

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Well readers, Council is back in action again after the Christmas / New Year period. On Wednesday, 10 February the first meeting for 2010 was held. Together with my fellow Councillors, I am looking forward to another challenging year and work towards more significant goals for our Shire.

Retirement from the NSW Police Force

I informed Council that as from 18 February 2010 I will be medically retired from the NSW Police Force. The past 18 months have been particularly difficult for me and my family as it was due to my illness that I did not attend work as a Police Officer. I thank the NSW Police for the great career opportunity and especially Superintendent Bob Noble for his continued support and friendship. This announcement has been a weight lifted from my shoulders and I look forward now to continuing my recovery.

Waiving of Entry Fees to Shire Pools

In an effort to increase patronage at Council's swimming pools, Councillors resolved to waive entry fees for the remainder of this swimming season. Council is proud of its facilities and would like to see them better utilized

Welcome to new Staff Member

Prior to the meeting, Councillors welcomed Mr Brian Burge, its newly appointed Senior Project Engineer. Mr. Burge has had extensive experience in local government and has spent considerable time in western NSW Councils. Brian fills a position that has been vacant for some time.

Trucks Parked in Residential Areas

Council's attention has again been directed to the practice of some residents parking heavy vehicles in residential streets for unlimited periods. As well as being illegal, there is also a safety issue and Council draws attention to the fact that trucks are permitted to "on street park" within the residential areas of Coonamble at the following nominated sites:

- Western side Railway Street
- Western side Castlereagh Highway (Caravan Park to Information Bay)
- Eastern side Castlereagh Highway (Sportsground Gates to King Street)
- Northern side King Street (adjacent to Sportsground).

Council's Ranger has been instructed to take action against owners of vehicles parked illegally in residential areas.

Debrief – Flood Prevention Activity

A meeting will be held today to review actions by the relevant emergency services during the recent flooding. Council's representative will convey local concerns, including the wealth of local knowledge that can be accessed by the Controllers. It is hoped that this meeting will identify positive action and address issues that may have been dealt with differently in hindsight. It is hoped the debrief will heighten the readiness and response for any future emergency.

Preparation of Council's Management Plan – 2011 - 2013

At its meeting Council adopted a time frame for the preparation of the upcoming management plan. Ratepayers and residents are encouraged to contact Councillors should they have suggestions or issues they wish to discuss in relation to Council's direction for future years. It is anticipated that the draft will be placed on public display from 14 April 2010 during which time Council would welcome submissions from the public. Adoption of the management plan will take place in conjunction with Council's meeting on 9 June.

Submissions – Flood Damage to Roads

Council is in the process of finalizing its claim to the RTA for damage to roads. As residents are aware, substantial damage has been caused to the Shire roads network. Significant emergency work has already been undertaken and a program of repair will be carried out following assessment and approval of Council's submission by the RTA. Council is also seeking sources of funding to repair the Weir and Levee structures.

Development Application – Child Care Centre

A detailed report by Council's Manager – Environmental Services was presented to Council in relation to a development application for a Child Care Centre on the corner of Wilga and Barton Streets, Coonamble. After considering submissions received and all legal requirements pertaining to the application, approval was granted subject to the conditions detailed within the report.

If anyone has an issue they wish to discuss I am available anytime to meet with them – telephone 0407 221002.

TIM HORAN
Mayor