

**MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF COONAMBLE SHIRE
COUNCIL HELD IN THE SHIRE CHAMBER, COONAMBLE ON WEDNESDAY,
18TH FEBRUARY, 2009, COMMENCING AT 4.05 P.M..**

Page 1/4058

PRESENT: Cr Tim Horan, Mayor, in the Chair, with Crs. J Canham, T. Cullen, B. O'Brien, M. Webb, A. Karanouh and D. Schieb.
Also present were the General Manager, Mr Griffiths, the A/Director of Engineering, Mrs Atkins, the Health & Building Manager, Mr. Cock.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING:

1. Consideration of Western Councils Sub-Regional Land Use Strategy.
2. Consideration of Report of the Independent Inquiry into Secure and Sustainable Urban Water supply and Sewerage Services for Non-Metropolitan NSW.

WESTERN COUNCILS SUB-REGIONAL LAND USE STRATEGY

The Mayor welcomed Mr. Mike Svikis and Ms Katrina Burbidge, representatives from GHD, the consultants carrying out the land use study for the consortium of Councils comprising Bogan, Coonamble, Gilgandra, Narromine and Warren Shires.

The consultants made a detailed presentation on the land use strategy as it relates to Coonamble Shire. After discussion the following alterations were made to the Coonamble portion of the strategy:

1. Carry over existing minimum lot size of 1000 hectares for general rural zone.
2. Amend the minimum lot size for rural residential development to 4 hectares.
3. Include additional commercial area adjacent CBD to include existing commercial uses.
4. Possible flooding issues of the proposed residential area need to be resolved prior to rezoning.
5. Rural Residential Areas:
 - Back zone area north of Carinda Road at the western extremity to bring the total area to be back zoned to 299.8 hectares;
 - Remove the north portion of Site 1 (Conimbia Street) to reflect proximity to disused land tip site;
 - Include additional rural residential area to the south of the town centre and east of the Castlereagh Highway, with a recommendation of a minimum lot size of 12 hectares for this area to have the potential of a maximum of twenty (20) lots, excluding those lots which are within the 1 kilometre radius from the abattoir.

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Page 2/4059

7508 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that the Western Councils Sub-Regional Land Use Strategy, as amended, be placed on public exhibition for the statutory period of twenty eight (28) days, calling for submissions from the public.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO SECURE AND SUSTAINABLE URBAN WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE SERVICES FOR NON-METROPOLITAN NSW

It was noted that Councillors took the opportunity to attend a discussion session with the Minister for Water, The Hon Phillip Costa, MP, earlier that day at the Bowling Club. It was also noted that the General Manager had held discussions with the other four councils proposed under the Northern Plains Binding Alliance recommendation.

Discussion centred around the practicalities and the increased costs for users of the services, along with the potential to attract and retain professional staff to cover such a wide area. Of particular relevance was the fact that methods of extraction of water for the town water supplies vary greatly with both Gunnedah and Liverpool Plains utilising shallow groundwater, while Gilgandra, Coonamble and parts of Warrumbungle Shire, utilise deep groundwater from the Great Artesian Basin.

7509 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that a submission be made to the Department of Water and Energy objecting to the composition of the Northern Plains Binding Alliance, highlighting the following:

- Distance from Coonamble to the eastern extremity (Willow Tree) of Liverpool Plains Council area is 300 kilometres;
- Perceived problems in attracting and retaining professional staff who will be required to administer the extreme distances;
- The differing methods of water extraction;
- The variations in the water quality and required remedies;
- The costs differential in having a large Alliance Entity, comprising five (5) Council areas, compared to a relatively small Alliance comprising Coonamble, Warrumbungle and Gilgandra Council areas;
- Council's willingness to be involved in an Alliance but with a preference for the composition to be only with Gilgandra and Warrumbungle Shires.

URGENT BUSINESS.

7510 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that the following urgent business be dealt with.

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Page 3/4060

(a) Victorian Bush Fires – Assistance

7511 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Canham that Council offer the vacant doctor's residence at Gulargambone for occupation, free of charge, to the victims of the Victorian bush fires.

(b) Local Adaptation Pathways Program

The General Manager advised Council of a proposal by Warrumbungle Shire Council to submit a grant application under the subject Program in an attempt to assist local government to respond to climate change. Such grant would provide treatment options in areas such as emergency services, effects of temperature and rainfall modifications necessary for primary production, impact on primary health care providers, effects on town planning issues such as bush fire and flood prone areas and other factors affecting local government. Mr. Griffiths stated that there could be a cost involved up to \$25,000 for Coonamble.

7512 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Karanouh and Webb that Council participate in the joint application for funding with Warrumbungle and Gilgandra Councils under the Local Adaptation Pathways Program, with funding of up to \$25,000 to be sourced from savings in the salary component of the vacant position of Director of Engineering Services.

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

This concluded the business and the meeting closed at 6.50 p.m.

These minutes (Pages 1/4058 to 3/4060) are were confirmed on the day of2009 and are a full and accurate record of proceedings of the extraordinary meeting of Coonamble Shire Council held on 18 February 2009.

MAYOR

MAYOR

GENERAL MANAGER