

**PRESENT:** Cr Kathryn Rindfleish (Chairperson), Cr Kodi Brady, Mrs Fay Chapman, Mrs Paula Duggan, Mrs Robyn Hennessy, Ms Suellyn Tighe, Mrs Sallie Weatherall and Ms Kim Ellis.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs Nicole Benson (Director Technical Services), Mr Zachary Estens (Acting Manager Urban Services & Facilities) and Mr Nigel Baker\* (Pool Supervisor).

\* Attendance via Zoom video conference.

**APOLOGIES:** Mr David Hunter and Mr Brett England

### **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**2/2324 RECOMMENDED** that the minutes of the Coonabarabran Swimming Pool Advisory Committee meeting held on 17 July 2023 be confirmed.

**Brady/Weatherall**

### **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Kim Ellis said that at the last meeting it was agreed that an interim Masterplan progress update every three months, or as milestones were reached would be provided. The rationale being that the meetings are now six months apart. Nothing had been received since the last meeting.

**ACTION** - That an interim Masterplan update be provided to Committee members every three months, or as milestones are reached.

### **AGENDA ITEMS**

a) Coonabarabran Pool Masterplan

DTS explained the process that had been followed to date. Due to a lack of responses to the RFQ that was advertised in August 2023, the plan is now to remove the community engagement component and complete that separately. The RFQ will be advertised in the coming weeks subject to staff resources.

A conversation around what community engagement might look like took place. It could include a drop in session at the Pool; surveys sent to organisations including schools PE faculty, P&C, Cooina, Coonabarabran Swimming Club, Coonabarabran LALC, Allied Health, NDIS, disability services, and season ticket holders. There could be a BBQ at pool with hard copy surveys, print outs of the current concept plans and committee members could assist with surveys. Upcoming carnivals would be a captive audience.

Committee members said that the pool looks amazing and congratulated the Pool Supervisor and his team on the great job they are doing.

b) Scheduled Maintenance and Renewal Works

It was noted that the continuous disinfectant dosing unit has been installed and that's why the water looks beautiful. It was reported that staff have been performing general maintenance and preparation of the pool and surrounds for Australia Day celebrations.

c) Free Entry

DTS stated that attendances had increased significantly since free entry had been introduced. The Pool Supervisor advised the attendance figures up to 31 December 2023 being - Coonabarabran 3,753, Binnaway 1,634, Coolah 2,553, Baradine 2,723, Dunedoo 3,100 and Mendooran 800.

The Chairperson explained that Council decided to have free entry as a way to allow more people to access the pools. Another way to increase access and provide some flexibility was the introduction of four week passes and it was noted that sales of these passes was high.

The Pool Supervisor explained that recruitment of Pool Attendants had started slowly but that the current number was at least two Pool Attendants per pool.

DTS explained that along with the positive news of increased attendances due to free entry, antisocial behaviour had also increased across most pools. One member of staff had been physically assaulted, and others had also been threatened and verbally abused. Patrons had also been intimidated by some attendees not adhering to the Conditions of Entry. Council's Pool Misconduct Management Procedure has been enforced regularly with suspensions being issued to at least ten patrons. Police have had to be called to pools on a number of occasions to deal with children and adults being abusive.

The Chairperson raised the issue of children supervising younger brothers and sisters and stated that Coonamble Council have a rule whereby parents must register children and their ages to qualify for free entry to pools.

It was suggested that the CCTV funded by Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Phase 4 planned for all pools may be a deterrent for poor behaviour.

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

The following items were discussed without resolution:

- No specific Australia Day activities planned for Coonabarabran Pool and Aqua offered to assist with a BBQ if one is put on. Suellyn Tighe said that Australia Day means different things to different people and that not everyone celebrated the day.
- Suellyn Tighe asked if recognition of the two Aboriginal women who raised funds to build the original Coonabarabran Pool could be included in the Masterplanning exercise. DTS advised that if information comes forward it could be included.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 5.59pm.

The next meeting will be held in the Gallery Meeting Room, Coonabarabran on Wednesday, 7 August 2024 commencing at 5.00pm.

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CHAIRPERSON