

**MINUTES OF THE BINNAWAY COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING
ROUND 1 2024/25 HELD IN THE BINNAWAY BOWLING CLUB
ON MONDAY 28 OCTOBER 2024 COMMENCING AT 5.30PM.**

PRESENT: Cr Kathryn Rindfleish (Mayor), Cr Jason Newton (Deputy Mayor), Cr Zoe Holcombe, Cr Debra Bell, Cr Naomi Taylor, Cr Ray Lewis, Cr Kodi Brady, Leeanne Ryan (Director Environment and Development Services, DEDES), Ngaire Stevens (Acting Director Corporate and Community Services, A/DCCS), Kevin Tighe (Acting Director Technical Services, A/DTS), Thomas Cleary (Manager Warrumbungle Water, MWW), Nicole Devenish (Community Services Connections Officer), Amanda Wherrett (PA to Director Corporate and Community Services, Minutes), Lyn Petherbridge, Sally Edwards, Jennifer Lambell, Rob Lambell, Bill Tatt, Gary Andrews, Natasha Noakes, Lisa Wright, Julie Mitchell, Gloria Hancock, Dainelle Meyers, and Emily Brooks.

APOLOGIES: Cr Dale Hogden, Cr Denis Todd, Roger Bailey (General Manager), Nicole Benson (Director Technical Services), Sandra McCaw, and Bernie McBain.

INTRODUCTION:

Mayor Kathryn Rindfleish welcomed attendees to the meeting and introduced the councillors and Council staff in attendance.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING TUESDAY 16 APRIL 2024

Relating to the Business Arising of 16 April 2024, Sally Edwards noted that the minutes did not reflect her concern raised, that was regarding the timeliness of outstanding items on the Binnaway Action List, and in addition, Sally had queried why some items remained 'In Progress' for so long.

BUSINESS ARISING

Relating to the previous Minutes of 16 April 2024, Agenda Item 2 Funding for housing for independent living in Binnaway, Rob Lambell requested an update on this item.

DEDS advised not aware of where the matter was at, as it had been dealt with by the General Manager.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

1. Full report on the Binnaway sewerage scheme and when it might be started. (Gary Andrews)

MWW provided an update on the progress on the project so far, key points were:

- Since undertaking community consultation in March 2023, Council has engaged a consultant, NSWPW, to complete a concept design of the sewerage scheme. The scope of the concept design includes site selection, concept design of reticulation and treatment infrastructure, environmental assessment and technical specifications which provide detail as to how the contractor is to build the scheme.
- Following completion of the concept design, Council will engage with regulators DCCEEW and NSW EPA to obtain relevant approvals in relation to the proposed plans;
- Once plans are endorsed, Council will procure a consultant to develop a business case for the scheme. The purpose of the business case is to complete a robust analysis of the proposal which details the benefits and costs of the scheme. Council will then decide on moving the project to the next phase which will be the construction phase.
- The project will be developed to a shovel ready status, meaning that whilst the project may not be ready to commence, the plans are

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developed to a point where the scheme can be constructed when suitable funding becomes available.

A community member was concerned that a rates increase would result from the upgrade.

Mayor Rindfleish advised that once the Binnaway Sewerage Business Plan has been completed then costs will be more understood, the timeframe of which will be closer to September 2025.

MWW advised that Council will engage with Binnaway community before the Binnaway Sewerage Business Plan is submitted to Council for review.

Sally Edwards enquired if the Binnaway Sewerage Business Plan included Mendooran Sewer Treatment upgrade plans.

MWW advised that they are two separate projects; to date Council has received funding to develop an options assessment for the Mendooran Sewerage Scheme, this was completed in 2022. To date there is no funding available to further progress the project.

COUNCIL UPDATES AND INFORMATION

2. Roads Restoration Program.

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

- \$10,582,454 has been approved for restoration and works are being carried out with 86% funds spent.
- Natural Disaster restorations deadlines for completion of grant funding are: 30 March 2025 for the November 2021 event AGRN 927; and 30 June 2025 for the September 2022 event. AGRN 1034.
- \$21,001,486 worth of claims have been submitted for AGRN 1034. Council and TfNSW are reviewing the claims, and TfNSW has asked for additional information. Additional plant (trucks) have been hired, Council staff are working additional hours and/or up to six (6) days per week to meet the works deadline.
- Works are currently underway: Wongoni Road; Mancers Road; Box Ridge Road; Prugger North of Oxley (Goolhi and surrounds) such as Reddens Road and Yaminbah Road.

Two enquiries by a community member, raised at this part of the meeting, has been recorded in the General Business section as number 5 and 6.

3. External Budget Submissions

A/DCCS advised that External Budget Submissions are currently open for the financial year 2025/26, and forms are available on Council website under the Have Your Say tab. The submissions close at 4.30 pm on Friday 6 December 2024.

3.1 Sally Edwards enquired if the costs associated with mowing the Binnaway Showground could be applied for within the External Budget Submissions.

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A/DCCS advised Sally that this request would be better suited as an application for Council's Annual Donations, or Community Financial Assistance Donations.

ACTION: A/DCCS to investigate who manages the mowing of the Binnaway Showground.

4. Australia Day 2025

A/DCCS advised that nominations for Australia Day 2025 Awards opened on Monday 28 October 2024, and will close at 4.30 pm on 25 November 2024. Forms are available on Council's website under the Have Your Say tab, at Council reception in Coonabarabran and Coolah, and available at this meeting.

GENERAL BUSINESS

All community matters raised at the beginning of the meeting are recorded in this section of the minutes as General Business.

5. Binnaway address Number 156 Ironbark Street.

A community member enquired why number 156 Ironbark Street was changed to number 3 Showground Street. In addition, the community member enquired why there are four number 10 George Street addresses.

A/DTS advised that when streets are renamed Council complies with the NSW Government Geographical Names Board rules and regulations, and organisations such as Australia Post and Police are notified as part of that process.

ACTION: A/DTS to investigate why address number 156 Ironbark Street was changed to number 3 Showground Street.

ACTION: A/DTS to investigate how many properties are numbered 10 George Street in Binnaway.

6. Renaming town streets

A community member enquired as to what Council's process is to rename streets.

ACTION: A/DTS to provide a report detailing the process and procedures involved in renaming town streets.

7. Bin near the bus-stop in Bullinda Street (Dainelle Meyers).

Dainelle Meyers enquired if the bin that was removed near the bus stop in Bullinda street could be replaced.

ACTION: A/DTS to follow up the replacement of the bin near the bus stop in Bullinda street.

8. In relation to Item 14 Development Application – Pumphouse Campground of the Binnaway Action List Rd 2 17/18 - 13 November 2017 (Rob Lambell)

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Rob Lambell enquired about an update to the road closure, and to the progress of the Development Application (DA) and review of licence agreement.

DEDS advised that Council would need to refresh the DA process and assess what is required with a review of the license agreement.

9. In relation to Binnaway Action List Item 19, 4 May 2021 – Round 2 202/2021 (Sally Edwards)

Sally Edwards mentioned that Item 19 of 4 May 2021 of the Binnaway Action List regarding security cameras states that the status is completed, however, the last comment provided is “For consideration by new Council in 2025/26 budget”. Sally enquired as to whether the status should be ‘in progress’ if the item remains for consideration by the new Council.

A/DCCS advised that Council will take this on notice.

10. Tobacco and Vaping shops in the local community (Sally Edwards).

Sally Edwards enquired if Council would consider seeking support from the local Member of Parliament, Roy Butler, regarding the tobacco/vaping shops that have established businesses in the community, and the potential health risk to the community’s youth.

Mayor Rindfleish advised that Council will take this on notice.

11. Binnaway Youth Program (Sally Edwards)

Sally Edwards provided an update to Council on the Binnaway Youth Program and a review of all the local service providers. In addition, Sally mentioned that there will be a variation on the Stronger Country Communities Fund (SCCF) to be submitted shortly.

A/DCCS advised to take this on notice.

12. Mowing of resident’s Council owned verge land. (Natasha Noakes)

Natasha Noakes enquired as to why Council does not mow the Council owned land outside residential properties.

A/DTS advised that Council do not generally mow residential footpaths, and that Council are currently undertaking a service level review to look at potential over servicing, or under servicing, of Council owned areas.

13. Commendation to Council the installation work of the signs at Binnaway Campground (Rob Lambell)

Rob Lambell commended Council for the work that was completed installing new signs at the Binnaway Campground.

14. Binnaway pool closure (Lisa Wright)

Lisa Wright mentioned that Binnaway School was not informed that the Binnaway pool opening date was to be delayed. Lisa mentioned Binnaway school paid \$3000 for swimming lessons for school students for Wednesday 30 October 2024, and the pool is closed.

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A/DTS advised the Binnaway pool is currently being filled, and is on track to be opened by Wednesday 30 October 2024.

15. Binnaway pool opening times for the school swim season (Natasha Noakes)

Natasha Noakes mentioned that Binnaway school often experiences interruptions to school sporting events at the Binnaway pool, and are not offered a subsidy to pool fees as compensation.

A/DTS advised that scheduled pool opening times are based on Council resources, pool usage and running costs associated for each pool. Opening of pools is scheduled 5 days in advance to allow time to prepare the pools. In regard to Binnaway pool this season, Council couldn't access the water main without impacting the pressure to the Binnaway town supply, resulting in the pool filling up much more slowly than expected.

16. Request for a subsidy to the Season Ticket (Lisa Wright)

Lisa Wright requested Binnaway residents receive a discount on the Season Ticket, as Binnaway pool is not open for as long as other Shire pools are.

Mayor advised that this request will be taken on notice.

17. Regarding a lifeguard position for Binnaway pool (Bill Tatt)

Bill Tatt mentioned that lifeguards require more than seasonal work only, and that previously Binnaway pool had a lifeguard with fulltime work, spending swim season at the pool, and the rest of year working elsewhere within Council.

Mayor advised to take this on notice.

18. Binnaway pool fees for families experiencing hardship (Lisa Wright)

Lisa Wright mentioned that many local Binnaway families cannot afford the proposed entry fees to the pool, and the pool is one of only two activities for Binnaway youth to use recreationally. Lisa enquired as to whether these families could receive a subsidy to pool fees to help them access the pool.

Mayor Rindfleish advised that at the upcoming November Council Meeting there will be a Resolution for discussion regarding the entry fees to Shire pools.

19. EnergyCo grant funding to cover the costs of entry for Shire pools (Sally Edwards)

Sally Edwards enquired if part of the EnergyCo grant funding could be allocated to Shire communities to cover free entry to all Shire pools.

A/DCCS advised Sally to investigate the EnergyCo Grant guidelines for eligibility to use the Grant funding to cover free entry to all Shire pools.

20. Binnaway water quality.

A community member mentioned she experiences calcification build up in her household showerhead, the town water hardness is an issue for her skin, and she has corrosion issues from the water.

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MWW advised that Binnaway water complies with Australian Drink Water Guidelines and town water test results are published on Council website on the Warrumbungle Water page for community information. Town water is a user-pays system, and water hardness is costly to treat and requires advanced levels of water treatment, the costs of which would be passed on to consumers. Calcification naturally occurs and is an aesthetic issue only. Corrosion can be due to the source water, and the age of metre-to-household plumbing. MWW also advised that Binnaway has a \$2M budget for upgrades to Binnaway town water, after which should be a noticeable improvement in taste and odour.

21. Communications with Council via email (Sally Edwards)

Sally Edwards mentioned that she submitted an email to Council, and then a follow up email, and received no response.

ACTION: Sally Edwards to provide the two email document numbers for A/DCCS to follow up.

ACTION: A/DCCS to follow up the two emails sent to Council by Sally Edwards with document ID numbers provided by Sally Edwards.

22. Len Guy Park and Skate Park (Lisa Wright)

Lisa mentioned the poor condition of the Binnaway Skate Park, and Len Guy Park, and enquired if there are any plans to upgrade these two places.

A/DTS advised that part of the REZ funding will be allocated to town's playground upgrades.

23. Binnaway Tennis Club lights (Gary Andrews)

Gary Andrews mentioned that the Binnaway Tennis Club solar lights are not working.

ACTION: A/DTS to investigate the solar lights at the Binnaway Tennis Club for maintenance.

Mayor Kathryn Rindfleish thanked everyone for attending, and declared the meeting closed.

There being no further business, meeting was closed 6.50 pm.