

**MINUTES OF THE MENDOORAN COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING HELD
IN MENDOORAN MEMORIAL CLUB ON WEDNESDAY 12 APRIL 2023
COMMENCING AT 5:30PM**

PRESENT: Cr Ambrose Doolan, Cr Carlton Kopke, Cr Zoe Holcombe, Cr Denis Todd, Roger Bailey (General Manager) Gary Murphy (Director Technical Services, DTS), Lindsay Mason (Director Corporate and Community Services DCCS), Kelly Dewar (Manager Planning and Regulation MP&R), Meg Meier (Minutes), Debra Bell, Bretton Drinkwater, Lachlan Naef, Stuart Neal, Jeremy Lloyd, Nereida Althofer, Val Dries, Lesley Sauls, Amanda Drinkwater, Dianne Mulligan, Suzanna Travalor and Anna Ridolfi.

APOLOGIES: Cr Kody Brady, Cr Kathryn Rindfleish, Cr Aniello Iannuzzi, Cr Jason Newton, Leeanne Ryan (Director Environment Development Services, DEDS)

INTRODUCTION

Mayor Ambrose Doolan welcomed attendees to the meeting and introduced Councillors, the General Manager, the Director Technical Services (DTS), the Director Corporate and Community Services (DCCS), the Manager Planning & Regulation (MP&R) and Minute Taker.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING MONDAY, 31 OCTOBER 2022

BUSINESS ARISING

COMMUNITY MATTERS

1. Yarrow Road low level crossing – Merrygoen Creek Crossing (Debra Bell)

DTS advised that from 20 October 2022 Council considered matter resolved. No further action to be taken on Merrygoen Creek Road until conditions improve. Monitoring conditions has been challenging until depth of water has been cleared. Council has a licence to remove sand either side of causeway, however as Merrygoen Creek is a fish habit there are procedures and protocol that have to be abided by with Crown Lands.

Ms Bell wanted to know if residents could take sand down if the community contacted Crown Lands in Dubbo.

DTS advised the community that they would need to contact the Crown because they are preparing an expression of interest for the commercial extraction of sand.

Mr Drinkwater asked if Crown Land says yes can the community do it?

DTS advised yes, however if they were wanting to take sand off the causeway, they would need council approval and because this would be occurring on a road, insurances and other conditions would be required to be met.

Mr Drinkwater very concerned at lack of emergency services access as an incident occurred and 000 could not get access. He believes the signage was incorrect.

Mr Drinkwater explained where emergency services tried to access the laneway.

DTS: Advised that Council was approached by Transport NSW to link up a live traffic and road closure website/app. There will be teething issues however ultimately should be a streamlined system to gain "1 truth" accurate information for 000 services and the public. It will be linked to Google Maps etc.

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Mayor advised that that is a big job and still ongoing, make representations to local members.

2. Castlereagh Highway gully erosion approximately 150 metres west of the Dennykymine Road river side behind road barrier (Debra Bell)

Ms Bell very concerned about erosion collapsing and causing a death.

DTS advised that given this was a highway, this had been referred to TfNSW for their consideration.

3. TRRRC (Bretton Drinkwater)

The General Manager addressed the meeting advising that all legal action for the TRRRC project has now been settled with the contact with Boulos Constructions Pty Ltd terminated under the contact provisions 'for convenience'.

Discussions have been held with the Federal and State Governments – Dunedoo Renewal Project and they have agreed to provide funding to the amount of \$5.6 million which includes the balance of the original fund to build a maximum of 6 independent aged living units elsewhere in Dunedoo. Public works will be in charge of the project management and Council will own the asset.

4. Yarrow Road Crossing (Bretton Drinkwater)

Covered in item 1 above.

5. Additional Water Rate charges for Mendooran Residents (Bretton Drinkwater)

Mendooran residents are charged an additional rate to cover the CAPEX loan that was taken out by Council to build the Mendooran Water Treatment plant. The loan is due to be complete in February 2024 and residents will no longer be charged the additional rate. Residents will still need to pay for regular water usage charges.

6. Council spending money cleaning up stock piles, whilst houses are getting flooded in Lawnside Drive (Bretton Drinkwater)

Mr Drinkwater stated that it was great to see the cleanup of stock piles however takes offence to not getting funding to the flooding house on Landside Drive. He believes priorities are out of whack.

DTS advised that come from a different pool of funding. Will get someone to have a look at it but it is not a priority under the current circumstances.

7. Storm Water Levy (Bretton Drinkwater)

Mr Drinkwater wants to know when will money get allocated to Mendooran?

DCCS advised that \$30,000 was allocated in 18/19 FY to drainage in Mendooran

8. Mendooran Tip – Scavenging rites to be reinstated (Bretton Drinkwater)

Mr Drinkwater wanted to know why have Scavenging rights been taken from Mendooran Tip?

MPRS advised the risks involved with people scavenging at Council transfer stations and landfill site: It is a Work Health and Safety issue.

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9. Replacement Green Bins (Bretton Drinkwater)

Mr Drinkwater wanted to know why Council is not like Dubbo Council that they are replaced free of charge and why does a new owner of any property in the Shire not entitled to a bin unless they pay for it.

MPRS advised that:

- Council allocates a green general waste bin when a new service is taken up
- This bin is then the responsibility of the owner to keep in good condition
- If damage is caused by the truck operator CCTV footage can be reviewed to see if the damaged was caused by the driver and if so, Council repairs or replaces the bin free of charge
- Different Councils have different contracts and different fee structures to cover the cost of the services they provide.
- Dubbo Council's waste charges are higher than WSC's.

10. Skatepark (Lachlan Naef)

Wants to restore the skatepark to a place where young members of the community can gather and have something to do. Lachlan has had conversations with Nicole Benson

DTS acknowledged and commended Lachlan on wanting to improve the skatepark for community use and benefits. DTS also advised that funding would be critiqued on the basis for the need of the facility.

COUNCIL UPDATES AND INFORMATION

11. Budget

Director Corporate and Community Services provided an update on the 2023 -24 Budget.

- Staff are currently preparing the draft operating plan and budget
- Council will meet on 20 April 2023 to adopt the draft operating plan and budget
- The draft operating plan and budget will then go on public exhibition for 28 days, whereby the public can make submissions
- The final 2023/24 budget will be put to Council for adoption on 30 May 2023.
- The 2023/24 budget is heavily focussed on natural disaster recovery works on Council roads

12. Renewable Energy Zone

The Manger Planning and Regulation Services provided an update on the Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (REZ). Council continues to review the many EIS's and documents that are presented by Dept of Planning and EnergyCo, and have been actively lodging submissions as required. We are also attending meetings with REZ developers as required to discuss their projects. We remain concerned with the potential effects cumulative impacts from the REZ will have on our communities. Council currently has a draft Renewable Energy Benefit Policy on public exhibition open for comments that will close on Monday 17 April 2023 4:30pm. Under this policy Council will be seeking a contribution

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from developers via a Planning Agreement. We are asking for 1.5% of Capital Investment Value (CIV) for each development to be expended on public benefits

13. Inland Rail

The Manger Planning and Regulation Services provided an update on the Inland Rail project. The project connects Melbourne to Brisbane, will be located approx. 8kms from Baradine, with approx. 42kms of the rail line located within WSC. We are part of the N2N section, or the Narromine to Narrabri section. This section has now been approved by the State Government, and it is expected construction will commence in 24/25. Council does not own a section of the project. Workers camp will be based at Camp Cyprus. Hoping to have legacy items to be left for community to use. Council will not get a 1.5% of Capital Investment Value (CIV) though.

14. Road/ Natural Disaster Claims

The Director Technical Services provided an update on Roads and the Natural Disaster Claims. Key points being:

- 3 natural disasters declared in the last 18 months; November 2021, August 2022 and September 2022
- Largest natural disaster claim in the history of Warrumbungle Shire history currently in the order of \$12m with more to come
- Previous natural disaster claim was in the order of \$700,000
- Council typically spends \$6m a year on roads maintenance and \$6m on capital. The value of the restoration works is more than a full year's budget
- A specialist company has been engaged to log the over 1800 defects across the network and submit them to Transport for New South Wales for funding approval
- Originally 9 geographically distinct work packages were prepared and submitted
- Of these 8 have been approved.
- Council cannot carry out the restoration works until funding approval has been granted
- Council has been able to carry out emergency works to make safe and restore access
- It is important to note that funding is only available to restore the roads to pre-disaster condition. The funding does not allow to replace a causeway with a culvert for example or to re-sheet a road
- Determination of the damage caused by the August and September natural disaster is still in progress
- The restoration works must be completed by 30 June 2024
- Council does not have the staff and resources to carry out all of the works at once so Council has resolved to prioritise the high order (highly trafficked) roads first
- Council will also be issuing 3 tenders in the amount of \$500,000 each in order to get the work done
- In addition to the restoration works, Council has also been granted \$866,000 for pothole repairs and a further \$4.59m for repairs which have to be spent by the end of February 2024
- Key message is there is a lot of work, a lot of funding but little resources, plant and staff to do the works.

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15. TRRRC

Covered in items above.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- 16. Swimming Pools (Lesley Sauls)** – Swimming pool is in a bad state, leaks, and will work be done in winter to prepare for summer season?

DTS: Leaking is a result of the age of the pool and tiles will be fixed. All pools in Shire are very aged. Playing catch up to fix them.

- 17. Trees on Main Road (Anna Ridolf)** – Main road in Mendooran lost big trees, needs to look beautiful again.

DTS advised that the project is not finished yet and trees will be replaced. Dianne Mulligan advised that Anna is welcome to join beautification committee that has been formed.

- 18 Lack of petrol in Mendooran (Anna Ridolf)** – Asked why there is a lack of petrol in the town.

DTS: That is not Council, private fuel company.

- 19. Mining in Goonoo State Forest (Anna Ridolf)** – Is Council for or against? GM; Not in the Warrumbungle LGA, so not in position to comment.

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

There being no further business, meeting was closed 7:02pm.