



COMMUNITY CONNECT

Coonamble Shire community newsletter for the interest of residents and visitors

June 2018

From the Mayor's Desk



There was a very full agenda for Council's June meeting held last Wednesday 13th. In conjunction with the ordinary monthly meeting, Council adopted its Operational Plan and Budget for 2018/2019 along with fees and charges for the next financial year. It was good to have a "full house" again, with Cr

Thomas attending his first meeting since being elected at the By-Election in May. Cr Thomas took the Affirmation of Allegiance immediately following Declaration of the Poll on Wednesday 9 May 2018.

The draft Operational Plan, including the Budget and the Fees & Charges, has been on public exhibition with an invitation for submissions closing on 6 June. I am delighted to say four submissions were received, which is a record it's wonderful to have community groups taking an interest in Council's affairs and letting us know how best we can service their needs.

Submissions were received from the Coonamble Show Society Inc suggesting improvements to the showground and pavilion; another from the Gulargambone Community Enterprises Co-operative Limited for financial assistance towards its 2019 Pave the Way to Gular Art Festival; the third was from the Coonamble Children's Services requesting that an allocation of funds be dedicated directly to the organisation.

The final submission came from Darius Smith on behalf of the Quambone community suggesting several areas in which Council could involve itself to support and improve facilities in the township.

Council discussed each submission at length and the General Manager will be responding individually to each submission – advising Council's position in each case.

Since the May meeting I have attended a few events on behalf of Council – I must congratulate the organisers and winners of various categories in the Waste2Art competition – very innovative and interesting works were on display.

Congratulations also go to the organisers of the Coonamble Rodeo and Campdraft on another very successful event.

Should anyone wish to contact me to discuss issues or concerns, please call 0427 905 626.

Cr Michael Webb - Mayor

Council seek to join Far West JO

Joint Organisation (JO) are the buzz words at the moment, and a point of discussion at the recent Country Mayors' Meeting held at Parliament House in Sydney.

Mayor Michael Webb attended the meeting and took the opportunity to once again, discuss the issue of Joint Organisations with representatives of the Deputy Premier's Office.

Council has received correspondence from the Hon John Barilaro MP,

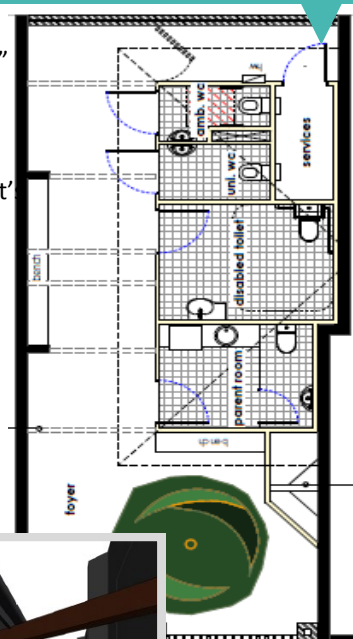
encouraging it to make a decision and advised that it is the Government's intent that all regional councils become a full voting member of a Joint Organisation so communities can benefit from a strong regional approach to strategic planning, collaboration and advocacy.

At last Wednesday's meeting, Council resolved that the most appropriate Joint Organisation for Coonamble Shire is the Far West (North) and Council has notified the Minister.

"Have your Say" sessions well attended

Council took to the streets of Coonamble and Gulargambone recently to host "Have your Say" drop-in sessions. The sessions attracted strong interest and Council were pleased to see that residents are, indeed, interested in the various projects proposed under the NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities program. Council has submitted 11 projects and is seeking \$1.6m in funding.

The Coonamble session also showcased a concept design (pictured) for the new public amenities proposed for construction in the Old Mac's Dry Cleaning building in Castlereagh Street. An outcome on the funding submissions is expected in August.



Council updates

Renewal of Alcohol Free Zones

The existing alcohol free zones in the three urban areas will expire on 30 June 2018.

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and Ministerial Guidelines Council has advertised its intention to renew the zones over all roads, footpaths and carparks within the town limits of Coonamble, Gulargambone and Quambone.

Council has notified by letter the Police, liquor licensees and registered clubs of its intention and no submissions or comments were received.

Council resolved to formally declare the renewal of alcohol free zones and the declaration will remain in force on a 24 hour basis until 30 June 2021. Staff will now arrange to update signs to record the extension.



opportunity to submit prices for the whole project or either portion of the works.

Council engaged Public Works Advisory, Riverina / Western Region to prepare the contract specification, based on the design prepared by Infrastructure Services (previously Water Solutions) and to manage the tendering process.

Only one tender was received from Comdain Civil Constructions Pty Ltd for a total amount of \$1,482,106.77. It is estimated that the work will take 22 weeks to complete.

Planned Works for Coonamble Streets

Council considered constructing medium islands in McCullough Street, from Castlereagh Street to Charles Street and requested costings be provided for consideration.

In a report presented by the Director Engineering Services the associated road works, provision for water and other capital costs would see a capital expenditure estimate of \$690,000.

Council resolved to reconsider its position again following the September 2018 budget review and possibly stage the works over several years.

Another project Council is considering is the trialing of an alternate treatment on Effie Durham Drive in lieu of sealing.

Following a request from the May meeting of Council a report was tabled in relation to comparative costings. It is estimated that the cost to seal is \$183,000, while the maximum estimate to carry out the alternate treatment was \$70,000.

Effie Durham Drive was selected as the most convenient location to trial the new treatment due to its location which allows for constant monitoring.

If the trial is successful it provides the opportunity to address problem areas of unsealed roads across the Shire which have excessive maintenance requirements.

The alternate treatment is not intended as a long term solution and Council intends to schedule sealing of Effie Durham Drive in future budgets.

Upskilling workshops



Council hosted two very successful free grant writing workshops on 30 May 2018 with over 30 community members registering across the two sessions.

The response to the workshops was overwhelming and saw a good cross section of community and sporting groups taking the opportunity to learn the process involved in developing a grant application.

With the increased funding opportunities currently on offer, it is timely that Council take a lead role in ensuring community groups and organisations are informed, upskilled and ready to capitalise on these funding programs.

Feedback from the workshops is currently being collated, and participants have indicated interest in further developing their skills through a hands-on session - where they actually write an application. Anyone interested in attending the next workshop should register their interest with Council's Grants and Events Officer Veronica Chandler on 6827 1900.

High cost of truck wash

Recently Council received a request to reintroduce a truck wash facility at Gulargambone, to replace the one previously located on the Quambone Road.

A report was presented at the June meeting detailing regulations imposed by the NSW Environment Protection Authority for the construction and operation of a truck wash facility. An estimate of \$710,000 was given for a fully contained recycling plant and \$680,000 for a wash bay with retention pond operation.

Unfortunately Council cannot commit such a significant amount of expenditure to a truck wash facility at Gulargambone - gone are the days when just a very basic pump and wash down facility would suffice!

FOR INFORMATION

This newsletter has been produced by Coonamble Shire Council for the benefit of residents of the Coonamble, Gulargambone, Quambone and surrounding areas.

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GENERAL MANAGER

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