

**MINUTES OF THE COONABARABRAN COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING
HELD IN COONABARABRAN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
ON MONDAY 25 MARCH 2024, COMMENCING AT 5:30PM**

PRESENT: Cr Jason Newton, Cr Zoe Holcombe, Cr Aniello Iannuzzi, 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), Terry Tighe, Terry Ward, Joy O'Farrell, Jill Smith, Robert Dean, Sheila Dean, Jason Mills, Kait Britton, Julie Shinton, Georgia Spence, and Rhonda Jewiss.

APOLOGIES: Cr Ambrose Doolan (Mayor), Cr Kathy Rindfleish (Deputy Mayor), Cr Carlton Kopke, Cr Dale Hogden, Cr Denis Todd, and Cr Kodi Brady.

INTRODUCTION

Cr Zoe Holcombe welcomed attendees to the meeting and introduced councillors, Acting General Manager (A/GM), Director Technical Services (DTS), Director of Environment and Development Services (DEDES), and Personal Assistant to Director Corporate and Community Services (Minute Taker).

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING WEDNESDAY 31 OCTOBER 2023

Confirmed as a true and accurate record.

BUSINESS ARISING

Nil.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

1. Green Waste Disposal Area Road at Coonabarabran Waste Transfer Station. (Terry Tighe)

Terry Tighe mentioned that the access road to the green waste disposal area at the Coonabarabran Waste Transfer Station is in disrepair and needs work to become suitable for all weather conditions.

ACTION: DEDES to assess the green waste access road at the Coonabarabran Waste Transfer Station for possible repairs.

2. Recycling Bulka Bags. (Terry Ward)

Bulka bags are large plastic bags from farm waste that are recyclable. There is no facility at Coonabarabran Waste Transfer Station to recycle them, could this be changed?

DEDES advised that Bulka Bag recycling was investigated when it was first raised in 2022, and Council provided updates in subsequent Community Consultation meeting Action Lists, which are available on Council's website. Should a program become available in future, Council could revisit this program.

3. Council Vehicles Fitted with Fire Fighting Equipment. (Terry Ward)

Terry Ward enquired whether Council support vehicles accompanying the Council grass-slashing vehicle be fitted with fire safety equipment.

DTS advised that Council plant equipment has an accompanying support pilot vehicle in attendance on roads where traffic management is required. Council are investigating the ability for those vehicles to be fitted with fire safety equipment.

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Council conducts risk assessments for plant vehicle operations, which include assessing for fire weather conditions before slashing grass.

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.

5. 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, McEvoy's Road, Quaker Tommy Road, Rayak Road, Reddens Road, Schumacks Road, and Yaminbah Road.

6. 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.

GENERAL BUSINESS

7. Removal of dead plants along John Street median strip. (Julie Shinton)

Mrs Shinton enquired as to why there were dead plants along the main street median strip.

DTS advised this matter has been raised within Council works staff.

8. John Street median strip has a 'cordoned-off' area in situ. (Rhonda Jewiss)

Mrs Jewiss enquired how long the 'cordoned-off' area will be in situ on the John Street median strip.

DTS advised this matter has been raised in Council works already.

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9. Purlewaugh Hall white ant damage. (Terry Tighe)

Mr Tighe mentioned there was white ant damage in the Purlewaugh Hall.

DTS advised that Council is currently assessing Purlewaugh Hall for possible maintenance work.

10. Cleaning the main street footpaths of Coonabarabran. (Rhonda Jewiss)

Mrs Jewiss enquired about the possibility of cleaning the main street footpaths of Coonabarabran.

Council advised that a Budget submission has been lodged for this project for consideration in the 2024/25 Budget.

11. Expansion of CCTV installation project within Coonabarabran. (Jason Mills)

Jason Mills enquired if Council was planning to expand the CCTV installation project within Coonabarabran as there are blind spots on the main streets, such as: Little Timor Lane area, and both sides of Dalgarno Street from the Imperial Hotel corner looking towards the Woolworths area. Mr Mills also mentioned that the current CCTV units are being tampered with.

A/GM advised that Council will assess the possibility of including this project in the future 2025/26 Budget assessment.

12. Council working together with police in regards to local crime. (Kait Britton)

Kait Britton enquired about how Council works together with police in regards to local crime.

A/GM advised that Council can liaise with local inspectors, and Council can lobby on behalf of the Shire communities regarding issues raised by the community.

13. Fluoridation of the community water supply. (Joy O'Farrell)

Joy O'Farrell enquired about why Council plans to go ahead with fluoridation of the community water supply even though there are members of the community against fluoridation of the town water supply. Mrs O'Farrell mentioned that Council elections coming up, could Council have conducted community consultation regarding this matter.

DEDS advised that Council has a mandate to follow from NSW Health, regarding provision of the town water supply, and a Council resolution to undertake fluoridation of the town water supply.

14. Upgrade the Coonabarabran water treatment plant facilities. (Joy O'Farrell)

Joy O'Farrell enquired if Council could upgrade the Coonabarabran Water Treatment Plant facilities to reduce water rates.

DEDS advised that upgrades to Coonabarabran Water Treatment Plant is assessed and conducted regularly in order to make facilities run efficiently.

15. NSW Government Regional Leakage Reduction Program. (Georgie Spence)

Georgie Spence enquired if Council is taking part in the NSW Government Regional

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Leakage Reduction Program, and if so what funding is provided within this program?

DEDS advised that Council has recently performed a leak detection survey and repaired any leakages discovered. Council notes the information regarding the NSW Government Regional Leakage Reduction Program.

16. Unusually large water bill. (Julie Shinton)

Julie Shinton enquired as to why her property had an unusually large water bill.

A/GM advised Julie Shinton to provide the property address for Council to assess the property's water meter.

17. Tip Shop for Coonabarabran Waste Transfer Station. (Joy O'Farrell)

Joy O'Farrell enquired if Council would consider a Tip Shop for Coonabarabran Waste Transfer Station.

DEDS advised that a Tip Shop would require a new access area to the Coonabarabran Waste Transfer Station, and the existing area is constrained. Furthermore, limited staffing resources to manage a potential tip shop is an issue.

18. Green waste at the Coonabarabran Waste Transfer Station. (Terry Ward)

Terry Ward enquired about what happens to the green waste that is deposited at the Coonabarabran Waste Transfer Station.

DEDS advised that the green waste at the Coonabarabran Waste Transfer Station is turned into mulch and used as capping over the soil areas.

19. Glass deposited at the Coonabarabran Waste Transfer Station. (Sheila Dean)

Sheila Dean enquired about what happens to glass deposited at the Coonabarabran Waste Transfer Station.

DEDS advised that Council can sell the glass deposited at the Coonabarabran Waste Transfer Station.

20. Tree in Neilson park with large limb removed. (Jill Smith)

Jill Smith enquired why a large tree in Neilson park, near the rehabilitation construction area, had a large limb removed.

DTS advised that she would assess works conducted in the area, however, possibly the limb was removed for plant vehicle access.

21. Fenced dog park.

A community member asked when the fenced dog park will be ready.

DTS advised this project was part of the Local Roads and Infrastructure Program, the timeframe of which had been extended to 2025, due to lack of resources.

Cr Zoe Holcombe thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed.

There being no further business, meeting was closed 6:30pm.