

## Do you support a holiday for Coonamble Show?

Contrary to popular belief, the public holiday for the second day of the Coonamble Show is not a certainty: Council must apply to have the public holiday officially gazetted by the NSW Government at least every two years.

To support (or give an opinion against) Council's application for a public holiday for the second day of the Coonamble Show in June 2022 and May 2023, please complete the survey on Council's website homepage or on Facebook.

The NSW Government's Department of Premier and Cabinet requires Council to consult with the community to gauge support for any application for a public holiday associated with Coonamble Show.

To find out what the community thinks about the continuation of a public holiday on the Wednesday of the Coonamble Show, Council asks every person to complete its survey.

Council is writing separately to banks, schools and business representative groups, requesting their response to this proposal.

Of those who have already responded to the survey, comments about the benefits of having a show holiday have included:

"It gives the community the chance to get together."

"It allows volunteers to help out with their designated clubs and not risk losing pay; all can attend."

"In our area we do not have many large scale local events. The Coonamble Show is an event that brings the entire community together, no matter what demographic you belong to—rich or poor, old or young—everyone mixes and enjoys the show. Part of making the show accessible is having a public holiday. Life is busy. Many families have both parents working. The public holiday allows most families the time to take their children to the show and enjoy some family time."

A substantially greater number of responses from the community is needed for Council to show that the people of the Local Government Area do, in fact, support the public holiday.

## Gulargambone Youth Centre renovated



*Gulargambone Youth Centre renovations are nearing completion.*

External renovation work on the Gulargambone Youth Centre by a local contractor is nearing completion.

The work has been funded under the Department of Regional NSW's Stronger Country Communities Fund, through a grant of \$79,378.

The work has included replacement of the paved pathway with concrete, installation of

a concrete pad under the outdoor awning (as pictured above), repainting of the outside of the facility, turfing around the area and a new fence.

As well as use by the youth of Gulargambone, the centre is used by Council's youth worker to offer after-school activities on Monday and Wednesday each week of term.

## Madame Flute postponed

The public health lockdown across Greater Sydney and our own Western NSW lockdown means the Madame Flute Cabaret must be postponed.

Council will contact those people who have already bought tickets for the event. Future plans will be announced once conditions become more favourable.

## MARK THESE DATES

**31 August** – Deadline for public comments on proposed widening, reconstruction and sealing of Tooraweenah Road.

**15 September** – Extra-Ordinary Meeting of Council.

**25 October** – Close of the electoral roll for the Local Government election.

**3 November** – Close of candidate nominations.

**5 November** – Caretaker period starts.

**4 December** – Local Government election day (8am to 6pm).

## Disaster relief funding available for farming enterprises

Special Disaster Assistance Grants are available to primary producers to help pay for the costs of clean-up and reinstatement of primary production enterprises that have suffered direct damage as a result of the storm and flooding disaster of March 2021.

Authorities officially recognised the event as a natural disaster for Coonamble Local

Government Area last month. The maximum grant amount per affected property (subject to conditions), is \$75,000.

Funds of up to \$15,000 will be provided to eligible, approved applicants, without the need to provide invoices at the time of application. See further details on the Grant Opportunities page of Council's website.

## 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](http://www.coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au)



# New signage warns traffic on major unsealed roads

New signs are being placed at the entrance to major unsealed roads throughout the Coonamble Local Government Area to remind drivers that such roads are closed during wet weather.

Council maintains a network of 1,168km of unsealed roads and 370km of sealed roads.

The average cost to carry out maintenance grading on an unsealed road is \$5,000 per kilometre. If every kilometre of unsealed road were graded in the year, it would cost \$5.84 million, yet council only raises \$5.05 million in rates, which must be shared with other community priorities.

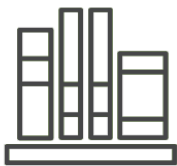
Unsealed roads often require maintenance grading after heavy rain, particularly if used by traffic while the road is wet.



Before and after shots (at left and right) show the condition of a local unsealed road after maintenance grading (left) to level the surface. Two days later, work crews returned to find the road near-impassable for regular traffic (right) because a heavy vehicle had driven on it while wet. Signage is being placed at the entrance to the area's major unsealed roads, warning of road closures during wet weather.

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From the Mayor's Desk:

## Mayor encourages efforts to vaccinate



With the number of positive COVID-19 cases in Dubbo, it seems the only possibility we might now have to protect our communities is for those of us comfortable with the idea of vaccination to organise for our job as soon as possible and

for us all to comply with the Stay At Home orders while they are in effect.

It seems that the people of Coonamble LGA are taking leadership in the West, with 40% of us having had at least one jab and 20% being fully vaccinated.

Both clinics in Coonamble have 600 doses of the Pfizer vaccine available, as well as AstraZeneca. Please make a booking today.

If we can have 70-80% of the community vaccinated as soon as possible, this will greatly reduce the potential number of deaths of our loved ones, any strain on our local health care system and get us out of lockdown sooner rather than later.

In other news, I have pleasure in reporting to Council my activities in the role of Mayor since the July 2021 meeting of Council.

### Delayed elections

The General Manager and I took part in the Office of Local Government webinar to discuss the postponement of the Local Government elections.

As part of the decision-making process, the Government was not prepared to take the chance that there would be no further outbreaks in regional areas between now and 4 September 2021, which would put Council elections in those areas at risk. This now seems to be the case for us.

### Infrastructure contributions reforms

The NSW Government introduced the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Infrastructure Contributions) Bill 2021 into Parliament on 22 June.

Implementation of the reforms will have far reaching financial implications for councils across NSW that are yet unknown, and there is concern that many councils may be worse off under the reforms.

While our Council is not immediately affected, these reforms may force some councils to delay or completely remove projects from their expenditure plans with a detrimental impact not only on community wellbeing and participation in civic life, but also on job creation.

Councils across NSW are also objecting to the Government's decision to tie reform of the rate peg to reductions in infrastructure contributions in order to cater for population growth.

Reform of the rate peg is required independent of changes to contributions. This presents a concerning cost shift from developers onto Local Government and ratepayers.

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

**Ahmad Karanough**  
Mayor

The next meeting of Coonamble Shire Council will be held on Wednesday, 15 September 2021