

**MINUTES OF THE COONABARABRAN COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING
ROUND 1 2024/25 HELD IN COONABARABRAN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
ON MONDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2024, COMMENCING AT 5:30PM**

PRESENT: Cr Jason Newton (Deputy Mayor), Cr Zoe Holcombe, Cr Naomi Taylor, Cr Denis Todd, Cr Kodi Brady, Lindsay Mason (Acting General Manager, A/GM), Nicole Benson (Director Technical Services, DTS), LEEANNE RYAN (Director Environment and Development Services, DEDS), Ngaire Stevens (Acting Director Corporate and Community Services A/DCCS), Amanda Wherrett (PA to Director Corporate and Community Services, Minutes), Nicole Devenish (Community Services Connections Officer, CSCO), Paul San Miguel, Terry Tighe, Joel Amiet, Kalyna Sparks, Julie Shinton and Peter Shinton.

APOLOGIES: Cr Kathy Rindfleish (Mayor), Cr Dale Hogden, and Cr Debra Bell.

INTRODUCTION

Deputy Mayor Jason Newton welcomed attendees to the meeting and introduced the councillors and Council staff in attendance.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING MONDAY 25 MARCH 2024

In relation to Item 9 of the Minutes, a community member's name should read Terry Ward, not Terry Tighe. In addition, Item 9 question should read *white ant* damage, not *white any* damage.

BUSINESS ARISING

Nil

COMMUNITY MATTERS

Nil.

COUNCIL UPDATES AND INFORMATION

1. Roads Restoration Program.

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 projected to be finished by January 2025.

2. 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.

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3. 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

4. Unclean Council building frontage. (Julie Shinton)

Julie Shinton mentioned that the front of the Council building is very dirty and needs to be cleaned.

DTS advised to investigate and schedule cleaners to clean the area.

ACTION: DTS to investigate and schedule cleaners to clean the front of the Council building.

5. Costs of Council paperwork to reproduce for community members (Julie Shinton)

Julie Shinton enquired why Council paperwork costs so much money when community members request copies printed.

A/GM advised that it depends what paperwork community members require. For copies of community members own paperwork there is small charge for administrative time and resources required. Council documents are free of charge such as: Council policies, nomination forms, and guidelines, in addition, this paperwork is available on Council's website. Informal Government Information Public Access (GIPA) paperwork is free of charge. Formal Government Information Public Access (GIPA) paperwork has a cost associated depending on the complexity of work involved for staff to compile paperwork.

6. Commendation for Coonabarabran Council reception staff (Julie Shinton)

Julie Shinton commended Council's Coonabarabran office reception staff for their help with a rates issue, Julie mentioned that the staff were very helpful.

7. Parkrun bond (Julie Shinton)

Julie enquired if the Parkrun bond could be paid from the successful application by 2357 Development Group to Community Financial Assistance Donations Rd 1 2024/25, once it is received. Julie mentioned that Parkrun would support this happening.

A/DCCS advised that the Parkrun bond being paid from the Community Financial Assistance Donations Rd 1 24/25 payment received has been discussed and A/DCCS will contact 2357 Development Group to work through the process.

ACTION: A/DCCS to contact 2357 Development Group to work through the process of the Parkrun bond being paid from the successful Community Financial Assistance Donations Rd 1 24/25 payment to 2357 Development Group.

8. Media advertising of the Community Consultation Meetings (Joel Amiet)

Joel Amiet mentioned that he could not find the advertising on Facebook for the Community Consultation Meetings Rd 1 24/25, and enquired if Council could

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advertise these meetings more frequently on social media leading up to each meeting.

Cr Kodi Brady enquired if Community Consultation Meetings could be created as Facebook Events so interested members can mark their attendance or interest and receive updates.

A/DCCS advised that Community Consultation Meetings Rd 1 24/25 was advertised: fortnightly on Facebook, on Council's website, local newspapers / newsletters, community e-newsletters, to community development groups, and local radio. A/DCCS noted the suggestion for higher frequency advertising on social media, and the suggestion to add Community Consultation Meetings as Facebook Events.

ACTION: A/DCCS to organise advertising of future Community Consultation Meeting details to be added to the Events page on Council's website.

9. Coonabarabran River Walk maintenance (Kalyna Sparks)

Kalyna Sparks enquired what the maintenance strategy of the Coonabarabran River Walk area is, as recently a maintenance crew have whipper-snipped the River Walk area and destroyed native plants growing there. In addition, Kalyna mentioned that the local Landcare group would be interested in working with Council and being involved in a weeding strategy to help maintain the area, and protect the planted natives.

ACTION: DTS to investigate the maintenance program of the Coonabarabran River Walk area, and consider collaboration with local Landcare Group for future maintenance.

10. Maintenance of trees on Council land near a residence (Peter Shinton)

Peter Shinton enquired if Council have a tree assessment program as there have been large fallen branches on the road near his property, and other branches have fallen into his yard. In addition, a Council staff member came to assess these trees and deemed some to be dangerous.

DTS advised Council will follow up with the assessment of the trees near Peter's house. DTS also mentioned that Council has a small budget for town tree maintenance.

ACTION: DTS to follow up the maintenance assessment of the trees near Peter Shinton's house.

11. Update on the Memorial Gun project (Cr Jason Newton)

Deputy Mayor Jason Newton enquired about an update from the RSL on putting the Memorial Gun back out the front of the Coonabarabran Memorial Pool where it belongs.

ACTION: DTS to contact the Coonabarabran RSL president regarding the status of the Memorial Gun project and when it will be returned to the front of Coonabarabran Memorial Pool.

12. Progress on the town sign project (Terry Tighe)

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Terry Tighe enquired about an update on the town sign project.

DEDS advised progress on the town sign project continues, the Economic Development and Tourism Committee have selected the designs for each town sign, are working on plans for building the sign structures, and determining the locations of all town signs.

13. Town Beautification Committee applications (Terry Tighe)

Terry Tighe enquired about how to join the Town Beautification Committee.

DTS advised that Expression of Interest for Membership of the Town Beautification Advisory Committee are currently being advertised on Council website.

14. John Street median strip plant maintenance (Terry Tighe)

Terry Tighe enquired if the John Street median strip plant, particularly the Leara Petulum between the clocktower and the bridge, could be trimmed as new growth will sprout from old wood on that plant.

DTS advised to take it on notice.

15. Bus shelter installation (Terry Tighe)

Terry Tighe enquired whether he could obtain an old bus shelter, that have been removed and replaced, and have it installed as a bus shelter for the bus stop near his house.

ACTION: DTS to follow up whether an old bus shelter could be installed as a bus shelter for school students near his house.

16. Little Timor Street Plaza hose reel issues (Terry Tighe)

Terry Tighe mentioned that the Little Timor Street Plaza has had difficulty with the hose reel being vandalized, and enquired if a lockable box could be installed to house the hose reel.

DTS advised that this issue has been raised at the Town Beautification Committee previously, and DTS will investigate what the committee determined the solution to be.

ACTION: DTS to follow up the progress on the lockable box project for Little Timor Plaza hose reel that was raised previously at the Town Beautification Committee meetings.

17. Recruitment of a new Warrumbungle Shire Council General Manager (Paul San Miguel)

Paul San Miguel enquired about what the time frame will be to recruit a new General Manager for Warrumbungle Shire Council.

A/GM advised the current Warrumbungle Shire Council General Manager's last day is 13 December 2024. Recruitment process for the role of General Manager is to be determined by the Mayor. Councillors will proceed with recruitment as per the Council Resolution for Recruitment.

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Deputy Mayor Jason Newton thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed.

There being no further business, meeting was closed 6:00 pm.