

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF COONAMBLE SHIRE COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE SHIRE CHAMBER, COONAMBLE ON WEDNESDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup>  
AUGUST 2014, COMMENCING AT 9.05 A.M.**

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**PRESENT:** Cr.Al Karanouh, Mayor, in the Chair, with Crs. Michael Webb, John Walker, Danny Keady, Tom Cullen and Don Schieb.  
Also present were the General Manager, Mr. Warren, the Director of Community Services, Ms Tasker, the Director of Corporate & Urban Services, Mr Quarmby, the A/Director of Engineering Services, Mrs Atkins, the Manager of Environmental Services, Mr Cock and Mrs Moorhouse.

**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**

Two people have been booked to address Council during public question time:

9.15 a.m. Mr Bobby Jones  
9.30 a.m. Mrs Mary Eason

**4.0 APOLOGIES**

**0995 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Keady and Webb that an apology for non attendance be accepted from Cr Bill Burnheim.

**PROPOSED LOCATION OF BUS SHELTER**

At this juncture Mrs Mary Eason was present to address Council on the proposed bus shelter in the vicinity of her dwelling. Council noted that she had also submitted a letter (Item 10.9) voicing her concerns. Mrs Eason said she did not think it right that the shelter should be located where indicated on the plan she was given. She referred to previous damage to her fence and vandalism that has occurred in the past.

Mrs Eason left the meeting at 9.11 a.m.

The A/Director of Engineering Services advised that in company with the General Manager, she had inspected all sites selected by the bus company and previously approved by Council. Ms Atkins said the shelter can be moved further from the corner and be located at the side of the dwelling fronting Nebea Street.

**5.0 DEPUTATIONS/DELEGATIONS**

No deputations were booked for this meeting.

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**6.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

A declaration of interest was declared by Councillor Schieb in relation to an urgent matter in Closed Session – expression of interest from Ray White to sell land for Council.

**7.0 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES**

**0996 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Webb and Walker that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Coonamble Shire Council held on 9 July 2014 be confirmed.

**Business Arising from the Minutes:**

**(i) Ambulance**

The Mayor said he could not recall the ambulance service issue being discussed. The General Manager said it was a matter raised following a report from a local resident of incidents where an ambulance was not available to assist people who were ill and to transport a seriously ill person to hospital.

The General Manager said that following Council's letter to the Ambulance Service in Dubbo, he received information that local records reveal at the times stated the ambulance vehicle was available. He said he understands that a letter confirming this will be forwarded to Council.

**(ii) Planning Proposal**

Cr Schieb asked regarding the status of Council's proposal to change its LEP. The Manager of Environmental Services said that Council's consultant is now putting the submission together and it will be presented to the September meeting. The General Manager said that 12 submissions have been received and are being checked as some of the blocks mentioned may have building entitlements due to subdivision under the former LEP.

The Manager said a separate proposal would need to be put to the Department of Planning regarding the Dubbo Road blocks and other issues that have been raised as Council resolved to not include them in the proposal currently being prepared.

The General Manager said Council has to resolve at the September meeting exactly which way it wishes to proceed – this will need to be when the submission prepared by the consultant is being dealt with at the meeting, along with objections received.

The Manager said representatives from the Department of Planning are available to come to Council and discuss issues following the September meeting when Council has made its final decision.

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**8.0 RESOLUTION BOOK UPDATE**

**0997 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Walker and Webb that the Resolution Book Update be received and noted.

**Business Arising from the Resolution Book Update:**

**(i) Funding for Aero Club**

Cr Schieb asked whether Council has had a response concerning the application for funding for the Coonamble Aero Club – the General Manager said no response is to hand at this time.

**(ii) Caravan Park+Eco Spa Stage 2 – Investment Ready**

In response to a question from Cr Keady as to whether the same development application as discussed for the Eco Spa project would be used for the refurbishment of the caravan park, the Manager of Environmental Services advised it would be a separate application.

Cr Keady asked whether tenders have been invited, the Manager said Council is waiting on the engineers design for the slab and when that information is available, tenders will be invited and the first stage of the project will be completed by Christmas.

**(iii) Heritage Advisor**

The General Manager advised that the Office of Environment would be forwarding a list of appropriately qualified persons/companies Council should contact regarding submission of an expression of interest to fill the role of Heritage Advisor.

**(iv) Running Rail from Showground**

Cr Schieb asked where the aluminium running rail dismantled from the showground was – the General Manager advised some panels were no good for further use and the other panels are stored at the Depot.

**9.0 MAYOR'S ACTIVITY REPORT**

**0998 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Keady and Walker that the Mayor's activity report be received and dealt with.

**URGENT BUSINESS – MAYOR'S REPORT**

**0999 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Webb and Keady that the following items be classified 'urgent business' and dealt with.

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**9.1 DROUGHT POLICY & REFORM – MEETING IN WALGETT**

Councillors discussed issues arising from this meeting – the Mayor advised that a paper on the effects of drought in Coonamble Shire will be prepared and presented to the next meeting of the NSW Country Mayors' Association. Cr Karanouh said information taken to the meeting was presented to the Minister, who agreed that Coonamble will be included in the next visit by the government representatives.

The Mayor advised there is no new money available and people are not taking up the offer of \$1m loans. Cr Cullen asked whether the three shires could be grouped for natural disaster considerations. It was agreed the only way to progress the issue is to constantly lobby and pressure the government for drought relief. Cr Keady suggested that media releases be put out, however the Mayor said he speaks to the media regularly and is always pushing the need for drought assistance.

It was noted that the Minister's office is endeavouring to arrange a meeting with banks and the Mayor said he would request that if this comes to fruition, Council representatives be invited to attend.

**9.2 ACTIVITY REPORT**

(i) **Awards** – The Mayor said he attended the NSW Local Government Awards Function arranged at Parliament House on 7 August. Coonamble was a finalist in the Youth Week category and although not the winner, he was presented with a framed certificate which was displayed at the meeting.

(ii) **NSW Country Mayors' Association Meeting** – Cr Karanouh, in company with the General Manager, also attended this meeting on 8 August. The Attorney General was one of the speakers – the issue of parents being held responsible for damage caused by their children was raised. Mr Hazzard said this cannot be done and he is not in favour of young people being sent to jail.

Many other issues were raised at the meeting – one being the government's response to the Local Government Review. The Minister for Local Government, the Hon Paul Toole, also spoke and said the response will be released prior to the end of 2014.

(iii) **Other Activities**

Together with Cr Webb, attended the Museum and received a cheque from Mark Coulton for \$895 – funding under the Federal Government's Centenary of ANZAC Project. The funds were used to purchase a display cabinet for the Museum.

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Attended the Education Foundation's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary function – it was well attended and very rewarding to speak with locals who have been assisted by funding from the Foundation to assist them in their tertiary studies.

**10.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

**1000 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Keady and Schieb that the Correspondence be received and dealt with.

**Section A – Matters for Consideration by Council:**

**10.1 MRS ANNE KENNEDY S3**

**1001 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Cullen and Keady that Council support the motion "*that metropolitan LGAs support rural and regional LGAs in their struggle against invasive coal and gas developments through a partnership arrangement called Sister City Brother Bush*" at the Local Government NSW annual conference and write to Sydney City Council requesting further information concerning Sister City Brother Bush relationship.

**10.2 MRS ANNE KENNEDY T5-1**

**1002 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Webb and Keady that Council note a letter has been forwarded to Mrs Kennedy advising what requirements are necessary for this signage - **You are entering Coonamble Shire, a NO GO regional for Coal Seam Gas** - to be placed at the approaches of the town.

**10.3 GULARGAMBONE JOCKEY CLUB D7**

**1003 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Keady and Cullen that Council agree to support the "Back to Gular" Race meeting on Saturday 27 September and contribute \$500 from the donations vote.

**10.4 COONAMBLE STREETS AHEAD COMMITTEE C5+S5(43853)**

**1004 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Cullen and Keady that Council accede to the request for the Committee to utilize the arena in front of the pavilion inside the main arena for the cook off during the Bush Poets' Breakfast on 4 October 2014.

**10.5 SENIOR PROPERTY MANAGEMENT OFFICER, CROWN LANDS  
F5-4(434873)**

**1005 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Webb and Walker that Council, as Trust Manager, provide written approval for the levee upgrade works on the following Reserves & Dedications which will be affected by the proposal:

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- Reserve 24510 for Public Recreation – Bimble Street lease
- Reserve 97932 for Public Recreation – Cutting corner Tooloon Street
- Dedication 520011 for Showground – Coonamble Showground
- Dedication 520047 for Recreation Ground – Smith Park

**10.6 DR ROBYN CLELAND, ACTING GENE TECHNOLOGY REGULATOR – DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

**1006 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Keady and Cullen that if any Councillor wishes to make a submission or comment on the Risk Assessment and Risk Management Plan that has been prepared by the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator, he advise the General Manager, noting that submissions close on 18 September 2014.

Cr Keady suggested that the community be advised through Council's column in the Coonamble Times that submissions are being invited, closing 18 September 2014.

**10.7 SENATOR THE HON MARISE PAYNE, MINISTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES C8(43804)**

**1007 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Webb and Keady that Council note the response from Senator The Hon Marise Payne, Minister for Human Services, advising that no increased Centrelink service will be provided in Coonamble.

**10.8 COONAMBLE SHIRE EMPLOYEES' PICNIC DAY COMMITTEE**

**1008 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Webb and Keady that Council approve Friday 26 September 2014 the date of the Council employees' picnic and advise the Committee that Council has, in the past, made a contribution to the annual Christmas party, not employees' picnic day.

**10.9 MRS MARY EASON B12**

Council noted that Mrs Eason addressed the meeting regarding her concerns about the location of the bus shelter during Public Question Time. Council agreed that action .be taken to site the shelter further from the front of her dwelling

**10.10 KEVIN BUCKLEY L11**

**1009 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Webb and Walker that Council not agree to Mr Buckley's request to lease the area described as part of Lot 94 in DP44844 Warrena Weir Recreation Reserve for grazing purposes.

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**Section B – Matters for Information Only:**

**10.11 MRS DOREEN BEST L3(43795)**

Personally thanking Council for the \$4,000 which has been deposited in the bank account of the Gulargambone Historical Society. Saying the wonderful sense of relief from the Shire's donation is uplifting.

**10.12 COONAMBLE PISTOL CLUB INC L3(43830)**

Thanking Council for granting a one year donation of rates and saying it has allowed members to utilize limited funds for worthwhile projects which involve safety and ground maintenance.

**10.13 OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Following Council's enquiry regarding notification of the outcome of its application for road network infrastructure under the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of LIRS funding, advising that the Minister has indicated that announcements are not likely until around September.

**10.14 CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL N7(43889)**

Advising that contributions of Constituent Councils have been increased by the rate pegging limit of 2.3% and this Council's contribution for 2014/2015 is \$97,185 plus GST.

**10.15 NSW ROADS & MARITIME SERVICES R8-5(43911)**

Advising that formal advice on approved allocations under the 2014/2015 REPAIR Program can now be provided. Saying the projects nominated by Council were not selected for funding.

The General Manager informed the meeting that Council had sought funding of \$238,400 for the rehabilitation of RR7515 (widening to 8.0m) 23.27 – 24.76km from intersection with Castlereagh Highway 18 towards Warren. He said the total cost of the project was \$476,800, with Council's share being \$238,400.

**10.16 COONAMBLE CANCER SURVIVAL FUND R8-10(43935)**

Seeking approval to conduct the annual "Walk the Loop" fundraising event on Sunday 7 September using the same route as previous years. Requesting that Council assist with the provision of witches hats to direct walkers onto the highway. Advising a letter has also been forwarded to the local police seeking their support.

The meeting noted that organisers have been advised Council has no objection provided approval is also given by the local police and that Council will make available the witches hats as requested.

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**10.17 NSW ROADS & MARITIME SERVICES, SYDNEY R8-14(43934)**

Responding to Council's letter to the Minister for Roads and Freight concerning the Bells Line of Road. Advising the first program of work includes seven overtaking lanes between Kurrajong and Bell and saying an eastbound overtaking lane at Kurrajong Heights is nearing completion. Pointing out community feedback is being invited on the next stage of the \$48 million safety improvement program and further operation of Higher Limit vehicles is being included as an objective for future work.

**1010 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Webb and Keady that the information contained in Item Nos. 10.11 to 10.17 be noted.

**ADDRESS BY DRUG & ALCOHOL WORKER**

At this juncture, Mr. Bobby Jones was received to the meeting to address Council on issues he is dealing with in his current role and to answer questions. He said that problems being experienced are not specific to Coonamble – it happens everywhere and costs health care, police, courts and others, millions of dollars annually.

Mr Jones said that legal drugs are also being misused by addicts and as a community we need to 'do something' together. He said addiction is the only health condition that does not receive funding for treatment. Mr Jones said we can all acknowledge that how issues have been addressed in the past has not/is not working – suggesting we rearrange how we look at young people. He said a plan needs to be developed so that the community, as a whole, can become involved. Mr Jones said it is important to identify what is behind unacceptable behaviour within the community – he said currently we react to what we see.

Cr Keady enquired how many would accept rehabilitation – Mr Jones said 15% - 20% out of 50. He said that to agree to rehab the offender receives a medical disability pension which is paid to the rehabilitation centre – leaving no money for rent, electricity or other essentials. Mr Jones said the current stint for rehabilitation is three months and suggested that it should be a longer time. In discussion costs of rehabilitation, he said \$40,000 would cover one year compared to prison where it costs \$180,000/year/inmate.

Cr Cullen asked what can be done physically to stop the problem – Cr Schieb asked whether programs at schools are being successful. Mr Jones said drug and alcohol programs do not work at schools. He suggested that sport is something being promoted but really other avenues need to be pushed as well – the young people need confidence and self esteem before they make any progress.

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Mr Jones said he would like to see a rehabilitation centre established nearby – at the present time there is one in Cowra and one in Canowindra with a detox establishment located at Orange. He said besides the centre there would need to be a ‘half way’ house – Cr Keady asked how staff would be required to run these facilities – Mr Jones said about 36 people between the two establishments.

Mr Jones informed Council that a meeting of the Drug and Alcohol Advisory Group was being held next week and invited Councillors/staff to attend. The Mayor thanked Mr Jones for his address and he left the meeting at 10.12 a.m.

**URGENT BUSINESS - SUPPLEMENTARY CORRESPONDENCE**

**1011 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Webb and Walker that the following be classified ‘urgent business’ and dealt with.

**10.18 LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW**

Advising Local Government NSW (LGNSW) has announced the appointment of the highly experienced Donna Rygate as its new Chief Executive. Stating Ms Rygate replaces Bill Gillooly AM who has retired after 10 years in the position.

**10.19 ROLEY GREEN**

**T6**

Informing Council that the tree planting in Railway Street has been completed and thanking Peter Hurst and his gang for a job well done. Saying with plenty of care, water and no vandalism the trees should do well. Also thanking Councillors for supporting the scheme.

**10.20 LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS COMMISSION G5-1-1 (43931)**

Saying the Minister for Local Government has approved the grants Commission’s preliminary recommendations for the 2014/2015 Financial Assistance Grants. Pointing out the final recommendations will be subject to approval by the Commonwealth Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development and are subject to revised national funding levels.

**1012 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Webb and Keady that the information contained in Item Nos 10.18 – 10.20 be noted.

**10.21 COONAMBLE AMATEUR SWIMMING CLUB C13-1**

Stating that in previous years Council has allowed Club members to begin squad training prior to the pool being open to the public. Requesting that Council grant permission again this year for training to commence on 1 September 2014.

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**1013 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Webb and Walker that Council defer consideration of this matter and it be considered in conjunction with Item 13.4 of the Director of Corporate and Urban Services' report later in the day.

**10.22 GULARGAMBONE LIONS CLUB INC S10-2(43964)**

**1014 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Keady and Walker that Council agree to the Gulargambone Lions Club request to conduct the annual market day on 6 September – 9.00 a.m. – 12 noon – in the park adjacent to the highway just north of the ANZAC memorial.

**10.23 BATTERLINE EARTHMOVING PTY LTD G1-1(43976)**

**1015 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Keady and Walker that Council resolve to extend the contract with Batterline Earthmoving Pty Ltd for management of the Coonamble waste facility and Gulargambone transfer station for one year in accordance with the terms and conditions therein.

**10.25 COONAMBLE LOCAL ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCIL A2(43977)**

**1016 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Keady and Webb that Council note NAIDOC celebrations will be held on 1 October 2014, with a Welcome to Country and flag raising at the Land Council office at 9 a.m. followed by a march to the sportsground for a family fun day.

**10.26 COONAMBLE LOCAL ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCIL A2(43979)**

**1017 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Cullen and Keady that Council agree to close Castlereagh Street whilst the march is in progress and the participants then be instructed to walk along the footpath to the sportsground for the NAIDOC family fun day.

Cr Webb referred to formal procedures put forward by the Traffic Committee regarding the closing of streets and said there are forms to be completed for consideration of the Traffic Committee. It was noted that the Traffic Committee would not be holding another meeting prior to this march and the A/Director of Engineering Services said that forms would be emailed for completion by the Coonamble Local Aboriginal Land Council.

**11.0 REPORT BY GENERAL MANAGER**

**1018 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Keady and Walker that the report by the General Manager be received and dealt with.

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**11.1 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS DETERMINED UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY**

**1019 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Webb and Keady that Council note Development Application Nos 002/2014, 013/2014 and 014/2014 have been approved under delegated authority since last meeting.

**11.2 LONG TERM FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY REPORT – LUKA GROUP**

The General Manager provided Councillors with copies of reports released by TCorp NSW and Council's internal auditor – Luka Group – covering long term financial sustainability. Mr Warren suggested that Councillors read both documents to gain an understanding of the major issues being faced into the future.

He pointed out that while the current long term financial plan reflects a position of Council "living within its means", it will be necessary for Council to be vigilant and address current asset maintenance programs. The General Manager said that Council's record in this regard and the strength of the Long Term Financial Plan will have a huge effect on its positioning within the government's response to the Revitalising Local Government report. Mr Warren said that Council must practise restraint and continue to maintain its assets.

**1020 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Webb and Keady that Council note its financial position, as identified by TCorp in March 2013 and the revised financial position as assessed by the Luka Group in July 2014.

Councillors noted that the Federal Government has ceased reimbursing councils for the pensioners' rate rebate, however for 2014/2015 the State Government agreed to provide assistance to councils but, in future years that expense will have to be borne by councils. Cr Keady raised the issue of declining population and suggested that Council should continue to point out Coonamble Shire is not losing population.

The General Manager said OROC raised this matter through planning, pointing out that declining population does not equate to declining rates as rates are a property-based charge not population based. He also said there is a real move for more formal arrangements for resource sharing and the government has indicated that included in its response to the local government review will be greater resource sharing take place.

**11.3 NATURAL DISASTER RELIEF AND RECOVERY ARRANGEMENTS**

This item of the General Manager's report conveyed information concerning advice from NSW Public Works of changes to Natural Disaster Arrangements which includes the fact that council "essential public assets" (EPA) are no longer eligible for funding.

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**1021 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Keady and Webb that Council note there have been changes made to eligibility of essential public assets under the 2012 Determination for Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery.

**11.4 RETURNS DISCLOSING PECUNIARY INTEREST**

The General Manager reminded Councillors that returns for the period 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014 should be returned by the end of September.

**1022 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Webb and Keady that the information be noted.

**11.5 SECTION 355 COMMITTEES**

**1023 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Webb and Keady ...

1. That the revised *Guide to Operations Section 355 Committees* as attached be adopted;
2. That Council write to Coonamble Streets Ahead and negotiate dissolution of that group as a s.355 committee of council;
3. That Council write to all remaining s.355 committees informing them of the revision of the Guide, with a copy of the adopted Guide, as well as a copy of the Office of Local Government publication, *Model Code of Conduct – Your Obligations as a Council Committee Member*;
4. That Council write to all remaining s.355 committees reminding them of their reporting obligations, requirement for governance compliance, and providing contact details for an assisting officer of Council;
5. That the reporting meeting each year for the s.355 committees be the September extraordinary meeting, and that all s.355 committees are made aware of this requirement.

**11.6 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

**1024 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Webb and Walker that the economic development report be noted.

The following issues were discussed:

- Green Army – Castlereagh river clean up project – the GM advised that there has been no contact to date, however the Commonwealth Government has appointed providers to manage the ‘work for the dole’ programs.
- Cr Keady said he and the EDM attended the Regional Aviation Services Inquiry on 24 July – he said some of the points Council put forward had not been previously promoted (health/ageing) and there has been follow up from the media.

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**1025 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Keady and Webb that the above information be noted.

**12.0 REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**1026 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Cullen and Keady that the report by the Director of Community Services be received and dealt with.

**12.1 MULTICULTURAL POLICIES AND SERVICES PROGRAM**

**1027 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Cullen and Keady that Council formally adopt the Multiculturalism Policy and Multiculturalism Policies and Services Plan, noting the documents were on public exhibition for the prescribed period and no submissions were received.

**12.2 INTEGRATED PLANNING & REPORTING – BI-ANNUAL REPORT**

The Director presented the bi-annual report outlining operational plan activities for the period January to June 2014 – a copy of the report was included with each Councillor's business paper.

**1028 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Webb and Walker that the information contained in the report be noted.

**12.3 COMMUNITY SURVEY**

The Director informed the meeting that the community survey was posted to every ratepayer in the Shire, however only 92 responses resulted. She said Council cannot even use it as a base line for future surveys. It was suggested that a media campaign be conducted in conjunction with the next survey or invite community organisations to respond as a group.

**1029 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Webb and Keady that Council note the key findings of the 2013 community survey regarding community satisfaction with Council's key service areas.

At this juncture, 10.37 a.m. the meeting adjourned for morning tea and resumed at 11.01 a.m. The Mayor did not return to the meeting and the Deputy Mayor took the Chair.

**12.4 COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRESS**

**1030 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Webb and Walker that the information contained in the Community Services report be noted.

Councillors discussed various sections of the Director's report covering domestic violence and drug and alcohol issues and the possibility of having a crisis centre established in Coonamble. The Director said that Coonamble has never had such a facility and it does appear that funding would not be available.

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The meeting also discussed issues raised by the Drug and Alcohol Worker, Bobby Jones, earlier in the meeting however was aware that without funding and resources it was very difficult to progress.

In response to a question regarding the library, the Director said that it is going well – attendance during the day has been significantly better, with a huge increase in the use of computers and wi fi.

**1031 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Webb and Walker that the above information be noted.

**13.0 REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & URBAN SERVICES**

**1032 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Schieb and Cullen that the report by the Director of Corporate Services be received and dealt with.

**13.1 RATE COLLECTIONS**

**1033 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Webb and Cullen that the Total Combined Rate Collections to 31 July 2014 be noted.

**13.2 LIST OF INVESTMENTS**

**1034 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Webb and Walker that the list of investments as 31 July 2014 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 TREE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM – COONAMBLE SPORTSGROUND**

The Director advised that funding is included in the 2014/2015 operational plan to commence the replacement of trees at the Coonamble Sportsground and indicated that work will be carried out in stages.

Council was advised that two species of trees, Butterfly Tree (Bauhinia Purpuea) and the Ash tree (Fraxinus Genus), have been identified as types that will enhance that appearance of the ground and provide adequate shade cover.

**1035 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Cullen and Webb that Council endorse the action of management in allocating funds for the replacement of trees at Coonamble Sportsground in the 2014/2015 budget and agree to plant Ash Trees in stages as indicated in the Director's report.

**13.4 POOL OPENING – 2014/2015 SEASON**

Councillors discussed this matter in conjunction with the Director's report and the request from the Coonamble Swimming Club, noting that pools usually opened on the Tuesday following the October long weekend, which will be the end of the school holidays.

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The meeting took into account additional expenses that would be incurred if the opening of the season was changed to include the September school holidays.

**1036 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Webb and Cullen that Council agree to extend the swimming season by two weeks to include the September school holidays for one season only (2014/2015) and that the additional expenditure be sourced from savings in the operational budget **AND FURTHER** that Council agree to work with the Swimming Club as best it can.

**13.5 2014/2015 LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN**

An adjusted Long Term Financial Report was included with each Councillor's business paper and was considered in conjunction with this item of the Director's report. In his report the Director advised that at the time it was prepared, management is satisfied with the anticipated performance of both the water and sewerage funds, however the performance of the General Fund over the life of its long term financial plan is not satisfactory. He said Council cannot sustain ongoing General Fund operational deficits and should make adjustments to key variables to ensure the ongoing viability of Council's operations.

Councillors debated this matter at length and noted that the General Fund would be in deficit in 2015/2017 if Council is successful in its application for a \$3m loan. It was noted that Council may decline to take up the loan, if approved. The Director said that the pensioners rebates, previously subsidised by the government, will cost in the vicinity of \$60,000/year. He said that Council has to look at its level of service and maximise its income streams. Councillors noted also that the government will look at accountability of individual councils in the future.

**1037 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Schieb and Walker that Council note the information contained in the report.

**13.6 WORKS IN PROGRESS**

**1038 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Webb and Walker that the works in progress report submitted by the Director of Corporate and Urban Services be noted.

**14.0 REPORT BY A/DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING SERVICES**

**1039 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Webb and Walker that the report by the A/Director of Engineering Services be received and dealt with.

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**14.1 URBAN STREETS UPGRADE**

**1040 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Webb and Cullen that Council undertake the following rehabilitation works on urban streets for 2014/2015 with \$150,000 funded from the 2013/2014 surplus road funds:

- |    |                |                         |                            |
|----|----------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1) | Dubbo Street   | (Warrena to McCullough) | \$130,000                  |
| 2) | Maule Street   | (Aberford to Tooloon)   | \$ 75,000                  |
| 3) | Munnell Street | (Bourbah to Wilga)      | <u>\$ 95,000</u> \$300,000 |

**Crossing near Coonamble TAFE**

**1041 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Schieb and Cullen that the Engineering Department investigate costing to improve the crossing adjacent to Coonamble TAFE in Dubbo Street and report back to Council.

Cr Webb asked that his name be recorded as voting against this resolution.

**14.2 WORKS IN PROGRESS**

**1042 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Webb and Walker that the information contained in this section of the report be noted.

The following matters were discussed:

- Saleyards – Cr Schieb referred to the new yards at the saleyards and said stock cannot be moved through the race and something should be done to correct the problem. The General Manager reminded Council that any changes to works already carried out will be at Council's expense.
- Saleyards Committee – it was requested that a meeting of the Saleyards Committee be convened ASAP to discuss various issues concerning the yards.

**1043 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Walker and Webb that the above matters be actioned.

**15.0 REPORT FROM MANAGER OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

**1043 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Webb and Schieb that the report by the Manager of Environmental Services be received and dealt with.

**15.1 RANGER'S REPORT – JUNE 2014**

**1044 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Webb and Cullen that the report by the Ranger for the month of July 2014 be noted.

**16.0 REPORTS FROM VARIOUS COMMITTEES**

**1045 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Webb and Walker that the following reports be noted.

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**1046 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Webb and Walker that the minutes of the following meetings be noted:

**16.1 *Coonamble Senior Citizens Association-*** minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2014.

**16.2 *Coonamble Heritage & Museum Advisory Committee -*** minutes of the meeting held on 4 June 2014.

**16.2a *OROC Board*** – minutes of meeting held at Warrumbungle Shire Council on 23 May 2014.

In discussing matters raised in these minutes, mention was made of the following :

- Aboriginal Land Claims and the lack of information available at present.
- Use of roads for HML vehicles – there is no overall position – but no approvals will be given until routes are properly assessed.
- Finance Professional Team – that the GM Rick Warren has been appointed as a ‘sponsoring general manager’.

**16.3 *Coonamble Employment Circle*** – minutes of meeting held on 15 July 2014.

**16.4 *Traffic Committee***

**1047 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Schieb and Webb that the minutes of the Traffic Committee meeting held on 16 July 2014 be dealt with.

- 90kph traffic signage – Cr Schieb referred to the distance from town of this sign on the highway south of Coonamble and asked that the Traffic Committee consider relocating it closer to town, e.g. near the Pistol Club.

**1048 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Schieb and Cullen that Council request the Traffic Committee to revisit speed limits within the urban area of Coonamble and consider moving the 90kph signage closer to the town on the northern and southern approaches to Coonamble.

- Road Closures for Events – Cr Webb referred to the recommendation that all requests for road closures for events be emailed to the Committee for comment and that a policy, including a standardised application form, be developed.

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- Bus Parking Area – Coonamble RSL Club

**1049 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Walker and Schieb that Council investigate the possibility of providing a bus parking area opposite the RSL Club, following a recommendation from the Traffic Committee that it be declined.

**17.0 REPORT BY SALEYARDS MANAGER**

**1050 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Walker and Cullen that the report by the Manager – Saleyards & Facilities be received.

Council noted that there are proposed changes to areas of responsibility for various facilities since the resignation of the Manager – Saleyards and Facilities. The General Manager said engineering would retain the saleyards; the cemetery and showground may revert to parks & gardens and the common to environmental services.

Cr Keady said the Coonamble Associated Agents have not been advised regarding a replacement for the saleyards manager and he asked about assistance for future sales. In response, the A/Director of Engineering Services said that nothing will change and Council will have staff available to manage the saleyards, including sale days.

**18.0 CLOSED SESSION**

**1051 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Cullen and Webb that Council resolve into Closed Session in accordance with the Local Government Act Section 10A:

*2 (d) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed:*

*(ii) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it"*

**1052 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Cullen and Webb that the press and public be excluded from the meeting.

**RESUME OPEN MEETING**

**1053 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs.Webb and Walker that Council resume Open Meeting.

**ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATION OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**1054 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Webb and Walker that Council adopt the following recommendation from Closed Session, being Recommendation Nos. 18.1 and 18.2:

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**18.1 Tender for Stage 1 - Coonamble Levee Upgrade  
That Council**

- (a) accept the tender submitted by Batterline Earthmoving Pty Ltd in the recommended tender amount of \$2,501,772.00 for Contract No 1300971 – Coonamble levee upgrade stage 1 – mandatory works and
- (b) should additional funding become available, Council vary the contract to include the optional additional works during the contract period, in the recommended amount of \$417,021.00 for Contract No 1300971 Coonamble levee upgrade stage 1.

**URGENT BUSINESS – CLOSED SESSION**

**1055 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Webb and Walker that Council classify the following item “urgent business” and it be dealt with.

At this juncture, Cr Schieb declared an interest and left the meeting.

**18.2 Expressions of Interest – Auction of Council Property**

**That Council** accept the offer from Halcroft & Bennett Pty Limited, based on financial considerations to auction property – 19-21 Tooloon Street and 21-23 Castlereagh Street on behalf of Council.

**19.0 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE**

Nil

**20.0 GENERAL BUSINESS**

**Cr Schieb:**

- Referred to the laneway running off Limerick Street and said it needs to be closed to stop motor bikes.
- Suggested that Council should make application for Crown land it may need in the future. The General Manager said that councils will be given the first option prior to the land being made available for purchase.
- Referred again to the problem with box thorn – publicise the need for landowners to be vigilant regarding control measures. The General Manager said that notices are being issued by the CMCC.

**Cr Cullen:**

- Requested that a meeting of the Quarry Management Committee be convened as soon as possible.
- Referred to testing of ballast – the A/Director advised that 200 kilos is required for testing.
- The General Manager said testing has been carried out on material for fertiliser value.

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**Cr Walker:**

- Suggested that Council take some action regarding the clearing of the river – the GM said that perhaps this is a proposal that the “Green Army” may be able to consider/undertake.
- Work for the dole – the GM informed the meeting that Council previously had agreements with MPREC, however Council is unable to wear the costs associated with these arrangements.

**Cr Keady:**

- Reported an issue with a ratepayer that Council has gravel stored adjacent to his access road and it is blocking the table drain and culvert. The A/Director agreed to investigate and take action.
- Referred to the blocking off of Floyd Street and said there are at least two land-locked blocks – the A/Director said that access would be made available to those allotments.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.35 p.m.

These Pages (1/5508 to 20/5527) were confirmed on the TENTH day of SEPTEMBER 2014 and are a full and accurate record of proceedings of the Ordinary Meeting of Coonamble Shire Council held on 13 August 2014.

**MAYOR**