

MINUTES OF THE DUNEDOO COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING HELD AT JUBILEE HALL ON TUESDAY 9 APRIL 2019 COMMENCING AT 5.30PM

PRESENT: Cr Iannuzzi (Deputy Mayor – Chair), Cr Doolan, Cr Hill, Cr Shinton, Roger Bailey (General Manager), Leeanne Ryan (Director Environment and Development Services), Kevin Tighe (Director Technical Services), Kim Parker (Acting Director Corporate and Community Services), Jenni Maundrell (Minutes), Ken Westerman, Dianne Large, Shirley Parker, Veronica Ferns, Sally Dent, Sue Stoddart, John Horne, Margaret Yeo, Janette Johnston, Anne Pitt, Rob Pitt, Peter Colley, Ken Milling, Julie, Stephen Yeo, Jann Stuart, John Stuart, Ian Johnston, Brett Yeo, Jackie Yeo, Ken Warren, Barry Nott, Sue Graham, Ian Jenkins, Linden Ewin, Linda Ewin, Rob Lennon, Matthew Leeson, Karleeta Ryan, David Bowman, Anne Bowman, Annette Bayly, Renae Bayly, Wendy Hill, Norma Gallagher, Anne Chapman, Evelyn Finch

APOLOGIES: Cr Todd (Mayor), Cr Brady, Cr Capel, Cr Clancy, Cr Lewis, Brian Bowman, Pam Bowman

INTRODUCTION

Cr Iannuzzi welcomed attendees to the meeting and introduced the General Manager (GM), the Director Technical Services (DTS), the Director Environment and Development Services (DEDS), and the acting Director Corporate and Community Services (A/DCCS). Cr Iannuzzi outlined how the meeting will be run.

The General Manager thanked the community for attending the meeting, and explained the terms of reference for Community Consultation Meetings.

AGENDA

Dunedoo Water Basin Levels

Action – arrange a presentation from Water Resources to explain the Dunedoo Water Basin to the community.

Shell Garage Update

A community member asked for an update on the status of the Shell Garage project, and an explanation for the amount of time the project is taking to complete.

Response: The developer is responsible for the schedule of works. Council has approved all building works, and understands that the developer is now working with the RMS on roadworks.

Condition of Dunedoo Swimming Pool

A community member spoke about the condition of the Dunedoo pool and described broken tiles on the pool and a general lack of maintenance.

Response: Drought Communities Programme - Extension funding has been allocated to the Dunedoo pool for solar heating. A variation is being sought to also install a pool blanket and chairlift. Maintenance programmed for this year includes tree removal and general off-season maintenance. The draft Budget includes \$30,000 as seed funding for upgrades to the amenities building; also includes upgrades to the pump room.

- Comment from community member to keep regular cleaning of tiles in mind.
- Comment from Cr Iannuzzi that pools have been an issue at all Community Consultation Meetings where there are pools. Explained that from a councillor's point of view, if works are done to one pool, there are five other communities wanting similar works. Six pools are difficult to manage with a shrinking population and low revenue. Raising rates, or introducing a pool levy, or increasing entry fees are not popular. Cr Iannuzzi asked for the community to understand difficult decisions that councillors must make. Another option may be to close some pools.

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- Comment from Cr Iannuzzi about unsupervised hours at pools; explained that it is important for communities to generate their own lifeguards and that Council will support training and employment. Encouraged the community to work with other communities to form associations of pool users.
- Question from community member: previously Council has employed a lifeguard who would do other duties for the off-season. Could this be reinstated?
- Cr Iannuzzi replied that it is difficult in the modern employment environment, and not easy to source skilled personnel. Encouraged the community to come up with local solutions, and to talk to all nine councillors.

Shade over Playground in Main Street

A community member requested that shade be installed over the playground in the main street of Dunedoo.

Action: DTS add shade for playground at Dunedoo to list for future budgeting purposes.

The role of Elected Councillors in the Community

A community member asked what the role of an elected councillor is.

Response: Cr Iannuzzi explained that a councillor is a point of liaison between Council and the community, and also has a political role to play making decisions as an elected body. Councillors do not deal with staffing matters.

- Question: can members of the public speak to councillors and ask them to take issues to Council meetings?
- Cr Iannuzzi replied that yes, community members can request councillors take issues to meetings, however requests should be in writing. Explained that when contacting a councillor by email, it is good practice to copy all other councillors into the email to increase the likelihood that the issue will be picked up.

Entrances to town

A community member asked about council's capacity to complete projects and spoke about the difficulty of promoting tourism and economic development with entrances in bad condition. Community is seeking transparency and time frames on a project, and a commitment that the site will be cleaned up.

The General Manager brought forward discussion of the Three Rivers Regional Retirement Community (TRRRC) at this point.

Response: DECS talked about the history of TRRRC. On 2 August 2018 council terminated the contract with Boulos Constructions. Experts gave advice on moving forward. Engineer picked up defects, gave remedies but also found others. Work has stopped while we work through slab defects but it is a legal matter.

Cr Iannuzzi talked about the frustration over this project even more than the water problems.

Question from community member: Is council responsible for checking the slab?

Response: During critical inspections the slabs met inspections. Can't answer what then went wrong as it is subject to legal proceedings. Cr Iannuzzi said once mistakes were found the work was stopped and the builder was sacked.

Question from community member: Can Council put something in the local diary with progress report as much as possible?

Answer: Media release went out a couple of weeks ago. Should be in the next edition of the Dunedoo Diary.

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There was discussion about the finances and legal proceedings involved in the TRRRC project. In summary:

- Grant money cannot be used on any other project.
- The grant money does not sit in Council's bank account. Works are completed and then Council claims for reimbursement.
- Boulus Constructions have been paid approximately \$2.7 million.
- Total amount of grant funding is \$7.4 million plus Council contribution of \$450,000.
- Any variation to the TRRRC proposal that received funding is subject to Government approval. That is, Council can not necessarily change the project to a smaller number of units or otherwise cut out elements of the project and still receive the grant funds. Council is being guided by legal advice at this stage, and is developing a proposal to move forward.
- Grant money is not used for legal fees. Council is paying legal fees.
- Legal proceedings are underway.
- Work has currently ceased while information is gathered for the legal proceedings.
- Management of the project has tightened over the last twelve months, since the current General Manager commenced with Council.
- An insurance claim has been rejected.

Question from community member: What community consultation will take place around the TRRRC project and what assurance can Council give that it can manage the project?

Answer: The General Manager commenced work on managing this project within the first week of commencing at Council. The number one priority is accessing the grant funding. Cr Iannuzzi stated that regarding consultation, the community is free to communicate with the TRRRC Committee, to participate in community meetings and to lobby councillors.

Question from community member was raised about the concerns for no opportunity for local employment in tender process.

Answer: Unlikely to find Construction Company locally who could take on such a large tender. It is up to contractor to employ, council cant enforce contractor to employ locally.

Water Security

Question was raised by a community member if council have a strategy going forward that Dunedoo will not be on high levels of water restriction again?

Answer: Council have no further plans for water supply however are doing works on sewerage and drainage. Stormwater project puts more water into gully but no plans for a new dam.

Garden Staff

Question was raised by a community member about going back to having a dedicated person to fill time gardening. Need some money spent on new toilets and new BBQ.

Answer: There is no intention of increasing staff levels at the moment; we are looking at decreasing staff but not in Dunedoo, due to budget costs.

Question from community member: Why is tourism funding given to Council spent entirely on staff in Coonabarabran and not anywhere else in the Shire?

Answer: Grant funding is not spent on staffing, all staff are paid from general funds. Council applies for funding of projects as and when funding programs become available. Council supplies the same amount of money to a Community Development Coordinator (CDC) in each of the six towns; the CDCs pursue funding opportunities for projects in their towns.

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Lewis Road

Further talk from previous meeting regarding no signs on northern end or before bridges. Issues were raised about the northern end not being maintained or upgraded, requested that a couple of bad sections could be fixed.

Answer: DTS spoke about upgrading whole road and how both southern and northern ends are different. Spoke about budget submission for upgrading road.

COUNCIL UPDATES AND INFORMATION

New Business Ideas Workshop

Question was raised from the public about why its only held in Coonabarabran and not the middle of the shire.

Answer: It was initially built around Inland Rail which is at the northern end of the shire.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Upgrades to the stage at Jubilee Hall

Question from community member: There is a hole found in the front of the stage at Jubilee Hall, can it be filled in?

Answer: A proposal of \$50,000 for upgrade of the stage at Jubilee Hall is included in the draft 2019/20 Budget.

Comment from community: Can that money be spent elsewhere?

Answer: The public is encouraged to make a budget submission.

Electronic sign

Community member reported that the electronic sign at Dunedoo has not been working. It was noted that the sign was working with current information showing on the afternoon of the community consultation meeting.

Swimming Pool

Comment from community member: If there is more money being spent in Dunedoo, ie \$50,000 on a new stage at Jubilee Hall, can it be redirected to the pool?

Answer: It was suggested to make a budget submission. Council appreciates initiative taken to get people together.

Cr Iannuzzi ended the meeting by thanking the public for attending and council are working hard to fix TRRC.

MEETING CLOSED : 7.20pm