

**MINUTES OF THE BINNAWAY COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING HELD IN
BINNAWAY BOWLING CLUB ON TUESDAY 16 APRIL 2024
COMMENCING AT 5.30PM.**

PRESENT: Cr Ambrose Doolan (Mayor), Cr Kathryn Rindfleish (Deputy Mayor), Cr Zoe Holcombe, Cr Denis Todd, Cr Jason Newton, Roger Bailey (General Manager, GM), Lindsay Mason (Director Corporate and Community Services, DCCS), Leeanne Ryan (Director Environment and Development Services, DEDES), Amanda Wherrett (PA for DCCS, Minutes), Sally Edwards, Emma Bowman, Jennifer Lambell, Rob Lambell, Bill Tatt, Bernie McBain, Ray Lewis, Gary Andrews, Tim Kemp, and Natasha Noakes.

APOLOGIES: Cr Dale Hogden, Cr Aniello Iannuzzi, Nicole Benson (Director Technical Services, DTS), Lyn Petherbridge, Jane Simmons, and Jim Larkin.

INTRODUCTION:

Mayor Ambrose Doolan welcomed attendees to the meeting and introduced the councillors, General Manager (GM), Director Environment and Development Services (DEDES), Director Corporate and Community Services (DCCS), and PA to DCCS (Minute Taker).

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING TUESDAY 24 OCTOBER 2023

It was noted that Jennifer and Robert Lambell's surname was recorded incorrectly. The correct spelling is Lambell, not Lambrill.

BUSINESS ARISING

In relation to the Binnaway Action List items that state 'in progress', Sally Edwards asked if there are any further updates to add to the Action List items at this meeting.

GM advised that there are no further updates to add at this time.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

1. Tree planting along the streets of Binnaway township. (Richard Bailey)

DCCS advised that Council has a budget for this kind of project and suggested Richard put forward a budget proposal to the Operation Plan 2024/25 currently on exhibition.

Sally Edwards enquired whether a budget submission the only way new street trees for Binnaway are to be considered.

DTS advised that funding included in the budget is only to replace trees that have died, not to purchase extra street trees.

2. Funding for housing for independent living in Binnaway. (Bernie McBain)

Bernie McBain enquired whether the potential funding Council may receive from REZ developers could be used to build housing for independent living in Binnaway. Bernie mentioned that there are three vacant blocks of land behind the Bowling Club that could be used for housing development.

DCCS advised that Binnaway Bowling Club would have to have detailed building plans for a housing development before a discussion with Council could occur. Furthermore, Bernie could contact Council for information relating to development applications and planning requirements.

3. Issues relating to the protestors on the Coonabarabran Council building corner footpath on the weekends. (Bernie McBain)

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Bernie McBain claimed that he experienced a near miss while driving his truck in Coonabarabran toward the intersection of John and Cassilis streets at Council corner, where the resident protestors there distracted him with waving posters and stepping off the kerb toward his oncoming truck.

GM advised that this is not a matter Council has control over, and traffic incidents should be reported to the Police.

COUNCIL UPDATES AND INFORMATION

4. Renewable Energy Zone (REZ)

DEDS provided an update on the REZ and associated projects.

- Planning and approval stages for the EnergyCo and REZ developers continues to progress.
- EnergyCo are expecting to receive approval for the transmission line by mid-2024, and feeding power down the line by 2028.
- Council continues to meet with REZ Developers as required, and lodge submissions on the various planning documents that are released for each development.
- Discussions around the draft Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) preparations continue, with key terms agreed on and resolved for Spicer's Creek Wind Farm and Valley of the Winds Wind Farm. This sees an agreement for quantum to be paid at 1.5% of the Capital Investment Value (CIV) for Spicers Creek, and \$1,050 per Megawatt for Valley of the Winds.
- Council continues to proactively work through relevant matters relating to the REZ as required.
- Copies of Council's submissions and REZ information is located on Council's website.

Bernie McBain enquired about Council staff time and how much is allocated to work relating to REZ development projects.

DEDS advised that a lot of Council resources are spent managing REZ development projects, including writing submissions, attending meetings and following up submissions. The \$250,000 funding Council received from EnergyCo did not cover all expenses incurred, Council spent a further \$260,000 on REZ related costs in this first year.

Sally Edwards enquired if Council plans on expanding the DEDS team to help manage the workload by using future funding from EnergyCo.

DEDS advised that there is no signed agreement regarding future funding as yet.

5. Roads Restoration Program.

DTS provided an update on the roads and the Natural Disaster Recovery program. Key points were:

Three tenders were advertised in late 2023 for Natural Disaster Restoration Works associated with the AGRN 987 event. All tenders have now closed. The order of works to follow is: Sandy Creek Road, Lambing Hill Road, Dapper Road, Diehm Road, Danabar Road, Upper Laheys Creek Road, Lincoln Road and then Brooklyn Road.

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The Oxley/ Goolhi Region Tender 3 closed in November 2023, and Council's consultants BEC are in discussion with TfNSW to finalise and approve contracts for road works, including: Albert Wright Road, Ameys Road, Apricot Lane, Bakers Lane, Balmoral Road, Bellings Road, Borah Creek Road, Goolhi Road, Keeches Road, McEvoy's Road, Quaker Tommy Road, Rayak Road, Reddens Road, Schumacks Road, and Yaminbah Road.

6. Draft Public Gates and Cattle Grids on Public Roads Policy.

DTS advised that Council has revised and updated the Public Gates and Cattle Grids on Public Roads Policy. The draft policy will be on public exhibition to allow the community to provide feedback.

Cr Newton advised that the Public Gates and Cattle Grids on Public Roads Policy was considered by the Traffic Advisory Committee, as it needed updating. The draft policy will be submitted to the May Council meeting for consideration.

A further Council item was added to this part of the meeting.

7. Operational Plan and Budget

DCCS advised that the Council Operational Plan and Budget is now on public exhibition and can be found on the Council website

GENERAL BUSINESS

8. Mollyan Road bridge dips. (Bill Tatt)

Bill Tatt mentioned that the Mollyan Road bridge has subsidence dips on the approaches that may cause tyre damage on trucks loaded with heavy freight.

ACTION: DTS to investigate the Mollyan Road bridge for possible maintenance of subsidence dips on the bridge approaches.

9. Commendation for Council road works.

A community member commended Council for road works carried out on Manson's Lane.

10. Piambra Road works required. (Ray Lewis)

Ray Lewis enquired if Council could seal Piambra Road as the road is not letting water shed.

ACTION: DTS to investigate Piambra Road for possible maintenance work or road sealing.

11. Update on the sewerage treatment in Binnaway. (Gary Andrews)

Gary Andrews asked for an update on the sewerage treatment in Binnaway.

DEDS advised that Council are currently working through a business case and concept design for the sewerage treatment plant in Binnaway.

12. Maintenance on the lane behind Binnaway Golf Club.

A community member asked if the lane behind the Golf Club, at the end of Wingabutta Road, could be graded or slashed.

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ACTION: DTS to assess the lane behind the Binnaway Golf Club for possible maintenance works.

13. Non-camping visitors using the Binnaway campground water supply. (Robert Lambell)

Robert Lambell mentioned that non-camping visitors are filling up large water containers at the pump house in the Binnaway campground, which is costing a lot of water usage. Robert enquired whether Binnaway Progress Association could request a reduction in water rates on the subsequent loss of water.

ACTION: Robert Lambell to provide Council DTS with his contact details.

GM suggested investigating what other campgrounds have put in place to make taking large amounts of the water difficult, like a timed tap, or user pays water station for example.

ACTION: DTS to investigate the installation of restrictive devices on Binnaway campground water supply like a water tap timer, or a user pays water station.

14. Commendation for Council's trial of free entrance to Binnaway pool.

Natasha Noakes commended Council for the recent trial of free entry to Binnaway pool, Natasha mentioned that Binnaway residents used Binnaway pool more often than usual, and the community seemed to appreciate free access.

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

There being no further business, meeting was closed 6.18 pm.