

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF COONAMBLE SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE SHIRE CHAMBER, COONAMBLE ON WEDNESDAY, 11TH
DECEMBER, COMMENCING AT 9.18 A.M.**

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PRESENT: Cr.Al Karanouh, Mayor, in the Chair, with Crs. Michael Webb, John Walker, Dan Keady, Bill Burnheim and Tom Cullen.
Also present were the General Manager, Mr. Warren, the Director of Community Services, Ms Tasker, the Director of Engineering Services, Mr Brodbeck and Mrs Moorhouse.

It was noted that Cr Webb was absent during this part of the meeting – he was attending a function at the School.

1.0 OPENING PRAYER

2.0 ACKNOWLEDGE ORIGINAL OWNERS OF THE LAND

At this juncture, the Mayor acknowledged the original owners of the land, both past and present.

3.0 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Ms Cherie Parsons and Mrs Lindy Regan were present to discuss issues that have been raised about the library service. Ms Parsons referred to discontent amongst library users – she said the library has gone down and people are not happy. She referred to the fact that books are not up-to-date, there is no new stock to borrow and, as a reader, she finds it very frustrating.

The General Manager explained that Coonamble Library is a member of a Cooperative Library Service and books are shared between the four member libraries in book “exchanges”. He also said that Coonamble Library has a separate vote of \$5,000 to purchase a limited number of its own books. Ms Parsons reiterated the need to “update books”. She referred to Aboriginal artefacts which have been displayed at the Library and said they should be moved to the main street (Outback Arts) – create local jobs for local people. She said the Library is too small for additional displays/exhibitions.

Ms Parsons referred to having a qualified Librarian who is able to run the Library efficiently and has been doing so for many years. She stated it has been said that another person is now in charge.

At this juncture, Cr Walker left the meeting to attend the Presentation of Awards Ceremony at the Coonamble Public School.

Mr Warren said if Council wants its Library to be a “stand alone” facility, it will have to budget \$200,000 annually. Ms Parsons said the whole library issue is about everybody and Council should do something about it – the issue wont be resolved until updated books are in stock, even Aboriginal history books could be included. When Ms Parsons was informed her information was incorrect, she passed a petition to Council and left the meeting.

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The General Manager said Coonamble Library is a totally under-utilised facility. The Mayor stated that if a certain book is required, the Librarian will order and have it available as quickly as possible. The General Manager said that Council contributes \$50,000 to the North Western Library Service to be a member of the Cooperative.

Cr Cullen said the program, which focuses on Indigenous members of the community, is a worthwhile one – he was informed by the Director of Community Services that it is totally funded and although it does focus on early literacy it is an “all of community” project. The General Manager said what Council is doing aligns with the State Library of NSW direction.

Mrs Regan said she is an avid reader and borrows books every two weeks. She said it is very difficult to get new books and they cannot be sourced from the Library currently. The General Manager said the Librarian was requested by the State Library to remove older books from the shelves and this has been carried out. Ms Regan said she appreciates the need to teach young people to read but stated, in her opinion, the general public expect the library to be a quiet place where they can spend time reading. She said libraries are “the social hub of communities” and, as a user of the facility, she feels that is not now the case with our local library.

Cr Keady said it was obvious that the current use of the Library is alienating users and Council should take action to remedy the situation. He referred to the “consultation” process – the General Manager said “consultation” does not mean seeking approval – this is the role of councillors; it is a way of letting stakeholders know what is happening and seeking their input.

Cr Burnheim said we are a small community and people do not like this new project – he said the program is a good one in the wrong location – and it is resulting in resistance from users and dividing the community. Cr Burnheim emphasised the project was divisive and dividing the community and suggested it be moved to another location. It was pointed out that the program is to encourage Aboriginal people to use the library – the General Manager said if Council does not want it to proceed, the funding could be returned – the decision has to be made by Council.

0611 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Keady and Burnheim that the General Manager investigate options for another location for the program to operate, and if it cannot be suitably located, investigate options in regard to hours of operation. **Carried 4 votes**

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At this juncture, 9.58 a.m., the meeting was adjourned so the Mayor could attend the Graduation and Presentation of Awards Ceremony at TAFE. The meeting resumed at 11.10 a.m., with Crs. Webb and Walker still absent.

4.0 APOLOGIES

0612 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Burnheim and Cullen that an apology be accepted from Cr Don Schieb who would be arriving at the meeting later in the day.

5.0 DEPUTATIONS/DELEGATIONS Nil

6.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Nil

7.0 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

0613 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Keady and Burnheim that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Coonamble Shire Council held on 13 November 2013 be confirmed.

Business arising from Minutes:

(a) **Local Aboriginal Land Council** – in response to a question the General Manager advised that there has been no response to Council's letter to date.

(b) **Heavy Vehicle Inspection Station (HVIS)** – the Mayor informed the meeting that advice has been forthcoming from RMS that the facility will be used – it has indicated that additional work is required and Mr Ralson will put a pit in – it is anticipated that the facility will be ready in six months.

(c) **PA System** - Councillors noted that all the equipment has been received and will be installed during the holiday period for the meeting in February 2014.

(d) **Seating in Main Street** – it was noted that a problem arose when the installation was not level – the units have been removed and will be correctly installed shortly.

(e) **Pool Play Equipment** – Councillors noted the equipment has been installed and is operational. In response to a question, the General Manager said that no additional supervision is necessary.

0614 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Keady and Burnheim that the above matters be noted.

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8.0 RESOLUTION BOOK UPDATE

0615 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Keady and Burnheim that the Resolution Book Update be received and noted.

Business Arising From Resolution Book:

(a) **Caravan Park – Min No 0392** – the Mayor referred to the inappropriate and untidy condition of the Caravan Park and suggested that Council look into taking over management. He also suggested that additional cabins be provided, which would generate more revenue. The General Manager said no major works have been initiated at the Caravan Park because of the Eco Spa project, when it was planned to upgrade the area in conjunction. The General Manager said the Minister has agreed to return the Crown Land to Council and this should happen prior to the end of 2013.

At this juncture, 11.23 a.m., Cr Webb returned to the meeting.

Cr Burnheim suggested that various options for the future management of the Caravan Park be investigated and a report presented to the February meeting – the report to include the estimated amount of income that could be generated if the facility is brought up to date.

At this juncture, 11.28 a.m. Cr Walker returned to the meeting.

0616 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Burnheim and Keady that the General Manager report back to Council investigating options for Council to manage the operation of the Caravan Park.

(b) **Truck Parking Area – Pilliga/Baradine Turnoff**– Councillors referred to the subject truck parking area – the Director of Engineering Services advised this is incorrect, the area that should have been recorded was near the Industrial Estate on the Castlereagh Highway north of Coonamble.

0617 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Keady and Burnheim that the above items be noted.

9.0 MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor gave a verbal account of his activities during the week, which included the following:

- Attended, in company with General Manager, the LGNSW Christmas function in Sydney and met with Minister Duncan Gay and Kevin Humphries – positive outcome from Minister Gay's visit in that if

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Council contributes funds for works on the Tooraweenah Road, the Minister will consider financial assistance probably next year.

- Attended, with the General Manager, the OROC meeting held in Gilgandra. Commented on facilities for aged care in Gilgandra.
- Spoke with Kevin Humphries regarding the drought – members from the Minister’s office are scheduled to make further visits and include Coonamble in their next trip.
- Together with Cr Walker, attended the function at the Swimming Complex – was very pleased with the work the Club has done. Good crowd in attendance at the function.
- Attended the White Ribbon (Violence against Women) function at the Bowling Club.
- Referred to the Dinner at the Bowling Club hosted by the Coonamble High School Bovine Appreciation Club – it was a great evening, good food and the students spoke very well and represented their school with distinction.

0618 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Keady and Karanouh that Council support OROC endeavours to have Dubbo City recognised for its contribution to Western NSW. *Carried 4 votes/2 votes (Cr Webb out of room)*

- Regarding the Common – suggested that Council give 100% income, then charge to run the facility. Cr Cullen suggested our aim for the reserve should \$10,000. The General Manager said should the commoners want to manage it themselves, Council has two options : (a) relinquish Trusteeship – approach the Minister to remove Council as Trustee; (b) close the Common and return it to the Commoners to manage under their own Board.

0619 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Karanouh and Keady that the Mayor’s Activity report be adopted.

10.0 CORRESPONDENCE

0620 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Keady and Walker that the Correspondence be received and dealt with.

Section A – For Council’s Consideration:

10.1 NSW WESTERN INSTITUTE D7(42065)

0621 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Cullen and Keady that Council agree to a donation of \$100 to the Coonamble Campus of TAFE towards its prizes for Presentation of Awards Ceremony.

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10.2 ROBBO'S CONSTRUCTION & EARTHWORKS G1(42129)

0622 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs.Cullen and Keady that Council accede to the request to change garbage collection days over the Christmas period, noting the Contractor will be responsible for the letter box drop informing residents accordingly.

10.3 COONAMBLE SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION H1(42138)

0623 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Burnheim and Keady that Council agree to pay 100% of the electricity charges at the Senior Citizens Hall and funds initially be drawn from the Development Fund, then factored into maintenance expenses for the future years.

10.4 OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENT & HERITAGE F5-4(42040)

Referring to Council's application for financial assistance under the 2013/14 Floodplain Management Program for Stage 2 – Coonamble Levee Upgrade – and advising the application has been placed on a reserve list.

10.5 OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENT & HERITAGE F5-4(42039)

Referring to Council's application for financial assistance under the 2013/14 Floodplain Management Program for Stage 1 – Coonamble Levee Upgrade – and advising the application has been placed on a reserve list.

The meeting noted that the Director of Engineering Services has written to the Office of Environment & Heritage in response to the above two letters, advising that, in both cases, Council is ready to commence works as soon as funding is made available, as all design and investigation works have been completed.

0624 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Keady and Cullen that Council endorse the actions of the Director of Engineering Services in seeking reconsideration of Council's applications and that Council write to both its Local State and Federal Members seeking their support in lobbying for funds for Stages 1 and 2 of the Levee Upgrade project.

Councillor Burnheim advised he is Council's delegate on the Rural Transaction Committee and left the room while discussion and voting took place.

**10.6 COONAMBLE RURAL TRANSACTION CENTRE INC D5-4(42177)
A MOTION**

PROPOSED by Cr Webb **SECONDED** by Cr Keady that Council inform the Coonamble Rural Transaction Centre Inc that the cost of repairs/replacement of the shutters is the responsibility of the RTC **was withdrawn.**

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0625 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Webb and Keady that Council contribute \$4,000 from its Development Fund towards the cost of repairing/replacing shutters in the RTC building.

Cr Burnheim returned to the room.

10.7 REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA – ORANA NSW D7(42182)

0626 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Walker and Keady that, although Council considers the Orana Driver Licence Program a worthwhile project, it considers it needs further development, particularly identified commitment to costings from stakeholders, then Council will contribute \$5,000 from its Development Fund on the condition that 15 students participate in the scheme.

There was discussion regarding the success of this program in Gilgandra – Cr Burnheim understood employers subsidised employees who were guaranteed jobs. It was noted that the project provides the opportunity for participants to get farm jobs. Cr Cullen said the Coonamble RTC has received funding to purchase a car to be used for “Learn to Drive” lessons.

10.8 THE HON MARIE FICARRA MLC L2 (42141)

The meeting noted that correspondence has been provided to Council by the Coonamble Community Safety Committee in response to issues raised concerning sentencing of offenders and other matters.

0627 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Keady that Council advise Coonamble Community Safety Committee that it supports its ongoing efforts to have appropriate action taken against offenders and request a meeting be convened with representative of the Castlereagh Local Area Command, the Mayor, Councillor Schieb and the Magistrate to discuss this matter.

Section B: Matters for Council’s Information:

10.9 TOURISM INDUSTRY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND G5-42(42009)

Saying that in August 2013 Council submitted an application to Round 2 of the TIRF Grants Program and advising that Round 2 of the Program will not proceed. Saying the applications were not assessed therefore they are not able to provide feedback.

10.10 TRANSPORT FOR NSW R8-7(42000)

Advising of the State Government’s recent announcement that will see the delivery of school zone flashing lights to all schools in NSW. Saying this accelerated program will commence in early 2014 and will be rolled out

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progressively across the State and all schools that do not currently have flashing lights will receive a set of school zone flashing lights by the end of December 2015.

10.11 TRANSPORT FOR NSW R2 (42047)

Referring to Council's letter requesting the installation of an additional rail siding at Coonamble. Saying the extension of the grain siding was being considered to improve operational flexibility at Coonamble while other major works were being delivered, however subsequent assessment of operational needs did not support this work. Stating that Transport for NSW will continue to monitor operational efficiency in the area and if demand supports investment in further improvements, then it will review the requirements.

Councillors noted that a meeting has been arranged to discuss issues and a firm date/time will be advised.

10.12 NORTH WESTERN LIBRARY CO-OPERATIVE L4-4

Forwarding Notice of Annual General Meeting at Bogan Shire Council on 21 November 2013. A copy of the Business Paper was attached for Councillors' information.

10.13 BRUCE A SMITH S1(42115)

Providing authority for Council, the Coonamble Shire Saleyard Manager and Cr Tom Cullen to have and hold for their exclusive use the document "*Model Code of Practice for the Workplace Health and Safety, Animal Welfare, Operational and User Responsibilities at Australian Livestock Market Centres – September 2013*".

Cr Cullen said this document is not accredited – ALMA will not adopt but it is a useful tool for guidance at our Saleyards.

10.14 CENTRAL WEST CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY E5-3(41112)

Announcing the appointment of Laurie Dwyer as the General Manager of Central West Local Lands Service. Saying Mr Dwyer comes with experience in private and public service and experience in management within a Victorian Government agency. Advising Mr Dwyer will be based in Dubbo and take up the position on 2 December 2013.

10.15 COONAMBLE SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION G2-1(42179)

Inviting all Councillors to the Coonamble Senior Citizens Christmas Party on Monday 16 December 2013 at 12 noon – Senior Citizens Hall - \$5 members; \$10 non-members. Asking to please RSVP to 68 221 879 or 68 221 142.

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Councillor Walker said he would attend the function; Cr Burnheim said he has a prior commitment.

10.16 COONAMBLE SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION C8-3(42190)

Pointing out it is the intention of the new Committee to keep the Senior Citizens Association Inc a viable proposition and forwarding a copy of the financial summary for 2012-2013 which was attached for Council's information.

10.17 COONAMBLE CANCER SURVIVAL FUND INC S10-1(42195)

Thanking Council for its support for the "Walk the Loop" event and advising \$5,102.85 was raised. Saying with these funds they are able to continue to make a "Feel Good Gift" to those in our community affected by cancer.

10.18 DIVISION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT A3-3(42060)

Advising the Division, with local government sector representatives, has commenced work on a new Local Government Performance Measurement Framework and asking for feedback. Saying the closing date for submissions is Friday 24 January 2014. A copy of the Discussion Paper was attached to the Business Paper and Councillors should forward any submissions to the General Manager.

10.19 LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW (LGNSW) G5-34(42147)

Writing to the Mayor saying it is disappointing that the current Australian Government is continuing to refuse to honour the previous Government's commitment of \$150M in funding for Local Government Projects approved under the last round of the Regional Australia Development Fund (RDAF Round 5). Encouraging councils to individually write to the Minister requesting that funding be granted to all successful council applications under RDAF Round 5.

The General Manager informed the meeting a letter has already been forwarded to the Minister.

10.20 THE HON KATRINA HODGKINSON MP A6(42202)

Referring to Council's letter regarding current drought conditions and the availability of Government Assistance for primary producers. Saying the NSW Government announced the introduction of new measures to help farmers prepare for and manage the impacts of drought. Saying the new reporting mechanism acts as a management tool to help landholders manage operations and prepare for worsening seasonal conditions and drought. Pointing out that her announcement of 30 October 2013 advised that a suite of assistance measures were being made available, targeted particularly at primary producers in the north west of the State. Advising that conditions across the State, including Coonamble LGA, continue to be monitored and other measures to assist landholders, including freight subsidies, are currently also being considered.

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In discussing Council's endeavours to have its LGA included in drought declarations, it was stated that it does not seem the Government will include the whole LGA, but may consider declaring parts of the Shire, e.g. on a parish basis. It was also noted that EC is still available. Cr. Burnheim said Council has to keep lobbying for some sort of drought relief.

0628 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Keady and Webb that the information contained in Item Nos. 10.9 to 10.20 inclusive be noted.

URGENT BUSINESS – SUPPLEMENTARY CORRESPONDENCE

0629 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Webb and Keady that the following matters be classified "urgent" and dealt with.

10.21 LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW (LGNSW) E5-3(42253)

0630 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Webb and Keady that Council make a submission to IPART, objecting to:

- (i) the collection of any rate levy as proposed by the LLS Board of Chairs;
- (ii) the proposal to make council land holdings subject to the LLS rates.

**10.22 INDEPENDENT PRICING & REGULATORY TRIBUNAL (IPART)
R4(42232)**

0631 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Webb and Walker that Council note rate peg determination for 2014/2015 has been set at 2.3%.

10.23 THE HON ANDREW STONER MP S5(42246)

Advising approval of a 2013-14 Public Reserves Management Fund Program (PRMFP) grant of \$76,349 to Coonamble Showground Reserve Trust for replacement of security fencing, restoration of sheep pavilion and the upgrade of power boxes at the Showground.

10.24 THE HON ANDREW STONER MP C7(42247)

Advising approval of a 2013-14 Public Reserves Management Fund Program (PRMFP) grant of \$49,842 to Coonamble Common Trust for the design and construction of new steel yards at the Common.

10.25 THE HON ANDREW STONER MP C2-1(42245)

Advising approval of a 2013-14 Public Reserves Management Fund Program (PRMFP) grant of \$289,340 to the Coonamble Recreation Reserve Trust towards the cost of demolishing existing amenities and construction of new amenities at the Coonamble Caravan Park.

0632 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Webb and Walker that the information in the above two items be noted.

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10.26 FIRE & RESCUE NSW B13(42241)]

0633 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Webb and Walker that Council note its contribution for the 2013-2014 year is \$16,763 which has been included in the budget.

18.0 CLOSED SESSION

0634 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Walker and Burnheim that Council resolve into Closed Session in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 s10A:

"2(c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business"

0635 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Walker and Burnheim that the press and public be excluded from the meeting.

RESUME OPEN MEETING

0636 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Keady that Council resume Open Meeting.

ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATION FROM CLOSED SESSION

0637 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Keady that Council adopt the recommendations from Closed Session, being Recommendation Nos. 18.1 to 18.3 (a) & (b) as detailed below:

18.1 COONAMBLE RODEO & CAMPDRAFT EVENT

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS that following the election of a President and Secretary of Coonamble Rodeo Association, Council meet to form a business alliance to assist in promotion and marketing of the event.

18.2 PROPOSAL FOR RAIL TERMINAL

The information provided was noted by Council. A meeting will be held at the Bowling Club on Monday 16 December to discuss options with representatives of State Rail.

18.3 REPLACEMENT OF ROLLERS

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS that Council accept the tenders from vendors as detailed in the attached summaries and recommendations.

(a) Smooth Drum Vibrating Roller

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS that, following trials and inspections of rollers offered and given the price advantage, that Council accept the offer of Conplant for the purchase of a 17.0T Ammann Roller and accept its offer of \$79,000 for the purchase of Plant 75.

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(b) Multi Tyred Rollers

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS that Council:

- (a) purchase three Bomag machines from Tutt Bryant in an amount of \$158,400 each;
- (b) accept the offer of Tutt Bryant for the trade purchase of \$40,000 each for Council Plant Nos. 77 & 81;
- (c) accept the offer from SS & MT Contracting for Plant No. 83 in the amount of \$42,000.

At this juncture, 12.58 p.m., the meeting adjourned for lunch and resumed at 1.59 p.m. Cr. Schieb was now present at the meeting.

11.0 REPORT BY GENERAL MANAGER

0638 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Keady and Walker that the report by the General Manager be received and dealt with.

11.1 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS DETERMINED UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

0639 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Keady that Council note Development Application Nos 024/2013 & 025/2013, together with Complying Development Application No 026/2013, were approved under delegated authority since the last meeting.

11.2 LOWER MACQUARIE WATER UTILITIES ALLIANCE

0640 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Webb and Keady that Council accept the invitation and join the Lower Macquarie Water Utilities Alliance, noting that it comprises the Councils of Bourke, Bogan, Brewarrina, Dubbo City, Narromine, Warren and Wellington, together with Cobar Water Board.

11.3 LIBRARY CONNECTIONS PROJECT

0641 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Webb and Keady that the report in regard to the Library Connections Project be noted.

Council's Manager of Environmental Services was at the meeting to present his report.

15.0 REPORT FROM MANAGER OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

0642 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Webb and Walker that the report by the Manager of Environmental Services be received and dealt with.

15.1 COONAMBLE SHIRE LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN (LEP)

The General Manager stated that this is the starting point for Council in the preparation of a document to present to the Department of Planning to consider the changes Council wishes to put forward. He said Council would have another

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opportunity to look at the document, but it needs to be very clear and definite in what it requires as the “finished product”.

Cr Burnheim said it is his argument that there are under-utilised building blocks in the town. The Manager of Environmental Services referred to allotments in Conimbia and Wilga Streets, as well as others along the Highway. Cr. Schieb referred to the zoning in Conimbia Street – in referring to flood prone land, the Manager said it would be 12 months or so before the flood maps are completed.

Questions were raised concerning dwelling entitlements – the Manager said that each case had to be investigated and if there was a building entitlement attached to a block of land prior to 1977 LEP it **MAY** be that it was still available, but would require a development application to be submitted for determination.

The General Manager said that the submission to the Department of Planning would probably be ready about March 2014 – Council has yet to source quotes to engage a consultant to do the work. It was suggested that if Councillors want further changes, they contact the Manager and discuss the matter with him.

0643 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Webb and Keady that Council review the current LEP, incorporating the information provided above and further review the document prior to making a submission to the Department of Planning.

15.2 RANGER’S REPORT – OCTOBER 2013

0644 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Webb and Walker that the report by the Ranger for the month of November 2013 be noted.

Cr Burnheim reported that 11 of his sheep were killed by pig dogs recently. The Manager advised of a recent action against the owner of pig dogs, where \$2,800 fines were issued. He said early in the New Year Council would be carrying out inspections and ascertaining how many pig dogs are kept within the urban areas. The Manager also referred to the fact that shooters continue to dump pig carcasses around the town area. Cr Schieb referred to the \$1,000 fine now in force for entering farm land without the owner’s permission.

The Manager also referred to the very strict rules and regulations concerning backyard swimming pools. He said every pool must now be registered and there are heavy penalties for not complying with the law. In response to a question, the Director said that it costs \$10 to have a pool registered.

The Director of Environmental Services left the meeting at 2.32 p.m.

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General Manager's Report (continued)

11.4 MANAGEMENT OF COMMON

Councillors discussed this matter at length in an attempt to come to some mutually beneficial arrangement with Commoners. The meeting noted that Council could undertake the administrative side, check water and feed and maintain fencing.

Cr Cullen said Council should maintain the status quo for the payment of \$4/head/week. Cr Schieb suggested that a 'handling fee' of \$10 be applied.

The Director of Engineering Services said that Council does not have a clear operating procedure – he said it is essential to put something in place so that everyone is aware of what their fee covers. The Director also pointed out there are a lot of expenses relative to the Common that the fee does not cover.

0645 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Walker that :

- (a) Council seek advice from its insurer in the development of a set of procedures to allow the commoners to undertake their own mustering, drenching, marking and other husbandry practices, and in doing so
- (b) Council, as trustee, undertake administrative activity and oversight of collective requirements such as water supply, fencing and asset management.

11.5 NSW LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL SCHEME

The General Manager said that financial information is included in this item of the report regarding Council's proposal to borrow \$4M under the above Scheme. A question was raised about Council's debt service level ratio – the General Manager said it would not be a concern as it was very low.

Mr Warren informed the meeting that if Council decides to proceed with applying for the loan it would be subject to assessment by TCORP. Cr Keady referred to Council's Roads Management Plan and how funding is allocated. The Director of Engineering Services advised the meeting that Council's current roads are at the end of their life and funds are required to bring them up to a satisfactory standard.

Councillors discussed areas that require urgent attention – two mentioned were the area at the grain receival depot and SR12. The Director of Engineering Services said that when Council is notified of its Roads to Recovery amount it has to identify roads on which works will be undertaken over a five year term – he said the funds are to address any backlog of works.

The Director also referred to the National Heavy Vehicle Regulation and said Council has received application for over dimension vehicles to travel on the Pilliga and Baradine Roads and Aberford Street. Mr Brodbeck said he has

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reservations about these vehicles being allowed to use school bus routes. He said that a 7 metre seal is required for over dimension vehicles.

Mr Brodbeck referred to the need for works on the Carinda Road, saying parts of the existing seal require urgent attention. Cr Webb asked would money be available to carry out maintenance on the Tooraweenah Road if it is sealed.

The Director suggested that the Roads Management Plan not be changed until Council is preparing budget documents in March 2014 – then look at how Council wishes to proceed. Council noted that to maintain the existing road network it needs between \$700,000 - \$800,000. He said Council cannot afford to look after the roads for which it is responsible.

The Mayor said his meeting with the Minister for Roads & Ports was positive, although there would be no money for the current year – if Council contributed towards sealing the Tooraweenah Road, the Minister would provide funds next year as our proposal ‘ticked all the boxes’. Cr Webb said that it would be a waste of money, as the bridge in Gilgandra Shire is not going to be repaired. Cr Cullen referred to grain and produce carted from the area and said it went to Gulargambone and/or Baradine. Cr Keady asked whether the Minister gave any indication as to the amount he would provide. In response to a question from Cr Schieb, the Director of Engineering Services said that Council staff would carry out the works. Cr. Keady said Council would not be bound to borrow if approval was given – the General Manager questioned how future applications for loans would be viewed should Council take that action. Cr Walker suggested Council not borrow the \$4M, but use the amount of repayments to do the work.

0646 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Cullen and Burnheim that Council make application to borrow \$3,000,000 under the State Government initiative *NSW Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme* and if successful, funds be used as follows:

- \$2,000,000 – unsealed streets in Coonamble & Gulargambone;
- \$1,000,000 – rural roads infrastructure.

0647 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Webb and Keady that information contained in the report by the General Manager be noted.

11.6 TOWN STREETS – SEALING

Council perused the list of unsealed streets as presented and pruned \$400,000 by removing the four lanes, noting this amount would be spent on the Gulargambone Streets.

0648 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Cullen and Burnheim that Council note the information provided regarding unsealed streets in Coonamble.

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11.7 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

0649 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Keady that the information contained in the EDM report be noted.

(a) Coonamble Shire Economic Development Committee

In response to a question, the General Manager said that expressions of interest have been invited for the outside positions on the Committee and those received will be presented at the February meeting, when Council can nominate its delegates to the Committee.

**11.8 NICKNAME HALL OF FAME SONG
A MOTION**

PROPOSED by Cr Webb **SECONDED** by Cr Walker that Council contribute \$5,000 to have a single of the song professionally produced, recorded and reproduced in formats for CD and radio/itunes, **WAS LOST**

Councillors requested that Ms Cate Woods be thanked for her efforts in creating and performing the song and offering it to Council at no charge. Council noted that currently there is an allocation of \$2000 in the Nickname Hall of Fame vote and payment of two additional caricatures have to be met. At this stage, it was decided to take no further action.

11.9 SHIRE BUSINESS AWARDS – 2014

0650 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Cullen and Schieb that Council offer to sponsor the Awards to an amount of \$3,000 from the Country Week budget, seek Chamber of Commerce commitment to the balance; with the Economic Development Manager providing assistance to the Chamber Secretariat in organising the nomination, judging and awards process **and further** that nomination forms/drop off boxes be available at all businesses.

12.0 REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

0651 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Walker and Keady that the report by the Director of Community Services be received and dealt with.

12.1 ANNUAL REPORT

0652 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Cullen and Walker that Council note the tabling of the 2012/2013 annual report and that a copy of the report was furnished to the Division of Local Government on 8 November 2013.

A copy of the Annual Report – 2012/2013 was available for Councillors to peruse.

12.2 REGIONAL VISITOR ECONOMY FUND PROGRAM

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0653 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Schieb and Cullen that the report by the Tourism Development Manager be noted.

12.3 SPRING FESTIVAL

0654 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Webb and Walker that the information contained in this item be noted.

Councillors discussed how Council could promote the idea of a spring festival and suggested that organisations running annual events be contacted to ascertain the level of interest. He suggested that if we could 'parcel' all events within a specified timeframe may be worth thought and that all interest groups have input. If sufficient interest, then Council consider sponsoring an event. Cr Keady said he would start the process by further discussion, with one person/organisation, invited to attend the next Tourism meeting. He said it would be a way Council could promote and market all the events held within the community.

12.4 COUNCIL SPONSORED CORPORATE EVENT – COONAMBLE RODEO AND CAMPDRAFT

0655 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Keady and Burnheim that Council agree to host a Corporate Event at the 2014 Rodeo/Campdraft event on the Sunday of the June long weekend and nominated Option 4 (\$16,175) – with funds being sourced from the Arena Reserve.

13.0 REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & URBAN SERVICES

0656 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Walker that the report by the Director of Corporate Services be received and dealt with.

13.1 RATE COLLECTIONS

0657 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Walker that the Total Combined Rate Collections to 30 November 2013 be noted.

13.2 LIST OF INVESTMENTS

0658 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Cullen and Schieb that the list of investments as 30 November 2013 be noted, and it also be noted that Council's investments comply with s625(2) of Local Government Act 1993 and Council's Investment Policy.

13.3 WORKS IN PROGRESS

0659 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Walker and Schieb that the information contained in this section of the report be noted.

14.0 REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING SERVICES

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0660 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Keady and Burnheim that the report by the Director of Engineering Services be received and dealt with.

14.1 COONAMBLE WATER SUPPLY – WATER TREATMENT PLANT CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

0661 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Schieb that Council note the report and that commissioning of the plant is nearing completion and it is currently achieving a 71% reduction in calcium levels and a 63% reduction in total hardness.

In response to a question, the Director of Engineering advised that the plant can achieve better results in the reduction in calcium levels, but it would be more expensive. He said the raw water still meets guidelines and the reduction in levels is purely aesthetic – it has nothing whatsoever to do with health. The Director said the operation of the plant will be ‘fine tuned’ when Council has to commission fluoride in six – 12 months time.

14.2 WORKS IN PROGRESS

0662 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Keady that the information contained in this section of the report be noted.

16.0 REPORTS FROM VARIOUS COMMITTEES

0663 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Keady and Walker that the reports by various committees be received and noted:

16.1 Coonamble Shire Youth Council Meeting

0664 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Webb and Walker that the minutes of the Coonamble Shire Youth Council meeting held on Friday 25 October 2013 be noted.

16.2 Coonamble Shire Youth Council Meeting

0665 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Webb and Walker that the minutes of the Coonamble Shire Youth Council meeting held on 29 November 2013 be noted.

16.3 Report by Heritage Advisor – Coonamble Shire Local Heritage Fund 2013/2014

0666 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Burnheim and Keady that Council agree to disperse \$14,120 from the Coonamble Shire Council Local Heritage Fund 2013/2014 via the following grants:

- (a) \$10,000 for All Saints Anglican Church, Yoolundry Street, Gulargambone;
- (b) \$3,360 for Coonamble Jockey Club Grandstand, Caswell Street, Coonamble;

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- (c) \$760 for Sacred Heart Church, Mungie Street, Quambone and a further \$769 from the Donation vote which is the full amount applied for to repair fascia, guttering and steps.

17.0 SALEYARDS REPORT

0667 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs.Keady and Webb that the report by the Manager of Saleyards & Facilities for month of November 2013 be adopted.

19.0 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

Nil

20.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Schieb:

- Cleaning of weir – stated it must be cleaned out to remain useable – the General Manager said formal request must be made before any work can proceed – it's on a Crown Reserve.
- LHPA – asking for support of staffing situation – losing one member from Coonamble. Referred to ground tanks on TSRs that have no water – Coonamble LHPA area makes money and it is earmarked for expenditure in other districts. The General Manager said he had spoken to a representative of the LHPA and was advised that \$20,000 has been spent in the Coonamble district and that no positions are going. He said it is up to the landowners who pay rates to start making representations and to nominate for election to the new LLS Board. Council noted the Chair is already in place, together with the Government appointees.

0668 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Schieb and Burnheim that Council write to head office of this LHPA District asking why the money it makes through rates in Coonamble is not spent locally and refer to ground tanks which have no water for travelling stock that are in need of de-silting and cleaning.

0669 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Schieb and Keady that Council write to the National Parks & Wildlife Service highlighting the problem brumby horses are causing on the main road to Pilliga and seeking assistance in having the five animals controlled.

0670 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Keady and Walker that Council write to Coonamble Cellars congratulating the owners and staff on recently winning a major award.

General Manager:

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- Wished Councillors & their families a happy Christmas and all the best for 2014.

Cr Keady:

- Referred to insurance issues for Carols by Candlelight – the General Manager said he would resolve the issue.

Director of Engineering Services:

- Referred to the over dimension vehicle routes which have to be approved as suitable – said he has concerns regarding what expectations are expected of dirt roads – suggested that Councillors give some thought – a report will be presented to the February 2014 meeting. The Director suggested that Council should get community input before approving any routes.
- Wished Councillors and families all the best for Christmas and the New Year.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 5.35 p.m.

These Pages (1/5374 to 20/5393) were confirmed on theday of
FEBRUARY 2014 and are a full and accurate record of proceedings of the
Ordinary Meeting of Coonamble Shire Council held on 11 December 2013.

MAYOR