

**COOLAH COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING HELD IN THE COOLAH  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON 3 NOVEMBER 2021 COMMENCING AT 5.30PM**

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**AGENDA – Coolah Community Consultation Meeting**  
*3 November 2021 commencing at 5:30pm*

**Welcome:** Ambrose Doolan (Mayor)

**Apologies:**

**Confirmation of Minutes**

**Business Arising from the Minutes**

**Agenda Items**

a) Community Matters

Coolah District Development Group

1. Thank you to the acting Director of Technical Services and Urban Services Manager for their time to do handover from Kevin Tighe. It was a constructive relationship building meeting.
2. CDDG would like an introduction to the current or relieving Director of Community Services.
3. This is to expedite the signing of the MOU for Community Development Coordinator.
4. CDDG has been conducting audits of town appearance and particularly town entrances to gauge how visitors view Our Town pride and make stopovers. We would draw Council attention to the Depot appearance as it is in particular location from Hunter Region and Caravan park visitors. Possible suggestions of screening vegetation, further tree planting, etc.
5. Also on eastern approach, the Linton Bridge over the Coolaburragundy River has just celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> year in operation. During the last day of February, 1955, the rainfall registered in the Coolah Valley varied between eleven and seventeen inches (275mm to 430mm) and the old wooden bridge washed away. The new bridge was officially opened on 21 September 1961, costing 60,000 pounds (\$120,000). After 60 years it may require a structural inspection and new paint to preserve the structure against corrosion.
6. Following the hailstorm on Saturday 23 October and damage to Library windows, we would ask Council for a full inspection of possible damage to roof as there was already a leak in roof that caused ceiling damage – repairs were effected during 2021 but the staining has reappeared and due to the age of roof (built 1935) there could be further damage.
7. The trees at Council carpark behind Chambers/Library require attention.
8. CDDG together with Council conducted a Mainstreet audit in January 2021 to apply for a grant for refurbishment of Binnia Street. This application was unsuccessful but a new grant is open for EOI called Streets as shared spaces and CDDG would ask Council to apply and utilizing some of the previous work. CDDG can offer some new suggestions as the grant is asking for temporary placements to gauge community engagement.
9. CDDG has identified that State Government grants appear to be directed to Councils rather than Community. To this end, CDDG is again petitioning WSC to appoint a Grants Officer as all other Councils have. The Community Coordinator program cannot fulfil the duties of Council

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Grants Officer who would apply for the all the Roads, Bridges, airports, recycling, disabled access, Community support services etc grants that the State and Federal Governments have on offer. Streets as Shared Spaces grant is the third grant this year that CDDG has collaborated with WSC to apply for. The digitisation grant for Cameron Collection records was successful. The Disabled access toilet at rear of Library was not included in the recent refurbishment but needs urgent attention and we believe that grants are currently available for this work.

10. CDDG requests that Have Your Say requests from Council for policy reviews are better communicated to community. We instance the Customer Service Charter review January 2021, Feedback from Budget Submissions, Draft Operating Plan, draft Developer Contributions Plan, and in particular, the Disability Inclusion Action Plan meetings in May 2021 that followed on from the Community meeting of 3 May where we would have appreciated a “heads up” about this important plan review. Just a notice in Coolah Diary without any background information is insufficient. The 6 May WSC Newsletter did not include information about the plan review or meetings. The situation of the Council Ramp and the Disabled Parking space were instances of poor communication channels.
11. CDDG requests that Community meetings contain more content than complaints.

Kathy Rindfleish

12. Pools

Leonie Hutchinson

13. The ongoing issue at the cul-de-sac Cameron Places needs to be seriously looked at and a cope of works program, so that the road surface and drainage direction issues from the major stormwater drain are addressed properly to solve this longstanding issue.

Greg Piper

14. Question for the GM – you have been with us now for over 2 years;
  - i. What changes have you made to improve the way council communicates with rate payers.
  - ii. What changes have you made to improve the delivery of services to the community in this time?
  - iii. I note that a number of councils have borrowed significant amounts of money to maintain their road networks in light of significant rainfall events over the past year or so. They were of the opinion that to allow roads to deteriorate was very negative outcomes that would cause long term costly remediation. With interest rates so low has council considered such a move.

Eleanor Cook

15. Feed Lot DA – Mount Mill

b) Council Updates and Information

16. Vacant Land

**General Business**