

**MINUTES OF THE DUNEDOO COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING HELD IN
THE JUBILEE HALL ON MONDAY
14 NOVEMBER 2022 COMMENCING AT 5.30PM.**

PRESENT: Cr Dale Hogden (Chair), Cr Kathryn Rindfleish, Cr Carlton Kopke, Cr Jason Newton, Cr Denis Todd, Roger Bailey (General Manager, GM), Lindsay Mason (Director Corporate and Community Services DCCS), Kylie Kerr (Manager Road Operations), Jenni Maundrell (Minutes), Amy Large, Peter Colley, John Horne, Wendy Hill, David Bowman, Ronald Bowman, Kevin Silverthorne, Linden Ewin, Julie Rowbotham, Emma Bowman, Johnno Martin, Winsome Rowbotham, Lida Ewin

APOLOGIES: Cr Ambrose Doolan (Mayor), Cr Aniello Iannuzzi (Deputy Mayor), Cr Kodi Brady, Gary Murphy (Director Technical Services), Leeanne Ryan (Director Environment & Development Services, DEDES), Jackie Yeo

INTRODUCTION:

Councillor Dale Hogden welcomed attendees to the meeting and thanked them for attending the meeting. Cr Hogden introduced the councillors in attendance, General Manager (GM), Director Corporate and Community Services (DCCS), Manager Road Operations, and the Minute Taker and outlined how the meeting will be run.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING MONDAY 28 MARCH 2022

BUSINESS ARISING

Nil

COMMUNITY MATTERS

1. Dunedoo Columbarium Project (Amy Large)

Ms Large commended Council on installing the columbarium at the Dunedoo cemetery; and spoke about lack of awareness in the community about how to use the facility.

Manager Road Operations stated that sealing of the driveway at the cemetery has been delayed due to weather conditions, once that is complete an official opening of the columbarium will be planned.

ACTION: DTS - Information on using the columbarium at Dunedoo to go out in the Dunedoo Diary, on Council's website, Facebook, and possibly by letterbox drop.

2. Renewable Energy Projects (John Horne)

Council is considering the issues raised by the community in its submissions. There has been some discussion about workers camp. Council's preferred option is for housing close to towns and leaving legacy infrastructure as part of the project.

What is intended for the type of buildings/accommodation for workers?

Staff advised probably a mix of permanent housing and also less permanent housing, but only in early stages of discussion with Energy Co.

Cr Rindfleish told the meeting that a community consultation meeting with Energy Co will be held at Coolah on 23 November 2022.

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Has there been any discussion with Mid-Western Council about housing?

Staff advised that there has been some discussion with Mid-Western and Dubbo councils to discuss various issues.

Submission missed out any mention of health and emergency services.

Staff advised there is a range of issues Council will be looking to Energy Co to address, such as provision of health services for workers.

Why can't Council put pressure on Energy Co to bring doctors?

Council has made submissions on many aspects of renewable energy developments.

3. Digital Sign Dunedoo Update (John Horne)

There have been many attempts to fix the issues with the sign, currently waiting on a cable as a final attempt.

4. Housing Clusters on vacant blocks (John Horne)

There was a question about whether independent aged living units are being considered in place of the TRRRC project.

The GM stated that Council looking at alternative sites that independent aged living units might be located. The TRRRC site has been excluded from consideration. Council will be starting negotiations soon.

5. Heritage in Focus Update (John Horne)

Mr Horne requested a progress update on the Heritage in Focus project.

This item was taken on notice – DEEDS absent due to illness.

6. Additional Signage for town attractions (John Horne)

Mr Horne requested a heritage sign for the railway station, one of few surviving stations of that design in NSW, on the road near the Council depot

ACTION: DEEDS to investigate placement of a heritage sign for the Dunedoo Railway Station.

7. New signage at the cemetery (John Horne).

Mr Horne thanked Council for new signage at the Dunedoo cemetery.

8. Dunedoo Swimming Pool Amenities Update (John Horne)

Mr Horne requested an update on the project to upgrade amenities at the Dunedoo pool.

Manager Road Operations stated that project planning has commenced, but Council now needs to seek additional funding due to a rise in construction costs. Total estimate of costs now \$1.2M. Issue with drainage at the pool is not yet identified but staff are working on it.

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9. Lewis Lane (Peter Colley)

Request for Council to remove debris. Queried whether locals can do that work themselves.

Manager Road Operations stated that abnormal wet weather is causing delays in projects. Advise against locals doing work themselves due to safety issues; if community members notice fresh gravel appear, please contact Council so it can be checked for safety.

Council's priority is providing safe access – some properties have no access.

Mr Colley asked for clarification on wording of item 2 in the Dunedoo Action List – 'branches'. Is Lewis Lane in its entirety on Council's work list?

Staff advised that the road is on the work list.

10. Council Recommendations (Peter Colley)

Mr Colley questioned whether the Council resolution about Lewis Lane is in place (Resolution 188/2021).

The GM stated that the resolution is in place.

Mr Colley asked for further information. The GM stated that, in relation to Resolution 188/2021 the owner was directed to do the work; confirmed the matter was referred to Dept of Primary Industries. Mr Colley asked who paid for the work; no one present at the meeting was able to answer.

11. Stand pipe at Dunedoo RFS Shed (David Bowman)

Manager Road Operations stated there has been a delay in finishing the standpipe; hope to have it done by end of 2022.

12. What is Council's policy on renewable energy projects within the Shire? (David Bowman)

What is Council's policy?

Council doesn't have a formal policy, but has made submissions on various projects that outline Council's position; Council has objected to the developments not because it is opposed to the REZ but wants a more transparent process for planning/approvals.

Comment –Request for Council to add health requirements in its submissions.

ACTION: DEDS to consider the impact on health and emergency services in submissions on renewable energy developments in the local government area.

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COUNCIL UPDATES AND INFORMATION

13. Council Road Network and Natural Disaster claim(s)

The Manager Road Operations gave an update on the status of the road network due to natural disasters and of claims for repairs.

Staff were asked if highways are the responsibility of TfNSW.

Staff advised Council is under contract to work on those roads.

Isn't Council short of staff and can't keep up with the work?

Staff advised Council is under obligation to the TfNSW contract. If Council was to give it up, the contract goes completely (ie, TfNSW finds another external organisation), and then in times when there is less work around there's job losses. It's a balancing act.

Why can't it be contracted out, it's evident Council can't keep up with the work.

Staff understands where the community is coming from; we are one of few LGAs that have heavy patching here so we are ahead of other areas that are only patching potholes; there is also a shortage of supplies so that sometimes there is enough staff but no materials.

14. Renewable Energy Zones

The GM gave an update on Renewable Energy Zones (REZ).

Comment: the REZ here is the first one in the state.

The GM reinforced that this is being handled by the State Government.

15. Inland Rail.

The GM gave update on Inland Rail project.

Request for information on the financial impact/gain to the LGA.

Council was seeking legacy infrastructure, possible road connection to the rail.

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

DCCS gave information on external budget submissions and annual donations; Community Financial Assistance Donations opening February 2023.

17. Doing Business with Council

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

18. Australia Day Nominations

The GM gave information on nominations, closing 25 November 2022.

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GENERAL BUSINESS

19 TRRRC:

The GM stated the matter between contractors and Council is still in courts, there has been a change in Council's position recently – now taking action directly against individuals (builder and site manager). No date yet for hearing full matter, expecting it may be early 2023.

Query about new fencing at the site.

Staff advised the new fencing is more permanent fencing that Council has purchased.

Why is there a Coates Hire shed?

Staff advised it is being used for power for security cameras.

Windows and doors have disappeared.

Staff advised those incidents have been reported to Police.

Why can't the site be cleaned up?

GM advised Council wants it gone as much as the community. Case has been prolonged because of things like COVID, as defendants we are locked into the action now. Council not taking the action, Council required to be involved.

20. Merotherie Road:

Community member stated that Merotherie Road is in a dreadful state. Council did a reasonable job on it last time, but it is sinking.

ACTION: DTS – staff to consider Merotherie Road for repairs.

21. Lawson Park Road

Community member stated Lawson Park Road needs a load of aggregate for about 100m.

ACTION: DTS – staff to consider Lawson Park Road for repairs

22. Dunedoo mail delivery

Cr Hogden has raised it with Council, the GM has been trying to contact Australia Post, they're going to connect GM with their mail centre. Understand it's taking up to 2 weeks for delivery at Dunedoo at the moment, Australia Post service delivery states delivery standard of 2-4 days.

The GM suggested community members go on to Australia Post's website to lodge complaints about delivery.

23 Road between saleyards and showground

Request that the road be graded and the water diverted so that it doesn't run straight down onto the showground.

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ACTION: DTS – staff are to consider maintenance of the lane between the saleyards and showground.

24 All Weather Road

Request to increase maintenance schedule.

Staff advised new roads advisory committee will be looking into an overall strategy for roads being maintained.

25 Clarification about housing clusters on vacant blocks.

TRRRC site now felt to be too large for independent aged living; Council now looking at alternative smaller sites for units closer to town. State government has taken the TRRRC site off the agenda for aged living units.

26 Dunedoo infrastructure renewal project funding:

How much money is in the Dunedoo renewal fund?

GM advised about \$3.8M as promised by State government for Dunedoo infrastructure renewal project; Council is in negotiation to receive the \$1.8M the Commonwealth government has previously allocated to Dunedoo for a combined total of \$5.6M.

26 Renewable Energy worksite:

Community member commented they don't think a worksite would be well placed on the entry to town.

Staff advised Council is pushing for legacy infrastructure, hoping good housing will be one of those things.

Cr Hogden thanked everyone for their attendance.

There being no further business, meeting was closed 6:52pm.