

MINUTES OF THE COOLAH COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING HELD AT COOLAH COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY 16 March 2020 COMMENCING AT 5:30PM

PRESENT: Mayor Denis Todd, Cr Anne-Louise Capel, Cr Wendy Hill, Cr Fred Clancy, Cr Peter Shinton, Roger Bailey (General Manager), Kevin Tighe (Director Technical Services), Kim Parker (Director Corporate and Community Services), Cornelia Wiebels (Manager Warrumbungle Water), Ken Stratton (Manager Regulatory Services – MRS), Kira Alexander (Minutes), Carol Richard, Chrys Kelly, Greg Piper, , Margaret Vale, Noel Gilbert, Rodney Parker-Wright, Richard Tanner, Sal Edwards, Sally Staniforth, Ted Miller, Tom Maxwell.

APOLOGIES: Cr Aniello Iannuzzi (Deputy Mayor), Cr Kodi Brady, Cr Ray Lewis, Cr Ambrose Doolan, Leeanne Ryan (Director Environment Development Services, DEDS), Katie Burgess, Quinton Hutchinson, Leonie Hutchinson, Kathy Rindfleish, Jill White

INTRODUCTION

Mayor Denis Todd welcomed attendees to the meeting and introduced the General Manager (GM), the Director Technical Services (DTS), the Director Corporate and Community Services (DCCS), the Manager of Warrumbungle Water (MWW), the Manager Regulatory Services (MRS)

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Community Consultation Meeting held in Coolah on Monday, 4 November 2019 were discussed. Minutes were tabled at the December 2019 Council meeting and were sent out to attendees of the November meeting as well as being available on Council's website.

BUSINESS ARISING

Margaret Vale asked to make a correction to the minutes in Community matters item 1 it is noted that Margaret "stated that calcium carbonate is not seen as a health problem". Margaret corrected this saying that she stated "that it does not appear to be treated as a health problem by Council".

COMMUNITY MATTERS

1. Community asked for an update on the Bollards at the top of the block in Binnia Street, near the Top Pub

DTS advised that Council was planning to replace bollards with concrete before Easter.

2. Noel Gilbert provided a report on the new VRA facility in Martin Street, stating:

- The new building VRA facility is complete and is in a state of operational readiness
- The VRA have a greater response capability now and share cooperation with RFS to deliver quality service to the town into the future.
- Thank you to all the councilors for support in this project.

A Community member stated that there is still a lot to be done before the facility is fully operational.

3. Noel Gilbert - Coolah Youth and Community Centre – plans to make it a shared facility?

- Historical society wants to defer discussion pending outcomes from the May meeting.

GM stated that Council has been successful in the drought communities funding application to upgrade the facility; however, it hasn't been publicly announced as yet.

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4. Noel Gilbert - Provision of disabled parking in Binnia Street Eastern side.

Noel Stated that:

- It has been over 12 months since it was first brought to a Community Consultation meeting.
- Since that time, there has been Increased usage of parking facilities in the main street
- Any part of the day, 5 days a week is parked out to capacity with only 1 disabled spot.

DTS advised that:

- After a lengthy consultation process with the traffic committee, a design has been decided on.
- Due to new regulations, the 1 disabled carpark will take up 2-3normal parking spaces.
- The proposal will be advertised and funds will need to be sourced to build it

GM advised that we must comply with new standards and they have changed since last one was built, that is why it has taken so long to find the design.

COUNCIL UPDATES AND INFORMATION

1. Community financial assistance donations and Annual donations

DCCS advised that application forms available for both, details are in the guidelines attached to the forms. Guidelines are straight out of the adopted Council policy.

2 Budget 2020-2021 update

DCCS advised that:

- First workshop is this coming Wednesday where council will review and make recommendations.
- In April, a draft budget will be released with submissions being sought. Council will consider the submissions as part of the process.
- Council elections are to happen in September and the strategic plan will be newly adopted after this time. The Community Strategic plan will be then due for review and is about forming a vision for shire and community for at least 10 years and will include a new 4 year Delivery Program.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Janelle – Coolah Historical Arts Tourism Subcommittee (CHATS) is a subcommittee of Coolah District and Development Group.

- The aim is to expose the Coolah community and visitors to different arts and crafts
- Most volunteers are retired people.
- Out of 23 volunteers, there are health issues so there are often shortages in staff at the gallery.
- CHATS are not for profit organization offering a service to the shire for free but keep getting a bill for \$500 for hiring the hall.
- Will WSC wave the fee as we are providing a service to the shire.
- We would like to thank Jo Houghton for being a valuable source of artist contacts and energy.
- We have wish list to improve and promote gallery and information to public and the Lions club is assisting us.
- The garden outside the building is in disrepair. We would like to revamp the garden with a

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replica of the black stump, surrounded by rock and hardy plants. It is a plan

Action:-DTS to follow up garden project

Action- DCCS to investigate fee waiver for use of the hall.

2. Greg Piper – Rural aid workshops – Thanked WSC Staff, Mayor and a number of Councillors for attendance and participation at the Rural Aid Workshops over the week and what has followed from them. It covered a lot of improvements for the community.

3. Greg Piper referred to the communication of plans on display

- At the end of last February, Council released 2 draft plans. Community participation plan & Community liaison.
- Why were Community not flagged at these meetings or sent to us for comment as they are important documents talking about how Council communicates with community.
- The current process used is top heavy and requires more involvement during the development process from community. This was highlighted with the windfarm planning document. The community was excluded in conversations between Council and the developer. The document undermined the workings of the community consultative committee. This needs to be avoided in the future as we don't want to waste my time.

GM stated that the process was dictated to us by the NSW Department of Planning and we were not allowed to include community in the process as we have to follow the process.

Community member asked: Can council suggest that the community be included in the process?

MRS stated that we have to abide by the governing body's guidelines. Anything of state significance is out of our hands with these developments and advised that there is a public consultation meeting coming up.

GM suggested that the community raise concerns with local member

4. Greg Piper - Emergency disaster zone sign for Bowel Oval (Place of last resort/Emergency muster sign)

Advised that they wrote to Council in February to communicate to residents where meeting points are so they know where to go in an emergency as:

- More information needs to be displayed so people know the process.
- Locals may know but visitors and tourists don't .
- If communication is severed, at least people know where to go.
- There must be a sign to advise communities about emergency muster point if technology is not available.
- Sign can be placed at Council or library so easily accessible to all community.

Action: DTS to look into signs for town centre and Bowen Oval

Action: Be provided a hard copy of emergency plans need to be available at the sporting club including a list of relevant contacts, emergency plan.

Action: DTS to discuss options for an evacuation centre to be established.at next meeting.

5. Fire risk at the northern part of Coolah,

Western side of Coolah near the hospital, and associated and that no buffer or vehicle access along the border exists. Not sure who is responsible for this?

DTS advised that near the water reservoir is private land. The issue will be discussed at the bushfire management committee meeting.

- The RFS is responsible for putting it into the plan.
- Crown lands need to do their own plan.
- If crown land adjoins an asset then it may not be included in the bushfire management plan.
- Council land is included in the plan. Treated area is mostly on private lands.
- There is a concern about the western end. It needs to be identified as an **APZ** and it will then be put into a management plan and a treatment assigned to it.

Action: DTS to address issue at bushfire management committee meeting

6. Recent flood damage to roads – what has happened with funding?

GM advised that \$1.34mil has been put in as a claim with the state government two weeks ago and we must wait for approval before we can do some of the work

DTS advised that a state of disaster needs to be declared and damage is currently being logged and is in process but the rules have changed recently. If the work is deemed as 'Betterment' to mitigate risks then it is unlikely to get funding.

7. Water cascade to the caravan park from Vinegaroy Road, causing damage.

The fence and concrete that got put there by the caravan park has blocked to the natural water course. Is this area on the list?

DTS advised that it is on the list to investigate and a big issue that cannot be resolved quickly but we need a direction as the waterway has been filled in as part of the caravan park development.

Action: MRS to investigate conditions of development for this site.

8. Disabled ramp outside Council office - drought funding – where is it going?

DTS advised that:

- The concept sketch has been developed.
- At the front of the building the ramp will zig zag toward the library then back.
- The estimate was taken from a quote from a local builder.
- It is a difficult job and needs to be out the front of the building as certain distances need to be achieved which will keep the cost down.

9. Drainage issues, from deluge

Culverts are blocked at the Caravan Park, Goddard Street and Wentworth Avenue. Moorefield Rd is totally blocked. Hopefully Council will get to them soon. Why are the graders centralized?

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GM advised that this happens due to work teams and coordinating staff.

10. Clean up of shared pathway area

- After the floods, there is an awful amount of debris over the road.
- Will council put a stick rake over the road which is full of broadleaf weeds as well?
- We are trying to create planting areas and want council to slash occasionally or remove debris on the area from the river to the treatment works as this is council land and not TSR
- We were looking to fence it off to develop the area.

Action: DTS to inspect and identify what can be done to remove the timber. The larger debris may be able to be picked up with a backhoe.

11. Riverscape/town beautification projects for Council – for the rural aid work. Repainting bollards along the main street as some paint is coming off. We will need to close off half the street at a time so they can paint each side.

Action: DTS to source suitable paint and provide traffic control plan for the work.

12. Carol Richards notes an email from Mr Roy Cameron who advised that there were flood gauges and is asking if the water gauge is still on the Coolaburragundy River?

DTS advised that this was not council responsibility. There are gauging stations that are automatic.

Action: DTS to enquire if gauges are operational.

13. Community member raised an issue for the old historical signs asking:

- Who is responsible if council is not?
- Other historical signs have been pulled down. Why should these signs be removed?
- Does council have a heritage fund to maintain these historical signs?

DTS advised that:

- Signs on road reserves are warning or regulatory.
- Historical signs must be planned so tourists can stop and read the sign. The pullover place needs to meet current safety standards
- Council did not take down the Gonnarock sign but this issue was before the traffic committee and the road safety is the biggest issue with these historical signs when pulling up to read.
- Approval from **TASAC** is needed to install white and brown signs.
- Heritage funding has not been explored as yet and council will not put money into a sign that is not safe.

Greg Piper asked if Council could identify and provide a suitable area for a sign. We can get potentially source funding for the sign.

Action: DTS to identify potential area for a tourist sign.

Greg Piper asked what are the regulations with putting up temporary signs.

Action: MRS to investigate the process and advise

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14. Coolah NSW website – The Info centre has set up a Coolah NSW website with a lot of hits made. If anyone has anyone to advertise, send it in.

Action: Manager Economic Development and Tourism to establish link from Warrumbungle tourism site to Coolah NSW website.

15. New lights through stronger communities - Community member advised that this has been a success. Thank you to Kevin Tighe for coming to the meeting and assisting. Next project is the tennis courts. Waiting on a quote for a new fence and resurfacing of tennis courts.

GM advised that the skate park is getting approved from Stronger Country Communities Fund.

Chris Kelly advised that the Hartwood Country music festival has been cancelled for this year due to the Federal government decree.

MRS advised that the fee will be held over to next year for the festival.

NEXT MEETING

Mayor Denis Todd thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed.

Meeting closed at 7:10pm