

**MINUTES OF THE COONABARABRAN COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING HELD AT
COONABARABRAN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2018
COMMENCING AT 5:30PM**

PRESENT: Cr Aniello Iannuzzi (Deputy Mayor), Merv Starr, Doug Gray, Richard Thornton, John Whitehead, Robert Noakes, Michael Wood, Paul Mulally, Cr Kodi Brady, Lynda Row, Jane McWhirter, Zoe Holcombe, Lesley Kelly, Cr Ray Lewis, Rhonda Jewiss, Judy Clancy, Cr Fred Clancy, Janet, David McMern, Martin Lill, Juleen Young, Dianne Dow, Marg Jones, Peter Brookhouse, Wes Leedham, Peter Small, Laurie Dawson, John Sawyer, Sally Cormie, Jon Cormie, Sam Bragg, Katrina Matakotoga, Tamra O'Neill, Bert Swanson, Vanessa Swanson, Stephen Turner, Semret Goitam, Sue Forbes, Stewart Rogers, Dian Bedgood, David Hunter, Robert Dean, Imogen Morrissey, Donna Burton, Julie Shinton, Vivian Evans, Ellen Mahne, Roger Bailey (General Manager), Leeanne Ryan (Director Development Services), Kevin Tighe (Director Technical Services), Louise Johnson (Acting Director Corporate and Community Services), Claudia Westoby (Minutes)

APOLOGIES: Cr Denis Todd (Mayor), Cr Wendy Hill, Cr Anne-Louise Capel

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Terms of Reference for the Community Consultation Meetings were provided to attendees. Terms of Reference have been endorsed by Council.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Community Consultation Meeting held in Coonabarabran on Monday, 12 March 2018 were discussed. Minutes were tabled at the May 2018 Council and are on Council's website.

BUSINESS ARISING – MINUTES

Main Street

Residents spoke about the main street in Coonabarabran and put forward ideas such as creating a theme for the main street to make it more attractive and inviting.

BUSINESS ARISING – ACTION LIST

Footpath Cassilis Street – John Street and Charles Street

A resident enquired about the state of action on the Action List in relation to the footpath in Cassilis Street. The resident indicated that while some work had been completed they felt that more still needed to be done. Director Technical Services advised that the work discussed at the last meeting, and indicated in the Action List, had been completed, however he acknowledged that more work needs to be done in relation to the footpaths in Coonabarabran.

Council Timeframes – Enquiries, Requests and Complaints

A resident outlined their experience with requesting a bore sign, raising concerns about the service received.

Action: Acting Director Corporate and Community Services to investigate process for the issuing of bore signs and compliance with this process.

National Broadband Network (NBN)

A resident requested an update on the progress of the item related to the NBN as it states in the Action List that this item has been completed. Director Development Services advised that Council has completed the actions it can, in relation to this matter, at this stage. Council's role is primarily advocacy as this is a Federal Government program.

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Coonabarabran Water

Manager Warrumbungle Water provided an update on the water situation in Coonabarabran. Items discussed included:

- Timor Dam is now at a level which is unable to gravity feed to the Water Treatment Plant.
- Council hasn't used water from Timor Dam since May 2018
- Weekly water updates continue to be provided to the community.
- Level 6 water restrictions are helping Coonabarabran preserve the town water supply.
- A report regarding the feasibility of raising the Timor Dam wall went to June Council Meeting. Concept designs and structural assessments are being progressed.
- Council is considering further funding opportunities for the raising of the Timor Dam wall.
- There will be a power outage in the week commencing 19/11/2018 to connect the next three (3) emergency bores to power supply.
- Council is currently developing a water carting plan for the worst case situation if the bores don't sustain the town water supply for the duration of the drought.

Items raised by community members included:

- Has water been considered at the Local emergency management Committee (LEMC).
- Bushfires – where do we stand in relation to the availability of water if there is a bushfire.
- Is there an opportunity to recycling water.
- Will there be a lessening of the water restrictions now the bores are online.
- Is there any subsidies for water tanks.
- Can Council waiving fees for the installation of water tanks.
- Are there any permits for local businesses to use additional water.
- Has the feasibility of pumping water from the river into the dam been considered.
- What are the depths of the bores – 100m - 120m.

A question was also asked about the fluoridation system and whether or not there was currently fluoride in the drinking water. The General Manager advised that the fluoridation system has not been working for a number of years. This is a system related problem and it not unique to Coonabarabran or Warrumbungle Shire. Council is working with NSW Health to have this issue fixed.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

Old Cemetery

A resident raised concerns around the safety of the track around the Old Cemetery. It was requested that Council to maintain the tracks and fill around the graves to prevent run off lifting the graves. Director Technical Services advised that Council does not have a lot of the money in the budget for the old Cemetery, but these concerns will be investigated.

Action: Director Technical Services to investigate works required at the Old Cemetery.

Trees – Town Streets

A resident asked if Council had a tree replacement program to replace trees around town when they died or were removed. Residents indicated they would like to see a theme for the tree scape around Coonabarabran. The Director Technical Services indicated that there is currently no theme and no overall the replacement program. There is a plan to replace the trees in Cowper and Charles Street.

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Main Street Pot Plants

A resident enquired as to who is responsible for the pot plants in the main street. A shop owner advised that the pots are owned and maintained by the shop owners however this has been difficult during the drought. It was suggested that Council consider planting hedges around the trees in the main street and have hanging pot plants next to the trees. It was suggested that Council consider the reestablishment of a committee to provide input in to the beautification of the main street.

COUNCIL UPDATES AND INFORMATION

Stronger Country Communities Fund – Round 2

Acting Director Corporate & Community Services provided feedback in relation to projects funded under Round 2 of the Stronger Country Communities Fund, noting that Coonabarabran will be receiving funding for shade and picnic tables at the Coonabarabran Skate Park.

Financial Assistance Donations

Acting Director Corporate & Community Services advised attendees that Round One Councils 2018/19 Financial Assistance Donations are now open with applications closing on Friday, 23 November 2018.

Drought Communities Programme – Extension

Acting Director Corporate & Community Services provided an update on funding being provided under the Drought Communities Programme – Extension. Residents asked questions regarding the community consultation process and the eligibility of a number of projects. It was noted that the proposal being presented to Council included a project to improve the streetscapes in all towns across the Shire. A proposal will be considered by Council at the November Council Meeting being held on Thursday, 15 November 2018.

Communication

A resident raised the importance of people providing their email addresses to Council when they sign in to the Community Consultation Meetings. It was noted that Council can't get in contact with people regarding actions from the meetings if they don't have a way to contact them.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Little Timor Street

A resident noted that there is a bridge between Namoi and Robertson Street that has been closed off. It was requested that Council consider re-opening this bridge. The Director Technical Services advised that there is no budget for these works this financial year but that this project could be put forward in the budget for next financial year.

Council Committees

A concern was raised by a resident about a couple of proposals in the November Business Paper that sought to have decisions made by Council Committee's and not Council. It was suggested that these decisions should be made by Council.

Committee of Council – Town Beautification Committee

There was a formal request from the community for Council to form a Town Beautification Committee. The Director Technical Services advised that a proposal will have to be put to Council in relation to this.

Action: Director Technical Services to submit proposal to Council regarding the reestablishment of a Town Beautification Committee.

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Castlereagh Family Day Care.

An Educator from a local Family Day Care Service raised concerns about the current management of Castlereagh Family Day Care, including a perceived lack of staffing resources and a lack of involvement of Educators in decisions. Concerns were also raised about the financial state of the Service. The General Manager provided an overview of the financial result of the Service over the last four (4) years. Educators requested financial information be provided to them.

Action: Acting Director Corporate & Community Service provide financial information to Family Day Care Educators.

Weeds

A resident requested if Council could provide some information on weeds so that people could identify weeds that are growing in the area. It was also asked if Council has a plan to spray the weeds on the road side. The Director Technical Services advised that weeds which are noxious are looked after Castlereagh County Council on behalf of Council.

Action: Director Technical Services to investigate provision of information on weeds.

MEETING CLOSE: 7:10PM
