

**MINUTES OF THE COOLAH COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING HELD IN  
COOLAH COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY  
11 APRIL 2022 COMMENCING AT 5.30PM**

---

**PRESENT:** Cr Kathy Rindfleish, Cr Denis Todd, Cr Dale Hogden, Cr Carlton Kopke, Cr Jason Newton, Roger Bailey (General Manager), Gary Murphy (Director Technical Services) Leanne Ryan (Director of Environment and Development Services), Suzanne Currey (Minute Taker), Leonie Hutchinson (Coolah Lions Club), Quinton Hutchison (Coolah Lions Club), Susan Kelly, A. L. Caper, Marnie Robertson, Margaret Vale, Eleanor Cook (Coolah Development Group), Sally Edwards, Carol Richardson, David Darch, Gail Molloy, Neville Kelly, Geoff McMillan, Edward Miller (Coolah Common Trust), Gregory Piper.

**APOLOGIES:** Cr Ambrose Doolan (Mayor), Cr Zoe Holcombe, Jilly Arnott.

**INTRODUCTION:**

Cr Kathy Rindfleish welcomed attendees to the meeting and thanked them for attending. General Manager Roger Bailey also welcomed and thanked attendees for attending.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING WEDNESDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2021**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**COMMUNITY MATTERS**

**1. Coolah Lions Club garden beside light pole McMaster Park (Leonie Hutchison)**

Coolah Lions Club had obtained grant money to the value of \$500.00 to purchase plants and beautify garden beds around the light. Purchasing and planting occurring in the Spring of 2020 due to the prevailing drought. Native plants were selected due to drought tolerance and were tendered and watered. Council purchased a watering system for around the light which was managed by a phone app system. Over Christmas break the garden bed had dried out considerably causing the demise of 23 plants with 3 left struggling. The garden remains in a dry state and requires watering. There was an issue of plants being stolen, however only a couple of plants had been stolen.

GM apologised.

**ACTION:** DTS to investigate appropriate maintenance of McMaster Park gardens.

**2. Coolah Tourist Park and Home Base Flooding (Susan Kelly)**

Susan Kelly thanked all present for attending the meeting and stated that 8 persons to represent Home Base. Susan Kelly raised concern of Home Base residents specifically of Frog Hollow and the River (Coolahburragundy) as she believed the River was now much larger and stock has also trampling plants on the river banks. Even rain of 40mls or more would now create flooding since the 26 of November (2021) flooding. During the November flooding homes were lost and damage to others. The River is not maintained. Willows have fallen down blocking the River and accumulating logs and debris coming down the river. Debris knocked a house off its foundations. Council is responsible for a blocked drain which is clogged causing water to flood the Park. Susan Kelly requested that Council apply for a grant to clean out debris in the River and reduce flooding. Flooding at Home Base was coming under buildings causing damage. Council should obtain permission to clean the River and drains.

GM thanked Susan Kelly.

DEDS responded that the area mentioned by Susan Kelly has historically been a flood prone area. The water under houses can be expected. Other homes were built before consent was given.

DEDS said that permission given as flood water does not enter homes. It is not Council's business who buys and sells property. Applications are submitted by the owner of the land.

**ACTION:** DTS to investigate the condition of town drains leading to the Coolaburragundy River.

## **COUNCIL UPDATES AND INFORMATION**

### **3. Budget**

GM advised on Public Exhibition and written submissions close April 19, 2022.

### **4. Community Strategic Plan**

GM advised on Public Exhibition and written submissions close April 19, 2022.

Concerns were raised that the CSP lacks content and lacks specific detail to community, it is a generic plan. There was also a lack of reference to Coolah.

GM Council would welcome formal submissions in relation to the CSP and other documents on display.

### **5. Public Lands Planning Proposal**

DEDS advised Council is proposing to re-classify the Baradine Aerodrome and Baradine Sewerage Treatment Plant from Community and Operational land. A report will be prepared and placed on Public Exhibition and a Public Forum will be held.

Community Land being reclassified to operational land e.g. water treatment works.

Council was thanked for public display.

Concern was raised about the language used in Council documents.

GM The language is often governed by legislation.

Concerns were raised about Plans and Policies on the Council website.

**ACTION:** DCCS to review the display of Council Policies and Plans to one common webpage.

Concern was raised about the Disability Inclusion Action Plan.

GM The Plan is currently under review and Council can not commit to a date at this stage.

### **6. Illegal Dumping**

DEDS advised to report illegal dumping via RID Online. Reporting through the site allows for photos to be uploaded and GPS tagged.

Ted Miller advised that he notified Council regularly regarding illegal dumping in the common. Council is not interested in the Common Report and issues identified in report.

DEDS The Common is not Council jurisdiction but the road side is different.

Illegal activity should be reported to Police on 131444 number or on the dumping app.

GM Council has identified offenders and fines are issued and persons responsible ordered to clean up rubbish.

#### **7. Update on the Storm Damage situation to the Council Road Network**

DTS Process of council road damage, damage to 2,513 Kms of road network over 400 kms severely damaged. Estimated value of repair 8 million dollars. Council emergency response flood restoration work is only to restore to pre-flood condition. For example a causeway washed away in the flood can not be replaced with a culvert or bridge. Independent contractors have been engaged to assess the extent of the damage. It will take two years to complete road repairs. Northern flooding has also affected local funding. With deluges falling constantly which is also impacting on roads. Use smart phones to record damaged roads. The GPS will log damage and keep information available. In Baradine, road crews remaining to complete works and not jumping from one job to another.

Complaints were made about Vinegory Road that was full of pot holes causing vehicles to swerve.

Carol Richards that is not our Shire that is actually Upper Hunter Shire.

GM Council has been applying for funding and doing the necessary works to its roads.

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

#### **8. Budget Submissions**

Sally Edwards requested that the Budget Submission form stay online through out the year to make it easier for submissions. The Bomera Cemetery Fence was damaged by branches falling onto the fence.

#### **9. VPA**

Greg Piper Renegotiation of the VPA development modification response?

DEDS Council has responded about community representation.

Eleanor Cook VPA regarding the money coming into the community. The number of windmills is dropping, as a result the VPA renegotiated. The number of windmills is less but they are much larger, therefore the impacts are higher for our community. VPA represented as these developments took place, submitting modifications. Council to put forward our community concerns.

#### **10. Council Annual Donations and Financial Assistance**

Carol Richards Regarding Annual donations and Rate rebates. Submissions should be made easier for Churches and not for profit organisations. Issue is ongoing is Council to follow up.

#### **11. Renewable Energy Zone**

Eleanor Cook Impact of renewable energy zone on our community. We should have a community portal for feed back and consultation. Coolah is completely bypassed.

We should have a permanent portal. Community has no access to stored renewable energy zone, community should have a battery for supply of cheaper power.

**12. Coolah Silos**

Eleanor Cook who owns the off-leash dog zone and the reserve where the Silos are. The land where the driver survivor stop is located is strewn with waste and rubbish.

**13. Footpath**

Ted Miller the foot path is damaged and roots have come up through the pathing near the Shire Hall (Library).

**14. Coolah Common**

Ted Miller The Common has signs at the Neilrex End but not at the entrance (Coolah End) 'Unfenced Road. Beware of Stock'. The entrance to common requires a sign.

**15. Disabled Toilets**

Carol Richards Coolah Disabled Toilets. Extra space to be provided for Coolah Development Group storage room. Discussed other space availability, no other storage space available to the group.

**16. Coolaburragundy River, Frogs Hollow**

Susan Kelly Who is responsible for the River, when is the next meeting.

**17. Turee Gate**

Ted Miller said security gate engineer said was unsafe. I spoke with Turee regarding moving the sign. Turee owner arranged for sign to be taken down and repaired. New sign is now up at the front entrance of Turee, which is not dangerous and at no cost to Council.

GM thank you and please write to Council with the details.

**18. Town Entry Signs**

Eleanor Cook Signage budget obtained by the Development Group for the town entrance signs, incorporating in planning and the consistency of town signs.

Cr Rindfleish thanked all for coming.

**There being no further business, meeting was closed 7:18pm**