

PRESENT: Cr Peter Shinton, Cr Denis Todd, Cr Fred Clancy Cr Ambrose Doolan, Cr Kodi Brady, Cr Anne-Louise Capel, Cr Annello Iannuzzi, Sally Cormie, Ian Cormie, A Eloin, Sue Stephenson, Dossie Young, Richard Thornton, Mary Milsom, John Whitehead, Heather Edgell, Juleen Young, Ian Bell, Tony Cole, Zoe Holcome, Brad Condon, Doug Gray, Paula Brookfield, Rob Brookfield, Narda Abel, Michael Wood, Simon Tighe, Bob Hangman, , Guy Andrews, Narelle Andrews, Margaret Jones, Janet Skimmings, Peter Thompson, Lynne Estens, Rev Kristian Hartberg, Stephen Turner, Lyn Sanson, Joel Amiet, Rob McMillian, Judy Clancy, Bill Brown, Lavina Harper, Joshua Pulham, Dianne Dow, Vickie Bruni, Bruce Riding, Marcus Neiberding, Helen Goodyear, John Goodyear, Smret Goitom, Michelle McEvoy, Sue Forbes, Stewart Brown, Paula Duggan, Paris Norton, Vivian Evans, Donna Burton, Margaret Prugger, Michelle Saunders, Kira Alexander, David Maher and Damien Bennell, Roger Baily (General Manager), Kevin Tighe (Director Technical Services), Leeanne Ryan (Director Development Services), Louise Johnson (Acting Director Corporate and Community Services) , Linda Miller (Acting Manger Children's and Community Services), Liz Webster (Minutes)

APOLOGIES: Cr Wendy Hill, Cr Ray Lewis

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

General Manager, Roger Bailey, introduced himself and provided an overview of the purpose of the meeting.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Community Consultation Meeting held in Coonabarabran on Tuesday, 7 November 2017 were discussed with no Business Arising.

BUSINESS ARISING

No Business Arising

COUNCIL PROJECT UPDATES

Stronger Country Communities Fund

Acting Director Corporate and Community Services (ADCCS), Louise Johnson, provided an overview of the Stronger Country Communities Fund – Round Two. Various projects were discussed.

Project suggestions were discussed. ADCCS, Louise Johnson, suggested people contact Community Development Coordinator, Narda Abel, for assistance if required.

Water Restrictions and Water Supply

Director Technical Services (DTS), Kevin Tighe, addressed the meeting regarding the current water situation in Coonabarabran. Attendees were advised that the current water supply in Timor Dam was at 28%. Council was currently in the process of drilling test bores and arrangements were being made to install pumping equipment to assist with the extraction of water once the level falls to or below 20% when water will not longer gravitate from the dam.

COMMUNITY MATTERS OF INTEREST / CONCERN

Water Concerns from the Community

Several community members made presentations and / or spoke at the meeting in regards the current water situation in Coonabarabran.

Key points and / or suggestions included:

- regular inspections required to be carried out by Council staff
- permanent low level restrictions
- supply not meeting demand
- future planning for community expansion
- education initiatives, including schools and the wider community
- eater saving devices
- community programs, including water saving tips, encouraging reduction in shower times
- getting information to the community
- reminder that not all residents have access to social media or are computer literate
- how much water do we have and how long is it expected to last
- how much have we spent already on feasibility studies
- water timers for the shower
- water tank subsidies
- loss of pressure in some locations
- watering of public gardens with water reaching the road – water waste
- encouraging residents to plant natives, reducing the amount of water needed
- investigation of construction of a secondary dam
- raising of the dam wall
- erosion since fires, run off has changed.
- silt in dams – could Timor Dam be affected
- possible contaminates in water from the bores
- is the aquifer water level dropping for bores
- pontoon wasn't replaced following the Wambelong fire
- where do our restrictions go from here is there Level 7
- what is in place should Council run out of water, where will it come from, can it be bought from other Shires
- when will the Feasibility Study results be available for the public
- depletion rates and level
- could Council release the usage figures for the previous 12 months
- when will the bore testing results be available to the public
- lobbying of State and Federal Governments by both Council and the community, united effort

DTS, Kevin Tighe, responded where able though some information needed to be clarified. Residents were encouraged to continue to raise their concerns with Council.

Stronger Country Communities Fund – No. 3 Oval

A presentation was made by the Coonabarabran Rugby Club in regards to a proposal for funding under the Stronger Country Communities Fund for the construction of new amenities at No. 3 Oval in Coonabarabran. It was noted that the application has the support of all the user groups of the facilities. The Coonabarabran Rugby Club requested support from Council. It was noted that the application information would be lodged with Council for consideration in Round Two of the Stronger Country Communities Fund.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Issues Raised Previously

Resident raised issues regarding problems she had brought to Councils attention previously. It was indicated Council could benefit from proactive planning to improve conditions including the current water situation.

Cycle Way and Walking Path

A presentation was made in regards to a proposed cycle way and walking path to be constructed from Coonabarabran out to the Warrumbungle National Park. Support from Council was requested to put this project forward in future funding rounds.

Falling Branch

A resident spoke of damage to her vehicle from a falling branch near the High School and expressed concerns regarding the trees in this location. Concerns were also raised about other trees around the town. Members of the community were asked to report dangerous trees so they can be inspected and rectified if required.

High School – Traffic and Parking

Traffic and parking concerns around the high school were raised. Questions were asked about land around the High School that could be used for parking and / or bus drop offs. Council indicated this had been discussed previously however, at the time, the High School had not supported the proposals.

Economic Development and Tourism

Council were asked if they would consider a public art installation such as sculptures or other public art. Members of the community were encouraged to link with community organisations who can assist with this and have proposals ready for when funding becomes available. The possibility of having an Arts Committee, and an Arts Strategy, for the Shire was also raised.

MEETING CLOSED: 7:11 pm
