

**MINUTES OF THE BARADINE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING HELD AT THE BARADINE MEMORIAL HALL ON TUESDAY 28 MARCH 2023 COMMENCING AT 5.30PM.**

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**PRESENT:** Cr Aniello Iannuzzi (Deputy Mayor) Cr Denis Todd, Cr Zoe Holcombe, Cr Kodi Brady, Cr Jason Newton, Roger Bailey (General Manager, GM), Gary Murphy (Director Technical Services), Leanne Ryan (Director Environment and Development Services DEDS), Lindsay Mason (Director Corporate and Community Services DCCS and minute taker), Lauren Harris, Liz Cutts, Louise Johnson, Patrick Lever, Sue Fuller, Steve Jacobs, Evelyn Hampton, Irene Worrell, Ted Hayman, Jim Brown, Jeanette Henley.

**APOLOGIES:** Cr Ambrose Doolan (Mayor), Cr Carlton Kopke, Cr Kathy Rindfleish, Cr Dale Hogden.

**INTRODUCTION:**

Cr Aniello Iannuzzi (Deputy Mayor) welcomed attendees to the meeting and introduced Councilors, the General Manager, Director Environmental and Development Services (DEDS), Director Technical Services (DTS), Director Corporate and Community Services and Minute Taker.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING TUESDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2022**

**BUSINESS ARISING**

**COMMUNITY MATTERS**

**1. Free town WIFI Update (Ella Prouse)**

Update please. It seems non-existent.

DCCS advised staff test weekly. Wifi was operational during meeting.

**ACTION:** DCCS to investigate if user logs are produced from Wifi transmitter to verify usage.

**2. Baradine Pool (Lauren Harris)**

Cleanliness of the pool

Complaint re. staff not cleaning toilets and pool water quality.

**ACTION:** DTS to investigate lack of maintenance of the Baradine Pool grounds and amenities.

**3. Baradine Pool (Lauren Harris)**

Lifeguards. What is there role?

GM advised that they are Pool Attendants not Lifeguards.

Complaint re. staff not carrying out their functions properly.

**ACTION:** DTS to investigate complaints about activities of staff.

**4. Baradine Pool (Lauren Harris)**

Usage –

**MINUTES OF THE BARADINE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING HELD AT THE BARADINE MEMORIAL HALL ON TUESDAY 28 MARCH 2023 COMMENCING AT 5.30PM.**

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DTS advised that 525 head is the official attendance for season to date.

Complaint that people were entering the pool with assistance of others.

Complaint re. staff not carrying out their functions properly. Lack of supervision of children and front gate.

Request for CCTV for entrance gate.

GM advised that a budget submission would be required for 2024/25 year.

**ACTION:** DTS to investigate complaints about activities of staff

**5. Baradine Pool (Liz Cutts – Baradine & District Progress Association)**

Answered, as above

No further discussion

**6. Trees (Liz Cutts – Baradine & District Progress Association)**

Further request for planting of an avenue of trees on the Baradine to Coonabarabran Road.

DTS advised that trees were in 23/24 draft budget.

**7. Camp Cypress Access Road (Liz Cutts – Baradine & District Progress Association)**

Request for a Council survey of Camp Cypress Access road with a view to installing water flow control banks

DTS discussed with Ted Hayman following meeting. Ted to follow up with ARTC regarding their future works in the area. No further action required by Council as the works are not on Council Land.

**8. Water Meters (Liz Cutts – Baradine & District Progress Association)**

Request to replace aging and incorrect water meters located on town properties

DEDS advised new meter replacement program being carried out in the next 12 months

**ACTION:** DEDS to advise Baradine & District Progress Association of schedule for the replacement of water meters.

**9. Baradine Aerodrome (Patrick Lever)**

Upgrades? Concerns regarding recent fires and lack of water at aerodrome for RFS usage.

GM advised Baradine & District Progress Association to write a letter and Council would provide a letter of support for RFS Infrastructure for fire fighting from the Baradine Aerodrome.

**10. Front to Kerb Angle Parking for Baradine and the LGA (Patrick Lever)**

**MINUTES OF THE BARADINE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING HELD AT THE BARADINE MEMORIAL HALL ON TUESDAY 28 MARCH 2023 COMMENCING AT 5.30PM.**

---

DTS advised community members to provide any information to support this call for Front to Kerb Angle Parking to the Traffic Committee for consideration.

**11 Rail Tracks and bike rides in the national park and forest (Sue Fuller)**

Sue Fuller to write to Council a Seeking letter of support for the creation of rail trails and bike rides through the National Parks and Forestry.

**12. Request for CCTV cameras in the main street of Baradine (Steve Jacobs)**

DCCS advised that grants could be applied for, if available. once group had liaised with NSW Police as to locations of cameras. Estimate of cost would be required and crime statistics to support any application. Baradine & District Progress Association to write to Council seeking letter to support for Local Area Crime Manager for CCTV cameras in Baradine.

**COUNCIL UPDATES AND INFORMATION**

**13. Budget**

The Director Corporate and Community Services provided an update on the 2023-24 Budget.

- Staff are currently preparing the draft operating plan and budget
- Council will meet on 20 April 2023 to adopt the draft operating plan and budget
- The draft operating plan and budget will then go on public exhibition for 28 days, whereby the public can make submissions
- The final 2023/24 budget will be put to Council for adoption on 30 May 2023.
- The 2023/24 budget is heavily focussed on natural disaster recovery works on Council roads

**14. Renewable Energy Zone**

The Director Environment and Development Services provided an update on the Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (REZ). Council continues to review the many EIS's and documents that are presented by Dept of Planning and EnergyCo, and have been actively lodging submissions as required. We are also attending meetings with REZ developers as required to discuss their projects. We remain concerned with the potential effects cumulative impacts from the REZ will have on our communities. Council currently has a draft Renewable Energy Benefit Policy on public exhibition open for comments

**15. Inland Rail**

The Director Environment and Development Services provided an update on the Inland Rail project. The project connects Melbourne to Brisbane, will be located approx. 8kms from Baradine, with approx. 42kms of the rail line located within WSC. We are part of the N2N section, or the Narramine to Narrabri section. This section has now been approved by the State Government, and it is expected construction will commence in 24/25.

**16. Road / Natural Disaster Claims**

The Director Technical Services provided an update on Roads and the Natural Disaster Claims. . Key points being:

- 3 natural disasters declared in the last 18 months; November 2021, August 2022 and September 2022

**MINUTES OF THE BARADINE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING HELD AT THE BARADINE MEMORIAL HALL ON TUESDAY 28 MARCH 2023 COMMENCING AT 5.30PM.**

---

- Largest natural disaster claim in the history of Warrumbungle Shire history currently in the order of \$12m with more to come
- Previous natural disaster claim was in the order of \$700,000
- Council typically spends \$6m a year on roads maintenance and \$6m on capital. The value of the restoration works is more than a full year's budget
- A specialist company has been engaged to log the over 1800 defects across the network and submit them to Transport for New South Wales for funding approval
- Originally 9 geographically distinct work packages were prepared and submitted
- Of these 8 have been approved.
- Council cannot carry out the restoration works until funding approval has been granted
- Council has been able to carry out emergency works to make safe and restore access
- It is important to note that funding is only available to restore the roads to pre-disaster condition. The funding does not allow to replace a causeway with a culvert for example or to re-sheet a road
- Determination of the damage caused by the August and September natural disaster is still in progress
- The restoration works must be completed by 30 June 2024
- Council does not have the staff and resources to carry out all of the works at once so Council has resolved to prioritise the high order (highly trafficked) roads first
- Council will also be issuing 3 tenders in the amount of \$500,000 each in order to get the work done
- In addition to the restoration works, Council has also been granted \$866,000 for pothole repairs and a further \$4.59m for repairs which have to be spent by the end of February 2024
- Key message is there is a lot of work, a lot of funding but little resources, plant and staff to do the works
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#### **17. TRRRC**

The Director Environment and Development Services provided a brief update on TRRRC and the termination of legal action.

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

##### **18. Stronger Country Communities Fund. (Lauren Harris)**

What has Baradine been allocated?

**MINUTES OF THE BARADINE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING HELD AT THE BARADINE MEMORIAL HALL ON TUESDAY 28 MARCH 2023 COMMENCING AT 5.30PM.**

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**ACTION:** DTS to advise projects included for funding for Baradine for the Stronger Country Communities Fund.

**19. Town Signage (Louise Johnson)**

What is happening with old signs once new signs go in? Can Committee keep old signs?

Does Baradine need to have new signs? Claim that Baradine & District Progress Association had asked not to have new sign at Economic Development & Tourism EDT Committee Meeting.

Cr Newton Committee chair and DEEDS refuted that this had been to the committee.

DEEDS advised that if Baradine & District Progress Association needs to discuss this at EDT committee. A submission for an agenda item should be prepared by Baradine & District Progress Association.

**20. Narran St property adjoining southern end of pool fence (Patrick Lever).**

**ACTION:** DEEDS to investigate the structures adjoining the southern end of the Baradine Pool.

Cr Aniello Iannuzzi thanked everyone who attended and declared the meeting closed.

**There being no further business, meeting was closed 7:05 pm.**