

**MINUTES OF THE COONABARABRAN COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING HELD AT  
COONABARABRAN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY 28 OCTOBER 2019 COMMENCING  
AT 5:30PM**

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**PRESENT:** Cr Denis Todd (Mayor), , Cr Aniello Iannuzzi (Deputy Mayor), Cr Kodi Brady, Cr Ambrose Doolan, Cr Peter Shinton, Cr Anne-Louise Capel, Richard Thornton, Paula Brookfield, Robert Brookfield, Zoe Holcombe, Guy Andrews, Dianne Dow, Joel Amiet, Laurie Dawson, Martin Lill, Jane Smith, Vanessa Swanson, Narelle Blackhall, Karen Wessel, Lynne Estens, Imogen Morrissey, Robyn Lee, Jane Judd, Martyn Wilkin, Juleen Young, Suzie Stephenson, John Sawyer, Joan Wilkin, Julie Shinton, Rendle Hannah, Caitlyn Morrissey , Sam Bragg, Kay Fredericks , Peter Samios, Alexandra Hartwig (RMS), Susie Mackay (RMS), Scott Green (RMS), Edward Paas (RMS), Lisa Kennedy (RMS), 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:** Cr Wendy Hill, Cr Fred Clancy, Cr Ray Lewis

**INTRODUCTION**

Mayor Denis 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. General Manager outlined how the meeting will be run and introduced Susie Mckay and Scott Green from the RMS for a Presentation.

**RMS PRESENTATION**

- Access for 36.5 metre vehicles on the Newell Hwy through Coonabarabran - Susie Mckay and Scott Green
- RMS Update on the Newell Hwy Upgrade at Coonabarabran – Edward Paas

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes of the Community Consultation Meeting held in Coonabarabran on Monday, 8 April 2019 were discussed. Minutes were tabled at the May 2019 Council meeting and were sent out to attendees of the April meeting as well as being available on Council's website.

**COMMUNITY MATTERS**

**1. Fluoride in Water Supply**

Peter Samios stated that this is the third time he has addressed this issue at a Community consultation meeting and we still have no fluoride in the water supply. There has been no word from Council and a Media release but still no fluoride, no action and no timeline. Peter asked where other towns with the same system were in terms of progress and why we cannot seem to fix a fluoridation system? Where are we with reinstating action and with the appointed consultant?

GM advised that there has been a public Media Release and Council has no direct responsibility as this is a NSW Department of Health issue.

MWW advised that the update had been reflected in the Action list. A consultant has been engaged and other affected towns and Councils are having the same issues due to a non functioning design of the fluoridation system. If levels are too high then this can have a negative health effect. A modified design is still being approved and will need to be endorsed by NSW Health. It is progressing but is not within our control.

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Jane Smith asked: for those who would like to consume fluoride, what are their options if it is not in the water supply?

Cr Capel advised that fluoride tablets can be purchased at the chemist.

GM stated that a decision has been made to have it and eventually we will.

Jane Smith asked if it can be removed if the Community want it removed?

GM advised yes it can be removed from the water supply if Community demands.

**2. Footpaths outside the Doctors Surgeries on Casillis St**

Dianne Dow said that this part of the street has two Doctors surgeries, two dentists, a physiotherapist, psychologist, radiology, CWA and a bank and often people using the pathway in the block have movement impairment of some type. The state of the pathway is not satisfactory and is unsafe. It is an accident waiting to happen. In the 2018 Action plan, it said that the footpath had been completed and it hasn't.

DTS advised that Council had limited funds to fix the footpath and was concentrating the funding it did have on fixing level changes in the path and this has been the priority. The program is due to be completed in March 2020.

Caitlyn Morrissey stated that the pathway outside the physio was too narrow for a wheelchair to pass.

DTS advised that more funds would be needed to increase the width of footpaths.

**Action:** DTS to place issue on the agenda for funding in next years budget

**3. Kangaroo Viewing Platform**

Martyn Wilkin spoke about living in the area for most of his life and has noticed some great opportunities at the area just south of the High School where there are many kangaroos. Having a viewing area for kangaroos available to tourists in that location would be cost effective and promote the local fauna whilst providing tourists with encouragement to stop and view. Martyn suggested that the viewing area could be fenced to protect from traffic noise.

DEDS advised that she would take the suggestion on notice and refer it to the Manager of Economic Development and Tourism.

**Action:** DEDS to investigate viability of Kangaroo viewing platform

**COUNCIL UPDATES AND INFORMATION**

**1. Australia Day Nominations**

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

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- 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 available in the CBD in daylight hours.

Peter Samios asked if we will see signage put up throughout the available area?

DCCS advised that yes this will happen

**Action:** DCCS to organise Free Wifi signage in available areas

Cr Brady asked if there was a limit for downloads?

DCCS advised not at present

Cr Brady suggested data gathering of users like collecting postcodes and other information that can be used statistically. This could include signing in and providing information whilst logging on and this could be a very useful tourism tool and users can opt in or out of information gathering features.

DCCs advised that users of the system are trackable. Council intended to provide a service to the public and locals to encourage people to stop in the Shire towns. As the service develops, it will change and evolve.

GM advised that the system operates on line of sight and buildings can disrupt the connection.

Jane Judd suggested that Council investigates options of information gathering.

Peter Samios suggested that there be a landing page to sign in and questions on that page

**Action:** DCCS investigate options for system sign in page

## **3. Potential Projects for Funding**

GM advised that sometimes a short application time is given to apply for funding and asked for any ideas for project funding to be forwarded to Council.

## **4. Budget Process**

DCCS advised that each year, by the end of June, Council adopts an operation , followed by a 4 year delivery program and 10 year plan where Council work with Community to meet goals. The first phase sees financial results from previous years including unspent funds from incomplete projects, investment and asset plans and grants from Government.

In mid January, Council consult with Community for external budget submissions like footpath widening, signage, roadworks etc.

In mid March, a draft is formed and presented to Council.

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In mid April, submissions are sought and fine tuning occurs, including sourcing grants from Government and additional funding.  
End of June, Council determines the final Budget.

**5. Warrumbungle Community Services Expo**

DCCS advised that the Warrumbungle Community Care will again be holding a community Services Expo at the Coonabarabran Town Hall on Wednesday 13 November from 10am-2:30pm. The previous Expo held in Dunedoo was a great success. The Expo gives service providers the opportunity to network and also provides an opportunity for Community members to know which services are accessible locally.

Cr Brady stated that the hours of the Expo are in the middle of the day so many in the Community cannot access it due to the limited hours and extended hours are needed.

**Action:** DCCS to look into extended or amended hours for the EXPO.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**1. New Warrumbungle Region Brochure**

Jane Judd showed the attendees the new regions advertising brochure which she said looks great except for the map where there is no road shown to access the Warrumbungle National Park as well as other important roads that needed to be on there.

**Action:** DEDS to address with Economic Development

**2. Council Meeting Recordings**

Julie Shinton advised that the current recordings of Council meetings are difficult to listen to and parts of the conversation are missed due to the microphones cutting in and out. Julie suggested live streaming the meetings on Facebook as other Council's do and the meeting can then also be available after the event. It would require one camera.

**Action:** DCCS to address with IT providers and consider in the budget

**3. Job Vacancies at Council**

Martin Lil asked about whether the various job vacancies at Council are being filled?

GM advised that the Corporate and Community Services Director position has been successfully filled and there has been a recent commencement of a managerial position in Development services.

**4. Campaigns for Small Business**

Cr Capel advised attendees about two campaigns relevant to small business which are currently running.

- Buy From the Bush
- Go Country for Christmas

There has been real support from urban areas for these campaigns and individual businesses would benefit by signing up. Senator Holly Hughes has the links on her website.

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**5. Markets in Town**

Jane Smith stated that markets have the potential to create connection for community and business and the current markets are simply not inviting for this to occur. The market used to be held at the river and it would be great to have some creative solutions to make the market amazing again in the park.

Caitlyn Morrissey suggested that the current markets are dwindling and would be better to move back to the park.

Cr Brady stated that the issue comes up with the Chamber of Commerce all the time that the markets should move back to the park.

Julie Shinton advised that there was a problem with stallholders driving in.

DTS advised that it was not appropriate for vehicles to drive onto the grass.

GM advised Jane to go to the Chamber of Commerce

**Action:** Manager of Economic Development and Tourism to workshop alternate venues and ideas for movement of the market.

Mayor Denis Todd declared the meeting closed.

**MEETING CLOSED: 7:20PM**