

Community views sought on business case for Coonamble artesian bathing experience

Council resolved at its March meeting to place the business case for the proposed Coonamble artesian bathing experience on public exhibition.

This will give the community the opportunity to consider the feasibility, business case and concept design presented by consultants, Belgravia Leisure.

A majority of Councillors expressed a desire for the project to proceed in principle.

About eight hectares of Crown Land has been identified for development of the facility near the golf club and jockey club to the west of Coonamble.

However, while agreeing with the business plan in principle, Council is open to consider the development of the artesian bathing experience at an alternative location – especially if this can hasten its completion.

Acquisition of the current site involves a number of steps that could take from eight months to two years.

The feasibility, business case and concept design presented to Council included a number of key points, among which are:

- It is unlikely that the water regulator would approve a free-flowing bore.
- Disposal of waste water is a significant issue to be addressed.

- The development would be staged.
- The facility would be the 'hero' development along the Great Artesian Drive, becoming a significant draw for tourists to visit and stay in Coonamble.

Stage 1 inclusions

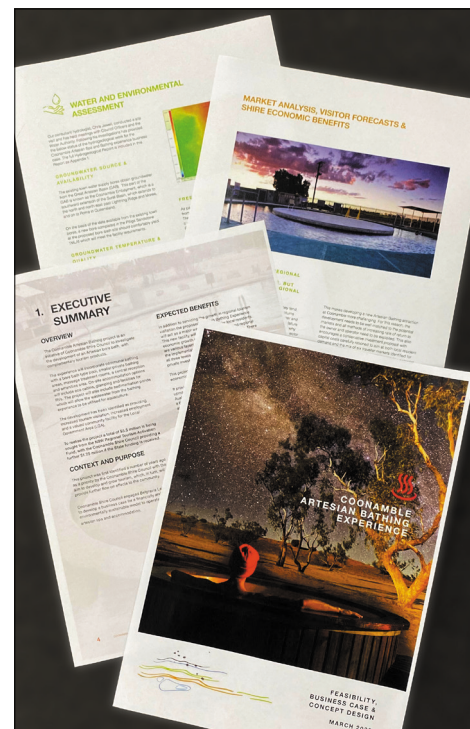
Stage 1 would include:

- An entry, reception and changerooms.
- A main bathing area for up to 25 people.
- Two other pools, each for up to 12 people.
- A cold plunge-pool for up to 4 people.
- A sauna and steam room.
- Four private baths.
- An outdoor deck.
- Three massage treatment rooms.
- 10 eco-cabins to sleep up to 24 people.
- 5 glamping tents to offer accommodation for up to 10 people.
- 20 Recreational Vehicle camping spaces.

Hard copies of the 163-page document are available to view at Council's Administration Office, Coonamble and Gulargambone Libraries, and the Quambone Store.

Electronic copies are available to view and download from Council's website.

Submissions can be made online, by email or in writing to the General Manager up to 22 April, 2022.



■ The business case for the Coonamble Artesian Bathing Experience is now on public exhibition.

Register now for school holiday fun program

COONAMBLE SHIRE COUNCIL April School Holiday Program 2022			
Monday 11th Aboriginal Art Workshop w/ Hayden Wood from Bokhara Dreaming Afternoon Tea Provided Gulargambone Youth Centre 10:00am - 1:30pm	Tuesday 12th Easter Hat Making Afternoon Tea Provided Gulargambone Youth Centre 12:00pm - 2:30pm	Wednesday 13th D.I.Y Lava Lamps & Craft Afternoon Tea Provided Coonamble Showgrounds 11:00am - 1:00pm	Thursday 14th Easter Hunt w/ Community Services Join Interrelate, Council, REDI.E, Mission Aust. and MacKillop for a family friendly Easter hunt! Under 10's must be accompanied by an adult First Location: Coonamble Shire Library 10:00am - 12:00pm
Tuesday 19th Gulargambone Youth Centre Bingo Afternoon Tea Provided 11:30am - 1:00pm	Wednesday 20th Youth Homelessness Matters Day Mural painting activity and soup kitchen at Interrelate with Council, REDI.E and MacKillop 53B Castlereagh Street 10:00am - 12:00pm	Thursday 21st Bush Tucker Cooking w/ Joshua Toole from Blackfit Fitness Coonamble Showgrounds 11:00am - 1:30pm	Friday 22nd Disco REDI.E Youth Centre Finger Food Provided 5:00pm - 7:30pm

The April school holiday fun program will be held again from Monday, 11 April, through to Friday, 22 April, with activities in both Coonamble and Gulargambone.

Coonamble Shire Council and REDI.E Youth Services have organised four days of activities each week of the holidays.

Hayden Wood, from Bokhara Dreaming, will start activities with an Aboriginal Art Workshop at Gulargambone Youth Centre from 10am on the Monday.

Easter hat making, do it yourself laval lamps and crafts, bingo, bush tucker cooking and a disco are all planned.

A special event on Wednesday, 20 April – Youth Homelessness Matters Day – will be mural painting and helping in Interrelate's soup kitchen.

Check Council's website and Facebook posts for the registration form.

Events will be spread across Gulargambone Youth Centre, Coonamble Showground, Interrelate premises and the REDI.E Youth Centre in Coonamble.

MARK THESE DATES

22 March – Tour de OROC Coonamble lunch stop with barbecue at the Coonamble Pool from 11.30am to 12.30pm.

24 - 27 March – Coonamble Challenge and Campdraft 2022.

31 March – Seniors Week celebration at Coonamble Bowling Club.

08 April – 'Eat Street' social event in Coonamble's main street, 5.30pm to 8.30pm.

13 April – Ordinary Meeting of Council in Quambone.

Emergency contacts:

Water & Sewerage 0428 217 420

Other Emergencies 0458 271 881

Regulatory Officer 0427 255 881

Website for all details:

www.coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au

'Outta this world' theme for Seniors Luncheon

Royden Donohue returns to entertain guests at the Seniors Week event on Thursday, 31 March from 11am at Coonamble Bowling Club.

'Outta this world' is the theme of this year's event. Fancy dress is optional, but anything with a 'space' theme is welcome.

The event includes a free luncheon for residents of the Coonamble Local Government area aged 50 years and over.

Bookings are required, and seating is limited to ensure COVID-safe distancing. Phone 6827 1900 by 23 March to book your place. Please give the name of each person attending, along with a mobile contact number. Late bookings may be taken, depending on availability.

And as every senior likes to hear from Mr Spock: "Live long and prosper!"

Angry Anderson to kick off Youth Week

Youth advocate, singer-songwriter and television presenter, Angry Anderson, will be the keynote speaker at the first Youth Council workshop to encourage and inspire the youth of our communities to come together to make a difference.

The workshop will be held at Coonamble Bowling Club on Tuesday, 5 April 2022, with doors opening from 9:45am for a 10am start. It will continue through to noon, with lunch provided afterwards.

The youth council is open to anyone from Year 7 to Year 12 ages.

Catering is being organised, so interested youth are asked to register their attendance by calling Youth Officer, Evelyn Carrol on 0437 303 824 or emailing youthofficer@coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au.

The first youth workshop will look at several topics including:

- What are we hoping to achieve?
- What are issues for youth in the community?

- What are ways we can take action for those issues?

The Youth Council itself, once formed, will discuss specific issues for youth in the community; collaborate and brainstorm ideas and actions to address these issues; and develop and organise events and activities for youth and the broader community.



Council distributes donations and other funding

Council has distributed \$25,410 to local community organisations – made available under its Donations Policy – and a further \$75,285 from COVID responsiveness funding provided by the Office of Local Government.

The Donations Policy had allowed applications from local organisations every six months. It was resolved at the March meeting to increase this frequency to every three months.

Those organisations benefiting from a donation in the current round are:

St Barnabas Anglican Parish.....	\$1,500
Gulargambone RTC.....	\$1,500
Gulargambone Pioneers Memorial Presbyterian Church.....	\$1,500
Gulargambone Jockey Club.....	\$5,000
Coonamble Meals on Wheels.....	\$3,200
Coonamble CWA (Evening Branch).....	\$2,500
Coonamble Community Radio.....	\$1,500
Quambone Resources Committee.....	\$1,000
Marthaguy Picnic Race Club.....	\$3,000
Quambone Polocrosse Club.....	\$2,000
Coonamble Auto Club.....	\$500
Coonamble Community Men's Shed.....	\$1,500

The Office of Local Government made \$90,000 available to each regional Council at the end of 2021, with the purpose of increasing the effectiveness of local businesses and community organisations to respond to COVID and other emergencies.

This funding allowed recovery of costs for COVID-related expenses, both back-dated to 1 July 2021 or forecast for any potential projects to make premises and people safer.

Council will soon distribute to all residents a fridge magnet with emergency numbers for a range of services. The cost of production of the magnet and its distribution by mail (\$1,267) have been fully funded from the Office of Local Government grant.

Council also recovered \$13,447 for expenses relating to providing sanitiser, face masks and other personal protective equipment for staff and for use at Council offices and other community facilities.

Council advertised the opportunity for businesses and organisations to apply for funding from mid-December through to the closing date of 18 February, on Facebook, website news, its website Grants Opportunities, in the *Community Connect* newsletter and *Weekly Connect* newspaper advertisement.

Five applications were received, and the following distribution of funds was made:

Coonamble Children's Services.....	\$20,000
Mobil Coonamble.....	\$15,000
Rotary Club of Coonamble.....	\$26,325
Gulargambone Pioneers Memorial Presbyterian Church.....	\$10,000
Coonamble Meals on Wheels.....	\$3,960

From the Mayor's Desk:

Stakeholders agree on new SES shed design



I have met a number of times with local and regional State Emergency Service members and staff in relation to the new SES shed.

Everyone has now agreed on a design that will meet the local members' needs. With some amendments to

the building, there is a shortfall of approximately \$300,000 after the SES increased their allocation to \$500,000.

Member for Barwon, Roy Butler, is continuing to speak with the Government for a further contribution which, at this stage, seems positive. I also raised the issue with the Premier on his recent visit.

Council will need to consider increasing its contribution to meet any shortfall to ensure the facility is built to meet the demand and needs of its members and the Local Government Area. Once final costings are provided a further report will be provided to Council. It is hoped that works will commence on the new building shortly and be opened in the next six to eight months.

On 23 February, I met with Peter Gibbs, the new CEO at REDI.E. We discussed the youth services issues I raised at the last meeting of which Peter generally agrees.

Peter is only new to the role and has already made changes internally that should see improved outcomes for the youth services they operate in our towns and villages. Recruitment and retention is a significant factor in operating the services, but there is a commitment to employ the staff who will achieve the best outcomes for the youth.

Peter and I will meet regularly, and he is keen to meet with other youth services stakeholders to listen to their concerns and build more positive relationships. Peter and I agree there is a lot more work required in this space.

Council resolved at the March meeting to investigate options to manage better the maintenance of the streets, lanes and public areas, including a kerbside bulk garbage pick-up collection service to be held at least annually.

I have received numerous complaints about the condition of streets and lanes in our town and villages. After a tour of the towns, I have to agree more work needs to be done with a general clean-up.

I understand weather conditions and, of course, budgets have not helped, and our staff do the best they can with what they have, but we must attempt to do better.

Councillor Sommerville and I visited Quambone for a meeting with the Resources Committee in February. Although we were a month early, we both took an opportunity to catch up with a few of the residents and listen to their feedback and concerns, which centred on roads and the tidy-up needed, as mentioned above. We are looking forward to attending the meeting on 16 March.

Should anyone wish to contact me to discuss any concerns or issues, please phone 0488 425 312.

Tim Horan
Mayor

The next Ordinary Meeting of Coonamble Shire Council will be held on Wednesday, 13 April 2022, in Quambone