

## Mayoral Message



Our last meeting for 2019 was held on Wednesday 11 December and Council is now in recess until February 2020.

On looking back, the year passed quickly, however so much has been achieved and there is much more in the pipeline to be undertaken next year. I am so proud of what Council has been able to

accomplish, this is the result of good management, proactive and hardworking staff and, of course, the grant funding that was available throughout the year.

The Shire Masterplan is our next exciting step, and with the community consultation underway we now look forward to working with our consultants to achieve our residents' 'wish list'!

As the year comes to an end and the Festive Season fast approaches, I wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas and all things good for 2020, especially drought-breaking rain! If travelling, please take care on the roads.

On behalf of myself and my Councillor colleagues, I thank the General Manager, Hein Basson, for his leadership and guidance since taking up his role with Council. I thank also and congratulate Council's Directors for their hard work during the year.

I am really looking forward to 2020 and working with my fellow Councillors and Council staff continuing to take positive steps for the benefit of our communities into the future.

Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year to one and all.

**Ahmad Karanouh**  
Mayor

## Masterplan to drive Shire's prosperity

Coonamble Shire is on the move, thanks to the development of a Shire Masterplan to support Council in its efforts to revitalise the Shire, provide an inviting street presence, establish Coonamble Shire as a preferred visitor stop - over point, deliver well-designed public places that bring economic, social and environmental benefits to enhance the daily lives of the community, create a theme and brand and stimulate local economic development.

Council received nine (9) expressions of interest (EOI) to develop the Masterplan, with four consultancies presenting to Council at the October 2019 meeting.

"The four EOI shortlisted were of a high standard and Council was delighted with the response it received through the expression of interest process," said GM Hein Basson.

At the meeting Council resolved to appoint sala4D as the consultancy with the most merit for the development of the Masterplan as a particular and unique project.

Sala4D is an energetic team of landscape architects, urban designers, marketing and graphic design professionals based in Orange who are passionate about regional communities.

The Masterplan will guide Council towards enhancing community well-being and quality of life; achieving long term economic security and prosperity; promoting a sustainable balance between development, commercial interests and the natural environment; maintaining and identifying ways to improve infrastructure services and support the Shire's local environment and ensuring strong leadership, good governance and foster



The 'A' Team - Coonamble Shire Council General Manager, Hein Basson and recently appointed Economic Development Officer, Pip Goldsmith with Masterplan consultants Shah Alford, Celia Baxter and Holly Manning.

community participation in decision-making.

Community conversations were held in Quambone, Gulargambone and Coonamble on Sunday 24 November and Monday 25 November.

The conversations were undertaken by Shah, Celia and Holly who spent many hours "getting to know" our communities.

Mr Basson said that people can still have input into the process by completing the surveys that are currently accessible via Council's website.

## Strategic Statement to promote confidence in future planning initiatives

The draft Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) which was developed as a requirement under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* was endorsed by Council at the December meeting.

The purpose of the LSPS is to set the framework for Coonamble Shire's economic, social and environmental land use needs over the next 20 years. It outlines clear planning priorities describing what will be needed, where these are located and when they will be delivered.

The LSPS sets short, medium and long-term actions to deliver the priorities for the community's vision. It also gives effect to the *Central West and Orana Regional Plan 2036*,

implementing the directions and actions at a local level. The LSPS has taken account of land use planning in the adjacent Orana Councils of Bogan, Warren, Gilgandra, Narromine and Warrumbungle, as identified in the Western Councils Sub-Regional Strategy dated 2010.

The draft LSPS is currently on public exhibition, with the closing date for submissions being Friday 14 February 2020 at 5:00pm. The final document will be presented to Council at the meeting on Wednesday 11 March 2020 for adoption and the final Coonamble Shire Council Local Strategic Planning Statement will be submitted to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment prior to the

department's 30 June 2020 deadline.

There are a total of 33 actions identified as part of the draft LSPS which should in time lead to greater economic, social and environmental outcomes for our community. It is interesting to note that many of these action steps dovetail with preliminary strategies and actions envisaged to form part of the Coonamble Shire Masterplan when completed.

The adoption of the LSPS will promote confidence in future planning initiatives through clear action identification, as well as community involvement in the decision-making process through Council's recently adopted Community Consultation Plan.

# Community consultation survey outcome

## Expectation and Satisfaction

To measure community expectation and satisfaction Council engaged Jetty Research to undertake an independent, strategically valid Community Satisfaction Survey.

This information was received by Council at the November meeting and will assist Council in having a strategic, structured and informed approach as to where its scarce resources should be allocated in the future.

Areas with the biggest gap between expectation and satisfaction include:

*Roads, Economic development and tourism development, Waste and recycling, Animal control, Public toilets, Park and garden (and main street) beautification*

## Top 11 priorities for Council

At the November meeting, Council resolved to specifically focus on these areas to address the identified gap between expectation/satisfaction.

Prior to any feedback from Jetty Research, the General Manager developed an "issues paper", which assisted to inform discussions with Councillors around their strategic priorities for the future.

The General Manager facilitated two Councillor Workshops for this purpose, one in August and another in September.

After the issues paper had been discussed Councillors were requested to compile their individual lists of top priorities for the Shire and, in priority order, the following are the top 11 items:

*Masterplan, Bore Baths, Governance, Tooraweenah Road, Roads, Weir Development, Caravan Park, Workforce Plan (staff), Economic Development Manager, Lighting at Sports Oval - Coonamble, Macdonald Park Development.*

## Priorities align

When integrating recommendations of Jetty Research and Councillors' strategic priorities, the following table was developed:

Community Satisfaction Survey	Councillors' Strategic Priorities
Roads	Roads
Economic development and tourism development (including attracting new investment and bore baths)	Masterplan Bore baths Tooraweenah Road Weir development Caravan park Economic development Main street beautification Macdonald Park development
Waste and recycling	
Animal control	
Public toilets	Masterplan – toilets in CBD
Parks and gardens (and main street) beautification	Masterplan – Main street beautification and signage plan
Customer service	Governance – 8 elements
	Workforce Plan – staff

## FOR INFORMATION

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

Hein Basson  
GENERAL MANAGER

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# Drought impacts roadworks



Water is an essential part of road grading and the cost of works has risen substantially during the drought due to a lack of ground moisture and water sources close to work sites.

Council appreciates how important the road network is to rural residents and motorists and staff strive to maintain the roads under difficult conditions. Motorists are urged to reduce speed and drive with care on unsealed roads.

There has been a number of major rehabilitation projects completed this year on sealed roads including, Baradine Road, Pilliga Road, Carinda Road and Gulargambone Town Streets.

Council has continued with the resealing program designed to protect and extend the life of roads. Motorists are reminded to slow down when travelling through road works, please help us keep our workers safe.

## Renewed economic focus

Council has recently appointed an Economic Development Officer (EDO) to foster and facilitate the growth and retention of business across the Shire.

Ms Pip Goldsmith has a wealth of experience in local government and significant local knowledge.

As EDO, Pip will be working to improve the profile of the Coonamble Shire to attract investment, industry, new residents and tourism.

Initial economic development projects include the Masterplan that is currently being developed for the Shire, an overarching Economic Development Strategy and supporting the initiatives of local businesses and organisations.

## Pool and park plan underway

The development of a Masterplan for the Coonamble Swimming Pool and Macdonald Park precinct is in progress with consultants GDH investigating the renewal, maintenance and refurbishment of the pool and the provision of improved parking for swimming carnivals and events. The Masterplan will also look at maximising Macdonald Park as a recreational space and identifying the most suited site location of the new skating bowl, developing the open area to the north of the Park and swimming pool area as a grassed area which could potentially be used as football (soccer) fields into the future.

## Christmas Office Closure

Council services will close on

**Tuesday 24 December 2019 at 5.00pm  
and will re-open on  
Monday 6 January 2020**

This includes Council's Administration Centre, Library Service, Visitor Information Centre, RMS Agency Office, Quarry, Depot and Workshop

Staff will be on call to attend to emergencies.

**Water and Sewerage 0428 217 420  
Ranger 0427 255 881 Other 0458 271 881**

