

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF COONAMBLE SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE GULARGAMBONE SCHOOL HALL, GULARGAMBONE ON
WEDNESDAY, 11TH MARCH, 2009, COMMENCING AT 9.12 A.M.**

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

3.0 APOLOGY

7513 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Karanouh that an apology for non attendance be accepted from Cr. Canham.

The Mayor informed the meeting that Cr. Canham is today attending the Memorial Service in Coonamble for his late nephew and passed on condolences to the family.

4.0 DELEGATIONS

Five delegations attended the meeting:

- Murdi Paaki Regional Enterprise Corporation
- Hon Ambulance Service – volunteer member
- Gulargambone Rural Transaction Centre Committee
- Gulargambone War Memorial & Mechanics Institute Hall Committee
- Weight of Loads Group (Centroc) – Messrs. David Babicci & Owen Jones.

5.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were submitted.

6.0 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

7514 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Schieb that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Coonamble Shire Council held on 11 February 2009 be confirmed.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

(a) Macdonald Park – Alcohol Free Zone

Cr. Schieb requested the position regarding this area being an alcohol free zone, as it is now not fenced and only the back portion is locked each night.

The Mayor replied that the law is still applicable to this area, even though the front is unfenced. He pointed out that when the Park was fenced and locked anyone found there could be charged with trespass – this was now not the case, although the alcohol ban still applied. The General Manager pointed out that all public areas in Coonamble, Gulargambone and Quambone have been designated alcohol free zones.

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(b) Election Expenses – Payment by Councils

Cr. Cullen referred to this matter and to the fact that other Councils are refusing to pay the exorbitant fees charged by the Electoral Commission. The General Manager stated that this Council is not refusing to pay, but has asked for actual cost breakdown to be provided – this information is still outstanding.

The General Manager stated that the Electoral Commission's estimate to conduct Coonamble Shire Council's elections was \$52,000 - \$12,000 has been paid (i.e. 80% of actual costs according to the 2004 Election with CPI increases).

(c) Application to Close/Purchase Part of Lane – Glover

Cr. Schieb asked whether there has been any action on this matter. The General Manager advised that a letter was forwarded to Mr. Glover following the February meeting, outlining the conditions as per the recommendation, however no response has been received.

Council noted that the proposed Policy for Lane Closings is now on public exhibition and the public has the opportunity to submit comments and/or objections, prior to the policy being formally adopted.

(d) Coonamble Vacation Care & Coonamble Community Radio

Cr Schieb referred to the proposed relocation of these two services if the Council owned building from which they operate was sold. The General Manager informed him that a meeting was held with the proponent of the business who has indicated a site in the industrial area would be preferable.

Cr. Cullen said he had been speaking with the owner of the land Council wishes to purchase for the industrial estate expansion who was happy with the east/west line, but would not agree to the north/south line proposal. The General Manager said a valuation of the area was expected shortly and the development would be carried out in stages. Mr. Griffiths referred to funding which is available to promote business and informed the meeting that an application has been submitted for subdivision expenses. Council noted that the proposal would proceed whether or not the application was successful.

7515 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Schieb that the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Coonamble Shire Council held on 18 February 2009 be confirmed.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(a) Zoning of Land in Gulargambone

In response to a question from Cr O'Brien, the General Manager said that only the changes put forward by Council have been listed in the minutes. Her concern for zoning of land in Gulargambone was included in the recommendations presented to Council by the consultants and therefore not included in the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting.

(b) Minimum Areas for Building Entitlements

Cr. Schieb raised the question of 1000 hectares being the minimum size of areas with a building entitlement. He suggested if water and power were available to a block that it should have a building entitlement. Cr Schieb said that if this were the case and it was a flexible rule, more people would be able to avail themselves of the rural lifestyle opportunity.

The General Manager informed the meeting that concessional allotments of 40 hectares were lost in May 2008 and he pointed out that this was done without reference to councils. Cr Schieb said it has been suggested that councils combine to lobby for flexible block sizes. The General Manager stated the criteria is not area based, but on being able to make a reasonable income.

The meeting noted that a Community Forum is to be held in the future and that is where landowners should make their voices heard and they are encouraged to attend as representatives of both the Department and the Consultants will be present.

PRESENTATIONS / DEPUTATIONS

(a) Murdi Paaki Regional Enterprise Corporation Ltd

At this juncture, Ms Janelle Whitehead, CEO of MPREC, together with Adam Cohen and Taryn Alberts were received to the meeting. Ms Whitehead acknowledged past and present owners of the Country and thanked Council for the opportunity to address the meeting.

Ms Whitehead informed Council of changes to CDEP. She said that a Remote Communities Program has been established for 2009 – 2012 and a requirement is that tenders are invited, closing on 27 March. She said that any organization can submit a tender and it is not a foregone conclusion that MPREC will be successful. Ms Whitehead referred to the CDEPs operating in Coonamble and Gulargambone and stated that successful projects are being conducted in other remote areas across the State.

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Council noted that Adam Cohen would address youth issues and Taryn would be speaking about the Community Assistance Patrol.

Adam informed the meeting that the two major projects of the Youth Centre for this year are the Strong Young Mums Program and the Youth Friendship Games. He gave a list of approximately 20 activities that are held for youth and emphatically pointed out that the youth centre is not for Indigenous youth, but every member of the community. He said this is something that should be made very clear. It was agreed that the media should be involved in getting this message across.

Council noted that all staff at the youth centre are qualified – they are available to help out at schools, participate in sports days. Adam referred to the Links to Learning run at Coonamble and Gulargambone, also Distance Education and other important areas where staff are involved for the good of youth. He said there is also a Disability Sports Program, holiday programs, youth camps, a young leadership program and gave a brief insight into each.

Cr Cullen asked Adam about children expelled from school and whether they could be forced to attend the youth club activities. Adam said this is not possible, however they do try to encourage their attendance at the club. Ms Whitehead that previously there was a good partnership with the school, but with staff changes this relationship has waned.

Cr. Schieb asked whether the Young Leadership Program could provide training in lifesaving and first aid. Adam said these activities could be included, however qualifications would not be of the standard to attract paid positions in the workforce.

Adam invited Councillors to visit the youth club and inspect the premises and facilities provided. The Mayor thanked him for his presentation.

At this juncture, Taryn Albert, who is the Coordinator of the Coonamble, Gulargambone and Walgett areas, provided information and statistics on the Community Assistance Patrol service which was operating in the three centres. She said that the service commenced in Coonamble in March 2008 and Gulargambone in October 2008. Ms Albert said that three local people are designated bus drivers and trained Murdi Paaki staff are also available for emergencies. She said they keep in touch with local police and any issues for DoCS are referred to Ms Whitehead. Council noted that mobile phone are installed in each of the three buses.

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Council noted from the statistics provided that the service is proving to be beneficial and said its operation is appreciated as it is evident that there has been a drop in the level of vandalism since its inception. Ms Albert answered questions from Councillors and brought them up to date with rules and regulations followed in operating the service.

At this juncture, Council thanked the delegation and the three members left the meeting.

(b) Volunteer Ambulance – Gulargambone

Ms. Daphne Earsman, a volunteer ambulance officer, addressed the meeting. Firstly she apologized on behalf of District Officer for the Castlereagh Region of the Ambulance Service of NSW, David Silver, who intended to be present, however unforeseen circumstances prevented his attendance.

She raised the issue of house numbering in Gulargambone, which appears to have evolved and has come to the point where response times are slower than they should be due to searching for the correct address. Ms Earsman gave an example of Kirban Street, where some houses have a lot number and house number that do not remotely correspond. She said that premises are not consecutively numbered, some have no numbers, others have the same number and some confuse the issue even more by using Lot Numbers and Street Numbers which differ. Ms. Earsman referred particularly to Kirban Street, Coonamble Street and Munnell Street.

Ms. Earsman pointed out Gulargambone volunteers have responding ambulance vehicles attend from Coonamble and Gilgandra and it is very difficult on occasions to find correct addresses. She requested that the issue be addressed as a priority.

Another issue raised was the lack of lighting in some areas of Gulargambone which also causes problems. Ms Earsman said that street lighting is non existence at the southern end of Yoolundry Street – the light at the corner was removed and not replaced. Council agreed to carry out inspections and endeavour to correct these anomalies.

(c) Gulargambone Rural Transaction Centre

Council welcomed Mrs Helen Ferguson, a Committee member of the Gulargambone Rural Transaction Centre, to the meeting. She referred to the importance of this business in Gulargambone. Mrs Ferguson said the Centre has a very competent manager and good staff, with an Indigenous trainee being employed part time. She said that the Centre cannot afford to have more staff and there is no room for expansion to accommodate other business there.

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Mrs Ferguson pointed out that since 2000 the Centre has collected rate payments, water accounts, etc. for Council free of charge. She requested that Council now consider a fee for services, pointing out that Gilgandra Shire Council pays \$1.10/transaction for the same services rendered.

The General Manager enquired why the service was carried out free of charge from the beginning. Mrs. Ferguson informed him that Council provided a loan to the Centre in its early stages and the then Committee performed the service in appreciation of that gesture.

Cr O'Brien reminded Council that prior to the arrangement being put in place with the Rural Transaction Centre a staff member from Coonamble would travel to Gulargambone to collect payments.

The meeting agreed that the General Manager provide a report on this matter to the next meeting.

Another issue raised by Mrs Ferguson was the placement of a sign on the Highway directing travellers to the RTC and the business conducted there. She referred to the sign placed by the twoeighttwoeight committee and said she could not understand why the RTC was refused permission by the RTA. The General Manager informed her that twoeighttwoeight is "tourist" and the RTC is "business". Mr. Griffiths said that amended guidance notes regarding signs on the Highway have recently been received from the RTA and the Committee may now be able to place a sign on private property fronting the Highway. The General Manager said he will look at the new regulations and inform the RTC Committee.

Mrs. Ferguson thanked Council for the opportunity to present the Committee's two issues.

(d) Gulargambone War Memorial and Mechanics Institute Hall Committee

At this juncture, Ms. Dale Terry, President of the subject Hall Committee, was received to the meeting. Ms. Terry stated that the Committee is endeavouring to raise funds by renting the hall for functions, however with the present condition of the toilets, this is not possible. She requested that Council staff inspect the toilets and, if possible, get one working efficiently by attending to plumbing, pointing out that currently water is being wasted and causes a slip hazard as it ponds on the floor.

The Director of Corporate Services informed the meeting that a vote of \$5,000 is provided for the Gular Hall and this is used is general maintenance, spraying for termites/spiders, rates, license fee and insurance.

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The General Manager agreed to get staff to inspect the toilets and carry out repairs to stop the wastage of water.

At this juncture, 10.30 a.m., the meeting adjourned for morning tea. Councillor Cullen left the meeting to attend the Memorial Service in Coonamble and he did not return. The meeting resumed at 11.11 a.m.

(e) Presentation by Centroc Weight of Loads Group

At this juncture Messrs Owen Johns and David Babbici from CENTROC Weight of Loads Group were received to the meeting to address Council on the activities of the Group.

Mr. Johns, Secretary of the Group, provided the meeting with a brief outline of the activities of the Group. He said that it had been operating since 1995 and in July 2009 will be renewing its contract with councils for a further four years. Mr. Johns informed Council that Coonamble is included in Category B with Cabonne, Cowra, Orange and Wellington. He stated Forbes was previously a participant, however has withdrawn.

Cr Schieb said that with the regulations introduced in 2005 90% of wheat trucks have correct weight and suggested that it may not be necessary to have inspectors on Council's roads. Mr. Johns suggested that breaches still occur when on farm storage is moved from farm to farm and pointed out that it is not only grain, but other commodities that are often overloaded. He also pointed out that harvest periods are not 'targeted' as normal rosters are spread over the whole period.

Mr. Babicci, Supervising Engineer, informed the meeting that the main issues with overloading are:

- Reduction in service life of roads/bridges
- Costs to both the community and road users.

He pointed out that shire roads are built to a lower standard than highways and heavy loads over short distances do more damage.

The Mayor asked how charges are allocated in connection with operations and administration. Mr. Babicci said that the Group operates two vehicles with four inspectors, employs a solicitor when IPB issues proceed to Court (which is not often) and an office person is employed for 21 hours/week. Council noted that its contribution to remain part of the Group is in the vicinity of \$27,000 annually. Mr. Babicci pointed out that the cost to Council is very minimal when compared to costs of road maintenance and pointed out that a study conducted by the RTA concludes a 10% saving in road maintenance cost.

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The General Manager enquired when a response was required – Mr. Owens said within the next month. The Mayor thanked the Centroc representatives and they left the meeting at 11.50 a.m.

7.0 RESOLUTION BOOK UPDATE

7516 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Webb and O'Brien that the Resolution Book Update be received and dealt with.

(a) Health Issues – Min No 7503/7503a

The General Manager informed Council that a meeting had been held with Dr Claire Blizzard on March, 2009 concerning the status of the Health Services Manager and the proposal to manage Coonamble and Gulargambone hospitals from Gilgandra. Council noted that the Mayor and General Manager from Gilgandra, Mr. Paul Mann, accompanied the General Manager to the meeting. A copy of the submission presented to Dr Blizzard was handed to Councillors at the meeting.

The Mayor said delegates were unsuccessful in having the proposal changed, so Council should now instigate a public campaign. It was agreed that the Mayor and General Manager have discussions with the local branch of the Nurses' Association to gauge their feelings on the proposal. Cr. Horan said that Council should commence a media campaign.

The General Manager said that Lake Cargelligo was successful in having a similar proposal overturned by community involvement. Mr. Griffiths thanked Cr O'Brien for her input in this matter. He said that there may be good news regarding the MPS and that an announcement would be made within the next two weeks.

8.0 MAYOR'S ACTIVITY REPORT

The Mayor gave a verbal report on his activities throughout the period since the last meeting, which included his weekly interviews on radio; heritage meeting; Welcome to Coonamble Dinner and interviews for Director of Engineering Services' position.

7517 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Horan and Schieb that Council write to the Organising Committee of the Welcome to Coonamble Dinner conveying congratulations on the continued success of the event.

7518 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Horan and Schieb that the Mayor's Activity Report be received and adopted.

9.0 CORRESPONDENCE

7519 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Webb that the Correspondence be received and dealt with.

Section A – Matters for Action by Council:

**9.1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT & SHIRES ASSOCIATIONS OF NSW R2
(29819).**

Stating the purpose of the NSW Grain Freight Review is to examine how best to ensure the most appropriate modes of transport are used to move grain efficiently through the supply chain to enhance its long term sustainability. Identifying questions in relation to the four main issues under consideration:

- Changes in production patterns and in domestic and export markets for grain;
- Deregulation of the bulk wheat export market;
- Enhancing the efficiency of grain transport, storage and handling;
- Implications for regional communities and the environment.

Advising that the closing date for submissions is 17 March, 2009.

The General Manager suggested that all councils should be seeking to have grain freighted solely by rail to preserve the road infrastructure. Mr. Griffiths encouraged Councillors to put forward information that can be used in a submission.

7520 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Karanouh that Council instruct the General Manager to prepare a submission to the NSW Grain Freight Review.

9.2 COONAMBLE SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION D7 (29833)

Advising that Senior Citizens Week will be held in March and applying to Council to sponsor the morning tea as it usually does. Stating the Association has a full book of events with luncheons and other activities throughout the week. Asking if it would be possible to have a “blue zone” out the front of the hall to improve safety for elderly patrons when they are trying to board the bus and/or private vehicles.

The General Manager stated that Council traditionally has funded the morning tea for Senior Citizens Week which amounts to about \$220. However, in referring to the inclusion of a ‘blue zone’ in front of the Centre, Mr. Griffiths said it is not possible due to the ad hoc use of such a zone and the fact that these are intended for school drop off and pick up areas.

7521 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Karanouh and Webb that Council:

- (1) Agree to again sponsor morning tea up to \$220 for 2009 Senior Citizens Week following receipt of a tax invoice from the Coonamble Senior Citizens Association;

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- (2) Advise the Coonamble Senior Citizens Association that it is not possible to provide a 'blue zone' in front of the Hall due to the ad hoc use of such a zone and the fact that these zones are intended for use at schools.

9.3 NORTH WEST AREA COMMUNITY OPTIONS (PROJECT OFFICER RENATE HUME) P1-1 (29811)

Advising the North West Area Community Options has received a small grant from the State Government for NSW Seniors Week. Saying that in conjunction with Meals on Wheels, it will hold a morning and afternoon tea in Smith Park on 18 March. Making application to use Smith Park and also requesting Council to provide two persons to set up trestle tables and chairs to accommodate 40 people and that the time of these staff be donated. Advising an invitation will be extended to Lightning Ridge and Collarenebri Seniors to attend.

Council noted that the afternoon tea has been cancelled and "setting up" for the morning tea will involve pickup of two trestle tables and 20 chairs from St Pat's Hall, placement at Smith Park and return to the Hall after the event, at an estimated cost of \$100.

The General Manager informed the meeting that this will be a duplication of Council's commitment to the Coonamble Senior Citizens Association which provides a morning tea for seniors each year.

7522 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that Council decline the request of the North West Area Community Options for a contribution towards its morning tea on 18 March, 2009.

9.4 PRESIDENT, SHIRES ASSOCIATION OF NSW A2 + L9 (29866)

Informing Council that it will be asked to become involved in the Aboriginal Community Water Supply & Sewerage Program and encouraged to participate in the initiative. Advising that in June 2008 the NSW Government and the NSW Aboriginal Land Council announced the \$205 million Aboriginal Communities Water Supply and Sewerage Program to improve water supply and sewerage services in selected NSW Aboriginal communities. Saying the Quambone community has been selected as a community to be targeted and the Department of Water & Energy is in the process of organizing and holding meetings with council and the relevant Aboriginal Land Council to develop service standards and identify costs. Encouraging Council to participate in the program.

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The General Manager informed then meeting that discussions with the Local Government and Shires Associations failed to reveal any reason for Quambone being selected when the Program is designed for “discrete Aboriginal communities”. Mr Griffiths said that no action is proposed unless contacted by the Department of Water and Energy to progress the project.

7523 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Webb that Council not take any action unless the Department of Water and Energy can clarify the selection of Quambone as a site for this project.

9.5 MR FRANK COATES PR2677.02 (29815)

Advising that he recently received a letter from Council's debt recovery lawyers allowing him seven days to pay \$10,181.87. Stating that in 1998 Council agreed to take over the property if he confirmed his request in writing, which he did on 19 April 1998. Stating he had not taken any further action as he had not been instructed to do so, hence the property was never legally transferred to Council. Asking that Council agree to let him complete the terms of its original decision to finalise the matter.

The General Manager reported that because there has been a lack of communication between Council and Mr. Coates, this matter has remained incomplete. Mr. Griffiths said that letters sent to Mr. Coates have been returned by the Post Office with various notations on the envelope. The General Manager advised that on 13/5/1998 Council agreed (Minute No. 1930/5) to accept the offer from Mr. Coates to transfer the land, provided the *“applicant arranges transfer and pays all legal fees”*

Mr. Griffiths further reported that on 18/12/1998 Council wrote to Mr Coates advising that it had no record of receiving the Transfer – he alleges he did not receive this letter, however Mr. Griffiths said records indicate the letter was not returned.

Council noted that over the years the land has been offered for sale for overdue rates, but on each occasion has been passed in. The General Manager said that Council's current policy is not to accept land in this manner, but as this was agreed to in 1998 there would appear to be little alternative but to honour the resolution.

7524 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb & O'Brien that Council:

- (1) Accede to Mr. Coates request to take the land over as resolved in May 1998;
- (2) Classify the land as “operational” and offer it for sale in a future sale of land for overdue rates auction;

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- (3) Advise Mr Coates that he will be responsible for all costs associated with the transfer and for the arranging of the Transfer to be effected;
- (4) Advise Mr Coates that the transaction must be completed within three (3) months or the offer will expire;
- (5) Write off the rates and charges outstanding on Assessment No. 2677.02 amounting to around \$10,200;
- (6) Authorise the affixing of the Common Seal to the relevant documents.

9.6 COONAMBLE EQUESTRIAN CLUB S5-1 (29861)

Referring to advice regarding fees for the use of the Showground for 2009 and saying it is a small local club which is adamant about safety and complies with all rules and regulations of the Equestrian Federation of Australia (EFA). Stating the Club's only income is from membership (\$450 in 2008). Asking that Council waive the fees or reduce them as previously.

The General Manager pointed out that the daily charge to use the Showground is \$168, ground security deposit is \$400 and key security deposit is \$20. He said that the Equestrian Club has an amount of \$560 with Council which covers the security deposit, key deposit. Mr. Griffiths said as this Club is a regular user of the facility, it may be acceptable to forego the ground security deposit, but require payment for use of the ground as detailed in Council's adopted fees and charges, currently \$168/day.

7525 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that this matter be deferred for consideration in conjunction with the report from the General Manager to this meeting.

9.7 ATTORNEY GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT G5

Advising that a new round of funding under Section 298 of the *Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA)* opened on 7 February 2009. Stating that applications are invited from incorporated, not-for-profit community groups and local government authorities for projects which address one or more of the following areas:

- Indigenous prisoner through care (rehabilitation, treatment and reintegration projects)
- Crime prevention.

Stating that eligible organizations are able to seek up to \$500,000 funding for each project. Advising that applications close 5 p.m. Friday 20 March 2009 and must be post-marked on or before the closing date.

Council noted that a suggestion has been made to source funding under this Program for the installation of cameras at the skate park and commercial premises along Castlereagh Street between Aberford Street and King Street.

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7526 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Karanouh and O'Brien that Council authorise the submission of a grant application for the installation of additional CCTV cameras from Aberford Street to King Street, including the skate park and the Shell Roadhouse, subject to Council funding being available in the 2009/2010 budget.

9.8 COMBARA HALL COMMITTEE C6-12 (29801)

Seeking approval to become a Council Committee under s355 of the Local Government Act for the purpose of establishing the committee to promote use of the Combara Hall, for the care/management of the hall and to ensure the safety of patrons.

It was noted that a copy of the minutes of the inaugural meeting of the new Committee, which was held on 7 February, 2009, were provided as an attachment to the business paper.

7527 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Karanouh that Council agree to appoint the Combara Hall Committee as a section 355 Committee of Council and delegate the care, control and management of the Combara Hall **AND FURTHER** that the list of requests included in the minutes be referred to Council's A/Director of Engineering for consideration in the 2009/2010 Management Plan.

**9.9 INQUIRY SECRETARY, STANDING COMMITTEE ON
INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORT, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND LOCAL
GOVERNMENT L10 (29920)**

Advising it is conducting an inquiry into the impact of the global financial crisis on regional Australia and saying the purpose of the inquiry is to identify some of the key challenges facing regional areas and recommend ways in which the Commonwealth Government can assist in enhancing the liveability of these regions in order to secure future growth and prosperity. Asking for Council's views by 3 April 2009.

Advising that the Committee's focus will be on the following:

- The encouragement of economic development and employment;
- The development of sustainable essential services and social infrastructure designed to enhance the liveability of regional Australia

7528 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that Council instruct the Economic Development Managers, through the General Manager, to develop a submission to the Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development & Local Government.

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9.10 DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT A12 (29758)

Advising that the purpose of the circular is to highlight essential components of an effective internal audit function and act as a reminder to councils of some of the key recommendations contained in the Department's *Internal Audit Guidelines*. Stating that the guidelines advise all councils to develop an internal audit committee to act as an independent and objective oversight of council systems and processes.

Stating that the *Internal Audit Guidelines* make it clear that it is not good practice for a general manager or staff members to be members of a council's internal audit committee or be entitled to vote at such meetings. Advising that this exclusion is to ensure that the key traits of an internal audit committee of independent and objectivity are preserved. Stating that all councils are encouraged to properly implement the Department's Internal Audit Guidelines and those that have an existing internal audit function should review the framework to ensure that it complies with the Department's guidelines.

The General Manager informed the meeting that it appears the Department may mandate the appointment of internal audit committees as a method of ensuring Governance Compliance. Mr. Griffiths said that if this were the case, current resources and skill levels would not be able to undertake this role and Council (if required to appoint an internal auditor) would incur expenses in the vicinity of \$80,000/annum.

Mr. Griffiths stated that the Director of Corporate Services is currently having discussions with surrounding Councils with a view to facilitating internal audit requirements within OROC. He said that if this comes to fruition it would appear to be the most efficient method of addressing the requirement.

7529 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that Council instruct the Director of Corporate Services, through the General Manager, to ensure an internal audit committee is implemented in accordance with the guidelines through surrounding Councils and/or OROC.

**9.11 JANELLE & RAY WORTH, MANAGERS, COONAMBLE RIVERSIDE
CARAVAN PARK C2-1 + C2-11 + E6 (29949)**

Requesting Council to investigate the possibility of funding to purchase another one or two cabins for the park. Drawing Council's attention to other needs, including a storage shed. Saying that if Council decides to purchase a pre-fabricated storage shed, they would be prepared to assist with labour.

7530 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that Council refer the requests to the 2009/2010 draft Management Plan document.

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9.12 QUAMBONE RESOURCES COMMITTEE D5-1- + D5-17-1 (29953)

Advising the Committee would like to apply for Small Chamber of Commerce funding to prepare a marketing and business plan for the Quambone & District Area following on from the Sense of Place Program and seeking a letter of support. Also advising the Committee is continuing to seek additional funding for the Hall from various sources. Saying Council's assistance is appreciated.

7531 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that Council authorise the provision of a letter of support as requested.

9.13 ORANA AREA CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE D5 (29958)

Seeking expressions of interest for LGAs within the Orana region who wish to host the 2009 Regional Business Excellence Awards Gala Presentation Dinner. Pointing out that the host town will be responsible for marketing and staging the event, including venue hire, catering, audio, lighting. Advising that closing date for expressions of interest is Friday, 20 March 2009 and if more than one town is interested in hosting the event, detailed submissions will be required.

The General Manager suggested a possible venue could be the new pavilion at the Showground, with catering being let to tender along with the audio, lighting, etc. Mr. Griffiths said that significant organizing will be required for the staging of the event and also in the marketing area and Council needs to be carefully consider whether such an event is efficient use of the Economic Development Managers' and Tourism Development Manager's time. He said that the biggest hurdle is that of accommodation, 300 beds are just out of the question.

7532 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Webb that Council not submit an expression of interest to host the Orana Regional Business Excellence Awards Gala Presentation Dinner for 2009.

9.14 COONAMBLE RURAL TRANSACTION CENTRE D7

Advising that at a meeting held on 2 March 2009 the Committee reconsidered the increase in rent charged to Cottage Industries. Stating that when original estimates were calculated for the viability of the RTC it was understood Council would accredit Cottage Industries for the Visitors Information Centre and saying the Committee was advised that 5 days/week was sufficient. Requesting Council to meet the shortfall of \$47 per week which is the difference between the increased amount Cottage Industries is now paying and the previous rent paid.

The General Manager reported that it would appear the RTC Committee is somewhat confused, as Council does not hold the right to accredit Visitor Information Centres, nor does it hold the power to prevent changes to regulations in respect of accreditation.

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Mr Griffiths said the annual cost for 2009 would be \$2,444 should Council agree to subsidise rental for Cottage Industries. He reminded the meeting that Council already pays rental for Outback Arts and the RTA Motor Registry Agency.

Cr Karanouh suggested that Council may consider a 'one off' payment equivalent to \$32/week to help defray the reduced cost of rental charged to Cottage Industries.

A MOTION

PROPOSED by Cr Webb **SECONDED** by Cr. O'Brien that Council deny the request of the Coonamble RTC Committee to subsidise the rental for Coonamble Cottage Industries.

AN AMENDMENT

7533 PROPOSED by Cr. Horan **SECONDED** by Cr Karanouh that Council consider a 'one off' contribution of \$1,500 in conjunction with the Management Plan for 2009/2010.

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

Section B: For Council's Information:

9.15 NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE`

B13 (29823)

Complimenting Council staff who were working on the Combara/Warren road on 11 February when a fire was reported. Stating that Bourbah Brigade responded and expressed appreciation of the support provided by a Council grader and water tanker which were in the area. Asking that thanks be passed on to the staff involved.

The meeting noted that a copy of the letter from the NSW Rural Fire Service was given to the Overseer so that the message of thanks could be conveyed to the relevant staff)

**9.16 DIRECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT
L8 (29816)**

Referring to Council's application seeking approval for an internal loan of \$1,600,000 from the Sewer Fund to the General Fund for seven (7) years for the purpose of completing Council's timber bridge replacement program at an interest rate of 7.50% per annum. Advising that the Minister has approved the application.

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**9.17 DIRECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT
L9 (29829)**

Advising that he informed the Minister last month that he would be retiring as Director General with effect from Monday 16 February, 2009. Saying the current Deputy Director, Ross Woodward, will be acting as Director General from Tuesday, 17 February.

9.18 GLORIA MURRAY D6 (29846)

Referring to Council's proposal to move the "leash free" area for dogs from the rear of Macdonald Park to the Sportsground and asking whether it has yet been done, as she continues to be asked by travellers where the area is located.

The General Manager advised that following the suggestion from Council's former Director of Engineering that the area could be suitably relocated to a section of the Sportsground, logistical problems have arisen with access to the area during sporting events. The meeting noted that the A/Director of Engineering has reported on this matter.

9.19 ATTORNEY GENERAL F5-4 (29905)

Informing Council he has approved its application for Australian Government funding under the 2008-2009 round of the Natural Disaster Mitigation Program in the amount of \$30,000 for the Coonamble Levee Remediation project. Congratulating Council on its commitment to the development of effective measures to reduce the threat of flooding in Coonamble.

9.20 HEAD OFFICE, STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE S7 (29897)

Enclosing copy of annual report for year 2007/2008. Advising that priorities for the next three years are:

- To work with Councils to continue to improve the awareness of the community about how to protect themselves and their property from the effects of floods or storms;
- To work with Councils, where required, to upgrade the facilities and vehicles of the SES units;
- To work with Councils on Floodplain Risk Management Committees to assist in the development and implementation of a floodplain risk management plan for the Council area;
- Further upgrade flood intelligence so that it may provide timely and accurate information to communities threatened by floods;
- Continue to improve the public profile of the SES by working closely with local media, councils and communities and utilizing the network of SES trained community liaison officers.

Thanking Council for support that has been provided in the past year.

**9.21 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE, BARADINE
OFFICE N2 (29922)**

Drawing Council's attention to the work Baradine NPWS staff are undertaking in Reserves (i.e includes Pilliga) to fulfil their obligations in ensuring fire protection. Advising the NPWS works with the community and various local fire management agencies to develop strategic plans to address fire risk and this includes maintenance of fire trails and strategic hazard reduction. Advising that the Baradine office has not been contacted directly to inform staff of any issues. Advising that in future Council should immediately direct any comments to NPWS Baradine Area Manager on 6843 4000 so that they can be dealt with as quickly as possible. Pointing out what action NPWS is taking to improve and secure water resources for fire fighting in the western part of the Pilliga.

**9.22 NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE, NORTH WEST TEAM N2
(29942)**

Referring to correspondence from the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Baradine in relation to Council's representations concerning lack of maintenance in Pilliga West and advising that an inspection of the area has been carried out.

The General Manager informed the meeting that these letters are in response to Council's representations in respect of poorly maintained fire trails and growth that represents a fire danger to private property adjoining the Pilliga Community Conservation Area and State Forest.

**9.23 PRESIDENT OF THE AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION L10 (29921)**

Referring to the passage of the Australian Government's \$42 billion fiscal stimulus package known as the *Nation Building and Jobs Plan*. Saying that at a meeting with the Prime Minister he assured Mr Rudd that local councils stand ready and eager to play their part in the roll-out of the package.

9.24 SEROVA PTY LTD L2 (29918)

Voicing strong support for the installation of street cameras on Dubbo Road in the vicinity of Coonamble roadhouse. Stating that numerous break-ins to the premises cause concern for staff safety as well as damage to the premises and theft and the subsequent costs. Saying street cameras will provide an effective deterrent and assist local police.

This letter was supplied as a letter of support to Council's application for grant funding for the provision of additional security cameras.

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9.25 COONAMBLE SHIRE COUNCIL – WASTE TO ART M3-1 (29941)

Inviting the Mayor to judge the Coonamble Waste2Art and Design Competition on 19 March, 2009 at 10 a.m. Advising the exhibition will be held in McCullough Hall and the competition gives aspiring and professional artists the chance to explore and share their waste reduction message.

9.26 ELECTORAL COMMISSION NSW E2 (29944)

Acknowledging Council's letter of 24 February, 2009 regarding payment reminder for an outstanding balance of \$31,120 for conduct of the 2008 Council elections. Noting that a request was made on 3 October requesting a further breakdown of expenses and that the information was supplied on 14 October. Advising that a full breakdown of actual costs will be provided mid-March 2009.

9.27 LOCAL GOVERNMENT & SHIRES ASSOCIATIONS OF NSW B11 (29955)

Advising that the NSW Department of Planning's NSW Housing Code came into effect on 27 February. Saying the first stage of the Code has been introduced without an extensive trial and the LGSA anticipates that councils may face practical problems in working with the Code. Advising an information website aimed at gathering and sharing information regarding the implementation of the Code has been set up and saying it is vital for Council to actively participate with the site.

The General Manager said that a copy of this correspondence has been referred to the Health and Building Department who will use the information provided and submit feedback to the site if necessary. Mr Griffiths stated that amendments to the Code were made on 27 February 2009, the day on which it became effective. The General Manager pointed out that this Council was previously excluded under the terms of the Regional Environmental Plan that relates to Siding Springs, however that exclusion is now being reviewed and the Code amended accordingly.

9.28 J J KNOTT G1-4 (29855)

Advising that he has been staying in Gulargambone for the past four weeks – his second visit in six months. Making a formal complaint regarding the 3 a.m. pickup on Sunday 15 February of the garbage and the associated noise problems. Pointing out that the excessive revving of the vehicle and the loud breaking noise is not acceptable. Drawing attention to the offence being committed by those who use back yard incinerators in Gulargambone.

The General Manager reported that this correspondence was emailed and I notice that a copy has been cc'd to the NSW Ombudsman. He said that Mr Knott did not wish to receive a response, however in an email received on 9 March does want Council to respond.

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Councillors noted that a copy of the first email, minus personal details, was made available to the Contractor for his information. The A/Director of Engineering said that a relief driver was operating at the time and the contractor has assured staff that a recurrence is very unlikely.

Council agreed that the General Manager respond to this correspondence in terms advised by the contractor.

7534 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that the information contain in Item Nos. 9.15 to 9.28 be noted.

14.0 REPORT BY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGERS

At this juncture, Ms Amanda Glasson was in attendance to present the EDMs' report.

7535 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Schieb that the report by the Economic Development Managers be adopted.

The EDM briefly went through items in the report:

- Business Action Group – Don Keady, CEO of Aust.Institute of Sales, Marketing & Management addressed a meeting of 23 people on 10 March.
- Coonamble Shell Depot site – information to hand the site is not for sale – Shell has to carry out further testing and remediation work.
- Sand extraction – GHD has advised that it may require submission of an EIS in lieu of the REF.
- Welcome to Coonamble Dinner – successful evening – 20 new households identified.
- Four more portraits completed – one story completed.
- Funds approved – Museum collection – Shar Jones appointed as consultant
- Quambone Hall – application submitted Monday
- Funding approved on all projects (\$100,000) – works can proceed.
- Wireless Broadband – installation carried out 11 March – trial period.
- Saleyards advertisement – in last week's Land Newspaper.

14.1 COONAMBLE HERITAGE & HISTORICAL MUSEUM COMMITTEE MEETING

7536 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that the notes taken at the meeting held on 20 February, 2009 be received and noted.

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14.2 HERITAGE STUDIES – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

7537 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Karanouh and Webb that this information be noted.

14.3 COONAMBLE BUSINESS ACTION GROUP MEETING

7538 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Karanough and O'Brien that the minutes of the BAG meeting held on 19 February, 2009 be received and dealt with.

1.3 Palm Trees

The Mayor referred to this item in the minutes and said that Council sought comments from BAG regarding removal of the palm trees and comments on future plantings in the garden bed. Cr Karanouh requested that some other type of tree be planted – he suggested that some evergreen trees do not have huge root systems. The A/Director of Engineering informed the meeting that immediate plantings in the bed would not possible and it would not be possible to make a decision until the palm trees are taken out. She said that there are mains located under the bed and Council would have to carry out an inspection prior to making any decision. It was agreed to seek expert advice on what can be planted, however it was agreed that it would have to be something with height to provide shade.

The A/Director of Engineering informed the meeting that it would cost in the vicinity of \$5,000 to remove both palm trees from the site.

14.4 IDENTIFYING PEOPLE/PLACES & ITEMS OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

7539 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Karanouh that Council note the preparation of this form.

14.5 NOTES FROM GULARGAMBONE ROUND TABLE – 9/12/2008

7540 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Karanouh that the notes from the Gulargambone Round Table held at Gulargambone Golf Club on 9 December, 2008 be noted.

Ms. Glasson left the meeting at 12.45 p.m.

15.0 REPORT BY TOURISM DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Council noted that Mr. Baldwin would not be in attendance to present his Report and the General Manager would answer any questions.

7541 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that the Tourism Development Manager's report be received and adopted.

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- Visitor Numbers/ "I" sign – statistics are now being kept at Coonamble and Gulargambone commences shortly – in future reports can be provided. New signage at both centres has led to an increase in visitors stopping.
- Copy of new brochure "Discover Coonamble Holiday Guide" distributed - it replaces the previous brochure "Coonamble on the Castlereagh".
- Cr O'Brien is new representative for Council on Outback Arts – TDM will step down from both that body and Regional Arts NSW.

URGENT BUSINESS – SUPPLEMENTARY PRECIS OF CORRESPONDENCE

7542 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that the following matters be classified "urgent business" and dealt with.

9.29 LACHLAN REGIONAL TRANSPORT COMMITTEE INC. R2 (29965)

Advising that Weddin Shire Council recommends membership of the sub-committee consist of representatives of councils affected by rail closures, which would include the Shires of Weddin, Young, Lachlan, Cowra and Blayney. Advising that other interested parties, such as the Lachlan Valley Railway, be invited to join. Stating that Weddin Shire will make a contribution of around \$10,000 towards engaging a project officer if support from other councils is forthcoming. Seeking support of the proposal and a contribution from Council similar to that offered by Weddin Shire.

7543 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that Council not participate in the Lachlan Regional Transport Committee Inc.

9.30 DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORT, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT – NSW GRAIN FREIGHT REVIEW R2 (29970)

Inviting Council to attend a forum on Wednesday, 18 March 2009 to discuss the issues of importance to local government as they relate to this Review. Advising it will be held in the Conference Room at Moree Tourist Information Centre between 2.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. Reminding Council that submissions to the Review close on 17 March, 2009.

7544 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Karanouh and Webb that the information be noted.

9.31 AUSTRALIAN RAIL TRACK CORPORATION R2

Referring to Council's lease of the area located in front of the former Railway Station building, fronting Railway Street. Requesting that Council relinquish its lease to enable progress on the lease between Back on Track/Coonamble RTC Committee and ARTC.

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The General Manager advised that this lease was taken up by Council in 1962 and involved bitumen sealing to the Station approach and associated drainage works.

7545 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Karanouh and Webb that Council formally advise ARTC of its intention to terminate Agreement A1962/50 immediately.

9.32 RSPCA D6 (29985)

Pointing out the benefits of the Community Animal Welfare Scheme (CAWS) which provides subsidised desexing of dogs and cats belonging to pensioners and low income earners. Advising that councils contribute funds towards the cost of the program – the amount of the financial contribution determines how many animals may participate. Pointing out that funds will be distributed by RSPCA to local vets to reimburse them for the number of animals desexed. Saying if Council is prepared to participate, advice by the end of March would be appreciated to enable organisation of the program to proceed.

The General Manager informed the meeting that Council has participated in this program every time the opportunity has arisen in the past. Mr. Griffiths said the program targets those people who otherwise would not be able to afford to desex their animals which, in turn, reduces the number of unwanted/stray dogs and cats. He said that residents in Gulargambone and Quambone can take advantage of the program as a free courier service is provided by Council's ranger.

7546 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Schieb and Webb that this matter be referred for consideration in conjunction with the 2009/2010 Management Plan.

10.0 REPORT BY GENERAL MANAGER

7547 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Schieb and O'Brien that the report submitted by the General Manager be received and dealt with.

10.1 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS DETERMINED UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

The meeting noted that Complying Development Application No. 046/2008 which was incorrectly recorded last meeting was re-listed with the correct approval date.

7548 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that Council note Development Application No. 092/2009, together with Complying Development Application No 046/2008, have been approved under delegated authority since the last meeting.

10.2 COONAMBLE SHOWGROUND PAVILION – EXPENDITURE

At the February 2009 meeting Council requested a report be provided relating to the construction of the pavilion at the Coonamble Showground. This report, in detail, was provided by the General Manager to the meeting.

The A/Director of Engineering informed Council that Country Energy will be placing the power mains underground and has requested that Council hold back until works for the new MPS are completed, so that both lots of installation can be carried out in conjunction. Mrs Atkins stated that it has been agreed to place poles to provide power to the pavilion for the Show in May.

Cr. O'Brien referred to changes in design and asked why this happened. Cr. Webb said that public meetings were not well attended and when Show Society and Rodeo Committee personnel met on site Council did agree to requests to change the design. It was noted that the changes affected sewer, power, and plumbing for showers, etc. Cr. O'Brien said she would have thought that new tenders should have been called, however the Mayor said that these changes were not of such significance. It was pointed out that the major cause of overexpenditure was the relocation of the new building.

At this juncture, 1.01 p.m., Council adjourned for lunch. Cr. Schieb left the meeting and did not return. The meeting resumed at 1.40 p.m.

7549 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs.Webb and O'Brien that the information contained in the report be noted.

10.3 POTENTIAL CARAVAN PARKING IN NAMOI STREET BETWEEN ABERFORD AND TOOLOON STREETS

The General Manager reported that Council's Resolution No 7315 of the November 2008 meeting requested investigation into the potential for parking caravans in the subject block. Mr. Griffiths stated that the block in question is about 214 metres in length but contains ten driveways ranging from 5 metres to 7 metres in width and the spacing either side of a driveway is 3 metres. He said that only one property has a continuous section, that being 36 metres, in which to direct caravans to park and this is clearly insufficient to designate as a "caravan parking" area.

Mr Griffiths stated that consultation would be required with all landowners in the block should Council wish to pursue this matter further and Council would be required to provide and pay for additional signage.

Prior to lunch Cr Schieb suggested that Council look at an area in Maule Street to accommodate the parking of caravans, however it was felt that the suggested site is too far from the CBD and would not be suitable.

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7550 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that Council take no further action on proposed parking in Namoi Street, between Aberford and Tooloon Streets, for caravans and motor homes.

10.4 COONAMBLE SHOWGROUND HIRE CHARGES

The General Manager pointed out that for the 2008/2009 year Council has set charges for the use of the Showground area as follows:

- | | |
|---|-------|
| ▪ Use of ground, pavilion, supper room and kitchen | \$573 |
| ▪ Use of pavilion, supper room and kitchen | \$433 |
| ▪ Use of supper room and kitchen only | \$340 |
| ▪ Use of pavilion only – without supper room/kitchen | \$249 |
| ▪ Use of ground only | \$168 |
| ▪ Camping: Electricity/hot showers – per night/person | \$ 12 |
| ▪ Rodeo arena: Lights – per night | \$ 48 |

He informed the meeting that Council also requires payment of a refundable security deposit for the pavilion, a key deposit and various cleaning deposits.

Mr. Griffiths said that with the replacement of the pavilion, different facilities are now available and, as such, the fee structure needs to be revised, as he has to inform the Vibe Alive Committee how much it will be required to pay to use the new pavilion for accommodation.

Mr. Griffiths stated that problems have been identified with the recovery of fees from groups utilizing the ground and the former pavilion, with a number of accounts now being in arrears. The General Manager put forward the following suggested fees for Council's consideration and determination:

<i>Description of Facility to be Hired</i>	<i>Suggested Fee</i>
Use of ground only	\$168
Use of pavilion only – without kitchen	\$250
Use of pavilion with kitchen	\$430
Use of pavilion, kitchen and bar area	\$500
Use of kitchen only	\$280
Use of bar area only	\$130
Use of toilet/shower area	\$50/20 persons

Mr. Griffiths suggested that Council require the payment of fees and various security deposits (as listed in Council's fees and charges) when the booking is made. He said it is not expected that hire charges will produce significant income however Council must resist the temptation to reduce or waive fees as expenses are incurred with every use of the facilities.

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7551 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that Council:

- (1) Adopt the suggested hire charges for the use of the Coonamble Showground facilities;
- (2) Place the changes on public exhibition for a period of twenty eight days inviting submissions;
- (3) Adopt a policy that states:
"Council will not consider the waiving or reducing of fees associated with the use of the Showground facilities under any circumstances";
- (4) Deny the application of the Coonamble Equestrian Club for reduction of fees for its event days;
- (5) Require that fees/security deposits listed in Council's fees and charges be paid when booking the facility

11.0 REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

7552 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

7553 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Karanouh and Webb that the Total Combined Rate Collections to 28 February 2009 be noted.

The Director of Corporate Services informed the meeting that the sale of land for overdue rates was scheduled to be held on Saturday, 13 June, 2009 in the Council Chambers.

11.2 LIST OF INVESTMENTS

7554 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that that the Investments held at 28 February 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

11.3 (BUDGETED) RESERVES AT 28 FEBRUARY 2009

7555 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Webb that the Estimates Reserves at 28 February, 2009, as reported by the Director of Corporate Services, be noted.

In response to a question from the Mayor, the Director of Corporate Services advised that in the case of the Plant Reserve, an amount equivalent to the amount of plant depreciation is transferred to the Reserve to maintain it at a level required to finance plant replacements.

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12.0 REPORT FROM A/DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING

7556 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Karanouh that the report by the A/Director of Engineering be received and dealt with.

12.1 DOG OFF-LEASH AREA – COONAMBLE SPORTSGROUND

The A/Director of Works referred to the request at the October 2008 meeting for a plan and costing for a dogs off leash area in the north east corner of the Coonamble sportsground to be prepared and presented to Council.

Ms Atkins stated that Council had previously rejected Smith Park as a site for an off leash area and resolved to establish it behind Macdonald Park. She pointed out that after investigations of the area suggested at the Sportsground, several issues have arisen in relation to access, drainage and suitability.

The A/Director of Engineering reported that Smith Park is a more logical site for an off leash area although there are issues of it being closer to residential dwellings and it would not be as large an area as that contemplated for the Sportsground.

The meeting noted that Council is required under the Companion Animals Act 1998 to provide at least one off-leash area within the Shire.

Council noted expected cost to establish a 150 sq.metre off lease area at the Sportsground is in the vicinity of \$550 or in the vicinity of \$1,100 to establish a 75 sq.metre area in Smith Park, noting that the sportsground area would use the existing fence as two sides of the enclosure which accounts for the lesser cost.

7557 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Karanouh that Council note the information provided in the report, provide/erect appropriate signage to the off leash area at the rear of Macdonald Park and advise Mrs Gloria Murray of problems associated with the establishment of an area at the Coonamble Sportsground.

12.4 WORKS PROGRAM UPDATE

The A/Director of Engineering provided an update of the current works program, including the following items:

- Showground Pavilion, internal lining complete, fit out of kitchen, bar and toilets commenced.
- Fluoridation system delivered and awaiting connection.
- Water treatment tender awarded. Currently seeking approval for concept from Dept Water and Energy,
- Water mains replacement due to start 11th March.
- Urawilkie Bridge approach works complete mid March.

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- Flood damage 60% complete
- SR19 and SR2 reconstruction commenced
- Reconstruction of SH18 south of Gulargambone commenced
- MR7515 reconstruction of 1.3km complete early March
- Crushing plant back on line early March

The A/Director of Works informed the meeting that the Crusher was having test runs this week.

7558 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Webb that the Works Updated be noted.

13.0 REPORTS FROM VARIOUS COMMITTEES

7559 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that the minutes of meetings of various committees be received and dealt with.

13.1 MINUTES OF CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

7560 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs O'Brien and Webb that the minutes of the Consultative Committee meeting held on 3 March, 2009 be received and noted.

URGENT BUSINESS – CONTRACT RANGER'S REPORT

7561 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Karanouh that the Contract Ranger's Report be classified 'urgent business' and dealt with.

16.0 CONTRACT RANGER'S REPORT

7562 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that the information contained in the Contract Ranger's report for the month of February 2009 be received and adopted.

RESIDENTS OF BROAD STREET – PROBLEMS CAUSED BY DOGS

The Mayor informed the meeting that he had a delegation from Broad Street approach him concerning the nuisance being caused by dogs in Broad Street. Cr Horan said it is alleged the dogs roam and bark causing nuisance to the neighbouring residents on a continuing basis. He said it was also stated that litters of pups have been kept and this adds to the problems.

7563 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Horan and Webb that the report by the Mayor be noted that the General Manager instruct Council's Ranger to make regular patrols of the area in an endeavour to alleviate problems.

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF COONAMBLE SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE GULARGAMBONE SCHOOL HALL, GULARGAMBONE ON
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GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Karanouh:

- Queen Street – need for maintenance
- Shade in Macdonald Park – General Manager advised funding has been approved. Requested that something other than shade cloth be investigated, i.e. structure with corrugated iron roof. A/Director of Engineering said it would be double the cost of the series of shade cloth that is proposed. It was agreed that when quotes are received a report be presented to Council.

Cr O'Brien:

- Thanked staff for arranging to have Gulargambone main street washed.
- John Oxley memorial 21 years old – table/chairs need painting. Referred to updating the notice.
- Drew attention to footpath from hospital to main street – cannot be used for wheelchair.

General Manager:

- Advised Council has received notification of approval of the five projects under the RLCIP (\$100,000) – work can commence.
- Referred to use of Sportsground by youth, i.e. Friendship Games etc – no charge for use of ground. GM to mention to Adam Cohen that the ground must be cleaned after use. If request not complied with, the GM to impose \$200 cleaning deposit.
- Referred to another training course in Dubbo on 2 April – same as attended by Crs. Schieb, Karanouh and O'Brien.

Mayor:

- Informed meeting that he has been asked to approve another Mayor's Ball – last year there was controversy due to some Councillors not being aware. He has sanctioned the event and wishes to inform Councillors. Cr Karanouh suggested that the Golf Club be investigated as a venue for the function.
- Truck Wash – Referred to complaint about the cost to use the truck wash in Coonamble.

7564 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Horan and O'Brien that a report detailing costs and income relative to the Coonamble truck wash be submitted to the budget meeting in April.

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Requested that *Welcome to Country* be included on Council's agenda:

7565 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Horan and Webb that Council alter its agenda and include *Welcome to Country* where the original owners, both past and present, will be acknowledged at Council's meetings.

Occupational Health and Safety – Councillors not liable:

7566 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Horan and O'Brien that a report be provided to council on obligations/responsibilities under the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

Condolences – Canham Family

The Mayor again asked that Council's condolences to the Canham Family on the tragic death of Cr Canham's nephew be recorded.

A/Director of Engineering:

- Advised that when roadworks have been completed the recycling facility fronting the Highway south of Gulargambone will be relocated to the correct site.

This concluded the business and the meeting closed at 2.29 p.m.

These Pages (Page 1/4061 to 30/4090) 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 11 March 2009.

MAYOR

MAYOR

GENERAL MANAGER