

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

PRESENT: Cr Kathy Rindfleish, Cr Denis Todd, Cr Holcombe, Cr Jason Newton, Roger Bailey (General Manager), Gary Murphy (Director Technical Services) Leanne Ryan (Director of Environment and Development Services), Lindsay Mason (Director Corporate and Community Services DCCS), Lisa Grammer (Minute Taker), Sally Edwards, Lee Doyle (CDDG), Jo Murphy, Quinton Hutchinson, Anne-Louise Capel, Margaret Vale, Geraldine O'Connor, Jillie Arnott, Katie Burgess

APOLOGIES: Mayor A Doolan, Cr D Hogden, Cr C Kopke, Cr K Brady, Cr A Iannuzzi, L Hutchinson

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 MONDAY 11 APRIL 2022

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Item 8 – Budget item not listed

COMMUNITY MATTERS

1. EnergyCo/Large Scale Wind and Solar Developers (Sally Edwards)

Accommodation camps – no definite site for the location of such camp. Council prefers that any potential accommodation camps are identified in the EIS, be generally located closer to a community, so communities can benefit economically and with legacy infrastructure.

2. EnergyCo's Scoping Report (Sally Edwards)

DEDS discussed the following points:

- Access fees to connect to the transmission line and the use of these fees for Community Benefit Sharing fund.
- Consultation on the Community Benefit Sharing fund will be undertaken by EnergyCo; and at this stage, EnergyCo are unsure what mechanism or arrangement will be used to managed this fund. Council has had no consultation from EnergyCo on how or when community consultation will be undertaken for the fund.

3. Impacts of large-scale developments and transmission line corridors (Sally Edwards)

There was discussion around REZ related projects such as wind farms and solar farms. Council has been lodging submissions as necessary to each project, including the transmission line.

Council has been using all available avenues to seek an open and transparent process by developers and the State Government. Council has been very proactive and invested a lot of time and resources to examine and respond to EnergyCo and proposed energy generation facilities.

Council advised merit-based objections had been lodged to Valley of the Winds Wind Farm EIS, Liverpool Range Wind Farm Modification Application and other solar farm

developments. Council has raised concerns at every opportunity relating to the cumulative impacts of the REZ as a whole, and is continuing to raise the matter with developers, EnergyCo and the State Government.

Community members expressed division – encouraging Council to network with other councils in relation to supporting community division with development of various projects. GM advised this had been happening already and Council regularly meets with other REZ affected Councils.

4. Youth Development (Sal Edwards)

There was discussion of:

- Stronger Communities Grant funding
- Letters read from Police and school in relation to Youth activities with the increase in graffiti
- Youth Strategic plan 2020-2030

DCCS stated Council has applied to get grant funding for a youth network officer, \$420k funds 2 part time youth officers across the council

Note: Letter tabled at the meeting from the Coolah Central School is attached at the end of the minutes.

5. VPA Update (Coolah District Development Group – CDDG)

Liverpool Range Wind Farm with TILT; will Council be revisiting the VPA arrangements due to the modification application for the project. Council advised this would be pursued, and the matter was included in submission to the modification application when it was exhibited. At this stage, TILT has not entered into any discussions with Council in regards to the VPA renegotiations.

6. Jorrocks Park – fencing (CDDG)

CDDG queried whether there are any plans for fencing Jorrocks Park; stated that people are not using it because its not fenced. The community wants to encourage people to stop in Coolah.

DEDS would need to check if there were any legislative requirements for fencing of off leash dog areas.

DTS suggested there should be a budget submission for the fencing with support from CDDG.

ACTION: DEDS to confirm legislative requirements for fencing of off leash dog areas.

ACTION: DTS to prepare a budget submission for the costs of fencing the off leash area for the 2023/24 Operational Plan.

7. Maintenance of town defibrillators (CDDG)

CDDG queried whether Council can support ongoing maintenance of a defibrillator if placed in the main street.

There was discussion about various agencies such as VRA and RFS that own and maintain defibrillators. It was suggested that CDDG to do further research and perhaps purchase a similar model defibrillator to that of the RFS or VRA to make maintenance easier.

8. Flood damage assessment/ study progress and an early warning system (CDDG)

Funding rounds closed for river. Budget submission for next year.

There was discussion about the need for an early warning flood system and the need for flood gauges to be maintained in working order.

ACTION: DTS to raise Early Warning System at LEMC meeting on 21 November 2022. (subsequent follow up – the 2022 NSW Flood Inquiry has made a number of recommendations about early warning systems which the NSW is considering)

9. Riverwalk Clean up – help needed urgently (CDDG)

CDDG requested:

- Council assistance to clean the debris on river walk.
- Reinstate the lock.
- Requesting a budget for slashing and mowing.

CDDG was encouraged to make an external budget submission.

ACTION: DTS to confirm the land title and road reserve of the Riverwalk.

10. Rural Aid (CDDG)

There was some concern that there was a lack of communication between Council and Rural Aid, and was mentioned have they received any correspondence in way of a thank you.

GM – Council has written and thanked Rural Aid.

To be noted that the community would like better communication between Council and the Aide that is coming to work in our Shire.

Staff advised that a contact point had been assigned for communication with Rural Aid.

11. Presentation of Waste Transfer Station (CDDG)

Concerned with the state of the local Tip – looking untidy.

DEDS advised that the green waste is usually shredded by now. Wet weather has hindered the clean-up, and also the amount of tin coming in has caused tip to be quite full.

CDDG requested repairs to fence, maybe some trees to beautify the area, and signage at the waste transfer station.

ACTION: DEDS to organise repairs to the fence, review signage at the transfer station and investigate the planting of some trees.

COUNCIL UPDATES AND INFORMATION

12. Council Road Network and Natural Disaster Claim(S)

DTS gave an update on Council's road network and natural disaster claims:

- Information available on Council's website.
- Flood events – Natural disaster emergency funding was successful. Spent \$1M.
- Submitted nine packages totalling \$13.6m (including emerging works); only 3 approved so far worth \$1.5M.

- Difficult to get onto the unsealed roads with heavy plant.
- Under funding provisions for natural disasters, Council is only able restore damaged roads to the pre-existing condition.
- The staff live and work in the area and are just as frustrated as the rate payer.
- Council endorsed a prioritisation program for the works on roads.
- Once funding is received council has 2 years to complete works.
- Roads are being damaged on top of previous damage.

S Edwards stated that there was an issue with culverts on unsealed roads before the flooding.

Suggestions that Council put out media suggesting if it is raining to stay home.

Suggest putting the roads maintenance schedule on social media at the start of each week, it is good PR.

Written to Minister – it should be optional to better the structure.

ACTION: DCCS to speak to the communications staff in regards to putting the roads maintenance schedule on Social Media what is happening to take the pressure off staff.

13. Renewable Energy Zone

DEDS gave an update on REZ – there will be more stages of the REZ.

14. Inland Rail

DEDS gave an update on the Inland Rail project:

- Workforce of approx. 2,000.
- Impacts yet to be finalised.
- Our section yet to be approved.

15. Upcoming calls for submissions (external budget submissions, annual donations, community financial assistance donations)

DCCS gave an update on external budget submissions and applications for annual donations, which are currently open. Applications for Community Financial Assistance Donations are opening February 2023.

16. Doing Business with Council

DCCS gave information on Doing Business with Council. Information packs available at the meeting or on Council's website.

17. Australia Day Nominations

GM spoke about Australia Day award nominations, which close 25 November 2022.

GENERAL BUSINESS

18. Stock Fines

New law for stock out \$660 fine – suggested that it be promoted.

19. Coolah aerodrome

DTS advised that the Civil Aviation and Safety Authority (CASA) had changed the rules around certification of airports. Following this Council resolved not to certify Coolah aerodrome and also to review the future of the aerodrome. This was early notice that Council would be consulting with the community about whether the Coolah aerodrome would continue as an aerodrome or be used for another purpose.

20. Town Action Plans

Wants Council to endorse the plans. Looking into incorporating aspects of the plan into Council documents.

21 Streets and shared spaces projects

Jilly Arnott asked for an update on the Streets as Shared Spaces project in Coolah and that a consultative group be formed to give and receive feedback. DTS advised that staff were using the CDDG as that group and Jilly was being consulted as the spokesperson for that group.

Cr Rindfleish thanked all for coming.

There being no further business, meeting was closed 7.20pm