Shire.

ACTION: DTS to forward a copy of Mr Lever's written proposal to revisit the request for nose-to-kerb parking in Baradine to the Traffic Advisory Committee.

6. Security cameras in Baradine town centre. (Patrick Lever)

Request for CCTV cameras to be installed in Baradine town centre.

DCCS advised that Baradine community members could apply for funding through the external Budget submissions.

GM advised that Council cannot solve police related incidents, however, Council does meet with the Local Area Commander for regular meetings regarding matters raised by concerned community members in forums such as these community consultation meetings, and any other community feedback. Residents should call the police assistance line 131444 to report crime.

ACTION: GM to discuss the concerns raised by Baradine community at the next meeting with the Inspector.

Baradine Progress Association to provide Council with details regarding incidents of crime in Baradine, for the purpose of Council to discuss with the Local Area Commander at a future meeting.

COUNCIL UPDATES AND INFORMATION

7. 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.

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

Community member asked what the provision is for long term waste disposal of the REZ project.

DEDS advised that Council has asked these questions to the REZ developers

**MINUTES OF THE BARADINE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING HELD IN
BARADINE MEMORIAL HALL ON MONDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2023
COMMENCING AT 5:30PM**

through submissions, and have received no answer as yet. Community members may read Council's submissions to the REZ project on the Council website.

8. Regional Drought Resilience Plan

Regional Drought Resilience Plan is a project that Council is involved in with Gilgandra Shire council, with Gilgandra being the lead and project manager. The project involves development of a plan that assist communities to become drought resilient going into the future. Community engagement will commence during November, when dates are known we will advertise through the usual channels.

9. Roads Restoration Program

A/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.

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

A/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.

11. Entry to the Pools

**MINUTES OF THE BARADINE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING HELD IN
BARADINE MEMORIAL HALL ON MONDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2023
COMMENCING AT 5:30PM**

A/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.

Community member asked if Council could change the Baradine pool opening time to 6am.

A/DTS advised that the Baradine pool opening times are based on when staff are scheduled to test the water.

ACTION: DTS to assess Baradine pool opening times, and if Baradine pool could open at 6am.

Community member asked if volunteers could assist with the pool opening times being earlier.

GM advised that Council called for volunteers for the Baradine pool within the past couple of years, however, no one applied. In addition, no one applied for the pool attendant role in Baradine advertised recently.

12. Projects and Grants

A/DTS advised that the projects and subsequent budgets for Baradine are:

- Baradine Hall Painting – \$38,300.
- Baradine Footpath Rehabilitation – \$25,000.
- Baradine Urban Road Reseals – Darling Street – \$4,200.
- Baradine Urban Road Reseals – Barwon Street – \$4,000.
- Lachlan Street Baradine Shared Pathway (Stage 1) – \$250,000.
- Shire Wide Bus Stop Upgrades – \$185,000 – LRCI4 fund.
- CCTV Installation at Outdoor Shire Pools – \$150,000 LRCI4 fund.
- Shire Wide Playground Upgrades – \$400,000 LRCI4 fund.
- Baradine Pool Amenities Maintenance and Repair – \$100,000 LRCI4 fund.
- Cemetery Signage Renewal Phase 1 – \$50,000 LRCI4 fund.
- Baradine Road Causeway – \$550,000 LRCI4 fund.

13. 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.

14. Australia Day

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.

**MINUTES OF THE BARADINE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING HELD IN
BARADINE MEMORIAL HALL ON MONDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2023
COMMENCING AT 5:30PM**

GENERAL BUSINESS

15. Water Restrictions

DEDS advised that as of 7 November 2023, Baradine will commence Level 1 water restrictions in order to manage the demand on water consumption.

Community member asked if residents will be notified of the water restrictions.

DEDS confirmed that residents will be notified of water restrictions through social media, print media, and letterbox drop.

- 16.** Community member was concerned about an ongoing odour from the sewerage treatment facility near her house, and that calls were made with no response.

ACTION: DEDS to investigate and assess the sewerage treatment area and assess the odour issue.

- 17.** Community member asked if Council could build a disabled access ramp at 20 Wellington Street outside the Twisted café.

A/DTS advised that the section of footpath outside 20 Wellington Street is the property owner's responsibility to maintain.

- 18.** Patrick Lever asked if Council will repair the fence line area on his property adjacent to Walker Street, where water streams down a steep hill to the creek and Council road works have been digging.

ACTION: DTS to assess Patrick Lever's property adjacent to Walker Street for possible repair to the fence line.

Patrick Lever to provide Council with his contact details.

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

There being no further business, meeting was closed 6:55pm.