

From the Mayor's Desk:

Mayoral praise for community response



I have pleasure in reporting to Council my activities in the role of Mayor since the June 2021 Meeting.

Response to NSW Health directives:

I understand the complexities the community is facing

with the current Health Regulation around the continual wearing of masks, adhering to the QR code signing-in mechanism—which has now been adopted for all shops and businesses—and travelling restrictions. I commend our community for complying with these measures during this challenging time.

National General Assembly

Along with Cr Fisher, I attended the National General Assembly in Canberra from 20 to 23 June.

Some of the topics covered by our Federal Member of Parliament, The Hon Mark Coulton MP, included:

Local Government financial viability—where it was acknowledged that Local Government is financially under-resourced. President of the Australian Local Government Association, Cr Linda Scott, continues her call for one percent of Federal revenues to be passed back to Local Governments through the annual Financial Assistance Grants allocation.

Regional Telecommunications—data collecting hubs have been erected in many rural communities to gather weather information for the continual improvement of farming practices. Meanwhile, there is a widely held perception that Telstra is the only company offering communication services to regional Australia. The Government faces the challenge of letting people know of other telecommunications options available to them. The more individuals shop around, the greater will be the competition between suppliers and the better the service and cheaper the prices.

Rural workforce issues—rural Councils are often the largest employers in their areas. It is a challenge to change the myth that young people necessarily have to leave their communities and families to upskill or educate themselves.

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

Ahmad Karanouh
Mayor



Madame Flute—Jane Rutter—returns to Coonamble, after visiting as our 2021 Australia Day ambassador, to provide a French cabaret experience. Details available on Council's Facebook page and website.

Madame Flute – French cabaret to transport us to another world

- You are invited to a concert of French flute music, accompanied by piano and accordion.
- Saturday, 28 August, 5.30pm till late.
- Performance by Madame Flute—Jane Rutter.
- Accompaniment by Marcello Maio on piano and accordion.
- Dinner of French-inspired cuisine.
- Meal prepared and overseen by Two Birds, in partnerships with

local Executive Chef, Howard Povey, formerly of the Cala Luna Restaurant in Sydney. Cash bar in operation for refreshments.

- First-class European experience in Coonamble, sponsored by Coonamble Shire Council.
- Tickets \$80 available from Council's Administration Office or through www.123tix.com.au/events/19195/madame-flute.

Road work funding allocations made

Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (Phase 2) funding has been confirmed, with Coonamble being allocated \$723,922. Council resolved for this amount to be allocated to:

- Selected flood damage sites (\$400,000).
- Box Ridge Road reconstruction (\$263,922).
- Beanbah Road bridge abutments (\$60,000).

Coonamble has been allocated \$1,859,636 under Phase 3 of the same program of funding, for works to be undertaken between 1 January 2022 and 30 June 2023.

Council has focused its application for funding from Round 3 of the Fixing Local Roads program on heavy patching and culvert repairs on Carinda Road, along the section about 55 to 61km from Coonamble.

Revised policy guides reports of wrongdoing

Council has updated its 'whistleblower' policy. The law requires Council to have this policy, setting out what can be reported, to whom, and how the report of wrongdoing is to be handled. The policy has been updated to line up with the model policy released by the NSW Ombudsman. The full 'Public Interest Disclosures Internal Reporting Policy' can be viewed on Council's website. It should be read alongside Council's Fraud and Corruption Control Policy. Council also adopted a revised Related Party Disclosure Policy.

Disclosure of interests

All Councillors elected to Coonamble Shire Council at the election on 4 September will have to complete a disclosure of interests form to help manage potential conflicts of interest that may arise in the operation of Council. The forms will be subject to a 'public interests test' before details are made openly available.

MARK THESE DATES

- 26 July** – Close of the electoral roll.
- 30 July** – Deadline for comments on proposed quarry at Quanda.
- 4 August** – noon, closure of nomination as a candidate for election to Council.
- 11 August** – next Ordinary Meeting of Council in Coonamble.
- 13 August** – Expressions of Interest due for operation of the canteen at Coonamble Swimming Pool.
- 23 August** – pre-poll voting opens.
- 28 August** – Madame Flute cabaret event in Coonamble.
- 31 August** – Deadline for comments on proposed widening, reconstruction and sealing of Tooraweenah Road.
- 4 September** – Election of Coonamble Shire Council.

Emergency contacts:

Water & Sewerage 0428 217 420

Other Emergencies 0458 271 881

Ranger 0427 255 881

Website for all details:

www.coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au

Additional quarry proposed

The public is invited to make submissions regarding a proposed quarry at Quanda on the eastern edge of the Local Government Area. Regional Group Australia has applied to develop a hard rock quarry on behalf of landowner, JA and ML Single Pty Ltd.

The proposal is to develop a quarry that will extract less than 30,000 tonnes each year, for up to five years, with a total disturbance area of less than one hectare.

The rock will be used in the

construction of the Inland Rail route that passes close by the site. It is expected to create between two and four full-time jobs.

A Statement of Environmental Effects and associated drawings have been produced and can be viewed on Council's website or at its Administration Office in Coonamble or at the three libraries in Coonamble, Gulargambone and Quambone.

Council will receive submissions until 30 July.



The site of a proposed quarry at Quanda to supply material for construction of the Inland Rail.



Stand for election to serve your community

The Electoral Commission NSW has many resources to help those interested in standing for election to Coonamble Shire Council at the Local Government elections on 4 September. Check out the helpful resources here:

elections.nsw.gov.au/Political-participants

A Candidate Handbook has been compiled to help those who wish to be a candidate for election to Coonamble Shire Council. Download a copy of the Candidate Handbook here:

<https://tinyurl.com/CandHandbook>

A candidate or party that has an enquiry about the processes for the nomination of candidates, the registration of electoral material, voting or counting information can call

1300 022 011

between 9am and 5pm weekdays and during the weekend of the election or email candidates@elections.nsw.gov.au



Have you enrolled to vote in the Local Government Election in September?

Check your enrolment online here:

check.aec.gov.au

You'll need to enter your given names, family name, postcode, township and street address (with street abbreviation).

All electors enrolled on the NSW State electoral roll as at 6pm Monday, 26 July 2021, and residing in the Coonamble Local Government Area, will be included on the roll for the election.

Are you a non-resident eligible to vote?

If you are an owner, rate-paying lessee or occupier of rateable land which is not your primary residence, you or a nominee may be entitled to be enrolled on the roll for this election.

Details of the eligibility criteria and enrolment claim forms can be obtained from Marina Colwell at Council on (02) 6827 1900. These must be submitted by Monday, 26 July, 2021.