

**MINUTES OF THE DUNEDOO COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING HELD IN  
DUNEDOO JUBILEE HALL ON TUESDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2023 COMMENCING AT  
5:30PM**

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**PRESENT:** Cr Ambrose Doolan (Mayor), Cr Kathy Rindfleish (Deputy Mayor), Cr Jason Newton, Cr Dale Hogden, Cr Zoe Holcombe, Roger Bailey (General Manager, GM), Lindsay Mason (Director Corporate and Community Services, DCCS), Leeanne Ryan (Director Environment and Development Services, DEDES), Steve Friend (Acting Director Technical Services, A/DTS), and Amanda Wherrett (PA to DCCS, Minutes), John Horne, Cathy Bowman, Kathryn Reynolds, Linden Ewin, Linda Ewin, Emma Bowman, Anne Bowman, Judith Batty, Wendy Hill, Julie Stanford, Allan Stanford, Pat Upston, John Marks, Anthony Jones, Alan Matlowe, Carol Wilton, Garry Wilton, Kylie Trengove, David Brennan, Kaylene Moorhouse, Wally Hudspeth, Jacqui Yeo, Warren Ledal, Ken Hodens, Tracey Mathew, Gawain Bowman, Kim McGiven, Mark Chad, Damian McCann, Sally Dent, Peter Colly, A Graham, Jim Bowman, Amanda Bowman, Sharon Nott, K Brougham, Louise Johnson, Sarah Armstrong, Ann Doran, Mark Dent, and Alistair McLaren.

**APOLOGIES:** Cr Aniello Iannuzzi, Cr Kodi Brady, Cr Carlton Kopke, Cr Denis Todd and Nicole Benson (Director Technical Services, DTS).

### **INTRODUCTION**

Mayor Ambrose Doolan welcomed attendees to the meeting and introduced the Councillors, General Manager (GM), Director Corporate and Community Services (DCCS), Director Environment and Development Services (DEDES), Acting Director Technical Services (A/DTS), and PA to DCCS (Minute Taker).

### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING MONDAY 3 April 2023**

### **BUSINESS ARISING**

#### **COMMUNITY MATTERS**

**1. Three Rivers Retirement – Demolition and future plans. (John Horne)**

DEDES advised that the demolition of the Three Rivers Retirement project is out for tender, and tender applicants have been short listed. Once this process is complete, Council will have more information from successful tender applicant when work will start, hopefully before Christmas. Council is in negotiations with several operators for the future plans for construction on the cleared site.

Community member asked if community members can salvage recyclable waste materials to raise funds for the community.

GM advised that the TRRRC site will be cleared by the successful tender group, and they have been requested to recycle as much waste as possible. The recycling process will be decided upon by the successful tenderer.

Community member asked what the budget of the site clean-up is.

GM advised that the budget for the demolition site clean-up is subject to confidentiality.

Community member asked what is remaining of the original budget.

Mayor advised that the remaining budget is \$5.6 million for the demolition and construction works on the TRRRC site. The funds from REZ accommodation

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requirements could be used to increase the budget for existing planned social housing.

Community member asked why there is discussion taking place of different plans to the existing TRRRC building plans.

Mayor advised that Council will bring any design plans to the Dunedoo community for a consultation process.

Community member asked if Council could consider a multi-staged development with the \$5.6 million remaining budget.

Mayor advised that when Council receives a concrete offer from REZ, Council will consult the community with the details.

Community member stated that Dunedoo community is asking Council not to sign any agreement concerning the development of the TRRRC site without prior community consultation.

Mayor stated that Council agrees to consult with the Dunedoo community, in regards to TRRRC site development plans, prior to signing any agreement with REZ developers.

GM advised: Federal funding timelines requires funds to be spent by a particular date, or the funds are lost.

**2. Milling Park – water allocation. (John Horne)**

A/DTS advised that sprinklers are turned on for one hour per station, per week, between 6.30am and 7.30am. The scope of works has commenced for four stations, assessing the costings of nodes so that irrigation will become automatic.

Community members were concerned about possible future drought conditions and the park becoming a dust bowl.

GM advised that currently there are five of the Shire towns that are on Level 1 water restrictions.

**3. Playground – any plans to fix it? (John Horne)**

A/DTS advised that Milling Park soft-fall will be renewed by Regional and Local Roads Repair Program phase 4 (LRC14) project funding. Small holes in the soft-fall under the swings are scheduled to be fixed. Council is waiting for cooler weather to plant out the garden beds, and cover with wood chip. Plants are currently in the nursery at Dunedoo Works Depot. The gravel footpath at entry gate to the pergola is also to be renewed.

**4. Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) – Updates on Council's position towards project. (John Horne)**

DEDS provided an update on the REZ and associated projects.

Council has made submissions on projects raising various concerns including where water will be obtained. Submissions are available on Council's website.

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The transmission line project is deemed a State Significant Infrastructure project and the state government can override local government.

There is an EnergyCo steering group including Council members that discuss local issues relating to REZ projects. There is a regional leadership collective including other councils working on submissions to the project application process together.

The community will start to see activity in the next 12 months including more workers in communities, and the accommodation camps in action.

Community members may make submissions on the project at [planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects](http://planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects).

**5. How much land has been purchased, or acquired, by the renewable energy companies (wind, solar, for batteries, transmission line)? (Cathy Bowman)**

GM advised that Council is not in possession of the information regarding how much land has been purchased by the renewable energy companies.

**6. What percentage are now in foreign ownership, and will they all be paying rates? (Cathy Bowman)**

DCCS advised that Council is not in possession of the information regarding what percentage of land is in foreign ownership, and foreign ownership does not exempt land owners from paying rates.

**7. Are there any discussions or agreements between Warrumbungle Shire Council and EnergyCo regarding potential road upgrades (i.e. Merotherie Road, which includes 1.7 kms of flood plain), workers accommodation/ legacy housing (i.e. Three Rivers Retirement Village site), water supply and waste removal for the Dunedoo area? (Emma Bowman)**

This question was answered in the discussion above.

**8. Is Warrumbungle Shire Council submitting an objection to the CWO REZ Transmission project currently on exhibition? (Emma Bowman)**

This question was answered in the discussion above.

**9. Has Council made representation to Ministers seeking a moratorium on the whole CWO REZ, and more specifically a pause in the compulsory acquisition process within the transmission Line Project? (Emma Bowman)**

GM advised that seeking a moratorium on the CWO REZ is not on Council's agenda at this point. Council is advocating for the community.

Mayor encouraged community members to make submissions on REZ projects.

**COUNCIL UPDATES AND INFORMATION**

**10. Renewable Energy Zone (REZ)**

This item was addressed in the discussion above.

**11. Regional Drought Resilience Plan**

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DEDS advised that Gilgandra and Warrumbungle Shire Councils have received \$200,000 in funding through the Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program to develop the Castlereagh Country Drought Resilience Plan.

The program acknowledges that communities can learn from previous droughts and plan for broader community implications, and Gilgandra and Warrumbungle Shire Councils invite the community to have your say in the future implementation activities to support future resilience.

## **12. Status of the sewerage in Dunedoo**

Community members were concerned about a sewerage odour in the town.

DEDS advised that Council is working to rectify and resolve the sewerage odour in Dunedoo. The Sewerage Treatment Plant upgrades aim to improve the performance of the sewage treatment system.

## **13. Roads Restoration Program**

A/DTS provided an update on the roads and the Natural Disaster Restoration works. Key points:

- Natural Disaster Restoration works are approximately 50% complete.
- \$10,568,493 in Natural Disaster funding has been approved for restorations. Two claims, \$3,004,143 for sealed roads, and \$594,000 for unsealed roads, were recently made and are under assessment.
- Council has engaged contractors, to supply an unsealed road maintenance crew to assist with the Natural Disaster restoration works.
- Three tenders have been advertised for flood damage road repairs: Sandy Creek area; Upper Lahey's Creek Roads; and North of Oxley area Goolhi and surrounds.
- \$864,683 has been received under the Pothole Repair Program, with over 80% of the funding spent so far. Funds must be spent by January 2024. A second Jet Patcher has been hired to assist with the works and staff are working weekends, as well as rostered days, to get the work done.
- \$4,590,978 has been under the Regional and Local Roads Repair program for urgent repairs to the road network. The program has recently been extended from 29 February 2024 to 31 October 2027.
- A Disaster Resilience Strategy is in development. This strategy will be driven by community consultation and will review road assets, such as bridges, culverts, and causeways, then look at the risk communities face due to natural disasters.

**ACTION:** DTS to lodge a report to Transport for NSW to investigate damaged road near the property "Yeoville", as it is a state road.

**14. Draft Public Gates and Cattle Grids on Public roads Policy.**

A/DTS provided an update on Public Gates and Cattle Grids on Public Roads Policy. The policy has been reviewed and aims to support procedures for application, issuing of permits, inspections, assessments, and maintenance of public gates and cattle grids. Once finalised, the draft policy will be placed on public exhibition before it is adopted.

**15. Entry to the Pools**

A/DTS provided information on free entry to all pools across the Shire when a pool attendant is rostered on. Season ticket holders will have access from 6am until the pool closes.

**16. Projects and Grants**

A/DTS advised that the projects and subsequent budgets for Dunedoo are:

- Dunedoo Urban Road Reseals – Whitely street – \$26,000.
- Flood Damage – road repairs Sandy Creek area – tender closed 19 October, submission being evaluated.
- Flood Damage – road repairs Upper Lahey’s Creek region, Tender closed today, 7 November 2023. Submission will be evaluated shortly.
- Heavy patching / pothole repair – Digilah Road.
- Dunedoo pool new amenity building – \$900,000 staff finalising contract to be lodged.
- Shire wide bus stop upgrades – \$185,000 LRCI4 fund.
- CCTV installation at outdoor pools – \$150,000 one camera at each Shire pool, LRCI4 fund.
- Shire-wide playground upgrades \$400,000 LRCI4 fund.
- Dog parks for Coolah, Coona and Dunedoo – \$120,000 LRCI4 fund.
- Dunedoo pedestrian access improvements – \$60,000 LRCI4 fund.
- Cemetery Signage Renewal Phase 1 – \$50,000 LRCI4 fund.

**17. Budget – Upcoming calls for submissions (External Budget Submissions, Annual Donations, Community Financial Assistance Donations).**

DCCS provided information about upcoming opportunities to have input to the 2024/25 Budget.

Additionally, applications will open early in the new year for Annual Donations, and the next round of Community Financial Assistance Donations.

Guidelines for Community Financial Assistance Donations has been reviewed, and moving forward, low priority will be given to groups that have already received a donation in the first round of funding each year.

**18. Australia Day**

DCCS advised provided information about nominations for the 2024 Australia Day Awards. These awards are run in conjunction with the NSW Local Citizen of the Year Awards.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

- 19.** Community member asked why the public forum section was omitted from the recording of the October Council meeting.

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GM advised that there were technical problems during the beginning of the October Council meeting. Though recording the public forum is not a requirement of Council meetings, Council aims to include the public forum in the recording of each Council meeting.

**20.** Community member asked if the dog park will have dog free areas.

**ACTION:** DTS to investigate if the dog park has dog free areas, and report back to the community.

Mayor Ambrose Doolan thanked everyone for attending, and declared the meeting closed.

**There being no further business, meeting was closed 7.17pm.**