

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF COONAMBLE SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE SHIRE CHAMBER, COONAMBLE ON WEDNESDAY, 11TH MAY,
2011, COMMENCING AT 9.05 A.M.**

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PRESENT: Cr Tim Horan, Mayor, in the Chair, with Crs. J. Canham, B. O'Brien, T. Cullen, 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.

2.0 ACKNOWLEDGE ORIGINAL OWNERS OF THE LAND

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

At this juncture, Cr. Cullen arrived at the meeting.

3.0 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Council noted that the following people would be attending today's meeting:

- (a) Mr Geoff Taylor – Coal Seam & Gas Exploration
- (b) Tom Lyons – Tooraweenah Road
- (c) Dennis & Sue Hargans – Presentation to Dennis & Lunch with Council.

4.0 APOLOGY

Nil

5.0 DELEGATIONS

No formal delegations have been booked for the meeting.

6.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

The General Manager informed Councillors that following each meeting the minutes are typed and referred to him for checking prior to printing. Mr. Warren said that if Councillors are of the opinion that, at any time, the minutes do not reflect what they understood to be the case, they should say so prior to them being adopted. The General Manager pointed out that when Council confirms the they cannot be altered in any way.

7.0 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES - ORDINARY MEETING

9119 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs O'Brien and Webb that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Coonamble Shire Council, held on 13 April, 2011 be confirmed, subject to the following addition:

Item 10.1 – Page 5/4803 – Resolution No. 9054

“....O'Brien and Webb...”

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BUSINESS ARISING

(a) Moorambilla Festival:

Cr O'Brien asked whether any progress has been made – the General Manager informed the meeting that the Agreement has now been signed by both parties.

(b) Quambone Library:

Cr Karanouh asked whether there has been any official response regarding Council's proposal for the Quambone Library. The General Manager said no formal response has been received. However the Mayor stated that he has had two responses, which were both negative, as it was alleged the facility is not being used.

(c) Farming:

Cr. Cullen said this year farming activities would be conducted on the Common and the Meglo – he said there is no moisture at the Aerodrome and it would not be farmed this year. Cr. Cullen said sowing would be done at the end of this month.

8.0 RESOLUTION BOOK UPDATE

9120 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Schieb that the Resolution Book Update be received and dealt with.

MATTERS ARISING:

(a) JW Jackson & Sons – “The Meglo”

In response to a question from Cr. Schieb the General Manager said that the survey has been completed and submitted for subdivision. Councillors noted that work seems to have stopped on the Murdi Paaki project at “the Meglo” – the General Manager said that a condition of the sale was that the land would revert back to Council should the project fail or not proceed.

Cr. O'Brien suggested that Council request a progress report from Murdi Paaki and that it include the River Walk at Gulargambone.

The Mayor referred to the fact that Council gave MPREC the building it utilises near the Library and he said Council should know where both it and Coonamble stand with the organisation. He said the building was provided to MPREC for use as the regional office, however it is not being used as such – the regional office is in Dubbo. Council should request the return of the building as Council has need of the accommodation.

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9.0 MAYOR'S ACTIVITY REPORT

The Mayor presented his report on activities since last meeting, which included the following:

- Anzac Day Service at War Memorial, mentioning the increasing numbers of young people taking part. He commended the Schools in the Shire for turning students out in uniform even though it was holiday period.
- Victims of Crime Meeting – the first meeting since the public meeting at the Bowling Club on 8 April – over 20 persons attended. Cr Horan said the purpose of the meeting was to elect a committee and determine a charter. Cr O'Brien said flyers and letters would be distributed shortly regarding the Protest March which will be held on 18 May (whilst Court is sitting in Coonamble).
- Judging of Waste2Art Competition – in company with Jamie-Lea Hodges and Catherine Cavalho, judged exhibits in the Waste2Art Competition which is currently on display in McCullough Hall. The winners of each category will move on to the Regional Awards in June later this year. I wish them all the best.
- Indoor Arena – meeting with EDOs, David Burtenshaw and Jim Mitchell (representing a construction company) in relation to the indoor arena. He is interested in building the structure, however he was advised that it would be a tender process. The committee requested that he do a basic design costing and advised that \$5m was the budget, however when the information was received the cost was nearly \$17m. The General Manager said it seems the concept of a covered rodeo arena has outgrown itself and maybe the committee has to define exactly what is needed. The Mayor advised that width is the deciding factor in costing because of the span – he said the structure is double the width of the existing arena. In response to a question about Corporate Partnership, the Mayor said what was initially proposed did not happen.
- Waste2Art Exhibition Opening – attended opening night on 6 May – given the lower number of entries attendance was down, but everyone had an enjoyable time. The Mayor thanked Councillor O'Brien for her attendance and assistance.
- Interview with David Taylor on Local Radio – congratulated David on his program. The Mayor said interviews such as this gave the opportunity to discuss important issues and keep the community informed of Council's many and varied activities.

9121 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Horan and O'Brien that the report on Mayoral activities be adopted.

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At this juncture, 9.30 a.m., Mr. Geoff Taylor was welcomed to the meeting to address Council.

COAL SEAM AND GAS EXPLORATION IN THE AREA

Mr Taylor thanked Council for the opportunity to address the meeting and said he attended a meeting in Tooraweenah recently regarding these activities in our area. He said representatives from Gilgandra Shire were in attendance and some ratepayers from Coonamble Shire. Mr Taylor said the area where these activities are currently taking place encroaches on Coonamble Shire.

Council was advised that there was a representative from Santos at the meeting who explained the process of operations and Ms Fiona Simpson, representing the NSW Farmers Association, was also there.

Mr. Taylor said landowners have no rights whatsoever in stopping exploratory mining from taking place on their property. He said we must protect underground water and, at this stage, it is not known what would happen should it become contaminated by the mining operations. The Santos representative said that water would not be disturbed, however Mr Taylor questioned how it could be fixed if it did become contaminated.

Another issue Mr Taylor raised was the fact that if commercial quantities were identified mining would proceed. He said what would happen to surrounding properties if the mining company purchased a property at well above market value – he suggested that other properties would lose at least half their market value.

Mr. Taylor said it is important to encourage landholders to lobby politicians and he seeks support from this Council and surrounding Councils to do the same. He said it is necessary to change the law to give every industry equal rights. Mr Taylor referred to Gloucester Shire and the battle it has had with mining companies. He has spoken to Council representatives there, who have informed him there is little long term gain, as workers have two weeks on/two weeks off. Workers come from outside areas and the coal seam is maintained by contractors. Mr. Taylor appealed to Council to lobby for amicable laws to allow agriculture equal rights with other industries.

Cr. Horan suggested that now might be a good time to lobby the State Government. Cr. Webb said that farmers have no rights over mining land. Mr. Taylor said mining in the Gloucester Valley had caused great distress to landholders. Cr Cullen said Council must lobby politicians to change legislation and we should seek the support of surrounding Shires. He said mining is a revenue-raiser for the Government however Council should do all it can to have the laws changed.

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At this stage, Mr. Tom Lyons, who arrived at the meeting earlier, requested permission to speak. The Mayor allowed Mr Lyons to participate in this debate. Mr. Lyons said mining has a huge impact on agricultural land. He referred to the situation with water and said we depend on the Great Artesian Basin and if water is contaminated, nothing can be done to remedy the situation.

Mr. Lyons suggested that Environmental Impact Studies (EIS) must be carried out – mining companies should be made to carry out these studies. He referred to the Surat Basin and water losses due to mining.

Cr Cullen suggested Council may be able to raise this issue at the Annual Shires Association Conference in June. Mr. Taylor said anything Council can do to assist would be appreciated, referring again to the fact that at the current time the law does not work in the landowners favour.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Taylor for his address and said Council would consider the matter. Cr. O'Brien said that the night of the Tooraweenah meeting, there were two meetings in Coonamble which prevented Councillors from attending.

TOORAWEENAH ROAD – PROPOSAL TO SEAL

At this juncture, the Mayor invited Mr. Tom Lyons to address Council on this matter. Mr. Lyons introduced Mr. Bill Pye and Mr Adrian Lyons, who were also in attendance.

Mr. Lyons referred to his letter to Council and said the Tooraweenah road serves very important services, i.e. shortest access to Sydney, school bus route, gain/stock transport and tourist trade. He said in this age, we must have good quality roads which allow wet weather travel. He said roads must be to a standard that can be safely used by B-doubles/road trains for the cartage of produce.

Mr. Pye reiterated Mr. Lyons comments saying he carts between 30,000 to 40,000 tonnes of grain annually. He referred to the road past "Quanda" and said it is impassable in wet weather and too rough for B-doubles/road trains to traverse. He acknowledged that the road traverses two Shires, but suggested that this Council seal from the end of the current bitumen to Gumin.

Mr. Adrian Lyons said he also carts grain and has to travel via Gular. He referred to tourist traffic which would use the road if it was sealed. Mr. Lyons stated that he has found having an unsealed road affects his ability to get employees because of school bus issues – he said this has been the case for the past five years. He also said if the number of children travelling to school via

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the school bus drops, the bus route will be lost. Mr. Lyons referred to the need for the road to be of a standard that caters for B-double/road train use.

The Mayor said Council accepts the fact that the road needs to be sealed, but funding is not available, noting it would cost between \$6 million and \$7 million. He said Council would have to borrow the money and explained that when repayments are made, Council's budget would not allow other works to be done. Cr Horan explained that Council is finding it difficult to maintain the roads for which it is already responsible.

Mr. Lyons suggested there may be special grants. The Mayor said that if funding was available and Council was successful Gilgandra Shire Council may not be interested in repairing the bridge on its boundary with Coonamble and Coonabarabran is not affected by this road.

The General Manager informed the meeting that the western councils in the Barwon Electorate are working to identify "strategic link roads" based on productivity.

The Mayor said Council is striving to get the work done, but without support of the other two Councils (i.e. Gilgandra and Coonabarabran) it is difficult to obtain funding for the project. He referred to the Tooraweenah Road being a priority road in Council's management plan. The Director of Engineering Services said that some shires are ripping up bitumen roads because they are too expensive to maintain.

The delegation thanked Council for its time and left the meeting at 10.06am.

10.0 CORRESPONDENCE

9122 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Webb that the Correspondence be received and dealt with.

Section A –For Council's Consideration:

10.1 COONAMBLE NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE D7 (34533)

9123 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Cullen that Council decline to assist the Coonamble Neighbourhood Centre with a yearly subsidy towards its rental.

10.2 PRUDENCE HOLGATE R4 (34784) R4 (34784)

9124 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Schieb that Council be provided with a report on street numbering in Gulargambone for consideration at the July 2011 meeting.

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10.3 ROTARY CLUB OF COONAMBLE INC D7 (34842)

9125 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Canham and Webb that Council contribute \$120 towards trophies for the Rotary "Memorial" Shoot on 29 May 2011.

10.4 NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE (A/ZONE MANAGER) B13

9126 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Webb that Council approve the North West Zone Rural Fire Service Estimates for 2011/2012, in a total amount of \$3,080,609.20 of which Council's contribution is \$86,500.

10.5 COONAMBLE GREYHOUND RACING CLUB INC D7 (34858)

9127 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Webb and O'Brien that Council sponsor a race at the Coonamble Greyhound Racing Carnival in October and commit to an amount of \$2,000 and that the amount be sourced from the Donations vote.

10.6 QUAMBONE POLOCROSSE CLUB INC D7 (34857)

9128 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs.Cullen and Karanouh that Council contribute \$200 towards the Quambone Polocrosse Carnival which is being held on 3 – 4 July 2011.

10.7 COONAMBLE CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE D7

9129 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Canham and Webb that Council nominate the Mayor as its representative on the Crime Prevention Committee and agree to meeting incidental expenses of the Committee (upon production of receipts/dockets) of up to \$1,500..

Section B – Matters for Council's Information:

10.8 NSW ROADS &TRAFFIC AUTHORITY – ROAD SAFETY & TRAFFIC SH18 DA36/10 (34765)

Referring to correspondence regarding the installation of Information and Notice Board in Aberford Street, Coonamble (Highway 18). Advising the RTA does not oppose the erection of the sign, as submitted, subject to the following points being satisfied:

- All structures should be placed outside the clear zone (approx.3m from edge of travel land) Sect 3.7 RTA Road Design Guide
- The sign not to restrict any required sight lines in accordance with the RTA Road Design Guide for all road users of the subject roads, including adjacent intersections and accesses.
- The sign to be located so as not to cause an obstruction to pedestrian traffic.
- All works to be carried out at no cost to RTA.

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**10.9 INDEPENDENT TRANSPORT SAFETY REGULATOR (ITSR) R2
(34766)**

Reminding Council of its obligations under the Rail Safety Act 2008 – saying that rail infrastructure managers and road authorities must seek to enter into interface agreements for rail or road crossings on public roads by 1 January 2012. Advising ITSr has developed guidance material which is available at www.transportregulator.nsw.gov.au/rail/managing safety.

**10.10 MANAGER, CUSTOMER EDUCATION, NSW ROADS & TRAFFIC
AUTHORITY R12 (34809)**

Acknowledging receipt of Council's letter regarding learner log book hours and saying novice drivers are over-represented in traffic crashes for many reasons but primarily, this is simply because of inexperience in the different driving conditions encountered when they first start driving solo. Further stating that the introduction of 120 hours of supervised driving was based on research undertaken both overseas and in Australia.

10.11 NSW POLICE FORCE P5

Forwarding copies of media releases covering period since last meeting.

**10.12 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICER, NSW POLICE FORCE F5
(34841)**

In a media release advising that on 13 April 2011, the Attorney General announced the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment (AGDRP) will be extended to the North Western Region and Mid Western Regional Local Government Area in NSW. Further information is available at www.disasterassist.gov.au

**10.13 COONAMBLE HIGH SCHOOL (STUDENTS FROM IM CLASS) C8
(34773)**

Advising that during Term 1 they have been learning about "expositions" in English, i.e. how to write an argument or persuasion for or against an issue. Saying they thought it would be a good idea to write to Council outlining the argument for a Boxing Gym in Coonamble.

The General Manager informed the meeting that a letter has been forwarded to the Students advising that Murdi Paaki undertakes activities for youth. Mr. Warren said he has invited the students to again contact Council if they require further assistance.

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10.14 MARTHAGUY PICNIC RACE CLUB D7 (34834)

Returning cheque in the amount of \$3,200 toilet sponsorship from Council for the 2010 races which were cancelled due to wet weather. Thanking Council for its continued support and asking if the 2009 sponsorship can be carried over to the 2011 races.

The General Manager said this contribution is included in the annual management plan and, as it has not been used in past two years, will be carried forward.

**10.15 INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION (ICAC) I2
(34860)**

Advising that the Commission's report on its Investigation into alleged corrupt conduct involving Burwood council's General Manager and others was furnished to Presiding officers on 20 April, 2011. Saying the report is available on ICAC website at www.icac.nsw.gov.au

**10.16 MURDI PAAKI REGIONAL ENTERPRISE CORPORATION LTD E1
(34866)**

Inviting Council to be part of its Career Expo Road Show to showcase opportunities available to indigenous youth being held on 19 May at Coonamble High School and 20 May at Gulargambone central School. Encouraging Council to be part of this opportunity to engage with youth of the Murdi Paaki communities and assist in encouraging them to stay at school to be educated and work towards a pathway for life.

9130 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that the information contained in Item No 10.8 to Item No 10.16 (inclusive) be noted.

At this juncture, 10.30am, Council adjourned for morning tea and resumed at 10.55am.

11.0 REPORT BY GENERAL MANAGER

9131 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Karanouh that the General Manager's report be received and dealt with.

11.1 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS DETERMINED UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

9132 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Webb that Council note no Development Applications or Complying Development Certificate Applications were approved under delegated authority since the last Council meeting.

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11.2 INTERNAL AUDIT

9133 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Canham and Cullen that Council:

- (1) Agree in principle to the joint arrangement with Warren, Gilgandra, Narromine and Warrumbungle Shire Council to establish an internal audit function to serve the five councils.
- (2) Note that \$30,000 is included in the budget for 2011/2012 to fund the internal audit function.
- (3) Authorise the General Manager to continue negotiations with neighbouring councils to support and develop the project.

11.3 SWIMMING POOL – ENTRY POLICY

9134 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that Council:

- (1) Agree to the following additions to its current Policy for Entry to Swimming Pools and place the amended policy on public exhibition for a period of 28 days inviting the public to make submissions, prior to adoption of the policy;
 - (1) Non Swimmers paid the appropriate admission fee to the pool;
 - (2) Parents, guardians, etc. accompanying a participant to Learn to Swim classes be admitted free of charge, on the proviso they leave the pool complex at the conclusion of the swimming lessons.

11.4 MAIN STREET BEAUTIFICATION

9134 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Webb that Council:

- (1) Nominate the Mayor and Cr Canham to progress the main street concept with the Chamber of Commerce and Streets Ahead Committee;
- (2) Request staff to report to the June meeting submissions made for the main street beautification project.

11.5 COMMUNITY BASED HERITAGE STUDY

9135 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Webb that Council, after having placed the plan on public display for 28 days and after considering submissions, adopt the report on the Community Based Heritage Study of the Coonamble Shire.

Council's Economic Development Manager, Ms Amanda Glasson, was in attendance to present the report.

16.0 REPORT BY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

9136 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Webb that the report by the Economic Development Manager be received and dealt with.

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The following items from the report were addressed:

- Various funding applications – Sport and Recreation (Showground); TQUAL (advice on application due July); working on the application to Department of I&I (no deadline for submission).
- Eco Spa – Cr Cullen asked if any progress from private sector – EDM said it has not been “pushed” at this stage.
- Indoor Arena – Cr Cullen referred to costs having blown out. EDM advised no costings have been done. Rice Constructions from Tamworth quoted \$7m
- Industrial Estate – The Mayor asked whether there has been any indication of interest since the work has been done – the General Manager said the area will be cleaned up and signage completed. Costs per block will be brought back to June meeting by the GM/DES
- Livestock Market – The Mayor asked whether any response has been forthcoming from the advertisement to appoint a Contractor for the saleyards pre sale scanning – EDM advised there has been no meeting of the Association.
- Commonwealth Heritage Program – application made for funding for the Neville Owen Photographic project.
- Centrelink – Cr O’Brien referred to persons having to travel to Dubbo although there is a Centrelink agency in the RTC. EDM advised the Manager of the RTC has not been allocated sufficient hours and the Centre is not being reimbursed for the time it spends on Centrelink duties.

9137 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Karanouh and Schieb that Council request an increased service (i.e. more hours) and that the Coonamble Rural Transaction Centre be considered to conduct Centrelink activities, pointing out that Coonamble has a high proportion of residents who require access to the Service, and noting that Council supports the growth of the Rural Transaction Centre.

9138 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Cullen and O’Brien that a report be presented to the June meeting outlining costs per block at the new Industrial Estate.

9139 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs O’Brien and Webb that the report by the EDM be adopted.

16.1 EMPLOYMENT CIRCLE MEETING

9140 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O’Brien and Webb that the notes from the Employment Circle Meeting on 5 April 2011 be noted.

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17.0 REPORT BY TOURISM DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

9141 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Canham and Karanouh that the report by the Tourism Development Manager be received and dealt with.

Mr. Baldwin presented his report and mentioned the following matters:

- Funding applications – working with EDMs
- Tourism Awards – working with businesses to submit applications
- VIC Numbers – Coonamble had 60 visitors and 150 phone enquiries, including some from overseas. TDM said this was during the Easter period.
- Moorambilla – Contract signed by both parties. Committee moved meeting to 19 May – invites will be arranged.
- Rodeo/Campdraft – Attended meeting on Tuesday 10 May – there is strong local support with sponsorship. Has prepared posted and TV advertisement. Campdraft yards constructed – not sure whether they will be ready for use at this year's event – will know for sure about one week prior.
- Campbelltown City Council – representatives will attend Rodeo as usual. TDM to book table for dinner function at Pavilion on Saturday night. Staff will entertain representatives on Friday evening, dinner Saturday night at Pavilion with Councillors, Rodeo Committee members, etc. Cr Cullen asked was Indoor Arena discussed at meeting – TDM said no, only operational issues.
- Campbelltown City Council – TDM advised it will again be sponsoring an event at the Rodeo/Campdraft and suggested Council should again reciprocate by sponsoring Campbelltown's Art Festival.

9142 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Canham that the report by the Tourism Development Officer be adopted.

At this juncture, 11.45am, Mr. Baldwin left the meeting.

12.0 REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

9143 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs O'Brien and Schieb that the report by the Director of Corporate Services be received and dealt with.

12.1 RATE COLLECTIONS

9144 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that the Total Combined Rate Collections to 30 April, 2011 be noted.

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12.2 LIST OF INVESTMENTS

9145 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Canham that the list of investments as at 30 April 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 PUBLICATION GUIDE – GOVERNMENT INFORMATION (PUBLIC ACCESS) ACT 2009

9146 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs O'Brien and Webb that Council adopt the Publication Guide as presented.

URGENT BUSINESS – SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

9147 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Karanouh and Webb that this matter be classified "urgent business" and dealt with.

12.4 GOODS & SERVICES TAX – COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATE

9148 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Karanouh and O'Brien that the necessary elected members and staff be authorised to sign the Certificate of Compliance for GST for period 1 May 2011 to 30 April 2012.

13.0 REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING SERVICES

9149 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 MEMBERS PARKING – COONAMBLE SHOW

Mr Brodbeck said the responsibility is with the Coonamble Show Society, as hirer, to provide a traffic management plan and suitably qualified personnel to detail and direct traffic movements during the period of hire for the show. Cr Cullen said it was his opinion that the area does not pose a safety issue. The Director of Engineering Services said that the society should clearly define which areas are vehicular and which are pedestrian traffic only.

9150 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Karanouh and O'Brien that Council advise the Coonamble Show Society that it is necessary to provide a Traffic Management Plan, together with suitably qualified personnel, to carry out traffic control.

13.2 ROAD RESHEETING

The Director referred to an offer by a local landowner to contribute towards the cost of gravelling a portion of a Council road adjacent to his property, subject to Council using gravels produced at the Quarry at Mt Magometon. He said Council should be aware that it will be necessary to use local gravels to act as binders to maintain a trafficable surface.

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The Director estimated the cost of supplying materials to a site 30kms from the quarry at \$18.90/tonne, compared with the estimated cost of \$6.40/tonne for natural loam or gravels. He said the total cost per kilometre for the supply of material is \$9,800 compared with \$3,330 for natural gravels. Mr Brodbeck said the cost of preparing and placing the material is assumed to be the same for either alternative and the cost for re-sheeting will be \$17,600 versus \$11,130 per kilometre.

Council noted the cost of re-sheeting a 20km local road with 40mm rock fill is \$352,000 compared with \$222,600 for natural gravels and its total annual vote for re-sheeting is \$100,000.

Mr. Brodbeck said that any such action by Council would set a precedent which may not be to Council's advantage – saying that it is for staff to identify where work is done. He said use of rock fill will provide an increased level of serviceability during wet weather, but will require increased maintenance during dry periods to stop the surface deteriorating as the fine loam is eroded from between the larger particle sizes.

9151 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Webb and O'Brien that Council note the report and that the use of rock fill be limited to causeways and localized problem areas.

13.3 WORKS IN PROGRESS

The Director of Engineering Services gave a brief summary of Council's activities during the month and said he was pleased to report a few favourable comments regarding improvements to roads. He said that both the Carinda and Wingadee Roads are now in good condition.

Cr Karanouh said he has had complaints about the Quambone/Carinda Road – the Director said there is money from the 2010 flood damage to spent on this road, but work will not be carried out at the present time because of dry conditions. The Director said he drove over the road and said there is loose material in some areas caused by flooding of the Marthaguy Creek.

Cr O'Brien said she has received favourable reports about the Warren Road. Cr Schieb suggested signage, indicating the Coonamble Shire boundary, be erected on the Pilliga Road.

The Mayor referred to work recently carried out on the Baradine Road by SPA, which cost in the vicinity of \$400,000. He said he had been approached by local contractors asking why the job did not go out to tender.

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The Director of Engineering Services replied that it was a rehabilitation job and local contractors are not equipped with specialised equipment for such work. The Director also referred to the deadline Council had to spend the money, otherwise lose it. He said other councils have employed SPA to carry out similar works and they were pleased with results obtained.

The General Manager said the issue was a shortness of time to spend the \$400,000 – tendering is at least a 42 day process. He said Council uses local contractors wherever it can, but can use a selective process under the tendering guidelines.

The Director of Engineering Services informed the meeting that Council has a \$5 million budget for roads generally (without flood damage money), with \$1.5 million being allocated to local roads.

The Mayor informed Council that he invited contractors to the meeting – but none accepted.

Cr Cullen said he was approached by a local contractor who said they should have been given the opportunity to quote. The Director said that some of the contractors making representations to Councillors are not on Council's Register. Cr Schieb suggested that contractors request a copy of Council's proposed works program.

WATER FILTRATION PROJECT

The Director of Engineering informed Council that the State Government is not willing to provide the amount of funds needed to carry out this project. He said he had a meeting with representatives of the Public Works Department who agreed to review the matter. The Director asked Council what it wished to do if the State Government money is not forthcoming. Mr. Brodbeck said funds will be required in the 2012/2013 financial year, as it will take 12 months to have environmental studies and designs completed. Mr. Brodbeck said the Federal Government wants an answer as to whether the project will proceed.

9152 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Karanouh and Webb that Council proceed with the Water Filtration Project and if funds are not forthcoming from the State Government (i.e. 25% cost initially agreed to), the additional amount of \$1 million be sources from the Coonamble Water Reserve.

9153 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Schieb that the update of works provided by the Director of Engineering Services be noted.

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**14.0 MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW AND QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW
TO 31 MARCH 2011**

A report, together with the income and expenditure statement, was provided to Council

The Director of Corporate Services informed the meeting of the major adjustments and said the budget remains in surplus by \$10,000. The Director responded to various questions by Councillors.

At this juncture, 12.48pm, Dennis and Sue Hargans arrived at the meeting.

9154 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Schieb that Council:

- (1) Note the Management Plan review;
- (2) Approve the variations to votes as listed in the budget review documents;
- (3) Note that, in the opinion of the responsible accounting officer, Council is in a satisfactory financial position;
- (4) Note the position of Council's estimated reserves at 31 March 2011.

The Mayor welcomed Dennis and Sue – thanked Dennis for his long service to Council and made a presentation. Dennis responded thanking Council for giving him the opportunity to contribute to its workforce for nearly 47 years. Mr & Mrs Hargans accompanied Council and Staff to lunch.

At this juncture, 12.47pm the meeting adjourned and resumed from the luncheon break at 1.58pm

14.1 RESERVES – 31 MARCH 2011 – BUDGETED

9155 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Canham that the Budgeted Reserves as at 31 March 2011, as presented, be noted.

14.2 OVERTIME REPORT

9156 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs O'Brien and Schieb that the Overtime Report for periods listed be noted.

SWIMMING POOLS OPERATING HOURS – 2011/2012 SEASON

9157 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Karanouh and Schieb that a report on the operation of the Pools, including the extra hours, be prepared and submitted to the August meeting for consideration prior to the 2011/2012 swimming season.

15.0 REPORTS BY VARIOUS COMMITTEES/DELEGATES

9158 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that the reports by Various Committees/Delegates, as submitted, be noted.

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15.1 MINUTES OF CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

9159 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Canham that the minutes of the Consultative Committee meeting held on 22 March 2011 be noted.

15.2 REPORT ON OUTBACK ARTS BOARD MEETING

9160 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Karanouh that the report submitted by Councillor O'Brien on the Outback Arts Board meeting held on 24 March 2011 be noted.

15.3 MINUTES OF AGM OF AFTER SCHOOL CARE (VACATION CARE)

9161 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs O'Brien and Karanouh that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the After School Care (Vacation Care) held on 19 April, 2011 be noted.

Cr Karanouh informed Council that he attended the last meeting of After School Care (Vacation Care) and said there is no interest from parents to keep it running. He mentioned that four staff members look after six – seven children. He said he offered to assist with fundraising to keep the service going.

The Mayor suggested the Committee change its Constitution to amend the number of members to represent a quorum.

18.0 REPORT BY SALEYARDS MANAGER

9162 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Canham and Webb that the report by the Saleyards Manager for the month of April, 2011 be noted.

19.0 REPORT BY CONTRACT RANGER

9163 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Karanouh and Webb that the report by the Contract Ranger for the month of April, 2011 be noted.

Cr O'Brien referred to the issue of animals being stolen from the pound and damage being caused to the facility. Council noted that dogs were again stolen from the dog pound and a horse was taken from the pound yard.

The General Manager said he had instructed the Ranger to clean up straying dogs and issue fines. Mr. Warren said when dogs are impounded, the animals that can be identified are traced back and their owners notified. In response to a question as to whether the fines are paid, the General Manager said that State Debt Recovery is responsible for collection of fines. Mr. Warren said offenders can elect to go to Court to have the matters heard and Council has to accept the Court's ruling.

20.0 QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Nil

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21.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Schieb:

- Sand from the river – DES said not allowed to remove. Anyone wanting to apply must get permits/licences and have EIS carried out. The Mayor asked whether there was anyone in particular wishing to make application and Council could support the application.
- Murdi Paaki – suggested Council request MPREC to provide an update of its general activities in the Shire, the position with its project at “The Meglo” and what use it is making of the premises given by Council
- Houses boarded up and yards in a mess. The MES could inspect and take photos which could be referred to the Department of Housing (re houses) and the NSW Rural Fire Service (overgrown blocks)

Cr Karanouh:

- Bus in Namoi Street – GM said notice will be served on the appropriate person. If not complied with, Council will remove the bus and charge the costs.
- Main Street – tables/chairs and notice boards – Asked whether other shop proprietors have paid the appropriate fee. The General Manager advised that the MES was addressing this, however immediate steps would be taken to enforce Council policy.

Cr O'Brien:

- Graffiti on the old service station in Gulargambone
- Houses in Gulargambone have been boarded up
- Health Council meeting on Monday – no quorum
- 28 Coonamble Street – large bump in road – could be dangerous – DES will inspect.

Cr.Webb:

- Barbecue in Macdonald Park – no objection provided the area is properly cleaned after user.

Director of Corporate Services:

- Quilt Show – Coonamble Library – June long weekend – Council raises no objection under the same conditions as previous years.

9164 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs O'Brien and Schieb that Council grant permission to the Material Girls to conduct the annual quilt show at the Coonamble Library on the same conditions as previous years.

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General Manager:

- Quambone Store – standard being investigated.
- Tradespeople carrying out work on crossings etc – advised action has been taken against one contractor for not complying with the specifications.
- Visited Youth Centre – invited Adam Cohen to present at next meeting.

Mayor:

- Referred to Council's contribution to Demand Farming – asked that it be followed up – what has happened to Council's contribution?

Mrs. Belinda Morrison, Council's Finance Manager, was in attendance for the remainder of the meeting.

PLACING OF 2011-2012 DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN ON PUBLIC EXHIBITION

At this juncture, the Mayor informed the meeting that the draft Management Plan for the ensuing year would be discussed. Cr. Horan said he is aware that a lot of effort goes into the preparation of these documents and congratulated staff.

The Director of Corporate Services said the rates have increased by the 2.8% rate pegging allowance. He pointed out that the initial budget resulted in a deficit of \$7,215,780 and went through the adjustments made to reduce the deficit to \$6,200,000. Mr Quarmby said the current budget includes everything requested by Council to be included and that both the Tooraweenah and Carinda Roads were included, however Council would have to identify sources of funding or deletions to achieve a balanced budget.

Cr Karanouh suggested that if Council cannot seal the whole unsealed section of Tooraweenah Road it could look at sealing 8 kilometres bi-annually. Cr O'Brien asked the Director of Engineering Services whether this would be a good plan – the Director said that if Council spends money on the Tooraweenah Road, other roads would not have funds for maintenance and would deteriorate very quickly. He said the only way he could see for Council to go would be look for funding and follow through with various lobby groups. In response to a question from Cr Webb, the Director said it cost \$1,000/km to maintain unsealed roads and \$3,500/km to maintain sealed roads.

Cr Karanouh said Council may be able to carry out the first 8km of sealing under contract. Council noted that there is no commitment from either Gilgandra or Coonabarabran in regard to upgrading the road within their respective areas.

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9165 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Cullen and Webb that the Carinda Road be removed from this year's budget.

9166 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Canham and O'Brien that sealing of the Tooraweenah Road be put on hold until Council has identified funding sources.

Crs Schieb and Karanouh requested that their names be recorded as voting against this resolution.

The General Manager stated that Coonamble is participating with the western councils in the Barwon Electorate in identifying strategic link roads, however the working party is in its infancy and no details are available at this stage.

Cr Horan said that through the year Council resolved to include items for consideration at this time and requested that in future a list of those items be presented.

The Director of Corporate Services advised that Fees and Charges have increased by the CPI.

9167 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Canham that Council place the draft Management Plan, as amended, on public exhibition for a period of twenty eight days from 11 May 2011 to 7 June 2011.

This concluded the business and the meeting closed at 3.54 p.m.

These Pages (Page 1/4824 to 20/4843) 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 11 May 2011.

MAYOR

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