

**MINUTES OF THE COOLAH COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING HELD IN
COOLAH COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON TUESDAY 26 MARCH 2024
COMMENCING AT 5:30PM**

PRESENT: Cr Ambrose Doolan (Mayor), Cr Kathy Rindfleish (Deputy Mayor), Cr Denis Todd, Lindsay Mason (Acting General Manager, A/GM), Nicole Benson (Director Technical Services, DTS), Leeanne Ryan (Director Environment and Development Services, DEDES), Amanda Wherrett (PA to Director Corporate and Community Services, Minutes), Grant Piper, Anita O'Neil, Ian Guthrie, Anne-Louise Capel, Kath Reynolds, Jo Murphy, Noel Gilbert, Greg Piper, Ted Miller, E. Hughes, Christine Stamper, and The Hon. Ron Hoenig MP.

APOLOGIES: Cr Aniello Iannuzzi, Cr Jason Newton, Cr Zoe Holcombe and Katie Burgess.

INTRODUCTION

Mayor Ambrose Doolan welcomed attendees to the meeting and introduced the councillors, Acting General Manager (A/GM), Director Environment and Development Services (DEDES), Director Technical Services (DTS), and PA to Director Corporate Community Services (Minutes).

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING MONDAY, 30 OCTOBER 2023

Moved by Anne-Louise Capell, confirming the minutes are a true and accurate record.

BUSINESS ARISING

Relating to Item 6, Kath Reynolds enquired as to whether the General Manager received the information she emailed him outlining details of Greens Minister Cate Faehrmann's proposed visit to the CWO REZ.

A/GM advised that the General Manger is currently on leave, and was unable to answer the question.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

Nil community matters.

COUNCIL UPDATES AND INFORMATION

1. Renewable Energy Zone (REZ)

DEDES 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 Spicer's 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.

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A community member enquired about the availability of a single map outlining the locations of all REZ developments within, and on the boarder to, Warrumbungle Shire.

ACTION: DEDS to source a map displaying the locations of all REZ developments within, and bordering, Warrumbungle Shire.

Discussion took place regarding access to REZ developments during bushfires.

A community member enquired about what representation has been made to the NSW Government for Council being understaffed with the extra workload that the REZ creates, and if Council were advertising job vacancies locally.

A/GM advised that Council advertises all vacancies through a range of platforms including: Seek website, Sydney Morning Herald, positions vacant on Council website, local newspapers and newsletters/diaries, as well as on social media.

2. Roads Restoration Program

DTS provided an update on the roads and Natural Disaster Recovery program.

Key points were:

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, McEvoys Road, Quaker Tommy Road, Rayak Road, Reddens Road, Schumacks Road, and Yaminbah Road.

Ian Guthrie enquired about when Council will schedule line marking on these roads.

A/GM advised that Council does not line mark unsealed roads.

Ian Guthrie then asked why Council has not marked road edges on sealed roads.

DTS advised that line marking works are scheduled as a series of projects to maximise efficiency.

A community member enquired about replacing the Warrumbungle Shire signs at the entrance to Warrumbungle Shire at the Golden Highway and Gulgong areas. In addition, the Cassilis Warrumbungle Shire entrance sign was burnt in a recent fire.

ACTION: DEDS to investigate the condition of the Warrumbungle Shire signs at the Golden Highway, Gulgong and Cassilis entrance areas.

A community member enquired if funding was available to repair the dilapidated King Toogee grave sign.

A/GM advised that the King Toogee grave sign belongs to the Local Aboriginal Lands Council.

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3. 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.

A community member asked if the Draft Public Gates and Cattle Grids on Public Roads policy relates to unfenced roads.

DTS advised that the Draft Public Gates and Cattle Grids on Public Roads policy relates to all public roads, whether fenced or unfenced.

A discussion took place regarding a locked gate on Morefield Road, and the reason for the locked gate was that Morefield Road is not a public road all the way through.

GENERAL BUSINESS

4. Concerns regarding bushfires within REZ development areas. (Grant Piper)

Grant Piper mentioned concerns regarding fires within the REZ development areas and the firefighting response plan from EnergyCo.

Council noted these concerns.

5. Slashing the entrance to 'Hartwood' property on Black Stump Way. (Anne-Louise Capel)

Anne-Louise Capel enquired why the roadside slasher didn't slash all the way to the entrance of Hartwood property on the Black Stump Way.

DTS noted this enquiry.

6. Missing 'unfenced road' signs. (Ted Miller)

Ted Miller mentioned that there are two missing 'unfenced road' cattle signs on the southern entrance of Mount Hope Road (on the common), and on the western entrance of Neilrex Road.

ACTION: DTS to investigate the two missing 'unfenced road' cattle signs on the southern entrance of Mount Hope Road (on the common), and on the western entrance of Neilrex Road.

7. Accuracy of the Community Consultation Meeting minutes. (Ted Miller)

Ted Miller enquired if the Community Consultation Meetings could be recorded for accuracy of the minutes taken.

Mayor advised to take this enquiry on board.

8. Installation of the defibrillator on the main street of Coolah. (Ted Miller)

Ted Miller enquired about when the project to install a defibrillator on the main street of Coolah will be completed.

Cr Rindfleish advised the Coolah and District Development Group are coordinating the defibrillator installation project, and are in contact with the business owner who

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owns the building the defibrillator will be installed on.

9. How to contact the Traffic Advisory Committee. (Ted Miller)

Ted Miller enquired how he could contact the Traffic Advisory Committee.

DTS advised Mr Miller can write, email or call Council with an enquiry for the Traffic Advisory Committee.

10. Potential traffic hazard on the unlined corner of Booyamurra and Cunningham Roads.

A community member enquired whether the corner of Booyamurra and Cunningham Roads could be widened, or have lines painted on the road to prevent a possible traffic incident.

DTS noted this enquiry.

11. Bin charges. (Greg Piper)

Greg Piper mentioned that he was charged for an extra bin when taking 3 bins to Coolah Waste Transfer Station, even though he pays rates for two farm properties.

DEDS advised that Mr Piper have a conversation with Coolah Waste Transfer Station staff during his next visit to Coolah Waste Transfer Station and explain what his bin entitlements are.

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

There being no further business, meeting was closed 6:45pm.