

**MINUTES OF THE BINNAWAY COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING HELD IN
BINNAWAY BOWLING CLUB ON TUESDAY
4 APRIL 2023 COMMENCING AT 5.30PM.**

PRESENT: Cr Ambrose Doolan (Mayor), Cr Aniello Iannuzzi (Deputy Mayor), Cr Kodi Brady, Cr Zoe Holcombe, Cr Carlton Kopke, Cr Jason Newton, CI Denis Todd, Roger Bailey (General Manager, GM), Leeanne Ryan (Director Environment and Development Services, DEDS), Gary Murphy (Director Technical Services DTS), Lindsay Mason (Director Corporate and Community Services DCCS), Kylie Kerr (Manager Roads, MR), Joanne Hadfield (Minute Taker), Malcolm Jones, Bernie McBain, Tim Cooper, Mandy Ellis, Matthew Colley, J Froms, Larry Tolmie, Pam Southwell, Jim Larkin and Bill Tatt

APOLOGIES: CI Kathryn Rindfleish, CI Dale Hogden, Ray Lewis

INTRODUCTION:

Mayor Ambrose Doolan welcomed attendees to the meeting and introduced councillors, the General Manager, the Director Environment and Development Services (DEDS), Director Technical Services (DTS), Director Corporate and Community Services (DCCS) Manager Roads (MR) and Minute Taker.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING TUESDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2022

BUSINESS ARISING

COMMUNITY MATTERS

1. Operational Plan (Malcolm Jones) –

Mr Jones asked who is in charge/responsible for the Operational Plan.

DCCS advised that staff prepare it, and it goes to Council for adoption by the Councillors.

Queried costings on Roads and time frames for reseals.

DTS advised that he had previously sent a letter to Mr Jones outlining the issues on the above matter.

2. What's happened with the DP Progress Reports (Malcom Jones) –

DCCS advised they are on the website and included in the Business Paper reports. They are no longer listed separately.

3. Three Rivers Regional Retirement Community (Bernie McBain)

Mr McBain questioned as to what the total legal cost for the Warrumbungle Shire with regards to the Three Rivers project in Dunedoo.

GM advised legal and expert costs were approximately \$3 million. An exact figure is not yet known.

4. Three Rivers Regional Retirement Community (Bernie McBain)

The General Manager addressed the meeting advising that all legal action for the TRRRC project has now been settled with the contact with Boulos Constructions Pty Ltd terminated under the contact provisions 'for convenience'.

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Discussions have been held with the Federal and State Governments – Dunedoo Renewal Project and they have agreed to provide funding to the amount of \$5.6 million which includes the balance of the original fund to build a maximum of 6 independent aged living units elsewhere in Dunedoo. Public works will be in charge of the project management and Council will own the asset. Mayor advised that we tried to make certain parties personally liable. The case has now been closed and there is not further recourse.

5. Three Rivers Regional Retirement Community (Bernie McBain)

Mayor advised that initially the TRRRC projects was voted down by Council and. Councillors cannot give a verbal guarantee as to future projects.

6. Telstra ADSL infrastructure and availability of Broadband services in Binnaway. (Tim Cooper)

DEDS advised that there is a new project out, GIG State, and Binnaway has been selected for a new tower, though the location at this stage has not been identified. With the establishment of the new tower internet and mobile services should improve across the district.

7. Piambra Road – drainage issues (Ray Lewis - absent)

DTS advised that they were aware of the drainage problems on Piambra Road. It will be part of the Natural Disaster Restoration project.

ACTION: DTS to investigate the need for more signage along the road to make the public aware of the wash a-ways on the side of the road.

8. Piambra Road – Update on the completion of rebuild on Piambra Road, didn't do the part that is outside the property "Shannondale". (Ray Lewis - absent)

DTS advised it will depend on budget and grant funding received in 2023/2024. The road near the Shannondale property is being considered.

COUNCIL UPDATES AND INFORMATION

9. Budget

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

Jim Larkin asked about funding submission made in November 21 for the mowing of the Binnaway Showground and a new roof for the Tennis Club

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advising that no notification had been received on the outcome of the submission.

DCCS advised that budget submission will be made available with the Draft Budget on Council's website on Monday, 17 April 2023.

ACTION: DCCS to issue notifications to applicants after the Budget for 2023/24 has been adopted.

10. 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.

Malcom Jones asked about the Rating Policy for land effected by Windfarms and Solar Farms.

GM advised that certain projects could be classified as business, e.g solar farms where the activities wholly or mainly utilise the property where there is only a minor impact there may not be changes. Scope for projects have not been finalised and no projects have commenced.

11. 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 Narromine to Narrabri section. This section has now been approved by the State Government, and it is expected construction will commence in 24/25.

12. 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
- 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

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- 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.

13. TRRRC

Covered in items 3-5 above.

GENERAL BUSINESS

**14. Binnaway Sewerage Community Consultation Meeting 22 March 2023
(Matthew Collier)**

Asked for feedback on the consultation meeting held in Binnaway with the community on the Binnaway Sewerage Scheme.

DEDS advised 13 people attended the meeting and the information gathered will be included in the business case. Advised that no funding has been allocated to progress past the business case and that Binnaway does not qualify for $\frac{3}{4}$ funding. Meeting advised that the location of sewerage ponds has not been identified.

ACTION: DCCS to provide Mr Collier Baradine sewerage costings.

15. Binnaway Hall not taking bookings (Tim Cooper & Mandy Ellis)

DTS explained that the hall's condition is currently not suitable for hire.

Youth Group want to use the hall for its Youth Events even though the condition of the hall is not great. Youth group has received funding for the next 3 years and the facility needs to be operations for the youth to gather.

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ACTION: DTS to investigate options on making the hall available and to continue conversation with Sal Edwards.

Cr Doolan thanked everyone for their attendance.

There being no further business, meeting was closed 7:01pm.