

---

**PRESENT:** Cr Shinton (Chairman), Cr Hill, Cr Sullivan, Cr Coe,  
Cr Todd, Cr Lewis, General Manager, Director Technical Services, Director  
Community Services, Director Corporate Services.

In attendance: G Mangan (Minutes)

**APOLOGIES:** Cr Egan, Cr Connelly and the Director Environmental Services.

**368 RESOLVED** that the apologies of Cr Egan, Cr Connelly and the Director  
Environmental Services be accepted.

Sullivan/Coe

### **9.15am**

Councillor Dawson joined the meeting.

### **2008 Equestrian Expo**

The General Manager informed Council that he had been approached by Mr Ed Ford from the Urabrible Bush Fire Brigade. Mr Ford would like to remove the timber waste from the bush fire site on the Oxley Highway and use it for firewood at the 2008 Equestrian Expo.

**369 RESOLVED** that the Council Tree Preservation Order be lifted for two weeks for the purpose of the removal of the timber waste at the tornado site on the Oxley Highway.

Sullivan/Todd

### **BUDGET REVIEW**

The General Manager outlined the Draft Budget and presented Councillors with handouts of Budget Review Questions and Notes.

### **Budget Review Questions from General Manager**

The following questions have been raised as a review of the Management Plan for 2008/09 has been done along with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Review. Many of these questions remain outstanding due to staff absences and should be answered,

The Questions are listed in two sections

- The first relates to 2008/09 budget
- The second relates to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Review.

### **2008/09 Budget Questions**

### **TECHNICAL SERVICES**

#### **Road Operations**

**Management** - you will need to explain why the budgeted figure for this area has increased from \$150,000 to \$200,000.

**Street Lighting** – As I understand it there is a subsidy available from the RTA towards street lighting why is there no provision for this in the budget?

---

**Dunedoo K&G** – shows an income of \$10,000 but there is no expenditure show in the budget papers.

**Street Bins** – the following provisions have been made – **can these be cut back?**

- Baradine \$ 8,000
- Coonabarabran \$16,000
- Coolah \$ 6,000
- Mendooran \$ 8,000

### Roads Contracts

**Management Costs** - this needs to be understood as it would seem that we are not making a profit as suggested. Because if you apply the Management costs of \$120,000 against the bottom line of SIC it looks like we barely manage. **This needs to be explained very clearly.**

**Quarries the budget** has jumped from \$3,500 last year to \$20,000 **why the increase?**

### Fleet Services

**Management Costs** - this has gone up from \$94,685 to \$108,075 what is the reason for this.

**Plant Running Operations** - you are showing that this area will return an increased level of income from last year - from -\$1,808,000 to -\$1,968,450 and in addition included within that outcome an extra \$50,000 for an Apprentice and \$46,550 to cover the lease of the excavator. **Looks like a pretty big ask.**

**Apprentice** - Is there a subsidy available to assist in this position?

### Urban Services

**Operating Expenses** - this area has risen from \$960,260 to \$1,064,473 a very large jump - this needs to be reviewed closely.

**Parks & Toilets** – In this area costs have risen from \$380,000 to \$463,590, some of the areas of concern are

- Black stump Rest Area has gone from \$22,000 to \$30,000
- Browning Park gone from \$2,000 to \$5,000 - can this be \$3,000
- Manning Park gone from \$2,500 to \$5,000 - can this be \$3,000
- Mendooran Park gone from \$14,000 to \$19,000
- Mendooran Caravan Park gone from \$8,000 to \$12,000
- David Bell Park gone from (excluding capital of \$20,000 to \$23,000) at the 3rd quarter this was already \$24,296 do you have enough here?
- The new CBD toilets have added \$31,290 to the budget and if the loan is taken will add another \$25,000 to your costs.
- Binnaway River Toilets is a new cost that has not been there before with \$10,000
- Baradine Lions Toilets have gone from \$17,000 to \$22,000.

**Grass Cutting Generally** - this budget has jumped from \$158,000 to \$210,000 how could this change so much - what went wrong. The Mendooran Grass Cutting Budget has been a huge if **not unbelievable** over run from \$10,000 to \$54,247. **This deserves a very detailed explanation.** You probably need to look at this and what is associated with the caravan park not the town and have this split up.

### Warrumbungle Waste

**Waste Services** - the figures shown in the Management Plan noted as **Coolah Rural** should be distributed across a number of areas - work needs to be done in this area to ensure there is a distribution done properly.

**Rural Waste Routes** - the following routes do not have costs allocated against them why is that so - **they all generate income and should have expenses.**

- Castlereagh Rural
- Leadville Rural
- Weetaliba Rural
- Coolah Rural
- Leadville Village
- Merrygoen Village
- Neilrex Village
- Baradine Rural

There seems to be large **variations to the income** - they are:

- Timor Rd Run - was \$14,060 in 2007/08 while in 2008/09 they are \$722 why the difference. Last years figures were closely worked out (I did it).
- Weetaliba Run - was \$2,780 in 2007/08 while in 2008/09 they were \$9,675 why the difference.

### Village Water Supplies

**Kenebri Water Supply** - There is no provision for a water charge income in this area - Council and I expected that there would have been water meters installed this year - why have they not been done. The access fees for this scheme were reduced when user pay charges came in on the expectation that the users would immediately have meters put on. **The short fall is \$4,449.**

**Merrygoen Water Supply** - In view of the need to future upgrades on this scheme should the surplus of \$5,767 be put aside in R/Assets to meet those future needs

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

### Management

**Rural Addressing** – this has a small budget figure for 2008/09 - will this project then be fully completed.

**Town Planning Management** - shows an increase of \$19,986 against a budget total of \$88,665 last year an increase of 22.4% against last year – **a bigger than what should be expected increase – why.**

**State of the Environment** – has increased from \$2,000 to \$5,000 why the increase.

### Health & Building

**Management** – has gone from \$116,578 up to \$220,698 after the income has been taken into account – this is an increase of 90% a huge and unbelievable increase unless there was major error on 2007/08. **Why the increase. This area needs to be very closely detailed.**

In the above figure the particular areas of concern are:

- **Health Management** which has gone from \$148,462 to \$181,422 – this increase with a detailed explanation may be acceptable as the actuals in this area to end of March are \$142,303.
- Building Management which has gone from \$24,571 to \$92,761 an extraordinary increase especially in light of the fact that only \$27,924 has been spent till the end of March.
- **Cemeteries** – the overall expenditure here has increased from \$76,230 to \$85,844 with the problem areas being as follows – noting that Capital asks have not increased over last year and remain at about \$29,750.
  - **Coolah Cemetery M& R** going from \$13,500 to \$19,500.
  - **Coonabarabran Old Cemetery M& R** going from \$6,500 to \$11,000.

**Swimming Pools** – the over all expenditure has gone from \$426,455 to \$538,626 an increase of 26% a huge increase. This is made up of:

- Operational going from \$372,955 to \$489,326 and
- Capital going from \$53,500 to \$49,300.

The problem area is operational and if it cannot be reduced then **ALL** the capital should be slashed out – Council cannot afford such an increase.

On a pool by pool basis the increases are (the figures in parentheses are the actuals today):

• Binnaway	from	\$76,750	to	\$ 89,690	[\$82,028]
• Baradine	from	\$66,500	to	\$ 86,836	[\$72,956]
• Coonabarabran	from	\$72,400	to	\$ 89,440	[\$43,841]
• Coolah	from	\$76,605	to	\$104,205	[\$92,891]
• Dunedoo	from	\$70,700	to	\$ 85,040	[\$79,774]
• Mendooran	from	\$63,500	to	\$ 83,415	[\$50,684]

### Ordinance Services

**Operational Area** – this has, if the water sampling is discounted, increased from \$144,622 to \$171,708 again a very large increase for what is effectively a two man operation. This needs to be looked at very closely not only as it relates to the dollars but also outcomes.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

### Community Services

- **Coonabarabran Tennis Club** -
  - Why is the Coonabarabran Tennis club the only one that pays a contribution
  - The contribution is usually about half of the actual costs - why is it the full amount this year. Last year they were \$1,750 income and \$2,700 expenses, this year both income and expenses are \$2,186.
- **Coonabarabran #1 Oval** - why is the income reduced.
- **Robertson Oval** - why no income.
- **Coolah Tennis Club** - what is the arrangement here, does the Sportsman Club pay all the costs -do they have a water meter on.

- 
- **Binnaway Tennis Club** - the 3rd quarter actuals are \$1,542 while you have only provided \$1,052 for next year is that reasonable.
  - **Mendooran Oval** - If we do not have a Mendooran Oval why do we have a cost at all.
  - **Coonabarabran Basket Ball Courts** - have no costs last year now have \$5,930
  - **Shire Hall Coolah** - why have the cost gone from \$13,000 to \$19,263
  - **Libraries** -
    - Coonabarabran Library why has the expense gone from \$178,066 to \$219,822
    - I assume all the others have increased by the salary only although from the report to Council my understanding was the increase would be about \$24,000. The total library increase is \$82,439 why so high.
  - **Pre Schools** -
    - **Dunedoo Preschool** needs to have the \$51,000 transfer from restricted assets put in the **3rd quarter figures**.
    - **Dunedoo Preschool** - as we have now acquired this property there will be costs - there is nothing in the budget and I note that you have put in the contract that they will pay nothing -so how much will the costs be to us.
    - **Coonabarabran Preschool** - the agreement with them is that they pay all the costs, you do not have a full offset the income is \$1,780 and expenses are \$4,985.
  - **Baradine SES** - why is there such a massive relative increase here from \$600 to \$2,500.
  - **Mendooran SES** - last year they had charges of \$500 and now there is zero.
  - **Coolah VRA** - last year they had charges of \$1,600 and this year zero is that correct.
  - **Road Safety Officer** - has income of \$13,500 for capital works but an allocation for expenditure of \$12,500 this should be corrected.

## CORPORATE SERVICES

### Management Area

- **Coolah Medical Centre** - if we are going to sell the building why do we have expenses of \$4,275 for the Dental Building and \$5,690 for the Medical Centre
- **Community Loans** - as I understand it we have loans out for the following - there may be more.
  - **Baradine Aged Care** - should they be repaying anything.
  - **2WCRFM** - there is no income provided for their repayments.
  - **Dunedoo Tennis Club** - I think they have to have it all paid back by 30th June 2008.
  - **VRA Coonabarabran** - I think this has been paid off. So what is the \$923 for.
- **Dunedoo Medical Related Centre** has an increase on income (\$22,288) - we need to talk about the income and how it is worked out and where it is applied. There is an overall increase of \$35,812 where does this increase come from.
- **Council Chambers General** - the expenses overall have increased by \$44,695 (from \$8,579 to \$53,274). In the past the income nearly matches the expenses. The expenses have increased dramatically but has no offset matching cost recovery. Also the expenses have increased from \$139,449 to \$188,724 why such an increase (the 3rd quarter figure is only \$63,098)

---

### Financial Services

Rate Income -

- the **Rural Residential Rate** is showing an increase of 13.336% while the overall increase is 3.517% - Does this fit in with the DLGs letters of approval.
- **Other Income** has increased from \$168,673 to \$218,715 - Why such an increase
- **Private Works/ Debtors** - this shows a loss of \$30,712 - should there be a loss here (the income \$10,423 and expenditure is \$41,135).

### Administration Services

- **Administration Office Expenses** shows an allocation of \$20,000 - this is a new line item - What does it represent.
- **Admin Management** has increased from \$55,745 to \$66,724 why such an increase (that is 20%).

### Supply Services

- The bottom line has increased by \$22,000 why?
- Particularly the **Coonabarabran Store** has increased by \$29,391 that is from \$113,405 to \$142,796 why such an increase.

---

## 2007/08 Quarterly Figures

### TECHNICAL SERVICES

**Management** – this shows a budget of \$102,125 with actual expenditure of \$89,733 this will not be enough.

### Design Services

**Total Station** – the budget provided for \$12,000 however it was agreed by Council that we would lease with a view to owning and that the extra cost would be covered by savings in wages. This did not mean that it should be charged against wages – it should be properly capitalised. **Please arrange the corrections in the quarterly review.**

**Equipment M&R** – the budget provided \$4,300 but shows an actual expenditure of \$26,042 why the increase – please explain

### Road Operations

**Management** – why is this well overspent at the end of March 2008?

- Budget \$150,000 while the actual is \$171,912

**Footpaths** – in the budget the following amounts are shown as capital expenditure but there is no offsetting income –

- Baradine \$ 5,000
- Binnaway \$ 5,000
- Dunedoo \$10,000

**Kerb & Gutter** in the budget the following amounts have been provided but not accounted for:

- Baradine \$ 2,372
- Mendooran \$ 2,561

Also an amount of \$50,000 was provided as income for K&G works in Dunedoo but has not been brought to account **why not?**

**Coonabarabran CBD Upgrade** – works have been done but no off set transfer to cover the expenses

**Town Street Construction** – at the end of March 2008 the following street were over spent what is the reason for this

• Abbott Street	Budget	\$49,592	Actual	\$51,240
• Digilah Street	Budget	\$44,000	Actual	\$60,115
• River Street	Budget	\$72,791	Actual	\$80,965
• Bandulla Street	Budget	\$83,200	Actual	\$94,676
• Wentworth Avenue	Budget	\$ 2,715	Actual	\$ 5,303
• Henderson Street	Budget	\$22,927	Actual	\$43,770
• Cypress Street	Budget	\$ 5,591	Actual	\$20,206

**Regional Roads** - at the end of March 2008 the following roads were over spent what is the reason for this?

• MR 329	Budget	\$ 0.00	Actual	\$109,941
• MR55 Denisontown	Budget	\$108,495	Actual	\$282,119

**Local Roads** - at the end of March 2008 the following roads were over spent what is the reason for this?

• Turee Vale	Budget	\$ 22,105	Actual	\$ 47,520
• Flags Rockedgiel	Budget	\$ 0.00	Actual	\$ 514
• Gentle Annie	Budget	\$100,000	Actual	\$166,778

### Contract Services

**Town Street Reseals** - this has not been offset by any FAGS income - there should be \$246,411 against this although at this stage only \$102,428 has been spent but nevertheless there is no offset.

**Manusu Bridge** - there is a smaller profit on this than expected - do we have all the income and has the job been completed.

**Local Roads Reseals** - has an amount of \$276,667 spent and an offset income of only \$238,422.

### Urban Services

**Castlereagh CMA** - this was budgeted at \$15,000 and has a current expenditure of \$53,478 after income is taken into account - **will this be offset and if not why not.**

**Warrumbungle Waste**

---

**Waste Management - Weetaliba Tip** - the list shows a transfer from R/Assets of \$10,000 against an expenditure of \$2,738 why this transfer. Also the Neilrex Tip shows a transfer from R/Assets of \$3,000 against a actual expenditure of \$162 why this amount of transfer. Also how much should be spent here?

**Rural Routes** - the same questions are asked as above relating to costs to be shown against each rural run.

### **Village Water Supplies**

**Kenebri Water Supply** - there is a provision of \$10,800 for capital upgrades - water tank and shed. These funds have been revoted since they were originally made available in 2005/06. **If they are not finished this year then the vote should lapse.**

There is no income against the budgeted figure of \$4,449 - see comment about water meters above (this is the access fees for this scheme were reduced when user pay charges came in on the expectation that they would immediately have meters put on).

**Merrygoen Water Supply** - The income items seem to be way out, they are

Rate Budget	\$9,242	actual	\$14,783
Charges Budget	\$5,627	actual	\$ 1,135

There is \$27,700 in the capital budget for this supply scheme and they are as follows. When will they be finished **as they have been revotes at least one year and if they are not done this year then they should lapse.**

Concrete Tanks	\$20,700
Unknown	\$ 7,000

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

### **Management**

**LEP Study** – the budget shows expenditure fully offset by a transfer from R/Assets in the actual figures presented it shows \$14,675 being spent but no offset. **Please correct this omission.**

**DCP Study** – the budget has an amount of \$5,065 to be transferred from R/Assets against an expenditure of \$44,790. The actual expenditure is \$655 but the transfer is \$5,065 should this only be the same as the expenditure.

**Waste Management Education** - has a budget of \$1,000 but at the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter has spent \$4,404 – **why the over expenditure.**

### **Health & Building**

**Management** – this area had an allocation of \$116,578 and at the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter has spent \$129,104 – a huge over expenditure needs close explanation

**Generally** – the operational activities in the town of **Coolah** seem to be causing a general failure to meet budget estimates in this area – namely:

- Cemetery budget of \$8,500 already at end of march spent \$ 15,539
- Pool budget of \$76,605 already at end of march spent \$85,566 and has increased to \$92,891 as of today

---

**Pools** – the figures shown here for expenditure are as of the middle of May:

• Binnaway – budget of	\$76,750	spent	\$82,028
• Baradine - budget of	\$66,500	spent	\$72,956
• Coonabarabran - budget of	\$72,400	spent	\$43,841
• Coolah - budget of	\$76,605	spent	\$92,891
• Dunedoo - budget of	\$70,700	spent	\$79,774
• Mendooran- budget of	\$63,500	spent	\$50,684

**These figures need detailed explanations as to what went wrong.**

**Cemeteries** – the concerns are:

- Baradine Cemetery – has a bottom line budget of \$ but show over all at the end of march a credit of \$221.
- Coolah Cemetery – has a budget of \$8,500 and a 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter actual of \$15,539 this has gone way over budget.

### **Ordinance Services**

The **operational area** is budgeted for the year at \$144,622 and expenditure at the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter is \$124,142 this will mean an over expenditure of \$21,000 by the end of the year. **What has gone wrong here?**

---

### **Restricted Assets – Computer Upgrade**

**370 RESOLVED** that an amount of \$80,000 be retained in Restricted Assets for the completion of the Computer Upgrade and that the Director Community Services provide a detailed listing of the equipment needed for this amount. **FURTHER** that the balance of \$286,723 be transferred from Restricted Assets (computer equipment) to Consolidated Revenue.

Sullivan/Dawson

**371 RESOLVED** that an explanation by way of a report be brought to the next Council meeting by the Director Technical Services on the Regional Roads Block Grant, MR 329.

Sullivan/Hill

### **Public Toilets CBD – Coonabarabran**

The General Manager offered an alternate option to Council's determination to borrow internally an amount of \$100,000 from the Sewerage Scheme for the purpose of building public toilets in the Coonabarabran CBD.

**372 RESOLVED** that an amount of \$90,000 be provided for the construction of a public toilet in the Coonabarabran CBD and **FURTHER** that the amount of \$80,000 shown as a transfer to restricted assets Coonabarabran Town Hall and \$10,000 for Coonabarabran Aerodrome be removed from the budget papers.

Sullivan/Dawson

---

**10.10am**

Councillor Dawson left the room.

**10.14am**

Councillor Dawson returned.

**Grass Cutting - Council Rest Areas**

**373 RESOLVED** that the Director Technical Services prepare a report on the utilization of Community Groups for the mowing and maintenance of Council rest areas.

Lewis/Todd

**Grass Cutting**

**374 RESOLVED** that the budget be set for 2008/2009 at the same level as 2007/2008 \$155,000 plus 10%. Total \$173,000.

Sullivan/Hill

**Timesheets**

**375 RESOLVED** that a critical review of the manner and actual information on the timesheets be addressed.

Sullivan/Coe

**Parks and Toilets**

**376 RESOLVED** That the maintenance budget for the Parks & Gardens be 10% (total \$380,800) of the previous budget (2007/2008) plus \$10,000. Total \$418,888.

Sullivan/Dawson

**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

In the absence of the Director of Environmental Services the General Manager advised Council on the status of the pools and put forward that a recovery option may be to dispense with all Capital works in the swimming pool area.

**377 RESOLVED** that the overall Pool budget be reduced by \$30,000. The savings to be attained entirely from the operational budget – if this cannot be achieved then the balance is to come from the Capital budget for Pools.

Sullivan/Dawson

**Health Building and Environment**

**378 RESOLVED** that an amount of \$25,000 be taken off this budget proposal and a detailed report be brought back to the Budget meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2008 on the items of expenditure.

Hill/Sullivan

**11.25am**

**379 RESOLVED** that standing orders be suspended to break for morning tea.

Hill/Dawson

**11.35am**

**380 RESOLVED** that standing orders be resumed.

Sullivan/Coe

**Council Resolutions**

The General Manager distributed to Council a list of Resolutions from the previous meeting for consideration at this meeting.

**11.40am**

Director Technical Services left the room.

**381 RESOLVED** that the budget for the following with the outcomes listed be adopted:

**General Fund**

**\$975,157 DR**

**Water Supplies**

**\$**

Baradine Water	1,786 DR
Binnaway Water	118,283 DR
Coonabarabran Water	11,064 DR
Coolah Water	24,778 DR
Dunedoo Water	14,875 DR
Mendooran Water	7,292CR

**Sewerage**

**\$**

Baradine Sewerage	23,400 DR
Coonabarabran Sewerage	218,000 CR
Coolah Sewerage	24,500 CR
Dunedoo Sewerage	24,000 CR

**Hill/Dawson**

**11.46am**

Director Technical Services returned to the meeting.

**12.06pm**

Councillor Sullivan excused himself and left the meeting.

**WATER CHARGES – 2008/2009**

**382 RESOLVED** that the Water Charges for the Shire as listed be adopted subject to the following changes:

**Southern**

Water usage Charges for 2008/2009

Coolah, Dunedoo and Mendooran	Up to 450kl	\$1.10	\$/Kilolitre
	451 and above	\$1.65	\$/Kilolitre

**Villages Southern**

Up to 450kl	\$1.10	\$/Kilolitre
451 and above	\$1.65	\$/Kilolitre

**Coe/Hill**

**REVENUE POLICY**

**383 RESOLVED** that Council adopt the Revenue Policy with changes as listed be adopted.

**Coe/Todd**

**WARRUMBUNGL E SHIRE COUNCIL DRAFT BUDGET**

**384 RESOLVED** that the Draft Budget be adopted and placed on exhibition for 28 days from Wednesday May 28, 2008 until 4.00pm Tuesday June 24, 2008.

**Hill/Todd**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 12.40pm.

.....  
**CHAIRMAN**