

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

PRESENT: Cr Ambrose Doolan (Mayor), Cr Denis Todd, Cr Peter Shinton, Cr Kodi Brady, Cr Ray Lewis, Cr Anne-Louise Capel, Cr Wendy Hill Roger Bailey (General Manager, GM), LEEANNE RYAN (Director Environment & Development Services, DEEDS), Gary Murphy (Acting Director Technical Services A/DTS), Shereena Tattersall (Minutes), Carol Richard, Kathy Rindfleish, Leonie Hutchison, Quinton Hutchison, Greg Piper, Eleanor Cook, Carlton Kopke, Margaret Vale, Cleon Pearson, Pat Pearson, Angus McDonald.

APOLOGIES:

Cr Fred Clancy, Cr Aniello Iannuzzi, Sally Staniforth

INTRODUCTION:

Mayor Ambrose Doolan welcomed attendees to the meeting and introduced Councillors, the General Manager, Director of Environmental Development Services (DEEDS), Acting Director Technical Services (A/DTS), and Minute Taker and outlined how the meeting will be run.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING TUESDAY 4 MAY 2021
BUSINESS ARISING**

Minutes of the Community Consultation Meeting held in Coolah on 3 May 2021 were discussed and members of the community were asked if there were any questions in relation to the previous minutes or action list.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

1. Meet and Greet ADTS and Manager Urban Services – Coolah District Development Group (CDDG)

Eleanor Cook thanked the A/DTS and Manager Urban Services for the meet and greet, and handover from Kevin Tighe. Eleanor stated it was important to establish relationships with new staff members.

2. Director Corporate and Community Services Update – CDDG

GM advised the Director Corporate and Community Services position is currently filled by Kim Parker and he is on leave, and any contact with Council should be handled as per normal and the correspondence will be assigned to the relevant staff member.

3. MOU for Community Development Coordinator – CDDG

GM apologised in regards to the expired MOU and advised part payment of the funding has been made. The position is budgeted for \$25,000. During the next budget process, submissions will be sought for feedback.

4. Screening of Depot – CDDG

GM advised there is currently no money in the budget for screening of the depot.

A/DTS advised that there are other solutions that can be considered through the use of other services such as projects with the schools and Land Care.

5. Linton Bridge – CDDG

A/DTS advised that an inspection of the bridge was undertaken on 10 November

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2019. It was reported as structurally sound and in very good condition. In regards, to the painting of the bridge that would need to be considered in future budgets and/or funding sought, as a plan in place due to the protocols around the disposal of the paint.

A/DTS advised that some short-term maintenance could be arranged.

Cr Capel advised that she has been speaking with Macquarie County Council regarding the blackberry management and is still waiting advice from the Weeds Officer.

6. Hailstorm Damage – CDDG

Members of the community thanked Council for replacing the heritage windows so quickly after the storm.

A/DTS advised an insurance assessor has visited affected sites and will compile a report.

GM advised temporary repairs have been put into place.

7. Trees at Council Carpark behind Chambers/Library – CDDG

A/DTS advised Manager Urban Services inspected pole.

ACTION: A/DTS to approach Essential Energy for clarification on how owns the pole, if it can be relocated or the trees trimmed neatly.

8. Street and Shared Streets Program – CDDG

CDDG are interested in the EOI for the streets and shared spaces program.

9. Grants Officer Position – CDDG

GM advised that a Grants Officer position was noted in the budget however it did not pass the budget process. Council outsources a grants officer as required and will apply for future funding if applicable.

10. Policy reviews, are better communicated to the community – CDDG

GM advised community consultation meetings are used to gain information and listen to concerns from community members. Council provide updates at the end of the meeting for community members, however the agenda is focused on community-based items. The updates Council provides at the meetings is based on the information available at the time. The Customer Service Charter was on public exhibition longer than a required.

11. More Content from Council at the Community Consultation Meeting – CDDG

CDDG would like to see more content from Council at the community consultation meetings.

12. Pools – Kathy Rindfleish

Kathy Rindfleish raised concerns of the state of the pool water upon opening for the season.

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A/DTS advised that the maintenance during the off season was not up to scratch and apologised. The matter is being dealt with at present and there are number of improvements being put into place so it does not happen again.

GM advised that all pool attendants are trained prior to commencement of employment.

13. Drainage Issues, Cameron Place – Leonie Hutchinson

A/DTS advised staff inspected Cameron Place cul-de-sac and the proposed work will need to go through the budget process.

14. Questions for the GM – Greg Piper

Regarding improvements to the way Council communicates and borrowing money to maintain the road network.

Discussion was had between GM and Greg Piper and no specifics of examples were presented for GM to answer.

GM advised that councils should not be borrowing to maintain roads. Also the examples provided by Mr Piper were Councils who received income from mining companies.

GM advised that staff do consult with landholders on certain projects.

A/DTS confirmed staff have been consulting with landholders especially regarding roads.

15. Feed Lot DA – Mount Mill – Eleanor Cook

Eleanor Cook raised concerns that the information supplied for the Feedlot is incorrect and there are errors in the document.

GM advised that residents who attended the last Council meeting were given the option to meet with DEDES today for an onsite inspection and have the option to speak on the matter at the next council meeting.

DEDES advised that Council is guided by the EPA on certain matters and the application process is per the required guidelines (this item was discussed after item 11).

Angus McDonald, Cleon Pearson and Pat Pearson left meeting 6:19pm

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COUNCIL UPDATES AND INFORMATION

16. Vacant Land

Cr Todd raised a motion to put the word out for vacant blocks to be put on the market if applicable.

DEDS advised that minimum block size requirements and categorisations are determined by the LEP.

Greg Piper raised the possibility of creating a work camp at Queensborough Park for the upcoming windfarm project.

DEDS advised it is not gazette for a work camp.

GM advised he has raised the accommodation issue with other projects in the area such as Inland Rail.

- 17. Elections:** GM advised that Nomination for the upcoming local government elections closed today at 12noon, and there are 17 nominations from across the Shire. The election will take place on Saturday 4 December 2021, voting is compulsory and pre-poll and postal votes are available.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- 18.** Eleanor Cook raised concerns that Coolah do not have any doctors at present.

GM advised the Health Service Manager contacted him today to advise the Health Service will be advertising for a locum and the ED have processes in place for patients with medical needs.

ACTION: GM will follow up with the Health Service about communication to the community on the current medical situation at the hospital.

- 19.** Leonie Hutchison sought clarification on the Lion's Club DA in regards to signage.

DEDS advised their building needed its own sign for the finalisation of the DA and would speak with Leonie after the meeting.

- 20.** Cr Capel raised concerns over the need for a COVID Plan for future oval bookings and events.

GM advised the process is the same as hall bookings.

- 21.** Kathy Rindfleish would like an update regarding the rocks out the front of the school.

ACTION: A/DTS to follow up with staff.

- 22.** Greg Piper commended Council on the filling of pot holes.

- 23.** Leonie Hutchinson would like to see future Council meetings alternated between Coolah and Coonabarabran.

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GM advised that would be a decision for the new Council.

Cr Doolan thanked everyone for their attendance and congratulated outgoing Councillors Capel and Hill for their work and efforts over the previous term.

There being no further business, meeting was closed 7:12pm.