



# COMMUNITY CONNECT

Coonamble Shire community newsletter for the interest of residents and visitors

August 2019

## From the Mayor's Desk



The August monthly meeting was held last week on Wednesday 14 with a very full agenda for Council.

However, before I get into the happenings of the day, I must congratulate the Coonamble Amateur Theatre Society (CATS) on the successful performances of *Robin the Hood*.

The four performances were all well attended and provided something different for the community. I am very glad Council was able to provide financial assistance of \$2,000 to CATS to help with the costs. Who knows, perhaps we'll hear of an Oscar or two coming our way in the future!

At the July meeting Council decided to invite a representative of Local Land Service (LLS) to address this meeting so, going forward, Council can work in unison with the Service. Mr Andrew Mulligan, General Manager of the Central West LLS and Ranger, Mr Blake Ross, attended the meeting. Mr Mulligan provided us with information on procedures and processes around the issue of roadside grazing permits, walking permits and travelling stock permits and pointed out the various factors taken into account by LLS when deciding whether or not to issue permits.

Landholders should be aware that the actual consent to issue a permit does not come from Council, it is solely the responsibility of the Local Land Service. Council needs to provide its concurrence with some applications in case there are works planned within that particular area. Another point raised was that the landholder wishing to obtain a permit for roadside grazing must have agreement from neighbours. Now, some of the outcomes from a very long meeting day!

Council also received a presentation from Mr Mike Clancy, Manager Business Development, ARTC, Elisha Bailey, Regional Liaison Officer for Inland Rail and Rebecca Pickering, Director of Engagement, Environment and Properties, ARTC to provide Council with an update on the Inland Rail Project and the opportunities that may be available to communities as work progresses.

Should anyone wish to contact me to discuss issues or concerns, please phone **0427 887 666**. I look forward to representing all our residents and encourage your phone calls.

**Ahmad Karanouh**  
Mayor

## Council Services Satisfaction Survey

WHAT DO  
YOU  
THINK?



At the August meeting, Council decided to conduct an independent community satisfaction survey on the services it provides. It is important for Council to know the community's satisfaction ratings with the various services provided, in order to deliver an objective picture. The data received will put Council in a position to focus its efforts on those areas where services are regarded by the community as being of high importance, but satisfaction ratings are low and vice versa.

Council agreed to contract Jetty Research, a market research service, to carry out the survey. Contracting an external organisation to conduct the

independent and statistically valid survey will provide Council with an objective baseline of where satisfaction ratings currently are.

The survey will involve Shire residents being contacted telephonically by Jetty Research, and being asked about Council's services and how they measure up to their satisfaction. The 15 (fifteen) minute survey aims to collect open, honest and objective responses from the 250 randomly selected community members.

The strategically valid results will give Council an excellent indication from which to measure its performance in terms of improving and going forward.

## Stronger Country Communities Round 3

On 24 June 2019, the NSW Government announced a \$22 million funding boost for western NSW communities under the Stronger Country Communities Fund.

The Coonamble Shire LGA has been allocated \$770,071. Fifty percent of this allocation (\$358,000) must be dedicated to youth related projects and the remaining for infrastructure, events and programs. Both Council and community organisations are encouraged to apply for the allocated funds.

Council resolved to make application for external funding to progress a number of infrastructure projects that will support the future growth and prosperity of the Shire.

Council will submit three applications under the Stronger Country

Communities Fund – Round Three:

- Gulargambone Youth Centre \$80,000 for refurbishment of the exterior of the facility,
- \$130,000 for the restoration of stables at the Museum and
- \$100,000 for new amenities at Warrena Creek Weir.

Council reminds residents that not-for-profit organisations are eligible to apply for projects seeking a minimum of \$50,000.

Applications close at **5pm on Friday 27 September 2019**. For further information including the funding guidelines, please visit; [www.nsw.gov.au/improving-nsw/regional-nsw/regional-growth-fund/stronger-country-communities/](http://www.nsw.gov.au/improving-nsw/regional-nsw/regional-growth-fund/stronger-country-communities/)

## Meeting mentions

### Adoption of Various Policies

Since the arrival of the new General Manager, Hein Basson, Council has been in a position to review and revise some of its policies and has also adopted additional policies to provide clear and succinct guidelines to provide for a well-functioning Council.

Some of the policies discussed and adopted at the August meeting include the following:

- **Media Policy** - to ensure Council's use of media is effective, timely and appropriate.
- **Lobbying of Councillors** – this provides guidelines to the Councillors in managing the conflict of roles that may arise from representations from stakeholders with a direct interest in a Council decision.
- **Pre-meeting Briefing Sessions** – Councillors and Senior Staff will now have the opportunity to go through the business of the meeting informally. The session will commence at 9.00 a.m on-Council meeting days. It also gives staff time to answer questions so that Councillors are able to make more informed decisions at the Council meeting. **From September, Council's ordinary monthly meetings will commence at 10.00 a.m.**
- **Community Consultation Policy at Council Meetings** - this is included in less detail in the recently adopted Model Code of Meeting Practice. From now, anyone wishing to address Council will need to give notice, in writing, on the appropriate form which **must be received by the General Manager by 12 noon on the Tuesday before the Wednesday meeting.**

### Donations Policy

After many years of not having a structured policy for providing financial assistance to community groups and charitable organisations, the General Manager prepared a draft policy for Council to consider. It is fair to say that every meeting Council has a request for financial assistance in one form or another. The new policy makes provision for donation requests to be considered by Council twice each year.

In the future, a Committee will be formed to evaluate applications prior to them being referred to Council. This process allows merit and a priority rating to be considered, ensuring that the limited funds available in Council's Donations Vote are being wisely expended.

The first round of donations will be considered at the October meeting, so watch Council's weekly column in the Coonamble Times newspaper inviting submissions.

### Coonamble Riverside Caravan Park

With the additional funding of \$438,649 announced by the Deputy Premier recently under the NSW Government Drought Stimulus Package, additional works are already being planned at the Park, including entrance and internal signage and lighting, storage facility and garaging, a two bedroom disability access cabin and camp kitchen. As soon as the Funding Deed is executed works will commence.

Mayor Karanouh commented, "I think we all agree that the Caravan Park has been transformed into a facility we can all be very proud of – positive comments are being received by Council. I congratulate the staff involved in this project".

## Expressions of Interest

### Coonamble Shire Masterplan

Council is seeking to engage suitably qualified professionals to work with Council and the community to deliver a user friendly, well researched and clearly presented masterplan for the Shire. The masterplan will reflect an agreed theming and branding vision and be the key guiding document designed to shape the future economic prosperity of the Shire. Submissions for will be accepted up to **Thursday 12 September 2019.**

### McDonald Park Skate Bowl

Council is inviting expressions of interest for the design and construction of a skate bowl in McDonald Park, Coonamble. Please provide written quotes including concept drawings, outline of previous projects with contact details for each project. Submissions will be accepted up to **Wednesday 4 September 2019.**

### Capture Coonamble

Council is also inviting expressions of interest from professional photographers to undertake a photographic shoot and deliver a suite of images that capture the beauty and uniqueness of the Shire's natural surrounds, attractions and events as well as town and retail centre experiences. Contact Eliza Walters, Tourism and Events Coordinator on 02 6827 1923 for further information. Submissions will be accepted up to **Monday 9 September 2019.** See Council's website for more information; [www.coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au/Engineering/Tenders.html](http://www.coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au/Engineering/Tenders.html)

## Infrastructure Grants

The Office of Responsible Gambling has opened this year's Infrastructure Grants which can be used for construction, alteration, renovation, completion, fit-out of building and community infrastructure in the following areas; **Arts and Culture, Disaster Readiness & Community Infrastructure or Sport & Recreation.** Eligible infrastructure projects must meet the funding guideline specifications.

**The August 2019 Round** closes 26 August  
**The November 2019 Round** opens 18 November and closes 9 December. Further information can be found online; [www.responsiblegambling.nsw.gov.au/infrastructure-grants/infrastructure-grants](http://www.responsiblegambling.nsw.gov.au/infrastructure-grants/infrastructure-grants)

## Local Government Week celebrations

Local Government Week 2019 was held from 2 July to 4 August and Council celebrated with a variety of events throughout the Shire promoting the importance and diversity of "Your Council" to the community. Pop-up stalls were held in Coonamble, Gulargambone and Quambone so council staff could assist the community with voting for their favourite projects under the My Community Project fund.

Coonamble Library staff and Council's new Youth Officer hosted a special story time to 65 children and 12 adults. The children explored the new tactile wall panels and sensory equipment, as well as books, computers and the other library toys.

Council was also excited to host the Wide

Angle Film Festival at the Coonamble Bowling Club. 50 attendees enjoyed a wonderful morning tea and 6 short films which reflect the lived experience of people living with disability. Mayor Karanouh said, "I am delighted that Council was part of the Festival which reflects the diversity of events it supports and delivers as part of Local Government Week".



## Adventure to the Ridge

The Coonamble Women's Shed in conjunction with Council has organised a community bus trip to Lightning Ridge on Thursday 19 September. The itinerary includes a visit to the tourist information centre, Red Door tour including Amigos Castle, the bottle house museum and other shops throughout the town. Seating is limited (adults only) so please RSVP to Council on 02 6827 1900 by Thursday 12 September to secure your seat.



## FOR INFORMATION

This newsletter has been produced by Coonamble Shire Council for the benefit of residents of the Coonamble, Gulargambone, Quambone and surrounding areas.

Hein Basson  
GENERAL MANAGER

Coonamble Shire Council:  
T: 02 6827 1900  
A: 80 Castlereagh Street, Coonamble  
E: [council@coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au)  
W: [www.coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au](http://www.coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au)

Emergency Contacts:  
Water and Sewerage T: 0428 217 420  
Ranger T: 0427 255 881  
Other T: 0458 271 881

