

**MINUTES OF THE MENDOORAN COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING HELD AT MENDOORAN MEMORIAL CLUB ON TUESDAY 22 OCTOBER 2019 COMMENCING AT 5:30PM**

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**PRESENT:** Mayor Denis Todd, Cr Aniello Iannuzzi, Cr Ray Lewis, Cr Wendy Hill, Cr Anne-Louise Capel, Robert Hudspeth, Jenny Lloyd, Bev Bush, Carlton Kopke, Val Dries, Max Neal, Adele Daws, Suzanna Travalos, Lynette Yeo, Wendy Hobbs, Anna Maria Ridolfi, Sydney Sauls, Roger Bailey (General Manager, GM), Leeanne Ryan (Director Environment Development Services, DEDES), Kevin Tighe (Director Technical Services, DTS), Kim Parker (Director Corporate Community Services DCCS), Cornelia Wiebels (Manager Warrumbungle Water, MWW), Kira Alexander (Minutes)

**APOLOGIES:** Clr Kodi Brady, Clr Peter Shinton, Cr Ambrose Doolan, Clr Fred Clancy, Phil McCormack, Leslie Sauls

**INTRODUCTION**

Mayor Dennis Todd welcomed attendees to the meeting and introduced the General Manager (GM), the Director Technical Services (DTS), the Director Environment and Development Services (DEDES), the Director Corporate and Community Services (DCCS), Manager Warrumbungle Water (MWW), Minute Taker. The General Manager outlined how the meeting would be run.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes of the Community Consultation Meeting held in Mendooran on Monday 2 April 2019 were discussed as displayed on Council's website and at Council meeting May 2019.

**BUSINESS ARISING**

**COMMUNITY MATTERS**

**1. Brambil Street**

Val Dries is concerned that a property on Brambil St is hazardous due to the overgrown lawn, garbage and other items present out the front and at the back of the property.

DEDES advised that letters have previously been sent to the owner in question and no response was received. The grass at this time is not long enough to take action at this stage.

GM advised that Council do not have the authority to make the owner act unless the state of the property meets requirements to do so.

**Action:** DEDES will re-inspect and continue to monitor the property

**2. Pool Leak**

Carlton Kopke requested an update on the leak at the public pool and requested leaks to be fixed as a priority.

DTS advised that leaks have been fixed in some pipework and the plant room; however, there are still some leaks present.

GM advised that other pools in the shire also had leaks and Council is prioritizing works across the Shire as resources allow.

Adele Daws asked why the pool had been emptied and then refilled?

DTS advised that the pool need cleaning, algae had developed and the water was dirty and this is an effective way to do this.

**Action:** DTS Pool leaks will be reviewed and pool checked regularly.

### **3. Pool Hours**

Carlton Kopke raised concerns that Mendooran pool has the least amount of opening hours of all pools in the Shire with the most uptakes per capita. He is aware that there are issues with paperwork to be addressed for the incoming lifeguard and wants to know if pool hours will increase when the lifeguard had met all requirements.

DTS advised that the opening hours are the same for all pools in the Shire. There have been four days this year when there hasn't been a lifeguard which affected opening hours and Council is still awaiting complying paperwork. When the lifeguard has met all requirements, the opening hours should be the same as other pools.

Carlton asked what hours key holders can use the pool and can they bring their children?

DTS advised the pool hours are 6am-6pm and yes they can bring children.

Adele Daws asked if families with season passes are able to take a picnic to the pool grounds and stay until 7:30pm as her spouse does not finish work until 6pm?

DTS advised that if a lifeguard is available, the pool hours are 6am-6pm. Key holders cannot have a family picnic after pool hours. There is a key induction process that must be undertaken by all key holders. Season ticket is paid for then a key bond is paid and induction around the pool and what to look for is undertaken.

Sydney Sauls asked if key holders can be voluntary lifeguards?

GM advised that Council previously put out requests and expressions of interest from community members to become voluntary lifeguards and only received responses from two people who failed to fill required forms.

Max Neal stated that the pool could be used to keep young people off the street.

GM advised that we have increased pool hours to reflect this.

Adele Daws stated that other pools operate well without the need for lifeguards.

GM stated that he was aware of this.

### **4. Sports Oval Fence**

Carlton Kopke asked if there was any progress in getting the boundary fence reinstated to replace the old fence that had been removed?

DTS advised that funding had been applied for through various channels but none had come through as yet. The fence is on the list of projects for funding applications.

### **5. Traffic Counter results and Planned Action**

Carlton Kopke asked if the monitored road was busy enough to be tarred as this would help to increase patronage at the caravan rest area?

DTS advised that there were an average of 55 vehicles a day which is a candidate for sealing once we can get it included in the budget.

### **6. Park Toilet Block Roof**

Carlton Kopke was concerned that the toilet block had been repainted but the roof looks old and out of place.

DTS advised that he is currently getting quotes to replace the roof.

### **7. Dump Point at Campground**

Carlton Kopke asked if there has been progress required to install a free dump point at the campground.

DEDS advised that significant money is needed for the required septic upgrades to be completed before dump points can be installed and Council is currently applying for funding.

### **8. Bins at Campground**

Carlton Kopke is concerned that current bins are not big enough and are frequently overflowing. Tourists have been spotted emptying them and replacing rubbish bags. Bins need to be larger and require emptying "as needed". Bins are not regularly emptied at the Gilgandra Road site either.

Can bins be emptied more frequently?

DTS advised that larger bins are not suitable as they take domestic waste and manual handling would also be an issue. Bins with smaller openings would be more suitable.

**Action:** DTS to investigate and follow up on more frequent emptying of bins and installing bins with smaller openings so domestic waste cannot be dumped.

### **9. Campground Development**

Carlton Kopke has noticed that nothing has happened for a long time and is there anything on the agenda to develop the site to attract more tourists like sealing the road, installing a footpath and clearing the bamboo along the river.

DEDS advised that more thought and a plan need to be developed and approved in consultation with community; however, this will limit the numbers of campers able to use the site.

**Action:** DEDS to consult with Mendooran community on a plan to develop the campground site.

### **10. Mendooran Skate Park**

Carlton Kopke stated that Council previously removed the skate park and has not installed anything to replace it. Currently visitors stop at the park location but do not stay as the park is deficient and resources were removed but not replaced. Adele Daws wanted to find out if there is any chance of a cement skate park in Mendooran?

DTS advised that Council will install a hoop, pole and lineage and is working within the current budget to do so. We may be able to apply for grant funding for a skate park if it becomes available.

GM advised that the old skate park was removed due to a safety issue and a new skate park would cost \$150,000. The money allocated to Mendooran was spent on the footpaths.

Cr Capel advised that FRRR have a lot of funding available for community groups.

Carlton Kopke advised that they have applied for funding with no luck and are feeling frustrated and unheard as Council should provide funding. The community wants more funding opportunities granted.

GM advised that there have been a number of projects undertaken at Mendooran in the last 18 months.

Sydney Sauls suggested that instead of removing something that is existing, Council should be repairing it instead so the infrastructure is not lost.

Anna Maria Ridolfi asked how much funding can be allocated to Mendooran based on the number and amounts paid by ratepayers?

GM advised that Council had applied for \$60,000 funding for play equipment through the State Governments Stronger Country Communities Fund Round 3. The project is listed as fourth in priority and it will be up to the State Government to make a decision on successful projects.

**Action:** DTS to identify potential other funding opportunities.

### **Council Updates and Information**

#### **1. Australia Day Awards**

Director Corporate and Community Services stated that Council had accepted recommendations for the 2020 Australia Day Awards. Nominations are now being taken in the following categories:

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Sportsperson of the Year
- Environmental Citizen of the Year
- Australia Day Award – Senior Citizen of the Year
- Australia Day Award – Cultural Achievement Award
- Australia Day Award – Community Event of the Year

Forms are available at this meeting, at Council offices and on the Council website.

The closing date for nominations is Friday 13 December 2019 and no late emails/ applications will be accepted.

#### **2. Free WIFI**

Free WIFI in all town centres was funded by the Federal Governments' Drought Communities Program. All Shire towns have the WIFI setup (barring Baradine) with test phase going well. Access is only available on the main street of each town and currently is daylight hours due to various reasons including concerns for use by children and concerns due to potential gathering of persons. Daylight hours is currently in the test phase and will be included in a proposed policy in the future.

In Mendooran there have been some issues, however, Tamworth Regional Council's contracted technician is working on improvements and solutions to arising problems in the next few days. There is no password required to access the WiFi.

Due to distance, local workers or community members may be called on to reboot local systems when required. This will need to be set up.

**Action:** DCCS will work on establishing which workers or community members are available to reboot WIFI system when required.

#### **3. Potential Project Funding**

GM asked for the community to let Council know what projects they would like funded in the future so they are on the list.

#### **4. Upcoming 2020/21 Budget Process**

An outline for the budget project for 2020/21 and the next 3 years was provided. Consultation will be sought with the community for project items and then Council will endeavour to prioritise projects and locate funding to effect. In April 2020 the budget will be on display and open to submissions. Council will make a decision before the end of June.

### **General Business**

#### **1. Footpath**

Anna Maria Ridolfi stated that the new footpath has made it much safer for all in town including children and would like to see it extended.

Val Dries stated that there is a mess on the footpath from the other day.

DTS advised that material referred to has since been cleaned up

**2. Raised Dust**

Sydney Sauls noted that Dalglish St had a lot of raised dust from the Council vehicles driving fast on it and he would like to see slow down signs displayed.

DTS advised that staff do travel on that road to access the river and to his knowledge they travel at an appropriate speed.

**Action:** DTS to remind staff to travel slowly on the dirt road

The GM invited any present to approach him after the meeting to discuss any other issues.

**CLOSE OF MEETING 6:40pm**