

**MINUTES OF THE COOLAH COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING HELD IN  
COOLAH COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY 3 MAY 2021 COMMENCING AT  
5:30PM**

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**PRESENT:** Mayor Ambrose Doolan, Cr Anne-Louise Capel, Cr Wendy Hill, Cr Peter Shinton, Roger Bailey (General Manager), Kevin Tighe (Director Technical Services), Leeanne Ryan (Director Environment and Development Services (DEDS), Anne Newsome (Chief Financial Officer), Kira Alexander (Minutes), Carol Richard, Ted Miller, Greg Piper, Katie Burgess, Sal Edwards, Quinton Hutchinson, Leonie Hutchinson, Elly Cook, Karen Lave, Ricky Sarich, Sarah Edwards.

**APOLOGIES:** Cr Aniello Iannuzzi (Deputy Mayor), Cr Kodi Brady, Cr Denis Todd, Cr Ray Lewis, Cr Fred Clancy, Kim Parker (Director Corporate and Community Services)

### **INTRODUCTION**

DTS welcomed attendees and advised that GM, Mayor and DEDS will be late. He introduced Councillors, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Minute Taker.

### **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING MONDAY, 29 OCTOBER 2020**

**CAPEL/PIPER**

### **BUSINESS ARISING**

**1. Community member asked about the libraries and whether a paper went to Council and what was the outcome?**

PA to DCCS advised that Council is still waiting for Northwestern Library Coop to respond.

**2. Update after traffic committee meeting on unbroken double white lines at turn off to Coolah Sport and Recreation Ground.**

DTS advised that the committee proposes advance notice signs rather than changing double white unbroken lines.

Community says the area is high risk and want culvert widened to make turning out of the driveway easier as usage of the site is increasing, as is the risk.

DTS advised Community to start with big advance notice signs and feedback on effectiveness.

**ACTION:** DTS to arrange discussion at the Traffic Committee meeting with issues of slipway and culvert extension.

**3. Update wanted on Heritage Light in McMasters Park**

DTS advised the frame for the light is currently in production.

Community advised that the light pole across from the Shire office has a lean and needs to be fixed.

**4. Item 6 – Road issues across the Shire**

Greg Piper passed on thanks to guys working for last couple of weeks but some things had not been done. Greg questioned Council policy to not seek consultation with road users and suggested that Council workers should contact local road users and residents before coming to work on the road.

DTS advised that recent work was emergency work and more work to be done. Best to talk to the supervisor rather than the grader operator.

**ACTION:** DTS to investigate work that has not been addressed and put it into the schedule.

**5. Item 10 – evacuation centres – has evacuation sign been erected on Bowen oval?**

DTS advised Council only signposts assembly areas rather than evacuation centres and the sign is at the site.

Mayor Ambrose Doolan, Cr Peter Shinton, Roger Bailey (GM) and Leeanne Ryan (DEDS) entered the meeting.

**COMMUNITY MATTERS**

**6. Roads reclassification - Request for Vinegaroy road back to State government ownership.**

DTS advised the state Government is reviewing management of 15000km of local government managed roads. Some local roads may be reclassified to regional roads and regional roads reclassified to state roads with a transfer of responsibility from Local Government to State. There has not been a lot of feedback. At the moment a submission has been made on Black stump way and Tooraweenah Road.

**ACTION:** Council to consider Vinegaroy Road as a potential road for reclassification.

**7. Jump the Stump Skate Park**

Katie Burgess advised attendees that the DA will be finalised over the next weeks and asked for:

- financial assistance in the budget for shortfall of funds for the project.
- Is the best location still Bowen Oval where it will be on top of the sewer line?
- Can we shift the location slightly towards the road and gain car spaces by creating a space in the centre?

NOTE: Members of the Committee met with Cr Doolan, GM and DTS on site after the meeting.

**ACTION:** DTS to provide plan options for location of skate park for consideration by Bowen Oval Committee.

**8. Bowen Oval Storage Shed –In previous budget, money was allocated for a storage shed for Bowen Oval but was dropped and nothing in the current draft. The oval is getting a lot of usage and needs more storage.**

Cr Capel advised Community to make a budget submission.

**9. Sal Edwards for CDDG – Main Street Defibrillator WSC Shire Wide Audit/Plan - for facilities in all towns.**

Community wants plan to establish these in each of Communities in the Shire and investigate the need of a centralised unit on each main street.

Sarah Edwards of NSW Ambulance Service spoke about defibrillator statistics. Sarah offered defibrillator training to the community.

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Cr Capel suggested the potential for the matter to be brought up with the health enquiry.

GM and Mayor are scheduled to be meet with local health district to discuss options for defibrillators in all Shire towns.

**10. Northern approach to Coolah**

Could we put in an earlier warning sign on approach to 50km zone to reduce speed of vehicles and trucks coming down the hill for road safety.

**ACTION:** DTS to again take issue to the traffic committee meeting.

**11. Rec Grounds Entrance**

Community suggest widening of the culvert to allow access to avoid vehicles crossing to the opposite side of the road and a Slipway opposite the driveway

**12. Community Coordinator Program**

Community are fearful of losing coordinator funding and described benefits of the program and how much it is valued by community.

GM advised that the program is in the draft budget.

**COUNCIL UPDATES AND INFORMATION**

**13. Commercial Recycling**

DEDS advised that as of 30 June 2021, Council will cease the current service using wool packs due to WHS and cost issues. New service will be fortnightly via wheelie bin. Additional yellow lidded bins can be purchased at \$110 per bin.

**14. Budget 2021/22**

CFO referred to the draft budget which was adopted by Council on 15 April 2021 and is:

- currently on exhibition and open for comment via the “Have Your Say” page on Council website or via mail.
- it can be viewed on Council Website or Council offices in Coonabarabran and Coolah.
- there is a 3 part operational plan and a revenue policy which includes fees and charges:
  - 2% increase in General rates + catch up of below 1%
  - increase to water charges by 15%
  - increase to sewerage charge by 5%
  - increase to waste charge 2%

Budget summary page requested by Greg Piper.

**ACTION:** DCCS to investigate releasing a budget summary page for rate payers information in an easy to read format.

**15. Donations Guidelines**

GM advised that at last Council meeting there was a resolution to review the Donations policy and guidelines before the next round of Community Financial Assistance Donations in August. A draft policy will be available for comment.

Community asked for consultation to occur before the draft is created.

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**ACTION:** DCCS consultation with Community to occur before the creation of the donations policy and guidelines draft.

**16. Upcoming Council Elections**

GM advised that these are scheduled for the first Saturday in September this year and were delayed due to COVID-19 pandemic last year resulting in a 3 year term for the next Council. Council will be running workshops in Dunedoo 15 June and Coonabarabran 16 June for potential candidates and will be run by former Mayor of Lismore Council Jenny Dowell. Prior registration is required.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**17. Council meetings in Coolah - when will meetings can be held in Coolah again?**

GM advised that a technology issue is limiting the location of meetings. Council recording and streaming issues currently exist and money in the budget to fix current issues.

Elly Cook requested that agenda items be announced so people at home watching could follow meeting effectively or content window be displayed.

**18. Renewable Energy Zone – Orana Region – Request for information to be communicated as it becomes available.**

**ACTION:** Any information available on the Renewable Energy Zone to be communicated with Community members

**19. Return and Earn at Coolah Depot – Why was this not approved?**

DEDS advised that Council runs depots in Coonabarabran and Dunedoo for a Tomra Cleanaway and when she requested a site for Coolah, they rejected it.

**ACTION:** DEDS to enquire with Tomra Cleanaway the reason as to why a recycling site in Coolah had been rejected.

Mayor Ambrose Doolan thanked attendees for coming and declared the meeting closed.

**Meeting closed at 7:25pm**