



COMMUNITY CONNECT

Coonamble Shire community newsletter for the interest of residents and visitors

May 2020

From the Mayor's Desk



Council's last meeting was held on Wednesday 13 May 2020, via Skype as we all become more used to the changes brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. The good news is that the State Government is looking at lifting the imposed restrictions a step at a time.

The feeling in our community is that everyone is ready and rearing to go, it's amazing how many of our businesses have compromised to operate successfully throughout the close down. We have to give those innovative and creative people full marks. The impact of the pandemic has had a profound effect on the community and the economy, but we are resilient and we will overcome these setbacks.

At the meeting I put forward a Mayoral Minute, which my colleagues supported, that Council calls on the Federal and State Governments to urgently deliver comprehensive and multi-faceted financial support and stimulus packages to local government to enable them to continue to operate effectively and provide essential services to their communities. There are several ways that this support can be provided, so I'm hoping the campaign instigated by Local Government NSW will be likewise supported by all other shire councils in NSW.

It's interesting to note that Council has incurred additional costs of \$21,273 directly associated to the pandemic and in the 2020/2021 budget Council has allocated \$530,840 to cover COVID-19 leave provisions in accordance with the NSW Local Government "Splinter" Award. This is a huge amount, however the Director explained that should another round of the virus occur, Council will be in a position to cope with staff leave in accordance with the Award.

Since the April Council Meeting I had a surprise telephone call from the Governor of NSW, Margaret Beazley, AC, QC. She was checking on how we, as a Council and a community, were dealing with the current situation of COVID-19. We had a lengthy discussion and I invited the Governor to visit Coonamble, so here's hoping an opportunity will arise for her to take up the invitation. The phone call was unexpected, however Governor Beazley is obviously interested in hearing of ways smaller, rural communities are getting through this crisis.

I would like to convey my condolences to the family of Neville Owens, who passed away recently. Neville has been a valued member of our community for 70 plus years and contributed so much through his amazing photography. Because of Neville, we have photographic records and evidence of nearly every event, structure and construction that has occurred in our Shire. Council is also the custodian of some 300,000 negatives which are housed in the Archives to be shared and enjoyed by generations to come.

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

Ahmad Karanough
Mayor

Council doors re - open



With the COVID-19 situation in Coonamble being very stable over a significant period, Council re-opened the Office and the Service NSW Agency on Wednesday 13 May 2020 with the following conditions:

- Only one (1) person at a time allowed in both the Council Office and the Service NSW Agency.
- Social distancing of two (2) metres will be strictly enforced in each location.
- Each customer has a 15 minute time limit in each location.

Council is doing everything possible to keep the staff and the community safe while continuing to deliver services in an efficient and practical manner.

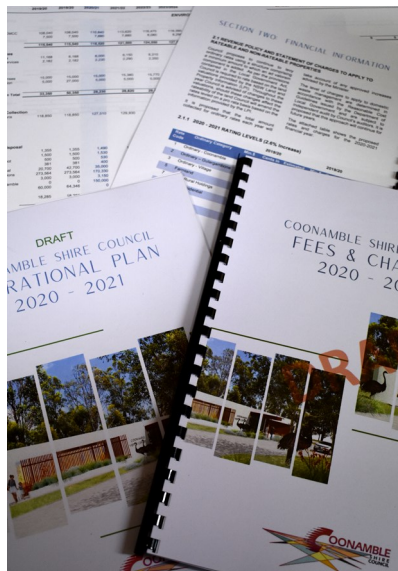
Residents are respectfully requested to comply with the conditions imposed when conducting business in the Council Office or the Service NSW Agency.

Parks, playgrounds and public toilets across the Shire re-opened to the public late last week, with Council implementing an advised cleaning/misting schedule for these facilities.

Once again, Council is asking the community to adhere to social distancing and group gathering guidelines.

It is essential that everyone continues to play their part in combating the spread of this virus and it is important that we all remain focused and not become complacent.

Operational Plan now on exhibition



In accordance with Section 405 of the Local Government Act 1993, public notice is now given to Council's draft Operational Plan and Revenue Policy.

The documents, including the Proposed Fees and Charges for 2020/2021, 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 Thursday 11 June 2020.

At the expiration of this exhibition period Council will consider submissions received and the Operational Plan will be adopted at the June Council Meeting scheduled for Wednesday 17 June 2020.

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

Meeting mentions

CBD public amenities

Council has approved the commissioning of a public amenities building for the Coonamble CBD that is entirely customisable, providing the community with a unique opportunity to be involved in determining what the amenities building and its setting will look like.

A community-led submissions process will seek ideas and suggestions from our community and will allow Council to select a design that has been created locally. The design concept may incorporate the amenities building, the neighbouring wall and landscaping around it.

The amenities building will be located next to Halcroft and Bennett on Castlereagh Street and will offer one male, one female, and one accessible/baby change cubicle. Other features include auto-sliding doors, timed occupancy, music, voice messaging, user statistics and night-time locking.

Thanks for Masterplan submissions

Council would like to take this opportunity to say 'thank you' to the community members who made a submission to Council after viewing the Coonamble Shire Masterplan during its exhibition period, which has now concluded.

Submissions will be collated and provided to the engaged consultants for review and consideration. The final Masterplan will be

presented to Council at the Ordinary Meeting on 17 June 2020.

Community Financial Assistance (Donations) fund now open

Expressions of interest for Community Financial Assistance (Donations) are again being invited, closing on Monday 22 June 2020. Council will make a determination on the successful applications at its meeting on Wednesday 8 July 2020.

A copy of the Policy, which includes the application form and reporting document, is available on Council's website www.coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au, at Council's office or by telephoning 68 271 900.

Local Strategic Planning Statement

Council formally adopted its Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) after having the draft document on public exhibition earlier in the year and receiving two submissions which were considered at the March Council Meeting in conjunction with the process.

The LSPS will now be submitted to the NSW Department of Planning. The development and adoption of this document is mandatory and will be used to update key components of other plans to present a consistent strategic direction for Council.

Australia Post – Gulargambone Water Tower Stamp Issue

Council has been advised by Australia Post that later this year a stamp issue featuring water tower art from around the country is planned. It is wonderful news that the Gulargambone water tower art by Jenny McCracken has been selected. The artist has given her permission for the art to be reproduced and Australia Post has sought permission from Council. Of course, Council provided approval and suggested also the inclusion of the Coonamble water tower by John Murray and Sooty Welsh in the same issue.



Congratulations to the Show Society

Congratulations to the Coonamble Show Society on being allocated \$500,000 under the Regional Agricultural Show Development Grants Program for upgrades to the Coonamble showground. The Society has identified several projects to enhance the facility.

Tenders and quotations

Project Management Services

Council is inviting quotes from suitably experienced and qualified persons to provide Project Management Services for major improvement works at the Coonamble Sportsground, including the following:

- * Develop tender documents
- * Carry out pre-tender meeting on site
- * Administrate queries through tender period
- * Evaluate tenders for recommendation to Council
- * Negotiate and investigate preferred contractors submission and capabilities, including the review of management plans, contract inclusions, contract preparation and investigation of project deliverables
- * Manage project delivery to completion.

Painting, minor maintenance and fencing works - Coonamble Sportsground

Council is inviting quotes from suitably experienced and qualified contractors to carry out works at Coonamble Sportsground. The works include:

- * Repainting the exterior of the grandstand and amenities building, (including minor maintenance)
- * Remove the existing metal rail fencing and replace with 100m of 900mm high steel picket fencing.

A site visit will be required for an accurate quotation to be provided and can be scheduled upon request. Please telephone

Council's Office on 02 6827 1900 or email Bruce Quarmby b.quarmby@coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au for further information and a detailed scope of works on the two projects. Quotes will be accepted up to 5.00 p.m. Wednesday 27 May 2020.

Tender - Coonamble Visitor Information Centre

Tenders are invited for construction of the Coonamble Visitor Information Centre. All tenderers must comply with all the requirements of the specification and must satisfy Council's requested time-frames. Tenderers are encouraged to access the business listing on Coonamble Shire Council's website to find local trades/suppliers and contractors. Any person/company willing to fulfil the requirements of the proposed contract is invited to submit a tender to Regional Procurement by the deadline at 10:00am Wednesday 10 June 2020. Responsibility for lodgement of completed tender documents by the deadline lies solely with the tenderer. Coonamble Shire Council is not bound to accept the lowest tender or any tender submitted. Tender documents can be downloaded from www.tenderlink.com/regionalprocurement. Local trades/suppliers and contractors are encourage to Tender, and encouraged to contact Council to ensure they are listed on Council's website.

Road access a priority

Coonamble local government area experienced storm and flood events in February 2020 and again in April 2020 and Coonamble Shire Council was declared under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements on 15 April 2020.

This initiated a process for Council to access funds to complete emergency repairs and claim restoration repairs.

Currently, Council staff continue to complete emergency repairs where site access allows to make the road safe and are in the process of collecting information for restoration repairs.

All affected roads within the shire will be inspected and the damage recorded to prepare a claim for funding to complete these repairs. The Office of Emergency Management will assess Council's claim and advise us of the approved repairs.

Understandably, this process will take some time and we appreciate that this may cause inconvenience to our ratepayers and road users.

Council is working hard to complete the recording of damage to our road network and in preparing our claim and will make every effort to expedite the process. Council thanks our ratepayers and road users for their patience and continued support.

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on Wednesday 17 June

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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