

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

The April meeting of Council was held last Wednesday 10th – the same day as the Funeral Service for the late Max Philpott OAM. We adjourned the meeting as a mark of respect to Max and his family. Max has lived and worked in Coonamble for the past 60 years and he will be deeply missed by his many friends. His love of the town and district is evident in the many community projects that he brought to fruition. To Shirley, Vicki, Gail and Jeannette and their families Council and Staff extend most sincere sympathy. R.I.P. Max Philpott OAM.

Due to change in times, the two organisations who made arrangements to address the meeting were invited to come along earlier. The first was Ms Pam Parker on behalf of Coonamble Women's Shed to discuss the benefits that the facility has brought to the community and seeking funding to continue operating.

Council decided to request a copy of the organisation's financial statements, a report on results of the 12 month pilot program to which Council contributed \$8,000 and gauge an indication as to where any further financial assistance from Council will be directed. I am hoping this information will be available to the May meeting so a determination can be made.

Council then welcomed Ken Waterford and Mick Heaney, representing the Coonamble Jockey Club – Mr Waterford, President of the Club, referred to a letter Council would be dealing with later in the day concerning water requirements to maintain the track. Council was advised that some 1,000 square metres of turf had to be replaced due to damage caused by the use of poor quality grey water, necessitating major civil works to remedy the damage.

Mr Waterford said the Club required 6ML of bore water to irrigate the newly laid turf down the straight. He pointed out that when the bore baths are up and going the Club will require approximately 30ML per year to maintain the track to the standards required by Racing NSW. Council was asked to agree to provide the water in exchange for the release of the Crown Land tenure of portion of the Trust land required for the bore baths development.

In dealing with this matter later in the day Council resolved that it would contribute \$10,000 towards the cost of potable water for the Club for the next 12 months – this money would be sourced from the Development Fund. Council realizes this is only a short term solution, however the Club does understand that it will be some time before the bore baths are established and operational and a permanent solution is achieved.

Council resumed its meeting at 2.05 p.m. and I will briefly recount some of the decisions for our residents' information.

Coonamble Show Society Inc

At the March meeting, Council received a request from the Coonamble Show Society Inc for financial assistance towards an entertainment attraction – no decision was made until the Society's financial position was made available. This information was provided and staff determined that the Show operates on a "break even" basis and the request for assistance is warranted.

Given the short time frame for the booking to be made, Councillors were contacted with the information and unanimously agreed to provide \$5,000 from the Drought

Communities Program – Extended to offset costs associated with hiring a moto-cross stunt show as a main attraction at the annual show.

Coonamble Rodeo Association Inc

The request for funding from the Rodeo Association to the March meeting was resubmitted to this meeting for determination. The Association submitted a copy of its financial statements, including Audit Report for year ended 31 August 2018. The Association was seeking a contribution of upwards of \$6,000 from council towards marketing of the June long weekend event.

Council discussed this matter at length, being very aware that the proposed promotion would be focused on the region, not just the event. It was finally agreed to contribute \$8,600 to the Association for this year, noting that time for marketing of the 2019 event is running out, however from this promotion will come footage for promotions, media coverage and printing for the 2020 event.

Marthaguy Picnic Races

Council received a request for sponsorship from the Marthaguy Picnic Races to be held at the Quambone Racecourse on Saturday 11 May. In discussing the request Council was mindful that it has assisted other sporting events financially and finally agreed that \$2,000 would be provided as sponsorship. The Committee has conducted successful events in the past and Council hopes that its donation will help to make this year's community event a "hit" both socially and financially.

Amenities at Coonamble Saleyards

On several occasions Council has been asked to keep open the amenities building at the saleyards so that truck drivers can shower after washing out stock crates, etc. In the past, leaving the amenities open has led to vandalism and additional expense to Council in repairing damages. It was decided at the meeting on Wednesday to investigate the cost of setting up an Avdata key system and a report will be provided for the May meeting. I will report on the outcome of these investigations following the meeting next month.

Service NSW

Our Council has participated in the Small Business Friendly Councils (SBFC) initiative since 2014 – it's a program that provides opportunity for participating councils to implement programs to support small business, share resources and information with other participating councils and promote this offering to the local business community.

A report was presented to Council providing information and seeking support to enter into an agreement with Service NSW for the Easy-to-do-Business Program which provides benefits to councils, such as increased productivity with 'decision ready' applications, reduced transaction costs, effective tools to help boost the local economy and assisting councils to deliver on economic development and tourism strategic plan.

Council resolved to enter into an agreement with Service NSW to participate in this program, which free. Everything, such as support material, training and advice is provided by Service NSW – implementation of the program should lead to reduced processing times and costs relating to applications to Council. I think this is a great initiative and will provide great benefits to our small business entrepreneurs.

Tenders Accepted by Council

Council often participates with other Councils in sourcing tenders for much of its equipment and has again done so for the supply and delivery of water meters and traffic & safety signage. We awarded the water meters contract to Elster Metering and the contract for signage to various suppliers as a Panel Source Contract.

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