

MINUTES OF THE COOLAH COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING HELD AT COOLAH COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY 29 OCTOBER 2018 COMMENCING AT 5:30PM

PRESENT: Cr Denis Todd (Mayor), Cr Ray Lewis, Cr Ambrose Doolan, Cr Wendy Hill, Cr Peter Shinton, Cr Anne-Louise Capel, Katie Burges, Eric Beer, Rodney Parker-Wright, Eleanor Cook, Michael White, Jenny Auld, Greg Auld, Rick Squire, Sal Edwards, Margaret Vale, Quinton Hutchinson, Leonie Hutchinson, Kathy Rindfleish, Noel Gilbert, Richard Tanner, Dick Gardiner, Ted Miller, Carol Richard, Joan Schiemer, Ron Gilles, Roger Bailey (General Manager), Leeanne Ryan (Director Development Services), Kevin Tighe (Director Technical Services), Louise Johnson (Acting Director Corporate & Community Services), Claudia Westoby (Minutes)

APOLOGIES: Cr Kodi Brady, Cr Aniello Iannuzzi (Deputy Mayor), Cr Fred Clancy

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Terms of Reference for the Community Consultation Meetings were provided to attendees. Terms of Reference have been endorsed by Council.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Community Consultation Meeting held in Coolah on Monday, 26 March 2018 were discussed. Minutes were tabled at the May 2018 Council and are on Council's website.

BUSINESS ARISING

There was no Business Arising from the previous meeting.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

Uarbry Cemetery Fence

Concerns were raised about the replacement of the fence at the Uarbry cemetery. Councils Director Development Services indicated Council are looking for funding to complete this work.

Action: Director Development Services to investigate funding for replacement of Uarbry cemetery fence.

Swimming Pool Hours – School Holidays

Attendees raised concerns that children are swimming in the river due to limited opening hours at the local pool. It was asked whether or not the pool could open for some additional hours, particularly in the School Holidays.

Action: Council to consider additional open hours, in particular in School Holidays.

Men's Shed

A local resident advised Council that they are looking to re-open the Coolah Men's Shed. It was requested that Council provide assistance with this. The resident was asked to get in contact with Councils Acting Director Corporate and Community Services in relation to this.

Driver Reviver

A local resident commended Council on work completed near the Driver Reviver in Coolah.

Jump the Stump (Skate Park) Committee

An update on the Jump the Stump (Skate Park) Committee was provided. It was requested that Council provide contacts to assist with the development of this facility. The Committee Representative was advised that all directorates within Council would need to assist with different aspects of the project. The Committee was encouraged to make contact with relevant Directors as required.

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Signage – Exhaust Breaks

Council was advised that residents at Coolah Home Base are subject to a lot of noise from exhaust breaks. Council were requested to consider the installation of signage in relation to this. Council advised that this would need to be raised at the Traffic Committee Meeting.

Action: Director Technical Services to table installation of signage at the Traffic Committee Meeting.

Drought & Fire Hazard

A resident provided comment on the current drought and raised concerns regarding a fire hazard at the local waste depot.

Action: Director Development Services to investigate potential fire hazard at the Coolah Waste Depot.

Feedlots

Concerns were raised by a resident regarding local feedlots. Council's Director Development Services informed the community that if the query is in relation to a feedlot development application that is currently on exhibition, then there was an opportunity for submissions to be made on the proposal. At present the proposal has been referred to the State Government for comments.

Land and Water Rates

A resident enquired as to why land and water rates increased so much this financial year. Council advised that land rates increased as per rate pegging set by the State Government. Water rates increased by 15% to ensure that Council is able to cover costs of providing water services across the Shire.

COOLAH DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Cycle path – fencing and landscaping

Council was thanked for the works on the cycle path. The Coolah District Development Group would now like Council to consider some further works including fencing, landscaping and installation of equipment including seats and activity stations. Council's Director Technical Services indicated he will conduct a site investigation in relation to these proposals.

Action: Director Technical Services to conduct a site investigation in relation to these proposals and liaise with Coolah District Development Group.

Extension of Pathway to the Recreation Grounds

Discussion took place regarding the extension of the pathway to the Coolah Recreation Grounds. It was requested that a letter be sent to Council to request assistance and support from Council to advocate for the closing of the railway.

Budget Item Submissions – Response

Concerns were raised about people not receiving responses in relation to external budget submissions submitted for the 2018/19 budget. Council acknowledged that responses were not provided in 2018 and committed to providing responses in the future.

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Hall Hire Fees

Concerns were raised regarding the hall hire fees being charged for Pandora Gallery. It was noted that volunteers run Pandora Gallery as well as provide tourist information. It was noted that currently the volunteers are being asked to pay an annual fee of \$550. Councils Director Development Services committed to investigating this matter.

Action: Director Development Services to investigate the charging of hall hire fees for Pandora Gallery.

Long Vehicle Parking

Director Technical Services provided an update on the installation of signage to indicate where long vehicle parking is available in Coolah. It was indicated that some further clarification regarding exact areas might still be required. Director Technical Services will continue working with the Roads and Maritime Service (RMS) and the Coolah District Development in relation to this.

Mobile Phone Reception Audit

It was suggested that Council needs to look into undertaking a mobile phone reception audit across the Shire. The Director Development Services advised that Council has participated in recent Black Spot Program surveys and has also made a submission in relation to this. It was requested that the submission(s) be provided to the Coolah District Development Group for their information.

Action: Director Development Services to provide copy of submission(s) to Coolah District Development Group.

Sir Ivan Fire Inquest

Meeting attendees were provided with an update on the Coronial Inquest in to the Sir Ivan Fire. Attendees were advised if they would like further information in relation to this to contact Sarah Thompson from NSW Farmers.

Kids Cycle Park

It was note that this item was addressed earlier in the meeting – Jump the Stump (Skate Park) Committee.

Land Zoning

A question was asked regarding changes with land zoning and whether or not Council has notified residents affected by the Sunset Clause in the Local Environment Plan. Director Development Services indicated that letters had been sent but that new letters will be sent which include plainer language. It was also noted that communication will take place with the community in relation to this when appropriate.

Action: Director Development Services to organise distribution of revised letters.

COUNCIL UPDATES AND INFORMATION

Stronger Country Communities Fund – Round 2

Acting Director Corporate & Community Services provided feedback in relation to projects funded under Round 2 of the Stronger Country Communities Fund, noting that Coolah will be receiving funding for lighting at Bowen Oval. Director Technical Services advised that a tender for this project has been released.

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Financial Assistance Donations

Acting Director Corporate & Community Services advised attendees that Round One Councils 2018/19 Financial Assistance Donations are now open with applications closing on Friday, 23 November 2018.

Drought Communities Programme – Extension

Acting Director Corporate & Community Services provided an update on funding being provided under the Drought Communities Programme – Extension. Concerns were raised by members of the community about the Community Survey. It was noted that the Community Survey closes on Saturday, 3 November 2018, and a proposal will be considered by Council at the November Council Meeting being held on Thursday, 15 November 2018.

GENERAL BUSINESS

McMaster Park

An update was provided in relation to upcoming works at McMaster Park. Concerns were also raised about the placement of signs service gates not entry gates. Council were requested to move the signs to the entry gate.

Action: Director Technical Services to arrange for the signs to be moved to the entry gate.

Chamber of Commerce

An update was provided on the recently established Chamber of Commerce.

Water Quality

Concerns were raised regarding the quality of drinking water. Attendees were advised that a report has recently been considered by Council in relation to this matter. Attendees were also advised that the drinking water is regularly tested and meets the drinking water standards. Council will continue to seek funding for works as funding becomes available.

Goddard Street

It was noted that works have not yet been fully completed in Goddard Street. Discussion took place regarding further extension of these works. Feedback was noted in relation to potential extension of this work.

Stand Pipes

Council was asked whether or not they are providing free water to the community, as per other Council's in the region. Attendees were advised that Council is not yet providing free water but this could be considered in the future under certain conditions. Residents were advised that Council does have a standpipe at the Coolah depot.

Bomera Cemetery Maintenance

Council was asked what, if anything, was happening in relation to Bomera Cemetery. Director Development Services advised that Council had been looking in to grant funding for the cemetery and this needs to be followed up.

Action: Director Development Services to look in to funding for Bomera Cemetery.

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Coolah Central School Celebrations

Council was advised that Coolah Central School celebrations would be taking place in November. It was requested that public toilets be open on the weekend the celebrations are taking place and mowing take place prior to the weekend.

Action: Director Technical Services to ensure mowing takes place as required and toilets are open.

Recycling bins

It was requested that Council consider installation of recycling bins at all Council facilities.

Action: Director Technical Services to consider installation of recycling bins at Council facilities.

Drains in Town

It was requested that Council investigate and, where required, clean out drains in town before the next large rain event.

Action: Director Technical Services to investigate and, where required, clean out drains in town before the next large rain event.

Main Street Trees

Discussion took place regarding trees in the Main Street. It was noted that a number of trees have been replaced recently however the tree out the front of the Council office still needed to be replaced.

Action: Director Technical Services to investigate replacement of the tree out the front of the Council Office.

Moorefield Road

Concerns were raised regarding access along Moorefield Road, especially in the event of an emergency. Council committed to looking in to this matter. Further concerns were also raised in relation traffic hazards on this road, including ramps.

Action: Director Technical Services to investigate access and traffic hazards along Moorefield Road.

Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund

Council were asked about plans for funding being provided under the Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund. Council advised that they are waiting for further information and guidelines in relation to this funding.

Water Rates

Council were asked about whether or not they can reconsider the recent increase in water rates and whether or not there is any concessions for pensioners. Council reiterated that the rise was necessary to fund ongoing costs in relation to the provision of water. Council also advised that there are Pensioner Concessions available.

State and Federal Government Elections

A suggestion was put forward regarding the hosting of a candidate forum in the lead up to the State and Federal Government elections. Council indicated they would consider this.

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Mountain Side Road.

A resident enquired as to when this road would be graded.

Action: Director Technical Services to investigate and provide feedback.

Swimming Pool

Further suggestions were discussed around increasing access to the swimming pool, including the provision of keys to families.

MEETING CLOSED: 7:30PM
