

MINUTES OF THE GOOLHI COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING HELD AT THE GOOLHI HALL ON THURSDAY, 28 MARCH 2019 COMMENCING AT 5.30PM

PRESENT: Cr Capel, Roger Bailey (General Manager), Leeanne Ryan (Director Environment and Development Services), Kevin Tighe (Director Technical Services), Jenni Maundrell (Minutes), Cr Iannuzzi (Deputy Mayor – from 6.10pm), Sandy Corbett, Jamie Corbett, Georgie Gavel, Andrew Craig, Andrew Higgins, Peter Hughes, Chris Hincks, Todd Finlay, Tim Davis, Jill Whitney, Brendon O’Gorman, Andrew Ormax, Greg Morris

APOLOGIES: Cr Todd (Mayor), Cr Brady, Cr Clancy, Cr Doolan, Cr Hill, Cr Lewis, Cr Shinton

INTRODUCTION

Cr Capel welcomed attendees to the meeting and introduced the General Manager (GM), the Director Technical Services (DTS), and the Director Environment and Development Services (DEDS).

The GM thanked the community for attending the meeting, and gave an explanation of Community Consultation Meetings.

AGENDA

New Business Ideas Workshop

The DEDS spoke about the New Business Ideas Workshop being held at Coonabarabran Council Chambers on Wednesday, 10 April 2019. The Workshop will discuss tendering and new projects. Speakers include a representative from Inland Rail to discuss business opportunities that will be available to the community, and the requirements of engagement, eg licences and insurances.

Question: a resident asked about the Inland Rail project, and how close it will be to Coonabarabran. Council advised that the proposed route passes 10km west of Baradine; there was discussion about proposed work camps along the Narromine to Narrabri route, with up to 500 people proposed to be housed at a Baradine work camp for the duration of construction.

Community Financial Assistance Donations

Round 2 of the 2018/19 Community Financial Assistance Donations is currently open. Application forms were circulated.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

Mullaley Showground

A representative of the Mullaley Showground and Gymkhana Group requested assistance with construction of a new toilet block at the Showground. The DTS asked the group to provide details of the proposal in writing, including the size of the facility and patronage. The DEDS spoke about grants that may be available,. Cr Capel spoke about the experience of the Coolah Showground Trust in attracting grants, and the opportunity that community members have to make external budget submissions to Council. Council requested a written request for assistance to create a master plan for the Mullaley Showground.

Roads

- Quia Road, near Edmonds Crossing – subsidence has opened up a hole.
- Goolhi Road, causeway approx. 2km before end of sealed road – holes on either side of causeway.
- Trees overhanging roads – Goolhi Road, Wool Road, Quia Road
- Bakers Lane – causeways with large ‘lips’.
- Keeches Road – inspection requested with view to carry out maintenance works.
- Comment: trucks and school buses use the above roads.
- Question: what are the roadworks currently being undertaken on the Oxley Highway? Council advised that is an RMS job.

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- Signs – request was made for a Shire sign at the Mullaley Showground with space for local event advertising; request for directional sign for Goolhi.
- Roadside vegetation – residents spoke about wilga trees growing in table drains and saplings appearing near the road on a sweeping bend of Goolhi Road.
- Question: a resident asked whether it is a policy of Council, as a cost-cutting measure, to reduce the width of unsealed roads. The DTS responded that unsealed roads with higher volumes of traffic remain 2-lane roads; gravel is placed to a width of 5m, equating to a road width of approximately 6-7m once graded. There is no policy of Council to reduce the width of unsealed roads.

6.10pm

Cr Iannuzzi arrived

- McEvoy's Road – blocked culverts.
- Tiger Pear – residents were referred to Castlereagh Macquarie County Council for weed control.

Next Meeting

The GM advised residents to contact Council to place items on the agenda for the next Goolhi Community Consultation Meeting. Examples may be economic development, local employment with Inland Rail.

Questions

- Whether Council is able to make representations for rate assistance as a drought assistance measure. The GM advised that he has already had discussions on that issue with the Member for Parkes; also discussed the prospect of further rounds of the Drought Communities Programme.
- Whether Council is lobbying major companies for local opportunities. The DEEDS spoke again about the New Business Ideas Workshop, in particular the inclusion of a speaker from Inland Rail to discuss local opportunities.
- What the preferred method is for requests/communication. Council advised that requests in writing emailed to info@warrumbungle.nsw.gov.au or mailed to PO Box 191, Coonabarabran, 2357 are captured for action.

MEETING CLOSED: 6.30PM.

Jules Orman gave thanks to Council for conducting a Community Consultation Meeting at Goolhi.