

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF COONAMBLE SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE GULARGAMBONE WAR MEMORIAL HALL ON WEDNESDAY,
9TH MARCH, 2011 COMMENCING AT 9.14 AM**

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PRESENT: Cr Tim Horan, Mayor, in the Chair, with Crs. J. Canham, B. O'Brien, M. Webb, D. Schieb and A. Karanouh.

Also present were the General Manager, Mr. Warren, the Director of Engineering Services, Mr Brodbeck, the Director of Corporate Services, Mr. Quarmby and Mrs Moorhouse.

In opening the meeting the Mayor thanked the Gulargambone War Memorial and Mechanics' Institute Hall Committee for making the hall available and for setting up for the meeting. He also acknowledged members of the CDEP and Youth Centre who assisted in cleaning and preparation.

2.0 ACKNOWLEDGE ORIGINAL OWNERS OF THE LAND

Prior to beginning the meeting, the Mayor acknowledged the original owners of the land, both past and present.

3.0 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

(a) MR NEIL ANDERSON

Mr Anderson advised that he owned the property "Avoca" and informed Council that because Avoca Lane is officially closed he has no legal access from his property. Mr Anderson said he has been given approval to use the closed road, however was made aware that should an accident occur, there would be no insurance cover. He explained that when he wanted to move stock this was a problem and requested that Council repair and open Avoca Lane as a priority.

The Director of Engineering Services said that an application for funds to repair flood damage has been submitted and when Council receives a Schedule of Works it will be able to program works in the vicinity. The meeting agreed that this matter be investigated and that appropriate action be taken as a priority.

Cr Schieb referred to a meeting of the National Farmers' Association which was held in Gulargambone recently and advised that a formal letter would be forthcoming from the Association concerning other roads in the Shire that have been closed. The Director of Engineering Services said that Council is concentrating on flood damage repairs with grants that are available, however it is impossible to fix all the roads in the short term

Regarding Mr. Anderson's situation, the General Manager advised that his access issue would be addressed immediately.

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(b) MURDI PAAKI REGIONAL ENTERPRISE CORPORATION

At this juncture, Ms Taryne Albert, distributed information on the Community Assistance Patrol in both Coonamble and Gulargambone. She then addressed Council on various issues, including the following, and apologised for the non attendance of the CEO, Janelle Whitehead.

(i) Coonamble Community Assistance Patrol (CAP)

Advised that hours were changed in Coonamble in June 2010 from 6.00 p.m. to 11.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. until 10.00 p.m. She explained the purpose of the patrol and advised that statistics are collected each night on the number of passengers. The document handout contained graphs of use by various groups. Taryne also referred to problems that were experienced with some members of the community regarding use of the CAP. Council noted that the Coonamble CAP has recently been suspended.

(ii) Gulargambone Community Assistance Patrol (CAP)

Taryne reported that MPREC commenced the Gulargambone CAP in October 2008 and cancelled it in December 2010 due to a number of issues following complaints from the Gulargambone community. She referred to the CAP as being a service to the whole community, not just Aboriginal members. Taryne said initially the bus was used to pick up all community members, however it is now used for sober adults and children (no-one effected by alcohol is allowed on the bus – this decision is made by the Patroller).

Council noted that following cancellation of the Gulargambone CAP, MPREC hired an independent consultant to review the service. A copy of her report was attached. Taryne also advised that the consultant completed a review of the Coonamble CAP following the recent letter from Council concerning inappropriate use.

Taryne informed the meeting that the Attorney General's Department provides funding for CAPs and the current term expires in June 2011. She said staff feel that they have no support from either Council or the Police. Both the Mayor and the General Manager disputed this, saying that Council has always been supportive of the service and worked very hard to get it up and running in the beginning. The Mayor said staff were not being targeted and should not take Council's criticism personally, as Council understood the issues that were being faced in both Coonamble and Gulargambone.

(iii) Creek Walk

Taryne advised that the CDEP in Gulargambone have commenced the Creek Walk. They will be meeting with the community shortly to get feedback and also to sort out the responsibility for maintenance of the walk when completed.

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(iv) Gulargambone Cemetery

Council was advised that the shade structure was to be placed in the Gulargambone Cemetery shortly and would be available for use by all denominations. Taryne said that eight metal bench type seats have been manufactured – two would be placed in each section. She said this would be done when she receives the okay from Council.

(v) Various

- Orchard project is underway.
- Cr O'Brien asked about maintenance of a CDEP property at Gulargambone – Taryne advised that MPREC cleans the block when requested.
- Mayor informed Taryne that Council supports the organisation and will help wherever possible and reiterated that Council has no problems with staff.

At this juncture, 9.32 a.m., Taryne left the meeting and Council received Mrs. Katrina Lefebvre

(b) COONAMBLE AMATEUR THEATRICAL SOCIETY (CATS)

Mrs Lefebvre referred to the letter sent by CATS to Council, outlining the situation with regard to hiring of sound and lighting and the cost of providing these essentials. She referred to the length of time the Society has been running and the ever increasing costs of staging the bi-annual production. Mrs Lefebvre said under the current system CATS cannot afford to stage the production any more than three nights and is attempting to purchase sound and lighting equipment which could then be utilised by other groups. She said it has been ascertained that the approximate cost for sound and lighting is in the order of \$30,000 - \$40,000 and requesting a donation from Council. Mrs Lefebvre said the Society was also actively seeking grant funding.

Cr Karanouh suggested that CATS join with other groups to share costs. It was noted that the next production will be held at the Plaza Theatre where the Society can conduct a bar and provide food, which will be a way to raise funds. Mrs Lefebvre said that the cost of individual microphones is \$1,000 each. Cr O'Brien suggested that the Society approach the Coonamble Chamber of Commerce for support. The Mayor thanked Mrs Lefebvre and said the matter would be discussed later in the day. She left the meeting at 9.47 a.m.

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(c) MR COLIN RYAN

Firstly welcomed Council to Gulargambone and thanked it for having its meeting there. He said his first issue was the cost of bulk water, which was \$3.85/kilolitre, and referred to the cost of town water at 54 cents/kilolitre. He said it seems to him that purchase of bulk water is very expensive and not in keeping with the town charge.

The General Manager referred to the cost of providing both water and sewer services to Gulargambone, advising that they are both incapable to 'standing alone'.

Mr Ryan referred to the need for road works and noted that Council has claimed for funds to repair flood damage. He pointed out what he considers a safety issue at the new low level bridge, saying there are no centre lines marked and traffic, especially during harvest, seems to take the curve on the wrong side of the road. The Director of Engineering Services noted this issue and will take appropriate action.

Another issue raised was Baronne Bridge – on the left hand side there is a considerable dip. The Director advised that the RTA tried to jack the approach strips after the slabs sunk. He said the Authority had a company on hand to fix the problem, however rain stopped the project. Mr Brodbeck said he would again take this matter up with the RTA to have the fault remedied.

Mr. Ryan thanked Council and left at 9.50 a.m. Mr. Jeff Taylor was welcomed to the meeting.

(d) Gulargambone Branch NSW Farmers' Association

Mr Taylor referred to the AGM held recently and said the Association would be seeking Council guidance in taking action for the State Government to take back some of the important roads so that funding can be provided to carry out maintenance. He referred to the Coonamble, Gilgandra and Warren Shires making an approach regarding this project.

Mr Taylor also mentioned the coal seam gas and said investigations are currently taking place east of Gulargambone (perhaps in Gilgandra Shire). However he said should this go ahead it will cause enormous problems to the Shire and the cost to the district would be huge. Cr Schieb said the Association is endeavouring to get funding for the Coonamble/Warren Road and is going to take action to have the title of the road changed. The Mayor commended this action, saying it's a good way to start the ball rolling and said Council will support the application to have the roads returned to the Government so that the responsibility of funding become its responsibility.

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Mr Taylor said the Association is looking to GrainCorp to upgrade facilities at Gulargambone silos and would like support. The Mayor asked that a letter be forwarded to Council, to which Mr. Taylor agreed.

(e) SKATE PARK

At this juncture, Robyn Delaney and four young people from Gulargambone, addressed the meeting giving reasons why Gulargambone should have a skate park. The Mayor said the proposal would be considered in conjunction with the management plan. The General Manager referred to the skate park in Coonamble and advised that the High School students who make representations to council took on a fundraising role and provided input along the way.

(f) YOUTH CENTRES – COONAMBLE & GULARGAMBONE

At this stage, Mr. Paul Hausia, Project Officer with MPREC, and Mr Adam Cohen spoke to Council concerning the youth centres at Coonamble and Gulargambone. Mr Kemp referred to a workshop recently held in Cobar which aimed at getting youth to participate in activities and stand up for themselves – he said the workshop was very successful. He said he would like to see more activities from both the Youth Centres so that they provide projects for all youth in the communities. Mr Kemp said they are looking at appointing a representative in Gulargambone who would take on the role of mentor, with the focus on all youth in the community. The Mayor asked that a letter of request be forwarded and he assured Mr Kemp that Council will support such endeavours.

Mr. Kemp and Mr Cohen thanked Council and left the meeting.

4.0 APOLOGY

8990 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Webb and Canham that an apology for non attendance be accepted from Cr. Tom Cullen.

5.0 DELEGATIONS

Nil

6.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

7.0 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

8991 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs O'Brien and Schieb that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Coonamble Shire Council, held on 9 February, 2011 be confirmed, subject to the following amendment:

Minute No 8976 (Page 24/4756)

***Item (2) commit in principle to funding of \$16,000 (for 2011)
(in lieu of \$12,000 stated)***

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BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(a) Assessible Communities Program –Grant Funding (Min No 8959)

Cr Schieb referred to this item and said it may be a good idea to investigate a program for the Caravan Park in conjunction with the proposed Eco Spa development. The General Manager said that this grant funding is for 'disabled access' and, if made available funding would provide both the Pool access/change room facilities and Caravan Park toilets/showers with appropriate access for disabled persons.

The Mayor said it is reasonable to assume that the Eco Spa development will not happen for years, if ever, and he was not in favour of dropping this project. The General Manager said the Eco Spa would need to have private enterprise. He said that the Study recently conducted was funded by a grant of \$15,000 and \$10,000 contribution from Council.

(b) Trees – Coonamble Sportsground (Page 26/4758)

Cr Karanouh referred to shoots from Athol Pines growing through the fence at the Sportsground. He said this is causing damage. The Director of Engineering Services said that every 12 months these trees are trimmed and tidied up. Mr Brodbeck said he is looking at removing the trees from the area.

(c) Gulargambone Cemetery

In response to a question from Cr O'Brien as to who is responsible for maintenance at the Gulargambone Cemetery, the Director of Engineering Services said that Council carries out some maintenance, however when heavy work is required it is programmed when the slasher is working in the vicinity.

Mr. Brodbeck said he has requested the CDEP to provide him with a budget price for use of equipment and staff on a roster basis for ongoing works. He said it is necessary to have a formal agreement and pay for regular services. The Director said he also requested a price for Coonamble on the same terms. Cr O'Brien said the road into the cemetery has pot holes.

8.0 RESOLUTION BOOK UPDATE

8992 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that the Resolution Book Update be received and dealt with.

The General Manager referred to the alternative format and the setting out of completed items in a different section of the current format. It was agreed that the format include completed items and they continue to be shown separately.

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(a) Law & Order – Minute No 8290

Cr Karanouh said he understood that the Crime Prevention Plan had been signed off by the Attorney General. The General Manager said this was the case, however Council continues to seek funding for a facilitator. Mr Warren said three agencies (Police, DoCS and Juvenile Justice) have information sharing protocols that can be the basis for cooperation between them. He said it would be advantageous to appoint a sub-committee under the Crime Prevention Plan to address juvenile crime issues. It is understood that the Premier's Department can liaise with these agencies to ensure cooperation.

Cr Karanouh said Council should be proactive and make either the General Manager or the Director of Corporate Services available to attend meetings with Superintendent Noble to identify priorities. The General Manager referred to the Coonamble Interagency meetings where issues can be raised, however he pointed out there are insufficient protocols and Council should be involved with the three agencies (viz Police, DoCS and JJ). Mr. Warren said Superintendent Noble is committed to the cause of addressing juvenile crime issues.

9.0 MAYOR'S ACTIVITY REPORT

The Mayor provided a verbal report on his activities since the last meeting, which included the following:

- Dinner under the Stars – apologised to Cr O'Brien for not attending. Congratulated the Committee on another great event, which was enjoyed by those in attendance.
- Opening of Inspiration House – attended this event which he thinks is a move forward in addressing domestic violence.
- Met with the Landscape consultant who is preparing the Main Street Upgrade – the Director of Engineering Services and the Manager of Services also attended the meeting. Cr Horan said the plan at this stage is looking good.

8993 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Horan and O'Brien that the report on Mayoral activities be adopted.

10.0 CORRESPONDENCE

8994 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that the Correspondence be received and dealt with.

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Section A –For Council’s Consideration:

**10.1 KATIE SULLIVAN, TEACHER, COONAMBLE PUBLIC SCHOOL D7
(34378)**

Advising she teaches Year One and one of her students suffers from severe Cerebral Palsy which prevents his communication with class mates and most other everyday activities. Seeking to help the student by the purchase of equipment which will cost approximately \$2,000 and asking Council to contribute.

The General Manager reported that whilst Council is sympathetic to the situation, should a precedent such as this be set, it would give the community an ongoing expectation that Council will continue to undertake and finance activities that are the responsibility of State Government. Mr. Warren said Council has a laptop and printer which is excess equipment which could be donated.

8995 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Webb and O’Brien that Council not provide assistance in regard to supply of educational equipment that is the responsibility of the State Government.

**10.2 AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION L9
(34388)**

Writing to all councils asking that they pass a resolution in the first few months of 2011 endorsing the position that a referendum be held by 2013 to change the Constitution to allow direct funding of local government bodies by the Commonwealth Government and also to include local government in any new Preamble to the Constitution if one is proposed.

8996 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Karanouh and O’Brien that Coonamble Shire Council declare its support for financial recognition of local government in the Australian Constitution so that the Federal Government has the power to fund local government directly and also for inclusion of local government in any new Preamble to the Constitution, if one is proposed and calls on all political parties to support a referendum by 2013 to change the Constitution to achieve this recognition **AND FURTHER** that Council write to the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and the Local Federal Member advising support for recognition.

**10.3 MURDI PAAKI REGIONAL ENTERPRISE CORPORATION (MPREC)
C4-1 (34420)**

Seeking permission to install seating and place a mobile shade structure onto the grounds of the Gulargambone Cemetery. Advising the items were made as part of the Community Development activities approved by FaHCSIA for the CDEP in Gulargambone.

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The General Manager informed the meeting that the Director of Engineering Services has written to MPREC seeking clarification regarding the type of bench seats proposed. Mr. Warren said that representatives of MPREC discussed this issue with the Director on 28 February 2011 and it was noted that the seats will be all steel construction.

8997 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs.O'Brien and Karanouh that Council endorse the action of the Director of Engineering Services in making enquiries regarding construction of the proposed seating and authorise the Director, through the General Manager, to make a decision and advise MPREC accordingly when all the information has been considered.

**10.4 GULARGAMBONE WAR MEMORIAL HALL & MECHANICS INSTITUTE
D7 (34433)**

Advising the Committee will be celebrating Senior Citizens Week in March by holding a morning tea. Saying that last year Council sponsored the event and again looking for a monetary donation to defray the costs.

The meeting noted that last year Council contributed \$100 towards this event.

8998 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Karanouh and Webb that Council agree to contribute \$100 towards the Senior Citizens Week morning tea being organized by the Committee of the Gulargambone War Memorial Hall and Mechanics Institute.

10.5 COONAMBLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE D7 + G5 (34453)

Referring to its recent meeting and putting the following items to Council for consideration:

(1) Requesting Council to seek funding for a full-time Grants Officer which would assist all local businesses and community groups to apply for appropriate funding.

In regard to this matter, the General Manager advised this issue will be addressed in conjunction with the review of the organization structure.

(2) Asking for clear signage to be erected on the approach to the Industrial Estate.

Council noted the process is underway to erect signage adjacent to the roadway at the Industrial Estate.

(3) Enquiring about recycling – asking Council to investigate how surrounding areas recycle.

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The General Manager stated that Council addressed the issue of recycling previously and resolved not to undertake the recycling activity as a collection service. He said recycling is undertaken at Council's Waste Management facility by the operator.

8999 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Karanouh and O'Brien that Council inform the Chamber of Commerce:

- (1) That when the organization structure is being reviewed the position of a Grants Officer will be addressed;
- (2) That signage will be erected adjacent to the roadway in the vicinity of the Industrial Estate;
- (3) That Council previously resolved not to undertake the recycling activity as a collection service.

**10.6 COONAMBLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE P15 + T1
(34454)**

Enquiring about Council's local tendering policy and saying there is concern regarding awarding of tenders to out of town contractors. Stating it is aware of the 10% rule and pointing out it would be more advantageous if the percentage was raised to at least 12%. Suggesting that Council consider an amendment to its tendering policy to include a provision for the employment of a percentage of locals on all job sites, even by out of town contractors. Reporting that the Chamber would like to see Council become more proactive towards rebuilding the qualified workforce within its employment.

The General Manager drew Councillors' attention to Council's Procurement Policy which was attached to the business paper.

Mr Warren said that since Council last reviewed its Procurement Policy, there have been changes within Regulations relating to Preference to any Supplier. He advised that the Director of Corporate Services would provide a report to the April meeting.

The General Manager said Council is aware of the difficulty in recruiting and retaining a qualified workforce. He said it should be pointed out that Council is not in a position to indenture trainees and/or apprentices to tradespeople as Council does not have them. Mr. Warren said that Council is attempting to address the situation however, he pointed out there is no quick easy fix.

9000 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Karanouh that the Chamber of Commerce be advised that Council is aware of this issue and will address it when the opportunity presents itself **AND FURTHER** Council does not have qualified staff to indenture apprentices.

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10.7 MRS JANETTE HUME P1-11 (34362)

Asking that this request be tabled at Council's meeting . Advising she lives in Maule Street and stating that *"every night about 9.00 – 9.30 a mob of kids go to the football oval and bash and bang, swear, throw things and set fire to things"*. Asking if the Shire can lock the oval each night to *"keep the hoons out"*.

The General Manager stated that should Council decide to lock the gates, additional overtime will need to be paid. He also said that locking the gates would prevent legitimate use of the Sportsground for the purposes for which it is intended.

9001 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Webb that the vehicle gate be locked at night as is the practice recently instigated by the Director of Engineering Services and that the Police be requested to monitor the Sportsground after dark.

Cr. O'Brien declared an interest in the following item and took no part in discussions or voting.

10.8 TWO EIGHT TWO EIGHT D7

Advising that six people (five volunteers plus the TDM) will be attending the Australian Tourism Awards in Perth on March 11. Saying that two eight two eight will be representing NSW in the Specialised Tourism Services category. Wondering whether Council would consider contributing towards the cost – the total of which is \$859/pp (excluding accommodation).

9002 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs.Canham and Schieb that Council agree to pay air fares/accommodation for its Tourism Development Manager to attend the Australian Tourism Awards in Perth on March 11, 2011.

10.9 DIXON & SWANSON, SHOPFITTERS

Advising they act on behalf of Mr Yong Cao who is currently seeking to purchase the building located at 43 Castlereagh Street, Coonamble and fit it out as a retail pharmacy. Advising the existing main customer access into the building is via two concrete steps off Castlereagh Street (each step is 185mm high above the existing paved footpath). Putting forward their proposal to install a ramp and enclosing a plan for Council's perusal.

The General Manager explained that such a proposal would impede the footpath and be a target for skateboarders which would be a safety issue. It was pointed out that there is sufficient room within the premises to provide a suitable ramp and following discussions with Council Officers, the firm no longer wishes to construct the ramp on the footpath.

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9003 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that Council note permission is no longer sought for the ramp to be located on the footpath.

10.10 DAVE McLEAN F5-4 (34411)

Complaining about motor bikes and cars speeding on the levee bank, stirring up dust and causing safety issues. Stating that the vehicles in question are not registered. Fearing that someone will be killed and saying that something has to be done to stop this irresponsible behaviour. Wondering whether speed humps or a gate would work.

The General Manager advised that in discussions with the Director of Engineering Services, it has been determined that Council will have to make a determination regarding access to the new levee when it is constructed.

9004 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Karanouh and Canham that Council request police to patrol the area and issue infringements for unregistered vehicles/bikes, unlicensed drivers/riders, not wearing helmets and that Council erect signage prohibiting this activity.

10.11 LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT I9 (34498)

Inviting Council to join NSW Local Government Electricity and Natural Gas Tender 2011. Stating that in January 2011 LGP conducted a survey of all NSW councils seeking interest in a further tender process for:

- street lighting (un-metered)
- large sites (sites with capacity greater than 160MWh p.a.)
- small sites (sites with capacity less than 160MWh p.a.)
- Green energy
- Natural gas

Saying the survey results were an overwhelming support for a new tender process to commence immediately with the aim to be implemented by 30 June 2011.

The General Manager informed the meeting that Council spends approximately \$90,000 per year on street lighting and approximately \$50,000 for the quarry. Mr Warren said both of these sites qualify under the amount of electricity consumed.

9005 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Karanouh and O'Brien that Council participate in the tender process with LGP for electricity tender for street lighting and the crusher.

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10.12 COONAMBLE AMATEUR THEATRICAL SOCIETY D7 (34494)

Advising that Coonamble Amateur Theatrical Society (CATS) consists of a passionate and vibrant group of community members who, bi-annually, organize a local theatre production. Stating that various people throughout the community are involved, from school teachers/students to businessmen/farmers, and the 2009 production "Jungle Fever" held at the Coonamble Bowling Club was a sell-out over three nights. Pointing out that ticket sales was \$14,200 and expenditure was \$14,724.86 (the loss was made up by donations from members of the cast and crew). Advising the biggest expenses for the production were:

- Catering – Coonamble Bowling Club \$8,375
- Sound & Lighting (hired from Orange) \$4,760

Saying that due to overwhelming demand for future productions CATS has to rethink the direction in which it wishes to proceed and will be applying for grants and seeking donations to purchase its own equipment. Saying any funding/grants will be put towards the purchase of sound and lighting equipment, as well as some costumes and props. Pointing out that the approximate cost for sound and lighting will be in the order of \$30,000 - \$40,000 and requesting a donation from Council to allocate towards the purchase of some equipment.

Mrs Katrina Levebvre, representing the Society, addressed Council earlier in the day during public question time. The General Manager informed Council that it has \$10,000 in its Donations Vote for this financial year.

9006 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Karanouh and Horan that Council contribute \$5,000 to the Coonamble Amateur Theatrical Society for the purchase of sound equipment (i.e. 5 microphones @ \$1,000/each) and it be noted the equipment will be made available to other users in the future in accordance with conditions set by the Society

Section B – Information

10.13 COONAMBLE BOWLING CLUB LIMITED PR1263 (34326)

Advising the Board of Directors has decided to close off the entrance/exit driveway in Aberford Street after considering hazards for both motorists and pedestrians. Saying there are two alternate entrance/exit driveways in Pages Terrace.

It was noted that the Director of Engineering Services has advised the Club that Council has no objection to the closure in the interest of improved safety for motorists and pedestrians. The Director suggested that new "EXIT" signs be erected, with directional arrows to delineate the route to the car park exit.

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10.14 OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR POLICE P5 (34322)

Referring to Council's letter to the Minister for Police, Mr Michael Daley MP, regarding policing in Coonamble and noting Council's resolution of 13 October 2010 concerning the matter. Referring to Supt. Noble's meeting with Councillors with a view to achieving a mutually agreed resolution. Pointing out that if Council is unhappy with the way the Castlereagh Local Area Command is addressing its concerns, it should contact the NSW Ombudsman.

The General Manager said that at Council's February meeting it was resolved to make another formal complaint regarding this issue and letters have been sent to the Ombudsman and Supt. Bob Noble in accordance with that resolution.

**10.15 LOCAL GOVERNMENT & SHIRES ASSOCIATIONS OF NSW E2
(34373)**

Advising that the LGSA *NSW Election Priorities 2011* was formally launched on 7 February 2011 and an electronic version, a brief summary document and the media release is available on line at www.lgsa.org.au/election2011
Stating the Associations have requested a formal response in writing from all parties and they will be posted on the website to keep councils informed.

10.16 THE HON STEVE WHAN MP – MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES E4 (34342)

Advising of changes to the composition of NSW Emergency Management Districts as a consequence of a recent review of the State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989. Saying the change will take effect from March 1, 2011 and Council's Local Emergency Management Committee now falls within the Western Slopes

A copy of the map showing the new Emergency Management Districts was provided to each Councillor. It was noted that the larger areas have already been legislated.

10.17 CASTLEREAGH LOCAL AREA COMMAND P5

Forwarding copies of media releases regarding activities within the Command region, which were included with the business paper.

10.18 COONAMBLE MULTI PURPOSE SERVICE M5-3 (34386)

Advising that during a recent risk assessment of the new MPS staff identified a potential injury risk with the entrance to the new building, in that when cars indicate to enter the MPS often the car following goes off to the left to overtake, before realizing there is a sign in their path, causing them to break suddenly. Suggesting two possible solutions and saying the entrance to the MPS is on landscaping plans and it is hoped to make it more visual.

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The General Manager informed Council that the writer has been advised that this matter has been referred to the Local Traffic Committee (which includes RTA representatives) for investigation and determination. Council noted that the next meeting of the Committee will be held in March.

10.19 SHIRES ASSOCIATION OF NSW L9 (34410)

Providing a history of the NSW Aboriginal Land Council (NSWALC) membership as well some membership alternatives. Saying the matter will be discussed at the Special Shires Association Conference on 23 February 2011.

A copy of the letter was included with the business paper for Councillors' information.

10.20 DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT L9

Advising a revised Investment Order pursuant to section 625 of the *Local Government Act 1993* has been issued, was published in the Government Gazette on 11 February 2011 and replaces the Order dated 31 July 2008. Listing some of the changes made to the Investment Order.

The General Manager pointed out that changes to the Revised Ministerial Investment Order, as contained in Circular 10-11, requires deletion from Council's Investment Policy the ability to invest with Local Government Financial Services. In accordance with Clause E (Variations to Policy), this has been carried out and removed from Council's current Investment Policy.

10.21 DISTRICT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICER

Advising that the DEMC meeting scheduled for 3 March 2011 will not be held as there will be no legal identity of "Western Slopes DEMC" on that date. Advising the Minister for Emergency Services has approved the amalgamation of the existing "Central West" and "Western Slopes" Districts to form a new emergency management district from that date. Saying the new EM District is called "Central West" District and will consist of 19 LGAs.

9007 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Webb that the information contained in Item Nos. 10.13 to 10.21 inclusive be noted.

11.0 REPORT BY GENERAL MANAGER

9008 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Karanouh and Webb that the General Manager's report be received and dealt with.

11.1 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS DETERMINED UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

9009 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Karanouh and Webb that Council note Development Application Nos. 056/2010 and 058/2010 have been approved under delegated authority since the last Council meeting.

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11.2 SPECIAL CONFERENCE – SYDNEY – PROPOSAL FOR ONE ASSOCIATION

The General Manager reported that on 23rd February 2011, in company with Councillor Webb, he attended the Special Conference arranged by the Shires Association of NSW in Sydney to discuss the formation of a single association to represent Local Government in New South Wales.

Mr Warren pointed out that the Shires Association called the early Special Conference to discuss the issue rather than waiting until its usual Conference in late May 2011. He said the Conference acknowledged that one voice representing Local Government in NSW was needed to effectively lobby State and Federal Governments on local government issues.

The General Manager drew Council's attention to the fact that of the 27 principles endorsed by Council at its meeting in September 2010, six were amended – the report listed amendments

Mr Warren drew attention to the draft Constitution, a copy of which was attached to the business paper and pointed out that it is currently before all NSW councils and will require formal endorsement by all members of both Associations at future annual conferences.

9010 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that Council note the information regarding the Special Conference of the Shires Association of NSW in relation to the formation of One Association and submit a response to the LGSA regarding the draft Constitution prior to 18 March 2011

11.3 QUARRY PRODUCTION

The General Manager produced a comprehensive report outlining options for the extension of the quarry which was requested at the February meeting. The report covered the following areas:

- (i) Pit
- (ii) Production
- (iii) Marketing

The General Manager stated that Council, as a public authority, is subject to many stringent regulations not applicable to private enterprise – e.g. tendering regulations and adoption of fees and charges and publication of these. He said in order to change the fees and charges, once adopted, Council would need to display and seek public submissions prior to any change.

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Mr. Warren reported that Council procedure in the past has been to set the budget for quarry operations to break even with a transfer to reserve of the depreciation of crusher plant and a further \$10,000 for remediation works at the end of the quarry life. He said that generally the quarry makes a surplus from operations and this is realised at the end of the financial year, when it is generally transferred to reserves as part of Council's end of year determinations.

The General Manager reported that a much more detailed report would need to be commissioned to investigate markets and engineered specifications as to crushing equipment and mobile plant, for substantial increases in production.

In response to a question from Cr. Schieb, the Director of Engineering Services advised that Council currently works two pits which are separated by a "U" shaped piece of land that is now owned by Council. Cr Karanouh said he would like to see the quarry expanded.

9011 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Schieb that the information contained in the General Manager's report be noted.

11.4 MANAGEMENT PLAN 2011 – 2014 – TIMETABLE

The General Manager submitted the following time table to ensure the orderly progress of the 2011 – 2014 Management Planning process.

Date	Function
Wednesday 11 May	Draft Management Plan (considered as part of May 2011 Council meeting) and placed on public exhibition
Wednesday 25 May	Public Meeting (evening) for Council to present its Management Plan to the Community.
Tuesday, 7 June	Submissions from the public close
Wednesday 8 June	Management Plan adopted (at normal monthly Council meeting)

Mr. Warren informed the meeting of increases in the sewer charges and referred to the requirements of the State Government in this regard. He said to offset the total increase to ratepayers it is proposed that there be no increase in the Domestic Waste Charge, nor in the usage consumption charge for water. There will be an increase in the service charge for water supply.

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Council was reminded that rates will increase by the 2.8% approved by IPART – which is an overall increase in total rates not an individual amount. The General Manager said it is proposed that the general rate minimum be increased by \$15.00. He said a report would be submitted to the April meeting.

9012 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Karanouh that the information be noted.

12.0 REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

9013 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Canham and Karanouh that the report by the Director of Corporate Services be received and dealt with.

12.1 RATE COLLECTIONS

9014 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that the Total Combined Rate Collections to 28 February, 2011 be noted.

12.2 LIST OF INVESTMENTS

9015 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Canham and O'Brien that the list of investments as at 28 February 2011 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.

12.3 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE GUIDELINES

The Director of Corporate Services informed Council that in December, 2010 the Division of Local Government Department of Premier and Cabinet released the Capital Expenditure Guidelines pursuant to section 23A of the Local Government Act 1993. Mr Quarmbay said these Guidelines have been developed to assist councils prepare Capital Expenditure Reviews as part of the council's budgeting process.

Council noted that the new guidelines apply to capital projects for infrastructure facilities, including renovations and extensions that are expected to cost in excess of 10% of council's ordinary rate revenue or \$1,000,000 whichever is the greater (GST exclusive). The Director said where the anticipated cost of a project is estimated to be greater than \$10,000,000 further additional requirements will need to be completed.

A list of projects which are exempt from the guidelines was provided but, in accordance with best practise, it is anticipated that Council will apply the principles of these guidelines to all capital projects.

A Summary Flow Chart which represents the processes required to be undertaken when Council is considering capital works projects was attached to the report.

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9016 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Karanouh and Webb that the information contained in the Director of Corporate Services report be noted.

13.0 REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING SERVICES

9017 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs O'Brien and Karanouh that the report by the Director of Engineering Services be received and dealt with.

13.1 DRAFT POLICY – WORKING IN HOT OR EXTREME CONDITIONS

The Director of Engineering Services advised that a draft policy in connection with the above was adopted recently by Council's OH&S Committee. Mr Brodbeck pointed out that Council has a duty of care to ensure workers are protected from the sun and its effects to minimize exposure and as a precaution against the risk of heat stress injury.

A copy of the draft policy was included with the business paper.

The Director reported that the procedure applies to all Council employees, contractors and volunteers whose duties would place them in areas of risk in a hot outdoor environment or working with equipment that produces heat. He said the draft policy is consistent with recent amendments to the Local Government (State) Award 2010, the RTA Working in Extreme Temperatures Policy and the OH&S Act 2000 and OH&S Regulations 2001. The General Manager informed the meeting that it must be shown that Council has correct policies in place for all situations.

9018 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Karanouh and Webb that Council advertise the Policy for Working in Hot or Extreme Conditions for a period of 28 days, inviting written submissions and/or comments and that the policy be adopted at the April meeting, after consideration of any submissions received.

13.2 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – NEW SOUTH WALES FLOOD PLAIN MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

The Director of Engineering Services reported that the 51st AGM for the NSW Flood Plain Management Authority was held from 23rd – 25th February in Tamworth and, given Council's desire to progress the upgrade of the levee, he felt it was prudent to attend on Council's behalf.

Mr Brodbeck reported that the following persons spoke at the Conference:

- Dr John Wicks from the UK - flood risk management planning.
- Catherine Cusak MLC – outlined the Opposition's policy on climate change and environmental issues.

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- Senator Barnaby Joyce – spoke about controlling development on floodplains to ensure that risk is considered, identified and the best options implemented to allow certain types of development to be approved.
- Tony Windsor – opposing the Federal Government’s proposed flood levy to rebuild Queensland and also the Murray/Darling Basin Committee and what he hoped to achieve in that area.

The Director reported that much of the Conference was devoted to presentations on flood risk management, community consultation, flood mitigation, emergency response, flood prediction and modeling, as well as holding the AGM on the Thursday of the Conference.

Mr Brodbeck stated that Council should continue to be represented at these types of Conferences for the networking and to be kept up-to-date with topical information and changes in legislation relative to flood mitigation.

9019 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Karanouh and O’Brien that the information contained in the report be noted.

13.3 TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY & PROCEDURE

The Director of Engineering Services reported that the draft policy submitted provides for the planting, maintenance and, where necessary, the removal of trees and shrubs on Council controlled property.

Mr Brodbeck pointed out that budget allocations in support of this Policy will be made on the basis that maintenance of existing trees or plantings of new or replacement trees, is costed and funded in accordance with recognised risk management principles to ensure tree asset protection, community safety, risk and resource priorities and best value are met.

9020 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Karanouh and O’Brien that Council place the draft Policy on public exhibition for a period of 28 days, inviting public comment and adopt the Tree Management Policy and Procedure in conjunction with consideration of any submissions received.

13.4 WORKS IN PROGRESS

In keeping with normal practice, the Director of Engineering Services submitted a ‘works in progress’ report, which included the following:

- **State Highway**
 - flood damage repairs (in progress) & reseals (commence when contractors are available)
 - further rehabilitation & widening works (will be undertaken before the end of June)
 - bitumen patching (full length completed – is ongoing).

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▪ ***Regional Roads***

- routine patching, mowing and edge sealing carried out on four regional roads
- emergency flood damage has been completed on MR202 & further works will be completed in due course as resources permit.
- Road base has been carted to RR129B and RR7515 in preparation for the start of rehabilitation works under the REPAIR program.

▪ ***Local Roads***

- flood damage has been completed or is underway on various roads.
- bitumen patching and slashing has been completed on four Shire Roads.

▪ ***Urban Street***

- Bitumen patching, slashing and cleaning has been completed in all urban streets.

The Mayor enquired about Hickey Street and Effie Durham Drive, asking whether the works planned for both streets were still 'on the radar'. The Director of Engineering Services said that works would be carried out, however flood damage repairs was Council's priority at this time.

Cr Schieb referred to the amount of loose metal in patching works carried out – the Director said the application rate may have been too high, however other factors, such as heat, have effects on the emulsion/gravel combination.

9021 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. webb and O'Brien that the works in progress report be noted.

At this juncture, 11.03 a.m., Council's Tourism Manager was in attendance to present his report.

16.0 REPORT BY TOURISM DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

9022 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that the report be received and dealt with.

Mr. Baldwin touched on various issues in his report, including:

- Bore baths project – some information was incorrect – Lee is checking – delay in progress.
- Warrumbungle Cluster (Gilgandra/Coonamble/Narrabri/Warrumbungle Shires) – digital campaign to be launched in Sydney on 11 March. Council has contributed \$3,000 towards the purchase of Bluetooth marketing devices.

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- Moorambilla Festival – prepared accommodation audit and investigated tourist trains as accommodation/package option – event to be held 23 – 25 September 2011.
- Riversmart Macquarie – met with CEO and Coordinator to discuss potential eco cultural trail. Publicity was given on ABC Radio on 8 March. The initiative has government backing.

9023 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Webb that the report by the Tourism Development Manager be adopted.

16.1 ACCREDITED VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE COONAMBLE

Council noted the report submitted by the TDM on this issue. Discussions ensued regarding the best location for the Coonamble VIC. The TDM said should the Eco Spa Project proceed at Smith Park, the kiosk/office at the facility would be the ideal location. The Mayor pointed out that this development is in the future and Council needs to identify a location for the VIC now. Cr Horan wondered whether the sign displaying the Italic "I" is so important and said perhaps it may be prudent to have the Centre located more centrally, even if it is not available seven days/week. The TDM said that not having seven days' service was the reason the VIC was relocated to the Cypress.

Councillors recognise for the VIC to be successful staff at the selected venue would have to have the time to spend with visitors – this is not possible in businesses that constantly busy. The General Manager said he has had discussions with the TDM and sees no sound solution. The Mayor referred to expense associated with relocation of the Centre, referring to its move from Cottage Industries to the Cypress Motel – he said every time it is moved, it is costing Council. Cr Horan suggested the Library may be the best location at this time.

The General Manager referred to the proposed restructure of Council's organisation structure and said this issue could be reviewed to accommodate staff availability. The Director of Corporate Services gave an overview of Narromine Council's experience with its Visitor Information Centre.

Cr Canham suggested that Council look at employing an Information Officer trainee. The General Manager acknowledged this suggestion.

9024 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Webb and O'Brien that Council call for expressions of interest for another business to take on the Visitor Information Centre (VIC) service and, if that proves unsuccessful, the VIC be set up in a Council owned facility (e.g. Library, Museum, Administration Centre), which would involve opening some time during weekends, losing accreditation and reverting to the blue and white Roman "I".

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16.2 MOORAMBILLA FESTIVAL 2011 – 2013

The General Manager handed each Councillor a copy of an email he received from the Artistic Director of the Festival, wherein she stated that “I have not yet received any formal response nor feedback” concerning the proposal to conduct the Moorambilla Festival in Coonamble for a further three years. Mr. Warren said he disputed the contents of the email as he previously contacted the Artistic Director advising that the proposal was to be ratified at this (the March) meeting.

The TDM said he has now received all figures and provided Council with those for the years 2008, 2009 and 2010. He said that the Festival is clearly beneficial to the town in terms of both artistic/cultural development and the value of media generated. He said that whilst other councils struggle to find a major event, the Moorambilla Festival has provided this Shire with an arts festival that continues to grow. Mr Baldwin said that whilst there have been and still are some operational issues to be resolved, these are not insurmountable.

Discussion ensued regarding the appointment of a Coordinator and Councillors are of the opinion that the position should be held by a local person to run the operational elements of the event and be Council’s key contact. Cr. O’Brien nominated Councillors Karanouh and Webb for the Local Committee, however Cr Webb declined. It was agreed that the Local Committee consist of Councillors O’Brien and Karanouh

9025 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Webb and Karanouh that Council:

- (1) Agree to support the Moorambilla Festival in 2011, 2012 and 2013;
- (2) Prepare a funding agreement with the Artistic Director which provides \$16,000 (2011); \$18,000 (2012) and \$20,000 (2013) and includes a rigid reporting structure;
- (3) Form a Local Committee comprising Councillors O’Brien and Karanouh, together with the Tourism Development Manager (alternative representative be the General Manager), along with a community member and a representative of Outback Arts and the Local Coordinator;
- (4) Advertise expressions of interest for a community member.

15.0 REPORT BY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGERS

Councillors noted that the EDMs were in attendance to present their reports.

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9026 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Canham and Webb that the report by Economic Development Managers be adopted.

BUSINESS AWARDS – COONAMBLE WINNERS

9027 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Canham that letters of congratulations be forwarded to the business award winners in Coonamble.

15.1 INDOOR ARENA – UNIVERSITY OF NSW – DESIGN PHASE – MARCH 2011

Council noted the report from the EDM concerning this item and also noted that an allocation of \$12,500 previously made by Council, plus a grant from the Department of Industry & Innovation for up to \$17,000 to cover this phase of the project are mostly unspent will provide sufficient funds to cover the costs of students visits.

9029 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Webb and O'Brien that the report be noted.

15.2 MEETING OF COONAMBLE EMPLOYMENT CIRCLE

9030 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs O'Brien and Schieb that the minutes of the Coonamble Employment Circle meeting held on 15 February 2011 be noted.

Cr Karanouh suggested that young people should be taught to drive, however the current requirement of 120 hours (with 20 hrs min night driving) is too lengthy and perhaps the time should be reduced.

9031 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Karanouh and Webb that Council write to the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority requesting that the hours be reduced for young people being taught to drive, pointing out that the number of hours required to be logged at the present time makes the task of teaching very cumbersome.

15.3 MEETING RE DELIVERY OF LITERACY & NUMERACY (LLNP) CONTRACT IN COONAMBLE

9032 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien that the minutes of the meeting to discuss current arrangements for the delivery of LLNP in Coonamble, held on 18 January 2011 be noted.

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15.4 GULARGAMBONE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2011

Council noted this report was accompanied by a copy of the draft plan. The EDM reported the purpose of the Plan is to:

- Act as a framework to direct action within the Gulargambone community on agreed shared priorities.
- Facilitate co-operative working relationships between the Gulargambone community, businesses, Council and other external partners.
- Formalise the goals and objectives of the community in relation to its economic and social future.

9033 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Canham and Webb that Council note the Gulargambone Community Strategic Plan 2011.

14.0 REPORTS BY VARIOUS COMMITTEES

9034 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Schieb and Webb that the reports by Various Committees, as submitted, be noted.

14.1 MEETING OF QUARRY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

9035 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Webb and O'Brien that the minutes of the Quarry Management Committee meeting held on 2 February 2011 be noted and the following recommendations adopted:

(a) Mt Magometon Quarry Management Plan 2011-2020

i) Item 5 – Plant and Equipment

(i) Section 5.1 – Mobile Plant

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS that the following changes be made to Section 5.1 – Mobile Plant:

Second paragraph:

“It is felt that the size and type of mobile plant be reviewed, with additional equipment hired if necessary for campaign crushing operations”

Final paragraph to be replaced with the following wording:

“Replacement of the Quarry’s second vehicle be in accordance with Council’s current policies and procedures for plant replacement”.

ii) Section 5.2 – Fixed Plant

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS that in an endeavour to increase productivity, it investigate reconfiguring the screening process to bypass the secondary jaw (HP Crusher), noting it may be possible to complete these works ‘in house’ utilizing existing plant and staff during lulls in production.

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(b) Section 7 – Rehabilitation

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS that the following three major components of the future site rehabilitation are:

1. Fencing and signage to ensure safety of the pit area.
2. Removal of structures, roads and other infrastructure.
3. Tree planting for the purpose of screening the site.

It was noted that the estimated cost of the major rehabilitation (Item Nos. 1 – 3 above) would be approximately \$130,00, made up as follows::

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Fencing/signage | \$20,000 |
| 2. Removal of structures, etc. | \$60,000 |
| 3. Tree Planting | \$50,000. |

(c) Section 8 – Financial Plan

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS that the Quarry Management Plan be amended to read:

“Section 7 of the Management Plan estimates the rehabilitation liability to be approximately \$130,000 in today’s terms, equating to an annual accumulation of \$10,000 – this amount will allow for annual price increases”.

(d) Section 9 – Conclusion & Recommendations

9.1 Existing Operation

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS that Council:

1. Continue to operate the Mt Magometon quarry with the reviewed plant and equipment and existing staff levels.
2. Continue to utilise contractors for drilling, blasting and breaking down of oversize rock.
3. Continue to investigate possible improvements to increase productivity.

9.2 Future Development

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS that Council:

1. Continue the development of the new pit to the south of the existing workings.
2. Commence discussions with the relevant Department to investigate securing additional land to the south of the existing pit.
3. Manage the cost of pit development through the utilisation of overburden in the production of road base wherever practical

9.3 Rehabilitation

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS that Council:

1. Accrue \$130,000 at a rate of \$10,000 per annum, plus CPI increases, towards the long term rehabilitation of the quarry.

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9.4 Financial Matters

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS that Council:

1. Aim to achieve at least 13% return on capital invested at the site and also two million dollar annual sale within the next two years.
2. Increase prices annually in accordance with CPI, subject to a review of the prevailing market prices.
3. Continue to cash fund the depreciation of plant and equipment on the site, with mobile plant to be funded through the Plant Reserve, and fixed plant to be funded through the Quarry Reserve.

14.2 MEETING OF TRAFFIC COMMITTEE

9036 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. o'Brien and Webb that the minutes of the Traffic Committee meeting held on 7 October 2010 be noted.

14.3 MEETING OF COONAMBLE SHIRE HERITAGE & HISTORICAL MUSEUM COMMITTEE

9037 RESOLVED on motion of Crs O'Brien and Schieb that the minutes of the Shire Heritage and Historical Museum Committee meeting held on 15 February 2011 be noted.

14.4 MEETING OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

9038 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs O'Brien and Webb that the minutes of the Occupational Health and Safety Committee meeting held on 15 February 2011 be adopted.

14.5 MEETING OF COONAMBLE STREETS AHEAD COMMITTEE

9039 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Karanouh that the minutes of the Coonamble Streets Ahead Committee meeting held on 17 February 2011 be noted.

14.6 REPORT BY CR BARBARA O'BRIEN

Council noted that Cr O'Brien prepared a report on the Seminar – *Financial Skills for Councillors* – which was held in Dubbo on 1 February 2011 and coordinated by Local Government Learning Solutions.

9040 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs O'Brien and Schieb that the report submitted by Cr O'Brien on her attendance at the Financial Skills Seminar for Councillors be noted.

17.0 REPORT BY SALEYARD MANAGER

9041 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Canham and Webb that the report by the Saleyard Manager be received and dealt with.

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URGENT BUSINESS

9042 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Webb and O'Brien that the following item be classified 'urgent business' and dealt with.

18.0 REPORT BY CONTRACT RANGER

9043 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs O'Brien and Webb that the report by the Contract Ranger for the month of February 2011 be noted.

19.0 QUESTION WITH NOTICE

Cr O'Brien gave notice as follows:

"Apparently, approximately 10 years ago, a project was considered taking treated water from the sewage farm to the school/oval for watering purposes. What was the outcome of that plan?"

The General Manager and the Director of Engineering Services both provided input to the report that was provided in response to Cr O'Brien's request. It was noted that investigations into this matter were carried out ten years ago and associated costs at that time were significant. The Director of Engineering Services referred to the latest Guidelines for Reuse of Effluent obtained from the Office of Water were contained in a 145 page document.

In December 1999, when Council wrote to Mr Slack-Smith (the local member) seeking assistance, it pointed out that if funding was not forthcoming an increase of 500% would be required to recover capital costs associated with the project and this would not be feasible.

The General Manager informed the meeting that Gulargambone Sewerage Fund has no reserves and has been running at a deficit for many years. He said State Government Regulation requires water and sewerage funds to be self sustaining – this will not be the case at Gulargambone without the doubling of the current sewerage charge. Mr Warren stated that to embark on this project would be financially irresponsible in light of the above.

9044 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Webb that the information be noted and that a copy of the report be forwarded to the Gulargambone Central School for information.

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF COONAMBLE SHIRE COUNCIL
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20.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Karanouh:

- Seats on Grandstand at Oval – The Director of Engineering Services said to provide bench seating would be at a cost of \$7,000/row. The Director said the problem is ongoing because seating is continually vandalised. Cr Karanouh said he thought to instal the new seating in stages, with the undamaged chairs being moved to one side and the new bench seating installed on the other side. The Director said he intended to replace the seating in stages. The General Manager referred to funding available from the Department of Sport and Recreation which may be used for this purpose.

TWO HOUR PARKING – COONAMBLE CBD

A MOTION

PROPOSED by Cr Karanouh **SECONDED** by Cr Schieb that Council abolish the two hour parking limit from the Coonamble CBD.

The voting was three for and three against this motion – the Mayor used his casting vote and the **MOTION WAS LOST**.

Cr Schieb:

- Welcome to Coonamble Dinner – apologised on behalf of the Mayor. Said it was a good function – 96 people in attendance
- Roads Conference – attended this meeting in Gilgandra with Council's Manager – Highway/Plant Fleet. Many councils represented. Want to identify roads which require upgrading and make a joint application for funding. Gave notice that the Tooraweenah Road be upgraded. The General Manager gave overview of email received from Kevin Humphries on this matter – said he returned an email asking whether a response was required prior to the April meeting – no reply was forthcoming. The General Manager said that the matter would be presented to the April meeting, however he said the crux is that each council pay \$5000 for a scoping exercise to identify strategic/regional roads for upgrade.

Cr O'Brien:

- Roof on RTC at Coonamble has been damaged – repairs not yet carried out.
- Referred to Mrs Fuller's road which needs maintenance.
- Broken gutters in Bourbah Street – Director of Engineering Services agreed to inspect.
- Prue Holgate – street numbering. The GM said that it is a difficult task as a lot of residences are identified by their Lot Number.

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Cr Webb:

- Referred to ongoing vandalism – broken windows – indicated that a protest is being organised regarding no policing. Mayor asked were the incidents reported.
- CCTV – only one police officer can operate CCTV system – two staff members can use the system at council's office. The Mayor asked whether Council received legal advice as to whether evidence from CCTV cameras is permissible. The General Manager will follow up.

Cr Canham:

- Law and order issues – stolen cars. Reiterated the need for all incidents to be reported. The Mayor said victims should ask for an “event number”.

Director of Corporate Services:

- Said RFS has provided estimate of operational costs – a meeting is scheduled for next week – hoping to sort issues so that Council can approve.

General Manager:

- Council's relationship with RFS - overgrown blocks
- Organisation restructure
- One Association Meeting – PORTS – no direction

Director of Engineering Services:

- Staff issues
- Possibility of \$4.5m funding for water/sewer

POSITION – MANAGER – WATER & SEWER SERVICES

9045 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that Council call applications for the position of Manager – Water & Sewer Services, noting that this position takes the place of the Project Officer in Council's organisation structure **AND FURTHER** should the services of a Project Officer be required in the future it be a fixed term contract for the specific works.

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Cr O'Brien:

- Referred to fence behind the Twoeighttwoeight Hall and asked whether it can be removed to allow mowing of the Council owned land. Saying she needs Council authority or otherwise to take to a meeting this evening. The General Manager said he would respond by email when he returned to the office.

This concluded the business and the meeting closed at 12.37 p.m.

These Pages (Page 1/4763 to 31/4793) were confirmed on the _____ day of
2011 and are a full and accurate record of proceedings of the Ordinary Meeting
of Coonamble Shire Council held on 9 March 2011.

MAYOR

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