

**MINUTES OF THE COONABARABRAN COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, COONABARABRAN ON TUESDAY 20 APRIL 2021
COMMENCING AT 5:30PM**

PRESENT: Cr Ambrose Doolan (Mayor), Cr Aniello Iannuzzi (Deputy Mayor), Cr Denis Todd, Cr Peter Shinton, Cr Kodi Brady, Cr Fred Clancy, Cr Capel, Roger Bailey (General Manager, GM), Kim Parker (Director Corporate and Community Services, DCCS), Kira Alexander (Minutes), Julie Shinton, Judy Clancy, Jane Smith, Flo Cloud, Karen Wessel, Jason Newton, Chris Ward, Regina Fritz, Paul San Miguel.

APOLOGIES: Leeanne Ryan (Director Environment & Development Services, DEDS)

INTRODUCTION

Mayor Ambrose Doolan welcomed attendees to the meeting and thanked them for coming. Mayor Doolan introduced General Manager (GM), the Director Corporate and Community Services (DCCS), Director Technical Services (DTS), and Minute Taker.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 22 OCTOBER 2021

BUSINESS ARISING

1. Coal Seam Gas

Community members questioned the GM comment listed in point 4 of General Business section of the minutes stating “GM stated that at the time he was advised there would be minimal impact”. Community asked, “If new information comes in, do we change our stance in the present tense. Is Council able to support the community?”

GM advised that in regards to the Narrabri gas project at the time he was advised it wouldn't have impact on Warrumbungle Shire. Residents put forward views but Council did not have a formal position on that topic at the time. At this point in time there are no development proposals in our Shire.

Cr Capel stated that previous Council did not support the project and advised Community members to talk to Roy Butler and Mark Coulton (Local Members)

2. Council Meeting Recordings streaming

Community Member asked “you cannot hear the streaming in Council meetings. Is there any way we can make the audio better?”

GM advised that there is allocation in the draft budget for upgrade to the system as the current budget did not have enough funds.

3. Markets in Town

Community Member asked if Council had anything to do with the town markets?

GM advised that the markets, are organised by the Coonabarabran Chamber of Commerce.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

4. Paul San Miguel – Changes after Coonabarabran By-Pass

- What strategic thinking is being adopted to plan for the changes that will take place in Coonabarabran after the by-pass is constructed?
- What role does Council see for itself in this process?

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GM advised that a submission was put forward by Council and now waiting for response including funding.

Cr Capel suggested Community starting with the upcoming Community building workshops with Peter Kenyon.

5. Paul San Miguel – Upcoming Election

- What is Council doing to encourage suitable candidates to seek election at the upcoming council election who might otherwise not nominate?
- Is Council actively taking steps to increase diversity amongst its future Councillor team?
- Is Council lobbying the State Government to find ways of supporting and enabling potential candidates who currently will not nominate due to long-distance travel barriers?

GM advised that Council, in the last meeting adopted a process to be used for remote dial in with 24 hrs notice of the meeting. Workshops for potential candidates will take place on 15 June in Dunedoo and 16 June in Coonabarabran.

Cr Capel advised that Councillors are currently lobbying their communities.

6. Paul San Miguel – Staff Engagement

- Can the Mayor comment on the current levels of staff engagement and workplace satisfaction amongst Council staff?
- Are Councillors confident that Council staff are well placed to deliver on Council's strategic initiatives?
- Is it appropriate that the General Manager's contract has been locked in for a period that extends beyond the term of the next Council?

Mayor Doolan advised that the GM contract must be between 1-5 years based on Council resolution.

Staff survey has been undertaken for the last 2 years and results show an improvement in engagement of the staff is positive.

Staff turnover is slightly below the average of other Council's.

7. Flo Cloud - Fluoridation of the Public Water Supply

Flo requested a reassessment to addition of fluoride in the drinking water due to new evidence that fluoride is a neurotoxin.

GM advised that Council has committed to replace the fluoride system.

8. Karen Wessell – Follow up on changes to Visitors Information booklet.

Supposed to be completed by 30 June but no evidence of progress made, when will it go to print?

GM advised the Economic Development and Tourism Committee are still working on

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it.

Cr Capel advised that Covid delayed print but it is a priority for the committee at the moment.

COUNCIL UPDATES AND INFORMATION

9. Commercial Recycling

GM advised meeting that as of 30 June 2021, collection of woolpacks will cease due to work health and safety hazard. Additional bins for new collection method are \$110 with collection every fortnight.

10. Budget 2021/22

DCCS advised that:

- Council resolved to adopt a draft budget for public exhibition and seek submissions until 17 May 2021
- There are 4 documents on exhibition and include projections for the next 3 years and revenue policy
- \$4.1mil deficit – mainly related to general fund activities
- Last year we revalued all of our assets – there is an increase of \$1.5mil in depreciation
- Proposed increase in water is 15% and sewer 5%
- After the drought, users are not using as much water which means income is down up to \$300k in the water fund. Council has spent money on water operations, improving systems and budgeting for full staff in water area
- To make a submission go the “Have Your Say” page on Council’s website

11. Donations Guidelines

DCCS advised that:

- Council has two elements to the donations policy.
- Annual Donations, part of the revenue policy.
- Two rounds of financial assistance grants – up to \$500 per organisation
- Council resolved to review the guidelines before the next round of financial assistance grants in August 2021.
- The public will be invited and encouraged to comment on the draft when developed

12. Council Elections

GM advised meeting attendees that Council will be holding workshops to brief potential candidates who wish to run in Council elections, these will be presented by Jenny Dowell and registration is essential.

13. Community Building Workshops

GM advised that these will be presented by Peter Kenyon in May and attendees were invited to register online.

Cr Capel named the workshops to be held in Coonabarabran.

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GENERAL BUSINESS

14. Julie Shinton referred to the Have Your Say page – do Councillors get to see it?

GM advised that it depends what it is. The majority of submissions are put before Council at meetings.

DTS advised Pump track submissions will be heard and responded to. Councillors do not always see every submission.

Community Member said that in her submission, the pump park should have a toilet.

DTS advised that not enough money in the budget to clean yet another toilet. It was discussed at the last committee meeting.

15. Jason Newton – Wings and Things

- The event on the weekend was a success even with the weather issues.
- The simple idea snowballed with 1500 turning up.
- Gate takings were approx. \$8-9k which went to the VRA.
- Market stalls did well.
- The aeroclub does not benefit financially from this.
- Very positive comments from people who hadn't been to the aerodrome before.
- Is WSC prepared to discuss having this event again, as Matt Hall is willing to do it again next year

GM congratulated Jason for organising the event. Discussions have occurred with DEDES to explore and contact DPIE for potential event funding going forward.

Community member mentioned The Regional Events Acceleration Fund to activate events.

ACTION: DEDES to investigate funding and support for another event of this type.

Mayor Ambrose Doolan thanked all for input and attending and encouraged communication outside meetings.

Meeting closed 7:10pm