



COMMUNITY CONNECT

Coonamble Shire community newsletter for the interest of residents and visitors

May 2019

From the Mayor's Desk



Council's monthly meeting was held last Wednesday 8 May with a very full agenda which included the 2019-20 Estimates, Operational Plan, including the Budget and the 10 Year Asset Management Plans, all submitted in draft form.

In preparation for this extremely important time, a pre-budget workshop was held which provided the opportunity for Council to carefully examine its works program for the coming financial year. As well as being mindful of how our ratepayers' funds are spent, we endeavour to include a lot of the works which are sometimes referred to as Council's "wish list" – things that will benefit the whole area – however, as disappointing as it may be, Council cannot include all the things it would like to see completed.

Following the outcomes of the workshop, management presented the draft operational budget to achieve an estimated operating surplus of \$8,276 (before depreciation), being aware that Council has, in the past, adopted either a "balanced" or "surplus" budget.

Council is required to have a plan - the Operational Plan - which is adopted at the start of each financial year. This plan details the activities to which Council is committed and forms part of the Delivery Program covering the same year.

The Asset Management Plans also contain information pertaining to the maintenance and upgrade of Council's assets – they also form part of the annual planning framework.

After careful consideration Council adopted the draft Operational Plan and Budget as presented and these documents are now on public exhibition – I ask that residents take an interest in what is planned for the next 12 months and put aside the time to peruse the documents.

This is the time to take positive action – it's possibly the best time to make a submission so that Council can consider your thoughts, proposals and suggestions prior to adopting its estimates at next month's meeting. Documents can be viewed at Coonamble Shire Council Administration Office, Coonamble Shire Library, Gulargambone Library, Gulargambone RTC, Quambone Store or on council's website – www.coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au

Should anyone wish to contact me to discuss issues or concerns, please phone **0427 887 666**.

Ahmad Karanough - Mayor

By-Election and referendum for Shire



At the May meeting Council considered its position regarding a by-election following the recent passing of Cr John Walker and the resignation of Cr Michael Webb.

The Acting General Manager, Mr Inglis, was instructed to contact the NSW Electoral Commission to administer a by-election to fill the two casual vacancies. Council also agreed to include the conduct of a constitutional referendum at the by-election to increase councillor numbers from seven to nine.

The Electoral Commissioner has advised Council that in accordance with the provisions of section 296(2) of

the *Local Government Act 1991*, the Coonamble Shire Council entered into an election arrangement with the Electoral Commissioner to administer elections of the Council.

Pursuant of section 291 and section 292 of the Act, the vacancies must be filled at a by-election on a Saturday that falls no later than three (3) months after the vacancies occur and fixed by the Electoral Commissioner.

The Electoral Commissioner for New South Wales, has determined that the date of the by-election to fill the two (2) casual vacancies on the Council and conduct the constitutional referendum shall be Saturday, 29 June 2019.

Newly appointed GM

Coonamble Shire Council's newly appointed General Manager Hein Basson will take up his role on Monday 3 June 2019.



Hein brings a wealth of knowledge and was most recently the General Manager of Glen Innes Severn Council. "It is an honour to be appointed as the General Manager of Coonamble Shire Council" said Hein, "I look forward to providing leadership to a strong and stable governance structure and a "can-do" executive management structure that will facilitate economic and social development in the Shire".



Coonamble Shire Council wishes to invite the community's volunteers to a **celebratory morning tea**

to recognise the generous contribution our volunteers make everyday

Please join us on

Thursday 23 May 2019

10AM – 11:30AM

Coonamble Bowling Club

Please RSVP to Council on (02) 6827 1900 by Monday 20 May for catering purposes

Let us say thank you for "making the world of difference" to our Shire

Meeting mentions

Coonamble Clay Target Club

Since the Clay Target Club had to relocate from its long-time "home" at "Youie", Council has been working with the Committee in selecting a new site for the Club to set up. Eventually a site on "The Meglo" was identified as being suitable and after a time consuming process, subdivision of the required area was approved by Council at the meeting.

The Club will now be able to start setting up and preparing the area in readiness to conduct social and competition events. Council wish the Club well at its new site.

Sponsorship & Financial Assistance

The Coonamble Greyhound Racing Club requested Council, at the April meeting, to consider sponsoring a race at the October Long Weekend Carnival. Before committing financial support, Council requested a copy of the Club's financial statements – which were provided. Management advised that an analysis of trading results indicates that sponsorship can be justified, so Council agreed to an amount of \$3,000.

It is very obvious that this event draws many people to Coonamble, often for extended stays and is a great boost to the local economy – it is perhaps the biggest annual event on the local calendar and Council was pleased to provide support.

Another group requesting financial support from Council at the April Meeting was the Coonamble Women's Shed – prior to making any decision Council requested a copy its financial statements for the past year.

An analysis of the Committee's finances was made by Management and the request re-submitted to the May meeting. Council took into account the hard working volunteer committee which supports other organisations with community functions and events.

Another fact of which Council was mindful was its support of the Coonamble Men's Shed through the provision of a premises and other incidental in-kind assistance

throughout the year. Council agreed to support the Coonamble Women's Shed for a further 12 months by providing a rental subsidy and \$2,000 towards operational costs – a total amount of \$10,000.

Code of Conduct

Council is required to adopt a new Code of Conduct – the new Code released in 2018 gives effect to a key reform made by amendments passed by the NSW Parliament to consolidate the prescription of all ethical standards for local government into a single statutory instrument.

As with the Code of Meeting Practice, the Code of Conduct must be adopted by Council by 14 June – the draft document is on public exhibition and will be formally adopted at the June meeting. Residents are urged to take the opportunity of reading these documents whilst they are on public display.

Code of Meeting Practice

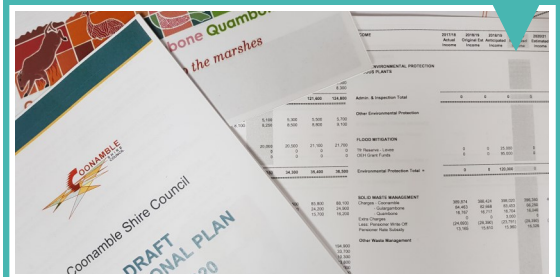
Council is required to endorse the Draft Code of Meeting Practice pursuant to the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993 for public exhibition and comment. In December last year the Office of Local Government released a new Code of Meeting Practice and Councils have until 14 June 2019 to adopt their own Code of Meeting Practice.

Council's draft Code has been developed in consultation with Councillors to determine the required non -mandatory clauses best suited to its needs. Council resolved that the document be placed on public exhibition prior to its formal endorsement at the June meeting.

As part of the new Code of Meeting Practice Councils will be required to webcast Council and Committee meetings of which all members are Councillors from 14 December 2019.

The webcasting requirement may be met by posting an audio or video recording of meetings on Council's website. Closer to the time of this becoming law, Council will be considering the best way forward.

Policies on public display



In accordance with Section 405 of the Local Government Act 1993, public notice is now given to Council's **draft Operational Plan & Revenue Policy**. The documents, including the **Proposed Fees and Charges for 2019/2020**, will be on public exhibition for 28 days. Council invites written submissions or comments relating to the draft Plans to reach the General Manager by 5PM on Wednesday 5 June 2019. At the expiration of this exhibition period Council, at a meeting scheduled for Wednesday 12 June 2019, will consider submissions received and the Operational Plan will be adopted.

Council resolved at its Ordinary Meeting held on 8 May 2019 to also place the following documents on public exhibition;
Draft Code of Meeting Practice
Draft Code of Conduct
Draft Procedures for the Administration of the Model Code of Conduct
Draft Gifts & Benefits Policy
Written comment from the public concerning these documents is invited and will be received by the General Manager, Post Office Box 249, Coonamble 2829 until 5PM on Wednesday 5 June 2019.

All documents on public exhibition will be at the following locations; Coonamble Shire Council Administration Office, Coonamble Shire Library, Gulargambone Library, Gulargambone RTC, Quambone Store, as well as on Council's website; www.coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au

Council services closure

Coonamble Shire Council services will be closed on Wednesday 29 May 2019 (Annual Show Holiday) and Monday 10 June 2019 (Queen's Birthday Holiday).

This includes Council's Administration Centre, Library Service, Visitor Information Centre, RMS Agency, Quarry, Depot / Workshop. Staff will be on call to attend to emergencies; **Water and Sewerage - 0428 217 420 / Ranger - 0427 255 881 / Other - 0458 271 881.**

The Coonamble Shire Library will be closed from 3 June and reopen 11 June for stocktake.

FOR INFORMATION

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

Bruce Quarmby
ACTING GENERAL MANAGER

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