

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF COONAMBLE SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE MEMORIAL HALL, QUAMBONE ON WEDNESDAY, 9TH
OCTOBER 2019, COMMENCING AT 10.41 A.M.**

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PRESENT: Cr Ahmad Karanouh, Mayor, in the Chair, with Crs Pat Cullen, Karen Churchill, Barbara Deans, Robert Thomas and Paul Wheelhouse.

Also present were the General Manager, Mr Hein Basson, the Director of Corporate and Urban Services, Mr Bruce Quarmby, the Director of Engineering Services, Mrs Kookie Atkins and Mrs Jill Moorhouse.

1.0 OPENING MEETING

At this juncture, 10.40 a.m. the Mayor opened the meeting.

2.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ORIGINAL OWNERS OF THE LAND

The Mayor acknowledged the traditional custodians of this land, the Wailwan people, and paid his respects to elders past and present.

3.0 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Mrs Marg Garnsey, on behalf of the Quambone Resources Committee, made application to address the meeting on Item No. 12.7 – *Manual for Community Committees of Council*. Mrs Garnsey's application was approved, however she chatted informally with Councillors during the luncheon adjournment.

4.0 APOLOGIES / APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

4533 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Wheelhouse and Cullen that the written application for leave of absence from Cr Bill Fisher be noted and approved.

5.0 DEPUTATIONS / DELEGATIONS

Mr Adrian Lyons was invited to address Council on the Inland Rail Project on behalf of the NSW Farmers' Association. Mr Lyons said connectivity to key locations is paramount and, along with other stakeholders, Council should continue to lobby for the most beneficial outcomes for its area.

He said it is pleasing to see that the Government has fast-tracked investigations on the Gilgandra-Coonamble line that will develop pre-feasibility, feasibility and strategic business case studies to understand how potential network improvements could unlock further productivity with a more accessible Inland Rail.

The Federal Government has approved a \$44 million Inland Rail Interface Improvement Program. \$14m of that Program will fund strategic business cases to investigate opportunities to support more productive rail-based supply chains at regional centres and help build capacity on key country rail lines.

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Mr Lyons made mention that NSW Farmers' Association feels that Option 204 needs further attention and investigation as a possible route. According to this Association's calculations, this revised route will add four (4) minutes to the travel time between Brisbane and Melbourne, whilst the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) is arguing 24 minutes.

He further said that NSW Farmers' Association is wholly supportive of the Inland Rail Project, however, there must be complete transparency and proper consultation processes and the need for an Independent Inquiry is paramount. He said that while funding is available, Council must take action to put its case forward. Mr Lyons suggested that pressure should be applied to the State Government to assist Local Government in these representations.

Note: The Mayor thanked Mr Lyons for attending the meeting and his presentation. He temporarily left the meeting at 11.25 a.m.

6.0 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

i) Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting

4534 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Wheelhouse and Cullen that the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Coonamble Shire Council held on 11 September 2019 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings of the meeting.

ii) Minutes of Ordinary Meeting

4535 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Wheelhouse and Thomas that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Coonamble Shire Council held on 11 September 2019 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings of the meeting.

7.0 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Note: Cr Barbara Deans disclosed a non-pecuniary interest in Item 12.5 "Inland Rail Project – Connectivity" as a property owner in the study area of the proposed route of the line and as a grain grower and user of the grain silos at Coonamble. Cr Deans said she would not be leaving the room while the matter was being dealt with; partaking in the discussions and voting on the item.

Note: Cr Paul Wheelhouse disclosed a pecuniary interest in Item 15.1 "Design and Construction – Skate Bowl – Macdonald Park" as a contractor who has submitted a quotation for the work. Cr Wheelhouse said he would leave the room whilst the matter was being dealt with, not partaking in the discussion or voting on the item.

8.0 RESOLUTION BOOK UPDATE

8.1 Resolutions in Progress

8.2 Resolutions Completed

4536 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Churchill and Wheelhouse that the items listed in the Resolution Book Update, i.e. Item Numbers 8.1 and 8.2, be received and noted.

i) Proposed Bore Baths

Note: Cr Wheelhouse enquired whether the letter from the Crown Lands Office is to hand. The General Manager said that it had not been received to date, however, he had been speaking with Ms Elizabeth Burke who informed him that the Options Paper had been developed and internally approved and that a letter to Council would be forthcoming.

9.0 MAYORAL REPORT

4537 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Karanouh and Wheelhouse that the Mayor's Activity Report be received and dealt with.

Note: Cr Karanouh reported briefly on items in his report, specifically his recent contact with Local Federal Member, The Hon Mark Coulton MP, regarding funding being provided under the Inland Rail Interface Improvement Program. Details of this funding were provided in the media release attached to Item 12.5 in the Business Paper.

Note: Referring to the meeting with representatives from the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure, the Mayor said the representatives from this Department indicated that water security is a priority going forward. He said that the water level in the Great Artesian Basin is greatly unknown as it seems that there are inadequate records available.

i) Mayoral Donations Vote

4538 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Wheelhouse and Cullen that the Mayor be provided special authorisation to make available a Mayoral Donation of \$500 to the Coonamble Auto Club for purposes of a "Show and Shine" event on 9 November 2019, noting that the authorised delegation to the Mayor in this regard is \$250.

Note: Cr Churchill disclosed a non-pecuniary interest in this matter, being a member of the Coonamble Car Club; however, she remained in the room, partaking in the discussion and voting on the item .

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Note: Cr Wheelhouse thanked the Mayor and General Manager for their support in attending the Greyhound Racing Carnival held in Coonamble over the October long weekend.

4539 RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Karanouh that his report be noted.

10.0 CORRESPONDENCE

Nil this meeting.

11.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

11.1 Minutes of Traffic Committee Meeting

4540 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Thomas and Deans that the minutes of the Traffic Committee Meeting held on 27 August 2019 be noted.

i) Item 5.2 – Disabled and Emergency Service Parking at Castlereagh Medical Centre

Note: Cr Thomas questioned this item and asked why the work was not to the required standard. The Director of Engineering Services said that she was not involved with this project, however, it appears that the lay-back/gutter crossing needs to be rectified.

Note: Cr Cullen said there is a problem with this access and it needs to be rectified as a priority. Ms Atkins said that the space was never meant for emergency vehicle parking; it was always intended as a 'disabled' parking location..

Note: The Director indicated that RMS funding may be available to rectify this work, however, there was no guarantee and a timeframe could not be identified.

A MOTION WAS

PROPOSED by Cr Cullen **SECONDED** by Cr Churchill that the necessary work be carried out without delay and funded by Council.

AN AMENDMENT WAS

4541 PROPOSED by Cr Churchill **SECONDED** by Cr Wheelhouse that a scope of works and a costing to rectify this problem be prepared and submitted to the November 2019 Council Meeting for Council's approval, prior to the remedial work being undertaken.

On being put to the vote, the **AMENDMENT WAS CARRIED** and on becoming the **MOTION, WAS CARRIED**.

12.0 REPORTS TO COUNCIL

12.1 Development Applications Determined under Delegated Authority

4542 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Churchill and Wheelhouse that Council notes there were no Development Applications or Complying Development Applications approved under delegated authority since the September 2019 Ordinary Council Meeting.

12.2 Status Report Regarding Councillor Enquiries

4543 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Wheelhouse and Churchill that Council notes the information provided.

i) Clean up area Castlereagh/Aberford Streets

Note: Councillors referred to the ongoing unsightly state of this block and also the sign being displayed on the site.

12.3 Coonamble Annual Show – Application for Public Holiday

4544 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Churchill and Cullen that this matter be received and dealt with.

Note: Councillors debated this matter and took into account the submissions received during the consultation period, noting that only a minority was not in favour of the public holiday.

4545 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Churchill and Cullen that Council makes application for a gazetted full day public holiday for the Shire of Coonamble for the second day of the Coonamble Show on Wednesday 27 May 2020 and Wednesday 19 May 2021.

12.4 2020 Local Government Elections

4546 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Wheelhouse and Cullen:

1. That pursuant to Section 296(2) and (3) of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) (“the Act”), an election arrangement be entered into by contract for the Electoral Commissioner to administer all elections of the Council.

2. That pursuant to Section 296(2) and (3) of the Act, as applied and modified by Section 18, a Council Poll Arrangement be entered into by contract for the Electoral Commissioner to administer all Council Polls of the Council.

3. That pursuant to Section 296(2) and (3) of the Act, as applied and modified by Section 18, a Constitutional Referendum Arrangement be

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entered into by contract for the Electoral Commissioner to administer all Constitutional Referenda of the Council.

4) That should the Electoral Commissioner provide the option to Council for a single Returning Officer to be appointed for the Local Government Areas of Coonamble and Gilgandra, then Council support such an initiative in order to achieve cost savings for the respective communities; subject to the Returning Officer working out of a Coonamble office.

12.5 Inland Rail Project – Connectivity

Note: Councillors noted that Mr Adrian Lyons addressed the meeting earlier in the day to speak about the importance of connectivity to vital locations. He spoke about the NSW Farmers' Association's views on the issue, pointing out it totally supports the project, but encouraging Council to continue to lobby for the best possible outcome for Coonamble.

4547 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Wheelhouse and Cullen that this matter be received and dealt with.

Note: Cr Deans spoke at length on this matter, pointing out that Coonamble should be a "hub" or "intermodal" point on the Inland Rail to ensure maximum socio-economic benefit to the residents of the local government area.

A FORESHADOWED MOTION

PROPOSED by Cr Churchill that Council investigates the cost of employing a consultant, or wait until Council has appointed an Economic Development Officer, then make application under the next round of funding that will become available in March 2010, **LAPSED FOR WANT OF A SECONDER.**

4548 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Deans and Wheelhouse that Council submits a proposal as part of the \$44 million Inland Rail Interface Improvement Programme (through the Gateway Road Map) for a strategic business case study to be conducted to investigate the social and economic benefits for the Coonamble Shire if the railway line of the Inland Rail project is being re-routed closer to the Coonamble township – with the understanding that the existing pre-approved investigation of the upgrading of the Gilgandra-Coonamble line and the enhancing of the connection at Baradine's grain silos not be affected by this application.

4549 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Dean and Thomas that Council makes a submission to the Secretary of the Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport, asking why a business case study,

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which would show the economic and social benefits to Coonamble Shire, has not been done, and asking how the route selection can be justified when Coonamble Shire was not given full economic and social consideration.

4550 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Wheelhouse and Cullen that Council notes the address and thanks Mr Adrian Lyons for his presentation on behalf of the NSW Farmers' Association.

Note: The following matter was brought forward by the Mayor for discussion and determination due to the interest of the Quambone Resources Committee in being re-instated as a Section 355 Committee of Council.

12.7 Manual for Community Committees of Council

Note: The Manual prepared by the General Manager was submitted as an annexure to the Business Paper. Mr Basson said that Council must have adequate policy framework in place to accommodate the efficient and effective operation of Section 355 Community Committees of Council.

4553 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Cullen and Thomas:

1. That Council adopts the Manual for Community Committees of Council as its policy framework for the future functioning of its approved Section 355-Committees.
2. That Council, pursuant to the provisions of Section 355 of the Local Government Act 1993, confirms the establishment of the Quambone Resources Committee as a Section 355-Committee of Council.
3. That Council, pursuant to the provisions of Section 377 of the Local Government Act 1993, delegates the function of the care, management and control of the Quambone Community Hall to the Quambone Resources Committee, conditional upon this mentioned Committee fulfilling its role and responsibilities in this regard in a dutiful and diligent manner.

Note: At this juncture, 12.35p.m, the meeting adjourned for lunch at Quambone, during which break Ms Marg Garnsey informally addressed Councillors and Senior Staff. The Meeting resumed in the Shire Chamber, Coonamble at 2.00p.m. to receive presentations from short-listed consultants (as part of Council's consideration of Item 12.6); expanding on their submissions to Council on the proposed Coonamble Shire Master Plan.

PRESENTATIONS – COONAMBLE SHIRE MASTER PLAN

- i) Presentation by sala4D**
Ms Shah Alford and Ms Celia Baxter made their presentation to Council. This company is based in Orange.
- ii) Presentation by habit8**
Mr David Vago presented on behalf of this firm, via Skype. The company has an office in Cronulla and a branch in Byron Bay.
- iii) Presentation by Mara Consulting**
Mrs Kelly Lofberg and Mr Tadd Andersen were the third consultants to make a presentation. The company has offices in Newcastle and Brisbane.

Note: Council resumed its consideration of items listed in the order of the Business Paper at this juncture, 4.05p.m., prior to the arrival of the final consultant to present.

12.8 Community Services – Progress Report

4551 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Wheelhouse and Churchill that the report be received and dealt with.

Note: Cr Deans noted the school holidays activities report and asked whether the Quambone school students have activities, such as movie evenings. The Director of Community Services was absent from the meeting, however, it was noted that some activities are also included for Quambone.

Note: Cr Thomas referred to the proposed upgrade of the amenities block at Warrena Weir and asked why both the disabled and other toilet are 'unisex'. The General Manager reported that the formal minutes of a meeting from the Coonamble Aquatic Club indicated that this was the Club's preference.

- i) Warrena Weir Amenities Block**
4552 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Wheelhouse and Churchill:
 - 1) That Council endorses the proposed scope of works for the Warrena Weir Amenities upgrade incorporating the following request from the Coonamble Aquatic Club Inc:
 - a) both toilets be classified 'unisex' to provide an accessible toilet and the shower;
 - b) the baby change facility to be relocated to accessible toilet area.

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- 2) That any unexpended funds be utilised for the following priority projects:
 - a) Project 1 – Install solar power to the facility (if sufficient funds available);
 - b) Project 2 – Purchase of a petrol pressure pump to operate the watering system (should solar power be unachievable at this stage);
 - c) Project 3 – Level the entry to the boat wash and asphalt;
 - d) Project 4 – Unspent funds be retained by Council for future projects at the Warrena Weir – i.e. turf.
3. That Council notes the information in this report.

12.9 Rates and Charges Collections – September 2019

4554 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Churchill and Deans that the information be noted.

12.10 Status of Investments – September 2019

4555 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Deans and Wheelhouse that the list of investments as at 30 September 2019 be noted and it also be noted that Council's Investments comply with Section 625(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Clause 212 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* and Council's Investment Policy.

12.11 Urban Services: Works in Progress – September 2019

4556 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Wheelhouse and Deans that Council notes the information in this report.

12.12 Saleyards Report

4557 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Wheelhouse and Deans that Council notes the information.

12.13 ISO Certification Associated Policies

4558 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Wheelhouse and Deans that Council approves the Environmental Policy, Quality Policy, and Safety Policy and ratifies the General Manager's actions of pre-signing the documents due to the timing of the ISO Certification Audit.

12.14 Request for Purchase of Road Reserve

Note: The Director of Engineering Services informed Council that this request is from an adjoining landholder wishing to purchase a section of unused road reserve at the northern end of Bullagreen Road.

4559 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Thomas and Wheelhouse:

- 1) That Council advertises the proposed closure and in the absence of any objections from the public, Council proceeds to formally close the road at the applicant's cost.
- 2) That should any objection be lodged prior to the expiration of the objection period, the matter be referred back to Council for consideration.

12.15 Effluent Pump Station – Coonamble Sewage Treatment Plant and Discharge Flow Meter at Gulargambone Sewage Treatment Plant

Note The Director stated that the EPA has identified issues at both the Gulargambone and Coonamble Sewage Treatment Plants. and has requested Council to undertake rectification works. At the Coonamble plant Council has to remove the drainage channels and at Gulargambone Council is required to purchase equipment for measuring the discharge flows leaving the sewage treatment plant.

4560 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Wheelhouse and Cullen:

- 1) That Council transfers \$130,000 from reserves to fund the discharge line for the Coonamble treatment plant.
- 2) That Council transfers \$50,000 from reserves to fund the the flow meter for the Gulargambone treatment plant.

12.16 Engineering Services – Works in Progress

Note: The Director drew Council's attention to the fact that low level water restrictions would be imposed from the beginning of November 2019. Ms Atkins explained to the Meeting why this is necessary, saying that during summer times of peak demand Council's pumping equipment cannot keep up with usage. She also said that the plant requires backwashing to maintain quality of water and that Council must stay within its water allocation licence.

4561 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Thomas and Wheelhouse :

- 1) That Council notes the information in this report.
- 2) That Council authorises the General Manager to renew the Road Maintenance Contract with Transport NSW for the next four (4) year term.
- 3) That Council notes the necessity to impose water restrictions from November 2019 (no fixed hoses or sprinklers between the hours of 7.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m.) to avoid overworking and a possible major failure of plant during summer times of peak demand.

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Note: At this juncture, the representatives of the consultancy firm King and Campbell were received to the meeting. The Mayor referred Councillors back to Item 12.6 and Council resumed its consideration of this item.

12.6 Expressions of Interest: Coonamble Shire Master Plan – Consultants’ Presentations (Continuation)

iv) Presentation by King & Campbell

Mr David Tooby, accompanied by Mr Andrew Shaper, presented on behalf of King and Campbell – a firm based in Port Macquarie.

Note: The presentations were completed at 5.20 p.m. Cr Wheelhouse left the meeting at this juncture and did not return.

Note: Councillors were pleased with the high calibre of presentations by all four of the consultants.

Note: Each Councillor was given the opportunity to speak regarding the presentations and provide their selection and choice of the preferred consultancy firm.

4562 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Churchill and Cullen:

1. That Council, having evaluated the submissions and presentations of the four (4) invited consultancy firms, appoints the consultancy firm sala4D which, in Council’s opinion has the most merit for the development of a Coonamble Shire Master Plan as a particular and unique project.

2. That Council increases its budgetary provision for the development of the Coonamble Shire Master Plan commensurate with the quote of \$64,841 (excluding GST) submitted by sala4D – funded from Council’s Development Fund.

Note: The General Manager disclosed information relative to the quote submitted by sala4; stating that he became aware earlier that day that he personally knows the parents of Ms Holly Manning of Manning PR, who are living in Glen Innes – the home town of Ms Manning. However, he does not know Ms Manning.

12.18 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW TO 30 JUNE 2019

Note: The Director Corporate and Urban Services invited Councillors to ask questions if there were issues they wanted clarified. Mr Quarmby explained the variations in votes which were listed in the A3 sized document distributed under separate cover.

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4563 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Churchill and Deans:

- 1) That Council approves the variations to votes as listed in the budget review documents.
- 2) That Council notes that, in the opinion of the Responsible Accounting Officer, Council is in a satisfactory financial position as at 30 June 2019.
- 3) That Council notes the position of Council's estimated Reserve Funds at 30 June 2019.

13.0 MOTIONS / QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE / RESCISSION MOTIONS

Nil this month.

14.0 CLOSURE OF MEETING – CLOSED SESSION

4564 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Churchill and Thomas that Council moves into Closed Session to consider Item Nos 15.1 and 15.2, pursuant to the provisions of Section 10A(2)(c) and (d) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, which stipulate the following:

- “(c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business;*
- (d) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed:*
- (i) Prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it, or*
 - (ii) Confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of Council”.*

15.1 DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION – SKATE BOWL – MACDONALD PARK

4565 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Churchill and Deans:

- 1) That Council engages Oasis Skate Park Designs to undertake the design and construction of a skate bowl in Macdonald Park.
- 2) That the final placement of the skate bowl within the park be determined as part of the proposed Master Plan for the Coonamble Pool and Macdonald Park Area.

Cr Churchill requested that her name be recorded as voting against this resolution.

Note: At this juncture, 5.58 p.m. Cr Churchill left the meeting and did not return.

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15.2 PURCHASE OF DUPLEX UNITS FOR STAFF HOUSING

4566 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Deans and Thomas that Council does not purchase the duplex units proposed for staff housing, preferring to construct new housing in the future.

RESUME OPEN MEETING

4567 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Thomas and Deans that Council resumes its Open Meeting.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS OF CLOSED SESSION

4568 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Thomas and Deans that Council adopts the resolutions from the Closed Council Session, being Resolution Numbers 4566 and 4567, into the Open Council Meeting.

16.0 CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Mayor closed the meeting at 6.15 p.m.

These Minutes Pages (1/6407 to 13/6419) were confirmed on the **13th** day of **NOVEMBER 2019** and are a full and accurate record of proceedings of the Ordinary Meeting of Coonamble Shire Council held on **9th October 2019**.

MAYOR