

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF COONAMBLE SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COONAMBLE ON WEDNESDAY, 13TH
MAY, 2009, COMMENCING AT 9.12 A.M.**

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PRESENT: Cr Tim Horan, Mayor, in the Chair, with Crs. T.Cullen, A. Karanouh, J. Canham, D. Schieb, M. Webb and B. O'Brien.
Also present were the General Manager, Mr Griffiths, the Director of Corporate Services, Mr. Warren, the Director of Engineering Services, Mr. Gamage and Mrs Moorhouse.

2.0 ACKNOWLEDGE ORIGINAL OWNERS OF THE LAND

Prior to beginning the meeting, the Mayor acknowledged the original owners of the land, both past and present.

3.0 APOLOGY

Councillors noted that Councillor Cullen was not present at the start of the meeting.

4.0 DELEGATIONS

No delegations were booked to address the meeting.

5.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Two declarations of interest were submitted :

- a) Mr John Griffiths, General Manager
Item 9.29(a) Urgent Business – Supplementary Correspondence.
Mr. Griffiths informed the meeting he was affected by this item of correspondence concerning superannuation, as he is the only contracted employee on Council's staff.

- b) Cr Don Schieb – Item 10.1 – Approvals under Delegated Authority.
CDA No 09/2009 – installation of a swimming pool.

6.0 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

7672 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Canham and Karanouh that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Coonamble Shire Council held on 8 April 2009 be confirmed.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

(a) Minute No. 7605

Cr. Karanouh referred to this resolution and said he was of the opinion that it was resolved for Cr Schieb to attend the 2009 National General Assembly of Local Government in Canberra between 21 – 24 June.

The Mayor informed Cr Karanouh that the amendment was lost and the original motion not to have a representative attend the Assembly was duly passed.

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(b) Minute No. 7635 – Donation towards repairs to Cattle Pavilion

Cr Schieb asked whether this money had been made available as resolved at last meeting. The General Manager said the amount of \$1,000 was paid into the Coonamble Show Society Inc. bank account and this was relayed by telephone to Mr Parry.

(c) Heavy Vehicle Inspection Station

Cr Canham asked what progress had been made regarding this matter. The General Manager informed him that one of the sheds in question had been sold. Mr. Griffiths said there is still interest from the second proponent, however the owner of the shed is awaiting an undertaking from the RTA that it will rent the facility to use as a heavy vehicle inspection station.

(d) Greater Western Area Health Service

Cr Karanouh referred to the position of Health Service Manager for Coonamble and asked if there had been any further information. The General Manager said when the CEO advised Council by letter, he said recruitment would be dealt with in the normal process. The CEO indicated that it would be approximately two months before an advertisement was placed and a further couple of months before the position was filled. The Mayor said we have this commitment in writing and if it is not dealt with in a reasonable time frame, Council would take up the issue again.

Council noted that Ms Libby Cock has been appointed Project Manager for the building of the new Multi Purpose Service.

(e) Overgrown Block – Telstra

Cr Schieb referred to raising this issue at last meeting and said nothing has been done to improve the unsightly state of the land. The General Manager said that the matter is in hand, however it can take time when dealing with authorities such as Telstra, whose headquarters are in Melbourne. The General Manager undertook to follow the matter up with further correspondence.

(f) Dangerous Ramp – Wingadee Road

Cr. Schieb asked whether any action has been taken to have this dangerous ramp repaired. The General Manager replied that the landowner had been instructed to carry out work. The Director of Engineering Services informed the meeting that the work has been done.

ADDRESS TO COUNCIL – COONAMBLE SWIMMING POOL

At this juncture, James and Leonie Goldsmith were welcomed to the meeting to address Council on issues concerning the Coonamble Pool.

At 9.27 a.m., Cr. Cullen arrived at the meeting.

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Mr. & Mrs. Goldsmith said they were very concerned regarding the future of the pool. Mr Goldsmith asked if information concerning costs of running the pool and overtime paid are available to the public. The General Manager pointed out that Council's draft management plan for 2009-2012 has been on public exhibition for a month and information such as this is contained within the Management Plan. Mr. Griffiths said that written submissions on the draft management plan close today (13 May 2009).

Both Mr & Mrs. Goldsmith said the pool is an important and essential facility that must be available to the community. They referred to the number of children in the Swimming Club and the work those children put into their training. Mrs. Goldsmith said it is imperative that the pool be available for the children to continue their swimming. She referred to the talent of our local children and said this opportunity should not be taken away from them, nor their use restricted.

Councillor Cullen asked what is the cost to ratepayers for Council to provide the service. The Director of Corporate Services informed the meeting that last year the three pools (Coonamble, Gulargambone and Quambone) cost \$280,000; Coonamble alone cost \$190,000.

Further discussion took place regarding swimming club training times and the use of the pool for exercise activities. Mrs Goldsmith suggested the pool open from 6am to 11am and again from 3pm to 6pm during the Christmas holiday period – she said this would be a more “family friendly” arrangement.

Cr. Schieb referred to the Swimming Club using both the 50 metre pool and the 25 metre pool and asked why both pools were used by club members. Mrs. Goldsmith said that some lanes are used in both pools, however the club does not have exclusive use of the pools at training times.

In response to a comment that two lifeguards are on duty most of the time, Mrs. Goldsmith said that this is not the case during some weekends and quoted instances when only one attendant was at the pool.

After lengthy debate, the Mayor invited Mr and Mrs Goldsmith to sit in on the meeting and hear the report which would be tabled at part of the General Manager's Report to Council.

7.0 RESOLUTION BOOK UPDATE

7673 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Webb and Canham that the Resolution Book Update be received and dealt with.

(a) Fencing at Racecourse

Cr Canham asked whether any progress had been made on this matter. The General Manager said that the application submitted by the Trustees for funding to renew the fencing was not successful. Mr. Griffiths said he will follow this up and inform Council.

8.0 MAYOR'S ACTIVITY REPORT

The Mayor presented a written report giving details of his activities since the last meeting. He referred to the acquisition by Council of land for the extension of the industrial estate and said it was a pleasing result with conveyancing now in progress.

Cr Horan said the Gulargambone Youth Centre was officially opened on 21 April. He said Council should be congratulated as a partner in this program which is a vital service to the community. He encouraged councillors and staff to take time to visit the centre and see first hand the good work that is being done.

7674 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Horan and Webb that an official letter of congratulations be forwarded to Robyn Delaney and the Committee for the hard work and effort and for the vital service they provide to the Gulargambone community.

The Mayor referred to the upcoming Vibe event which will be conducted on 27 and 28 May. He said they are capping the number at 1200 participants. Cr. Horan said that Subway will be catering at "Vibe Town" (Coonamble Showground) during the event – this was a decision made by the organizing committee apparently as part of a deal with Subway to provide food. The Mayor said that last year's event focused particularly on sport, however this year will include many activities.

Cr. Horan said that local kids are not registering because the cost is about \$10/person which covers meals. He said it is hoped to get some assistance with this charge so that local students can take part.

The Mayor referred to the draft management plan on display and said that written comments close today. Cr Horan said it was again very disappointing that the public meeting held on 6 May to present the plan to the public was attended by only two people and they were from Gulargambone. Cr Horan congratulated staff on the way the budget was submitted and also for the presentation which was prepared for the meeting (but due to lack of interest was not shown).

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Another issue raised by the Mayor was the state of the Gulargambone toilets which he said “were a disgrace and an embarrassment to Council” and work should be carried out as a priority.

The Director of Corporate Services referred to the saving achieved by Council with the 2008 local government elections and suggested that could be utilized. It was decided to further discuss this matter later in the day.

7675 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Horan and Webb that the Mayor’s Activity Report be received and adopted.

FARMING ACTIVITIES

Cr Cullen informed Council that 1920 acres are being sown to wheat today. He asked the Director of Corporate Services if he could be provided with a profit/loss statement for each crop as that would give a better indication to the Farming Committee regarding expenses and income. The Director of Corporate Services said he would provide the required statements to Cr. Cullen.

9.0 CORRESPONDENCE

7676 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Canham and O’Brien that the Correspondence be received and dealt with.

Section A – Matters for Action by Council:

**9.1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT & SHIRES ASSOCIATIONS OF NSW E5
(30233)**

Informing Council of the NSW Government’s review of two important pieces of natural resource management legislation and seeking assistance with responses:

- Native Vegetation Act 2003; and
- Catchment Management Act 2003.

Advising the Associations are looking for input from councils on their experiences with each of these Acts to contribute to the review process.

The General Manager informed the meeting that both these Acts of Parliament have significant impact on the rural community of this Shire. Mr. Griffiths stated, however that difficulties have not manifested as in other areas (e.g. Bogan) and Council has not received any requests for assistance from ratepayers.

Mr. Griffiths pointed out that in respect of the Catchment Management Act 2003 there does appear to be significant shortcomings in Catchment Management Authorities maintaining the rivers and creeks to eradicate both noxious weeds, pests and undesirable uses. He said the impost has been placed back to Council to not only provide funding but also to implement activities seen as desirable by CMA Boards.

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7677 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb & O'Brien that Council not respond to the LGSA in respect of the review of the Native Vegetation Act 2003 and Catchment Management Act 2003.

9.2 NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE B13 (30245)

Referring to development applications received from time to time to build a home, shed or other structure in bush fire prone areas and saying that if a development is to be built in an area identified on Council's Bush Fire Prone map, a copy of the application must be forwarded to the local RFS for consideration and approval. Saying this is a method which hopefully will address any fire safety issues.

The General Manager informed the meeting that a copy of this letter pointing out the requirements of the NSW Rural Fire Service has been referred to Council's Health and Building Officer.

In response to a question from Cr. Cullen, the General Manager stated that some three years ago a map was produced which indicates scattered "bush fire prone" areas throughout the Shire.

7678 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that any development application received in the future to build a home, shed or other structure on land identified on Council's Bush Fire Prone Map be referred to the NSW Rural Fire Service for consideration and approval prior to being considered by Council, subject to a response being received within fourteen (14) days of referral.

9.3 NSW ROADS & TRAFFIC AUTHORITY A2 (30249)

Advising that to assist the NSW Department of Aboriginal Affairs (DAA) deliver on State Plan Priority F1, *Improved health and education and social outcomes for Aboriginal people*, the RTA will provide expert road safety advice on issues experienced in and around identified Aboriginal communities in NSW. Stating that the participation of Council is essential to the success of the project and asking Council to nominate an appropriate staff member to be part of the assessment team to work with the RTA. Saying the representative would provide their knowledge and familiarity with the local road network, experience regarding local issues and participate in relevant site visits of local and regional roads. Advising the project is planned to commence towards the end of April 2009 and the assessments will be completed by the end of September 2009.

Council noted that on the attachment provided with the letter, two sites around Gulargambone and Quambone have been stated, but not clearly identified.

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7679 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Karanouh and O'Brien that Council agree to participate in this road safety initiative and nominate the Director of Engineering Services as its representative to work with the Assessment Team and the RTA.

9.4 NSW BUSINESS CHAMBER G2-1 (340323)

Advising that NSW Business Chamber is launching a two year campaign leading up to the next State Election called "NSW – Reclaiming 1st". Saying that, as part of the campaign, it will be holding four symposia to gather together key thinkers and policy makers to ensure that business as usual does not become the default position of decision makers and opinion influencers. Inviting Council to be represented at its first symposium on Wednesday, 20 May from 8.30 a.m. – 3.30 p.m. at The Hilton. Seeking RSVPs by Friday 15 May.

The General Manager stated that whilst such a process may seem proactive, it is doubtful that small rural communities, such as Coonamble, would benefit from attendance.

7680 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Webb that Council not be represented at the NSW Business Chamber's Symposium on 20 May, 2009.

9.5 ROADS & TRAFFIC AUTHORITY G5 (30347)

Drawing attention to the Federal Government's recently released guidelines for applications to the 'Jobs Fund', including a specific Nation-wide allocation of \$40m for the construction of bike paths in 2009/2010. Advising that applications must be submitted by 22 May 2009.

The General Manager pointed out that bike paths have become an integral part of traffic management in high volume traffic areas, but he said they would be difficult to justify within our Shire.

7681 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that Council not make application for bicycle projects under the Federal Government's "Jobs Fund".

9.6 MARTHAGUY PICNIC RACE CLUB D7 (30358)

Thanking Council for supporting the Club's race meeting in September 2008 and saying it was a lifeline for the small, hardworking volunteer committee. Requesting that Council again budget in the 2009/2010 Management Plan to support this year's event. Estimating that the amount to hire the toilets will be \$3,600.

The General Manager advised the meeting that last year's contribution to the Club was \$3,000 (GST net).

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7682 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Webb that Council advise the Marthaguy Picnic Race Club that it has provided \$3,400 in the 2009/2010 budget to assist with hiring of toilet facilities.

9.7 DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT R4 (30362)

Advising that in accordance with section 566(3) of the Local Government Act 1993 the Minister for Local Government has determined that the maximum rate of interest payable on overdue rates and charges for the 2009/2010 rating year will be 9%.

7683 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Karanouh that the maximum rate of interest payable on overdue rates and charges for the 2009/2010 rating year, being 9%, be included in Council's Revenue Policy and Statement of Charges to apply to ratable and non-ratable properties.

9.8 DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT S13 (30393)

Updating councils on the review of the Swimming Pools Act and advising of the release of an Options Paper to seek an indication of the level of support for possible amendments to the Act. Advising the report of the *Review of the Swimming Pools Act 1992* is now available on the Department's website at www.dlg.nsw.gov.au. Council is invited to consider the Options Paper and make submission using the form available on the website. Saying closing date for submissions is Friday 12 June 2009 at 5 p.m.

7684 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that this matter be referred to the Health and Building Department to peruse the Options Paper and, if necessary, prepare a submission on Council's behalf on the form provided on the Department's website.

9.9 COONAMBLE SHOW SOCIETY INC S5 (30391)

Referring to the fence along the river bank at the Showground which has been an ongoing problem for a number of years. Stating it is virtually non-existent and allows easy access to the ground. Saying the new pavilion is a great asset and a new fence is required to deter vandalism as well as give the ground a better look. Advising gate takings are the Society's main source of income and asking that Council consider having the fence renewed, hopefully for the upcoming show.

The General Manager reported that problems with the subject fencing have been raised for many years and it appears no permanent solution has been found. He said that rectification results in the fence being again cut to not only gain access for the show, but for other events.

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Mr. Griffiths said he understands that the Rodeo Association has its members patrol the area to mitigate instances of illegal entry. The General Manager said that maintenance will be carried out on the fence prior to the Show.

7685 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Cullen and Schieb that the Coonamble Show Society Inc. be advised temporary repairs will be carried out on the fence and a permanent solution investigated for future Council budgets.

Section B: For Information Only

9.10 WATER DIRECTORATE INC H2 (30210)

Advising it has developed the *Odour Management Guidelines* on behalf of member Councils. Saying the guidelines were written by MWH Global and overseen by members of the Water Directorate Sewer Subcommittee. Inviting feedback about the content, structure or usefulness of the document.

9.11 PRESIDENT – AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION L9 (30214)

Providing an update on a number of important matters affecting local government, including:

- National Broadband
- Community Infrastructure
- National Awards for Local
- Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme.

9.12 LOCAL GOVERNMENT & SHIRES ASSOCIATIONS OF NSW T4-2 (30216)

Advising the Associations are currently managing a number of significant projects focusing on local government's role in natural resource management. Stating these projects are funded by the Australian Government. Saying one project is "*Integrating Natural Resource Management (NRM) into Local Government Land-Use Planning Project*". Advising that local government is a significant investor in NRM and has responsibility for land-use planning decisions. Stating that the project steering committee has commissioned an independent report to investigate the issue and make recommendations.

9.13 OUTBACK ARTS INC A11 (30226)

Enclosing minutes of Outback Arts AGM held at Cobar on 28 March 2008 and of the General Meeting held on 11 December 2008 at Brewarrina.

9.14 QUAMBONE RESOURCES COMMITTEE H1-1 (30253)

Acknowledging and thanking Council for work carried out to the Quambone Hall. Saying that having a new door at the entrance to the kitchen and new latches on the other three entrances has made using the hall easier to lock.

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9.15 SPENCER STEER A12 (30294)

Advising that Mr Gary Mottau will be joining Spencer Steer effective 4 May 2009. Saying Gary is a Chartered Accountant with 20 years' experience in public practice prior to servicing the Warringah community for the last eight years as their CFO and is currently Chairperson of the LGMA Finance Professionals (SIG).

9.16 GOWEST D5 (30333)

Referring to current economic times which are resulting in many changes to the workforce, including unexpected downturn of staff numbers and even the closure of some businesses. Stating that as a regional development board it is keen to develop a proactive response to combat the current trends and plan for a brighter future. Inviting Council to be part of this response, asking for specific information to be provided and advising what action Gowest will take.

The General Manager informed Council that this letter has been referred to the Economic Development Managers to supply the required information.

9.17 TOWER AND GENERAL REAL ESTATE R4 (30350)

Advising the business has moved to 46 Castlereagh Street and requesting that in future when properties are to be auctioned, the company has the opportunity to be considered.

The General Manager reported that Mr. David Connell, the Principal of the firm, did not have the requisite license at the time Council granted the expression of interest for the sale of land for overdue rates auction. Mr. Griffiths said he will be given the opportunity to submit an expression of interest when future sales are scheduled.

9.18 DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT L10-1 + H2-4 (30361)

Reminding councils of the importance of developing, reviewing and updating business continuity plans. Setting out recommended action for councils and saying while there is no immediate threat from Swine Influenza councils are strongly encouraged to review their business continuity plans to ensure they are current and comprehensive and include plans to minimize the potential risks to councils' operations arising from possible human influenza pandemics.

9.19 COORDINATOR, WESTERN REGION LAND USE PLANNING STRATEGY E5-2 (30375)

Advising that the Department of Planning is restructuring and creating Deputy Director-Generals and Executive Directors, etc., which is causing delays to a response regarding whether the Land Use Strategy is endorsed for public exhibition.

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The General Manager advised that a letter expressing concern of the Group has been forwarded to the Department, together with a request to expedite the process. Mr. Griffiths said Council will recall that an extraordinary meeting was held in February 2009 to ensure delays did not occur.

**9.20 LOCAL GOVERNMENT & SHIRES ASSOCIATIONS OF NSW L9
(30392)**

Inviting Council and the community to support Local Government Week in NSW and get behind the theme in 2009 – *Keeping it Local*. Saying that whilst some councils do not participate in LG Week, the Associations believe it is a good opportunity to focus on positive outcomes achieved by councils.

The General Manager said that traditionally, this Council has not participated in LG Week following poor response and acknowledgement from the community some years ago.

9.21 GILGANDRA SHIRE COUNCIL R2

Providing an update on the MBIRA saying that MBIRA has effectively been 'on hold' for some 18 months while the Government initiated the ARTC study to determine a preferred route for the line within the far western corridor. Saying that the Shires Association should now be in a position to lobby for the commencement of construction as the study concludes. Asking that a response be provided if Council is able to attend the meeting in Sydney from 4.30 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. on 2 June, which will be held in the Ground Level Board Room at the Sofitel Wentworth.

7686 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Webb and O'Brien that the information contained in Item Nos. 9.10 to 9.21 inclusive be noted.

7687 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Cullen that Councillor Webb be authorised to attend the meeting in Sydney on 2 June, 2009 in regard to the MBIRA.

At this juncture, the General Manager drew Council's attention to the update from the website showing the selected route of the inland rail line. Mr. Griffiths said this was the route proposed some years ago and it is now obvious that it was planned from the start.

URGENT BUSINESS – SUPPLEMENTARY CORRESPONDENCE

7688 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Canham that the following items be classified "urgent business" and dealt with:

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9.22 ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF NSW E2 (30408)

Acknowledging receipt of Council's letter regarding the breakdown of final costs for the 2008 local government election and providing responses to Council's enquiries. Advising that as a result of the amendments the Commission encloses a credit note for \$359 (plus GST), together with an amended statement of account showing the amount outstanding.

The General Manager stated that the revised amount payable by Council is now \$19,395.10 and with the \$15,960.00 already paid, equates to a cost of \$35,355.10 for the conduct of the 2008 Local Government Elections, which is a much better result than the August 2008 (interim) invoice of \$47,080.00.

The Mayor congratulated the General Manager for his persistence in following this matter up with the NSW Electoral Commission on behalf of Council's ratepayers.

7689 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Canham and Webb that Council note the payment of \$19,395.10 being the balance of the account for conduct of the 2008 Local Government Elections.

**9.23 LOCAL GOVERNMENT & SHIRES ASSOCIATIONS OF NSW A2
(30406)**

Writing to the Mayor regarding the Elsa Dixon Aboriginal Employment Program which was established in 2001 as an initiative of the NSW Government to encourage job opportunities and career advancement for Aboriginal Australians. Encouraging council to explore the possibility of participating in the Aboriginal employment opportunities under the Permanent Employment element of the program.

The General Manager pointed out that tradesmen are always difficult to find in Coonamble and the employment of an apprentice in carpentry, plumbing or electrical could be an advantage to the contractors within the town.

7690 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Cullen and O'Brien that Council seek funding from the Elsa Dixon Aboriginal Employment Program to employ an Indigenous apprentice carpenter.

9.24 VIBE ALIVE C8 (30423)

Seeking approval to have pyrotechnics at the Vibe Alive Concert on Wednesday 27 May 2009 at the Coonamble Sportsground. Advising the fireworks will run for five minutes and take place approximately 9 p.m. Stating that if approval is granted Vibe Alive will ask the local fire department to be on site for the duration of the display.

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The General Manager informed the meeting that Council agreed to pyrotechnics being used as part of the final concert in August last year, however application was made by Vibe Alive earlier and provided time for a full mail out to residents advising of the fireworks display, however as the event will be conducted in two weeks' time, there is not sufficient time for a mail out. Mr. Griffiths said It was also a condition of last year's approval that no heavy vehicles be used on the playing fields and the fireworks not be held any later than 9 p.m.

7691 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Canham and Webb that Council agree to pyrotechnics being used as part of the concert at the Coonamble Sportsground on 27 May, in accordance with conditions set down for the 2008 event, i.e. no heavy vehicles to be used on playing fields, the same area of the ground being used, fireworks not to be later than 9 p.m. and notice of the intention to use fireworks being given to residents through the local radio station and press.

9.25 QUAMBONE POLOCROSSE CLUB INC D7 (30421)

Advising its 2009 Carnival will be held on 27 & 28 June 2009 and seeking Council's financial support. Stating that last year Council contributed a \$200 cash sponsorship which allowed the Club to purchase prizes.

7692 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Canham and O'Brien that Council agree to contribute a \$200 cash sponsorship to the Quambone Polocrosse Club for its 2009 Carnival and that the amount be sourced from the Donations Vote.

9.26 COONAMBLE LITTLE ATHLETICS CLUB S5 (30420)

Asking for an upgrade of the discus facilities at Coonamble Sportsground by enclosing the discus circles in a durable fence so that no-one will be accidentally hit with a discus. Stating that the lack of a fenced structure has been noted as an OH&S risk and needs to be addressed in the immediate future. Proposing to assist financially, the Club will donate a proportion of the cost for the erection of the structure and suggesting that surrounding schools using the area may also make a contribution. Saying the Club has details of legal requirements and dimensions should Council wish to peruse these documents.

7693 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Canham and O'Brien that Council:

- (1) Instruct staff to source the necessary documents from Coonamble Little Athletics Club;
- (2) Compile cost estimates for the proposed erection of fencing structures associated with the discus activity;
- (3) Advise Coonamble Little Athletics that the matter will be further considered at the June meeting of Council, however no funding is available in this or next years' management plan.

**9.27 LUKE CRAWFORD, L CRAWFORD CONSTRUCTIONS PTY LTD S6-5
(30446)**

Saying he has recently completed building of the new pavilion at the Showground and thanking Council for the opportunity to take on a project of significant size. Stating that the biggest obstacle preventing local builders taking on big jobs is the lack of skilled labour. Advising that, in the last couple of days, he has lost a fully qualified carpenter and this will hamper his ability to compete on further large contracts. Saying that if Council put apprentices through their training they would learn what they needed over time. Advising he would be happy to discuss this matter, endeavouring to tackle the problem with Council and keep bigger jobs and the resultant economic advantages in town.

7694 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that Council thank Mr. Crawford for building the new pavilion at the Showground and advise of its intention to apply for grant funding to employ an Indigenous apprentice carpenter.

9.28 "C" DIVISION SHIRES ASSOCIATION OF NSW S3-3 (30418)

Drawing attention to some items that will be part of the Shires Conference agenda. Advising that Premier Nathan Rees agreed to open the Conference and Michael Daley, MP, Minister for Roads will address delegates on the second day. Advising "C" Division will not be having an organised dinner on the Monday night, however if Council representative would like to join him (Cr Ray Donald) and Bogan Shire delegates for an informal dinner, please advise prior to the Conference.

7695 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that Council's delegates not attend the Bogan Shire delegates for an informal dinner on the Monday night of the Conference.

9.29a DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS' ASSOCIATION S11 (30407)

Seeking assurance from Council that it will not be attempting to make employees on contract or other form of TRP arrangement pay the increased employer contribution for the LGSS Defined Benefit Scheme from 1 July 2009 and asking Council to response by Thursday 14 May.

The General Manager declared an interest in this matter as he is the only employee on Contract affected by the increased superannuation contributions. Mr. Griffiths said that the Director of Corporate Services will report to Council when the actual costs become apparent. The General Manager left the room.

7696 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Canham and O'Brien that this matter be noted.

9.29b MRS HELEN FERGUSON

Advising that as a regular volunteer at the Gulargambone Shire Library she has occasion to use the ladies toilet at the Shire Hall, as do all other volunteers while on library duties. Pointing out that a lot of water is being wasted every hour and saying the state of the toilets discourages outsiders from using the facility.

The General Manager informed Council that the toilets at the Hall were repaired on 2 April, 2009. He said staff reported them in very poor repair due to the lack of use and maintenance. Mr. Griffiths said that no water problem has been reported until receipt of this letter and it appears that some monitoring of the maintenance requirements associated with the hall may be required. The General Manager pointed out that monitoring and feedback is normally provided by the Management Committee, however staff will investigate as a matter of priority.

7697 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that Council write to Mrs. Ferguson advising that the toilets were being repaired today and further that a letter be forwarded to the Management Committee seeking cooperation in advising of maintenance problems and feedback.

**9.30 A/DIRECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT
A3 (30431)**

Writing in reply to Council's second action plan in respect of the Promoting Better Practice Review. Noting that Council has already implemented many of the recommendations and appears to be making good progress on others. Encouraging Council to update the elected body on the progress of addressing the remaining recommendations on a regular basis and the Department remains available to provide feedback. Thanking Council for advising him of its progress.

The General Manager said it is pleasing that the effort expended in addressing the twenty eight recommendations made by the Department following the Promoting Better Practice Review has not been in vain with only a small number of matters remain outstanding (e.g. Social/Community Plan). Mr. Griffiths said the Department seems more than satisfied with the progress attained and the standard of Council's governance and administration.

7698 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that Council note the positive position of its governance and administration identified by the Department of Local Government's Promoting Better Practice Review and continue to progress the minor matters outstanding, along with development of sound management practices for local government.

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**9.31 THE HON STEVE WHAN MP, MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES
F5-2 (30432)**

Advising that Council's application for funding under the Natural Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP) has been approved by both the NSW and Commonwealth Governments in the 2008/2009 round of funding for the remediation of Coonamble levee. Stating the approved amount is \$30,000.

The General Manager reminded Council that a similar amount of funding was granted by the Commonwealth Government for the design phase of the project and this \$30,000 represents the State's contribution which, when added to Council's \$30,000, results in a \$90,000 program.

7699 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Webb that Council formally accept the \$30,000 funding allocation from the State Government for remediation of Coonamble Levee, authorise the affixing of Council's Common Seal to relevant documents and request the Minister to expedite the provision of the long outstanding flood study.

9.32 SKYWARD ENTERTAINMENT L5 (30441)

Providing details of a fireworks display that will occur at the Coonamble Showground on Tuesday evening, 19 May, 2009, the first night of Coonamble Show. Advising the fireworks will be held at 8.00 p.m. with a duration of about 10 minutes. Enclosing a copy of its Public Liability Insurance Cover in an amount of \$20,000,000.

7700 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that Council approve the use of fireworks at the Coonamble Showground on Tuesday evening, 19 May 2009, at 8 p.m. for a duration of 10 minutes, subject to the following conditions:

- (1) A current copy of fireworks display licence prior to the event.
- (2) Permit access onto the land to officers of the Coonamble Shire Council or any other government department or public authority at reasonable times for the purposes of inspecting the operation as they consider necessary. This concurrence shall not extend to and shall not affect the rights of Coonamble Shire Council in respect of any matter or thing in or arising out of the approval which is not in conformity with any statutory matter or legislative requirement upon the applicant.
- (3) Compliance with all rules and regulations of the Coonamble Shire Council.
- (4) Notify the Coonamble Police of your intention to conduct a fireworks display and compliance with any rules and regulations given by the Police.

10.0 REPORT BY GENERAL MANAGER

7701 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Canham that the report submitted by the General Manager be received and dealt with.

10.1 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS DETERMINED UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

Councillor Schieb declared an interest in this matter and left the room.

7702 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Canham that Council note Development Application Nos. 001/2009, 003/2009, 005/2009, 011/2009 & 013/2009, together with Complying Development Application Nos 009/2009 & 010/2009 have been approved under delegated authority since the last meeting.

7703 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Canham and O'Brien that Item 10.4 of the General Manager's Report be brought forward for discussion whilst Mr. and Mrs. Goldsmith are still present at the meeting.

10.4 CLOSURE OF THE POOL FOR TWO DAYS EACH WEEK

Following a resolution at the April meeting, the General Manager investigated the closure of the Coonamble and Gulargambone swimming complexes for two days of each week, noting that weekdays were specifically targeted.

The General Manager reported that some 210 letters of objection have been received, with one commending the investigation. Mr. Griffiths said that many of the letters of objection are circular letters and many contain more than one signature. Copies of the letters received were tabled at the meeting.

Mr. Griffiths pointed out that should the pools be closed on two weekdays the effect on budgetary considerations would not be significant owing to a shifting of ordinary time from one function to another, i.e. the sixteen hours' ordinary time saved for each of the two employees would need to be accommodated under another function of Council, e.g. parks and gardens. He said that closure during weekends would result in a saving of ten hours at double time for one employee, plus applicable allowances.

The General Manager explained that the Coonamble swimming complex comprises three bodies of water and, as such, requires a minimum of two staff members unless there is a reasonable expectation that less than 50 patrons will attend any session. He pointed out that this is impossible to predict consistently and would require the calling out of assistance should numbers exceed the required level.

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The General Manager reported that Council receives very little income from the pools and any reduction in service level would, in all likelihood, necessitate a reduction of around \$7,000 in admission charges. Mr. Griffiths provided other financial outcomes and options for Council's consideration and pointed out that there will always be overtime paid to provide this facility.

7704 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Canham that Council receive the report and take no action regarding the proposed closure of the pool for two days each week.

A MOTION

PROPOSED by Cr. Canham **SECONDED** by Cr. Webb that discussion on the pool continue and Council bring forward Item 10.5 of the General Manager's Report for consideration.

AN AMENDMENT

7705 PROPOSED by Cr. Schieb **SECONDED** by Cr. Karanouh that Council defer consideration of Item 10.5 of the General Manager's Report for consideration in Closed Session later in the meeting.

The General Manager suggested it may be appropriate to consider this item as a separate matter and informed the meeting that the Department has a poor view of councils conducting business in Closed Session unless it accords strictly with the guidelines set out in Section 10A of the Local Government Act 1993.

However Councillors indicated they wished to discuss sensitive issues and thought it appropriate to discuss this item in Closed Session.

On being put to the vote, the **AMENDMENT WAS CARRIED** and on becoming the motion, was carried.

At this juncture, 10.30 am, Mr & Mrs Goldsmith left the meeting.

10.2 SUGGESTED HIRE CHARGES – USE OF FACILITIES – COONAMBLE SHOWGROUND

Council noted that a suggested list of hire charges were presented to the March 2009 meeting, then placed on public exhibition calling for written submissions. Expiry date for receipt of submissions was Wednesday, 8 April.

The General Manager pointed out that when he suggested this set of fees/charges for the new facilities at the Showground he had in mind special functions/ events, not smaller groups, such as Soccer Club, Pony Club, Equestrian Club and the like.

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Councillors noted that in keeping with past practice, Council requires payment of a refundable security deposit for the pavilion, a key deposit and various cleaning deposits. The General Manager pointed out that Council should require that fees and various security charges are paid when the booking is made.

Two submissions were received concerning Council's proposed charges, namely Coonamble Junior Soccer Club and Coonamble Equestrian Club/ Coonamble Hack and Pony Club (joint) and details of the submissions were presented to the meeting.

Councillor Cullen mentioned the Pony Club annual camp at the Showground and asked what fees would be charged. The General Manager stated that there is a separate fee for the Camp which is listed in the Fees and Charges.

RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Karanouh that Council:

- (1) Advise the Junior Soccer Club that it was never intended to impose additional fees on the Club, but use of the kitchen must incur a fee.
- (2) Advise the Coonamble Hack & Pony Club and Coonamble Equestrian Club that their offer of \$250 for both clubs as an annual fee to cover use of the ground is acceptable, however use of the kitchen must incur a fee.
- (3) Amend the Fees and Charges to reflect Council's decision.

Cr Karanouh referred to a private business which operates on Council's land and requested whether it holds the appropriate licences. The General Manager said he would make enquiries.

At this juncture, 10.45am the meeting adjourned for morning tea and resumed at 11.08am.

10.3 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION NO. 015/2009 - 4 FLOYD STREET COONAMBLE

The General Manager informed the meeting that this application refers to the construction of a carport at 4 Floyd Street Coonamble, which would be attached to the existing dwelling on the land. He pointed out that Council's fixed building line to Floyd Street is set at 7.5 metres and the carport will result in an encroachment on the fixed building line of 5.7 metres. The General Manager said Council should note that the subject dwelling on the allotment has been in place for many years and definitely before Council's present policy.

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Mr. Griffiths stated that delegation to Council staff does not include changes to Council's building requirements, hence the need to present the application to Council.

7707 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that Council approve Development Application 015/2009 subject to the following conditions:

1. That the fixed building line of 7.5 metres to Lot 1, DP 340084, No 4 Floyd Street Coonamble be varied to allow an encroachment of 5.7 metres for the construction of a carport.
2. Development of the site shall be carried out generally in accordance with the approved plans, specifications and documentation submitted with the application, subject to any notations in red or modification required as a consequence of any condition.
3. Compliance with any attached Prescribed Conditions that may be relevant to the proposed development.
4. All construction work must be carried out in accordance with the requirements of The Building Code of Australia.
5. A sign must be erected on the development site showing:
 - a) Name, address and telephone number of the Principal certifying Authority for the work
 - b) Name of the Principal Contractor (if any) for any building work and a telephone number on which that person may be contacted outside working hours.
6. All roofed and paved areas are to be drained and the water from those areas conveyed:
 - a) by means of a fully sealed down pipe and storm water system to the concrete kerb located in Floyd Street Coonamble all to Council's requirement and in accordance with AS/NZS 3500 National Plumbing and Drainage Code and the New South Wales Plumbing Code of Practice.
7. Construction works are to be limited as follows:
 - a) Monday to Friday - 7.00 am to 6.00 pm.
Saturday - 7.00 am to 1.00 pm.
 - b) No construction work which will adversely impact on the amenity of the area is to take place on Sundays or Public Holidays.
8. The occupation or use of the building must not commence until an Occupation Certificate has been issued by the Principal Certifying Authority.
(N.B. All Critical Stage Inspections must have been completed prior to the issue of the Occupation Certificate).
9. The following mandatory critical stage inspections will be required in order to obtain a compliance certificate from the accredited certifying authority

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- a) at the commencement of the building work, erosion control, safety signs and site toilet facilities to be erected;
- b) prior to covering any storm water drainage connections;
- c) after the building work has been completed and prior to occupation.

11.0 REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

7708 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Webb and O'Brien that the report by the Director of Corporate Services be received and dealt with.

11.1 RATE COLLECTIONS

The Director of Corporate Services informed the meeting that Council is slightly in front with rate collections compared to this time last year, however Mr Warren said it is an onerous task and one that has to be addressed consistently.

7709 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that the Total Combined Rate Collections to 30 April 2009 be noted.

11.2 LIST OF INVESTMENTS

7710 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Canham and O'Brien that that the Investments held at 30 April 2009 be noted and it also be noted that Council's Investments comply with s625(2) of the Local Government Act 1993 and Council's Investment Policy.

11.3 GOODS & SERVICES TAX – COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATE

The Director of Corporate Services reminded Council that since the introduction of the GST Council's auditors have been required to provide a certificate annually to the Department of Local Government stating Council has in place systems adequate for the collection and payment of the GST to the Federal Government. Mr. Warren pointed out there is no longer a requirement for an independent GST review to be undertaken as Council is now authorised to undertake its own certification, noting that an external independent certificate will incur an expense of at least \$500.

7711 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Karanouh and O'Brien that the necessary elected members and staff be authorised to sign the Certificate of Compliance for GST for period 1 May 2008 to 30 April 2009, a copy of which was submitted to the meeting.

11.4 APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION FROM GENERAL RATES – MURDI PAAKI REGIONAL ENTERPRISE CORPORATION LTD

The Director of Corporate Services referred to the letter received from Murdi Paaki Regional Enterprise Corporation Ltd (MPREC) making application for exemption from the general rate portion on all properties owned by the Corporation, now and for future rating years.

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Mr. Warren reported that the Corporation, in its letter, stated that it is for aboriginal employment and all funds generated are placed back in the organisation to further its goals. The Director of Corporate Services stated that four properties were identified by MPREC as being eligible for general rate exemption, however further investigation is underway regarding the one located at 49 – 53 Barton Street, Coonamble described as a “Caretaker’s Cottage” which is currently tenanted and rated “residential”.

The Director of Corporate Services reported that prior to Council being in a position to include it, MPREC should apply for a change of use to “business & industrial” to comply with the requirements of the Local Government Act or provide evidence that it is actually being used for the purposes of the benevolent institution.

Council noted that if the general rate portion of rates on the three eligible properties is granted for the 2008/2009 rating year Council would have to write off an amount of \$1,484.53. However, if Council decides to pro-rata the exemption from the date of application the amount for this year would be \$394.51.

7712 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Karanouh that Council:

- (1) Advise Murdi Paaki Regional Enterprise Corporation Ltd. that the application for exemption from general rates under s556(1)(h) of the Local Government Act 1993 has been assessed on properties, excluding the Barton Street premises, from the date of application;
- (2) Request MPREC to provide proof that the Barton Street premises is being used for the purposes of the “institute or charity” and request a change of use from “residential” to “business & industrial” to comply with the Act;
- (3) Authorise the General Manager to write off the amount of general rates levied on the three eligible MPREC properties, in the amount of \$1,484.53.

11.5 EXPENDITURE - SPORTSGROUND & SMITH PARK

The Director of Corporate Services provided a report detailing expenditure incurred to 30 April, 2009 (10 months) at both the Coonamble Sportsground and Smith Park. Council noted the figures for both areas, which were:

• Sportsground	\$55,714
• Smith Park	\$39,797

The Director of Corporate Services reported on the various categories of expenditure, giving explanations regarding each section, namely, plant, materials, hardware, labour for mowing, water charges and electricity.

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Mr. Warren reported that each year Council adopts a budget to provide these facilities. He said that in recent years Council has requested additional funds be committed to ensure the grounds are maintained in good condition as part of the entrance to town.

Cr Schieb questioned the amount of overtime paid – the General Manager stated that Council pays overtime for the opening/locking of the toilets each day, call outs for problems associated with sewer blockages, vandalism and other issues that must be addressed out of hours. Cr Schieb said that it seems to him Smith Park labour content is excessive in dollar amounts. The Director of Corporate Services answered questions from Cr. Schieb.

7713 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Canham that the content of the report be noted.

16.0 REPORT BY TOURISM DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Mr. Baldwin was at the meeting to present his report and gave updates on the following issues:

- Visitor Information Numbers – during the Easter period Coonamble exceeded tourist numbers recorded by Grenfell and Narromine.
- Rodeo – thanked Cr Webb for launching the Rodeo - \$10,000 funding has been provided for additional promotion. TV and radio advertisements will commence this week. New website created which should be effective for the next 10 years.
- Vibe Alive – this will be a huge event – capping @ 1200 participants. Vibe Town will be Coonamble Showground. The new pavilion will “sleep” 300 – assessed by H&B Officers. 150 will camp at the Multi Purpose Hall at Coonamble High School. 20 – 30 staff will be involved. All accommodation outlets are full.
- Campbelltown City Council – 5 – 6 representatives will attend the Rodeo – requested councillors to help with hosting duties during the period the visitors are in Coonamble – he will be at the hospitality tent at the Showground and can take care of them there.

7714 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Cullen and Canham that the report by the Tourism Development Manager be adopted.

16.1 OUTBACK CALLING

The Tourism Development Manager referred to the letter from Bruce Campbell AM MBE as Chair of Outback Calling Ltd inviting Council to become part of ‘Outback Calling’ and specifically the National Rural Service Providers Directory.

Mr. Baldwin said the organisation proposes a continuing campaign to promote the outback commencing with 'Outback Calling 2010' and including major projects in 2014 and 2018. He said key goals of the organisation are:

- To heighten recognition of the real values of rural Australia, its people, its industries;
- To provide a stronger national voice for the 'Bush';
- To be a driver of marketing to attract residents and tourists to the 'Bush';
- To foster career opportunities for young Australians in the 'Bush' etc

7715 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that Council take a standard registration in the National Rural Service Providers Directory for \$300 and that the amount be allocated from the Tourism Vote.

URGENT BUSINESS – SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT BY TOURISM DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

7716 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that the following matter be classified "urgent business" and dealt with.

16.2 2009 COONAMBLE RODEO – TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

The Tourism Development Manager reported that last year Council successfully applied to the NSW Government for Regional Flagship Event Funding for the 2009 Coonamble Rodeo & Campdraft and was successful. He said that Tourism NSW is providing \$10,000 in advertising/marketing funding and the Rodeo Committee will be using this funding to create a new web site, 2009 posters and for increased regional advertising. As part of the successful application the Rodeo has been featured in many Tourism NSW publications and on their web sites and it has been noted that the level of enquiries has increased significantly on 2008.

Mr. Baldwin said that comprehensive advertising for the event commences on 13th May and will include 15 second advertisements on PRIME Orange and PRIME Tamworth, advertising on 2WEB and features in the Dubbo Daily Liberal, Western Magazine, and North Western Magazine. He said much of this advertising will be pointless or produce minimal economic impact for the town if there are no facilities for tents, caravans or campervans. Mr. Baldwin pointed out that space at the showground is already restricted and limited to competitors and there are safety issues with trying to send visitors there. He said that in company with the General Manager and Council Works staff Smith Park and the Sportsground were inspected on the 8th May. Mr. Baldwin said staff formed the opinion that the southern half of Smith Park could be opened up as a temporary non-powered camping site with access through the existing caravan park or off the highway. The payment, booking and management of the temporary facility would be coordinated by the Coonamble Riverside Caravan Park with toilet and shower facilities at Smith Park and the Coonamble Sportsground being used.

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Council noted that no football is scheduled for the June long weekend, but netball is set down and the intention is to not disrupt that activity.

7717 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Webb that Council instruct staff to complete planning to create a temporary extension to the Coonamble Riverside Caravan Park from 5 – 9 June 2009 within the area currently designated as Smith Park, south of the marked netball courts **AND FURTHER** that if bookings dictate the necessity, that authority be given to the General Manager to look at other additional sites, e.g. sportsground.

At this juncture, 12 noon, the Tourism Development Manager left the meeting and the Economic Development Manager was in attendance to present their report.

15.0 REPORT BY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

7718 RESOLVED the motion of Crs. Canham and Cullen that the report by the Economic Development Manager be adopted.

At this juncture, 12.01pm the Mayor was called from the meeting and Deputy Mayor, Cr. Schieb took the Chair.

Ms Glasson answered questions from Councillors concerning issues raised in the report.

Cr O'Brien asked about Council's LEP – the General Manager said that because the Director General's Office is undergoing a restructure, nothing has been done. Mr. Griffiths said that the Group handling the LEP has lodged an objection at the time taken however, he said a number of councils are in the same position. The General Manager said he was not able to advise when the Land Use Study would be completed.

Cr Schieb referred to the Land Use Study and asked whether the Department of Planning would approve the building of a house on an area less than 1000ha. The General Manager said this area is the minimum on which a building entitlement is available.

Extension of Industrial Estate

7719 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that Council advertise regionally for expressions of interest from other businesses wishing to purchase a block in the new industrial area.

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Jobs Fund

The Economic Development Manager informed Council that the Federal Government has announced a new \$650m package to support and create jobs through one-off capital projects, included are construction of bike paths, vital community facilities, local infrastructure that creates immediate jobs, etc.

The General Manager said that if Council fails in its other bids to secure funding for the industrial estate expansion, it may be able to apply through the Jobs Fund. Mr. Griffiths said another project to be considered may well be the rectification of the weir wall – Council may be able to combine its application for funding for both projects.

7720 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Karanouh that Council authorise the General Manager to lodge an application for funding of \$200,000 to fix the weir wall, subject to prior authority from the CMA.

At this juncture, 12.15pm the Mayor returned to the meeting and resumed the Chair.

15.1 MINUTES OF MEETING OF BUSINESS ACTION GROUP

7721 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Canham that the minutes of the Business Action Group meeting held on 23 April, 2009 be noted.

15.2 MINUTES OF MEETING OF EMPLOYMENT CIRCLE

7722 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Canham and Webb that the minutes of the Employment Circle held on 28 April, 2009 be noted.

15.3 COONAMBLE RAILWAY STATION – RESTORATION & RE-USE

Cr Cullen advised the meeting that the Coonamble Rural Transaction Centre wishes to exclude itself from this project, saying it wishes to remain “main street specific” and cannot manage additional projects with current staffing levels.

The General Manager stated that Back on Track will now have to source another auspice body, pointing out that Council does not wish to be involved.

7723 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Karanouh and Webb that Council:

- (1) Notes the Coonamble Railway Station Precinct Strategic/Business Plan;
- (2) Forward the plan to Back on Track to process, advising that it will need to source another auspice body, noting that the Coonamble RTC has stepped down.

The Economic Development Manager left the meeting.

12.0 REPORT FROM DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING SERVICES

7724 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Karanouh that the report by the Director of Engineering Services be received and dealt with.

12.1 WORKS PROGRAM UPDATE

The Director of Engineering Services provided Council with an update of the current works program. Mr. Gamage also identified a works program for the next 12 months, which included the following:

1. Develop an asset management system for the Council.
2. Develop an internal monitoring system within the department, which includes improved reporting system.
3. Develop initiatives to improve commitment in the workforce to achieve set goals within the given budget requirements.
4. Develop initiatives to encourage young field staff to qualify for Team Leader, Overseer or even higher positions. This may be achieved by supporting further education and/or training as a part of Council's long-term Human Resources Development Policy Framework.
5. Develop initiatives to improve commitment to quality within the field staff.

Council noted the following challenges identified by the Director of Engineering Services:

1. Improve water quality through a systematic water quality management system.
2. Improve parks and gardens to lift the aesthetic view of Coonamble.
 - Castlereagh Highway – South of Gulargambone – sealing to be carried out this week, then another kilometre of work will commence.
 - Fluoridation of Water Supplies – issues being experienced regarding appropriate training before commissioning the plant.
 - Water Treatment – still waiting on approval from the Department of Water and Energy. Infinity Environmental anxious to proceed. Without approval of DWE cannot proceed.
 - Inspections of Infrastructure – will carry out inspections and report to Council.

7725 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Cullen that the report submitted by the Director of Engineering Services be noted.

12.2 REVIEW OF SMALL VEHICLE REPLACEMENT POLICY

The Director of Engineering Services referred to discussions at the April meeting regarding the possibility of disposing of used vehicles in a more profitable way.

Mr. Gamage said he has researched the history, along with the pros and cons of present practice which revealed that, based on a report submitted by the previous Director of Engineering, Council resolved to dispose of light vehicles through Pickles Auctions and purchase new vehicles from the local car dealer.

Mr. Gamage said that auctions through Pickles are, without a doubt, a process that is safe in accordance with any procurement guidelines. However, he said a comparison of the prices received from the auction with Redbook values; indicates generally, the price received through competitive bidding is a little less than the market value for cars. The Director of Engineering Services said this may be the reason that the majority of bidders are car dealers who do not bid up to the market value of the car.

The Director of Engineering Services reported that Council's current process may deprive potential locals from the chance of submitting interests towards the purchase of a vehicle and put forward a suggestions and options on ways to overcome this problem, should Council so desire.

Regarding the purchase of new light vehicles, the Director of Engineering referred to the present process which is to purchase through a single invitation at Government Contract Price from the only local car dealer. He pointed out both advantages and disadvantages of the process and provided options for Council to consider.

7726 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Cullen that Council:

- (1) Continue with the present process when purchasing light vehicles, i.e. through the local Holden dealer.
- (2) Continue to dispose of vehicles by auction through Pickles Auctions, Dubbo.

URGENT BUSINESS – DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING SERVICES SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

7727 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that the following item be classified "urgent business" and dealt with.

12.3 APPLICATION TO CLOSE ROAD – EASTERN END OF McCULLOUGH STREET

The Director of Engineering Services referred to the application by Mr. George McHugh to close and lease the eastern end of McCullough Street and construct a fully enclosed fence on the eastern end and a gated fence on the western end for lot owners to access their property.

Mr. Gamage reported that although Mr McHugh indicated that other property owners would be granted right of way to access their property, he pointed out it is difficult for Council to monitor. The Director informed the meeting that Council does not maintain the subject section of McCullough Street and this is not expected to change in the foreseeable future.

7727 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Cullen and O'Brien that Council decline the request by Mr McHugh to close the subject section of McCullough Street.

Councillor Canham requested that his name be recorded as voting against this resolution.

13.0 MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW & QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW TO 31 MARCH 2009

In presenting this report, the Director of Corporate Services called for questions from Councillors. He pointed out that Council has achieved some goals, with other works still underway. The Mayor asked whether there are any works scheduled which will not be finalized during the current year. The Director advised that some of the planned road works may not be undertaken.

The Director of Corporate Services identified items that required explanations which he provided to Council – they included:

- Insurance - workers compensation & other insurance rebates.
- Superannuation – additional expense.
- Plant running expenses – Director informed the meeting that Council needs to make plans to put more money into the Plant Replacement Reserve, otherwise it will not be sustainable, as it is becoming more expensive to purchase plant.
- Oncost Contribution – RTA.
- Private works income.

7728 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Canham that Council:

- (1) note the Management Plan Review;
- (2) approve the variations to votes as listed in the budget review documents;
- (3) note that, in the opinion of the responsible accounting officer, Council is in a satisfactory financial position;
- (4) note the position of Council's estimated reserves at 31 March 2009.

13.1 RESERVES (BUDGETED) AT 31 MARCH 2009

7729 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Canham that Council note the (budgeted) Reserves as at 31 March 2009.

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14.0 REPORTS FROM VARIOUS COMMITTEES

7730 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Karanouh that the reports from various Committees be received and dealt with.

14.1 MINUTES OF TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING

7731 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that the minutes of the Traffic Committee meeting held on 12 March 2009 be noted.

14.2 MINUTES OF AFTER SCHOOL CARE (VACATION CARE) MEETING

7732 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Canham and Webb that the minutes of the After School Care (Vacation Care) meeting held on 28 January 2009 be noted.

14.3 REPORT BY COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PATROL CO-ORDINATOR

7733 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that the Co-ordinator's report be noted.

17.0 REPORT BY SALEYARDS MANAGER

7734 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Schieb and Cullen that the Saleyard Manager's Report for the month of April, 2009 be adopted.

18.0 CONTRACT RANGER'S REPORT

7735 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Canham and Webb that the information contained in the Contract Ranger's report for the month of April 2009 be received and adopted.

Whilst discussing this report, Cr. Schieb asked were any members of the community exempt from conditions laid down under the Companion Animals Act – the General Manager replied there were not.

At this juncture, 1.00pm the meeting adjourned for lunch and resumed at 1.55pm

19.0 CLOSED SESSION

7736 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Karanouh that Council resolve into Closed Session in accordance with Section 10A 2(a) "*personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors)*".

7737 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Karanouh that the press and public be excluded from the meeting.

10.5 OPERATION OF SWIMMING POOL

Council noted the comprehensive report detailing the concept adopted by Warrumbungle Council to manage its swimming pools and the various issues that Council faces on a regular basis with regard to staffing. The General Manager pointed out that training of staff is carried out annually at significant cost to Council of around \$6,000.

The General Manager reported that Council has, for a number of years, expressed concern at the rising cost of operating and maintaining the Coonamble swimming complex but the reality exists that the facility is ageing and industrial provisions are becoming more difficult to circumvent. Mr Griffiths said that to lessen the cost to Council, serious consideration needs to be given to passing control of the pool across to the swimming club during training activities and swimming carnivals. He said this will result in the swimming club paying its way by having to provide public liability insurance for its members, significantly contribute to training of volunteers and in seeking out those volunteers. Mr. Griffiths indicated the saving to Council would be in the vicinity of \$3,000 for carnival days and around \$2,500 for training activity.

Lengthy debate ensued on the operation of the pool and suggestions on how to make providing the facility less expensive.

RESUME OPEN MEETING

7738 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Canham and O'Brien that Council resume Open Meeting.

ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF CLOSED SESSION

7739 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that Council adopt the recommendation from Closed Session, being Recommendation No. 19.1 to 19.3, as set out hereunder:

19.1 OPERATION OF SWIMMING POOL

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS that Council retain the status quo and seek input from Pool staff regarding methods of operation that may improve efficiency and the possibility of changing opening times during the Christmas school holiday period to 6am to 11am and 3am to 6pm

19.2 A1 TREE SERVICES

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS that for each individual job requiring services such as this, Council obtain quotes in an endeavour to achieve cost saving.

19.3 CHEAPER FUEL OPTION

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS that staff investigate this option of fuel supply by making contact with other Shires already using the cheaper option and report back to Council.

General Business:

Cr Canham:

- Old fire damaged shed at Sportsground – asked why it has not been removed.

Cr Cullen:

- Has had complaints about damaged/broken Otto bins – request Garbage Contractor to take more care when handling the bins.

Cr Webb:

- Positive comments and congratulations on the our town – these have come from surrounding Shires, i.e. Walgett and Coonabarabran. The Mayor said he also has had good feedback.

Cr O'Brien:

- Asked about official opening of the Pavilion – the Mayor advised that it will take place at 1.30pm on the second day of the Show.
- Thanked Council for the training she recently attended at Narromine – it was interesting and informative.
- Thanked staff for erecting the fence at Gulargambone Park.
- Thanked engineering staff for replacing the flood gauge at the Castlereagh River in Gulargambone.

7740 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs O'Brien and Canham that Council make application to the RTA Safety Officer regarding gopher use and that an education program be conducted.

Cr O'Brien:

- Suggested a re-education campaign be undertaken regarding recycling items, pointing out that the new type light globes are very dangerous.
- Made enquiry re E-waste – some organizations are already undertaking collection of computers, phones, etc.

7741 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Karanouh that the General Manager prepare a "Donations Policy" for Council's consideration.

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Cr Schieb:

- Relocation of cattle section – from Warrena Street (near the High School) to land in King Street. Requested that Council provide loam to make a driveway to the new area as it has heavy black soil.

7742 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Schieb and Karanouh that Council agree to provide loam, costing up to \$500, to assist in providing a driveway to the new cattle section in King Street for the High School and that the amount be provided from the donations vote.

Cr Canham:

- Fence at Quambone Depot – fence still not repaired. At 2.52pm Cr Canham left the meeting and did not return.

General Manager:

- Doctor's House at Gulargambone – David Connell has inspected the house, no indication of price has yet been given. Other agents will be advised of the proposed sale.
- GrainCorp – inspected land, given valuation (\$4000/ha min. - \$4500/ha max). Requires 20ha for future expansion – prices \$145,000 and \$105,000. Will need resolution when GrainCorp comes back with an offer.

- Industrial Estate – Purchase of additional land

7743 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Webb that Council endorse the action of the Director of Corporate Services in negotiating and purchasing the additional 7 hectares to extend the industrial estate.

- Toilets at Gulargambone – upgrading

7744 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Horan and O'Brien that the toilets at Gulargambone Park be repaired as a priority, noting that the original costing was \$30,000, of which \$5,000 has been spent on PC items, a further \$15,000 (approx) will come from saving on elections and the balance will be funded from the 2008/2009 surplus.

Cr O'Brien:

- Industrial signage – it was agreed to include costing for industrial signage in development costs following the exchange of contracts for the property.

Cr Karanouh:

- Crossing in Castlereagh Street – from National Bank to Bag-a-Bargain – needs urgent repair.

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Director of Engineering Services:

- Reported that work has been completed on the dangerous ramp on Wingadee Road.
- The portion of highway south of Gulargambone will be sealed on Friday 15 May.

This concluded the business and the meeting closed at 3.05 p.m.

These Pages (Page 1/4131 to 34/4164) were confirmed on the day
of2009 and are a full and accurate record of proceedings of the
ordinary meeting of Coonamble Shire Council held on 13 May 2009.

MAYOR