

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF COONAMBLE SHIRE COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COONAMBLE ON WEDNESDAY, 12<sup>TH</sup>  
AUGUST, 2009, COMMENCING AT 9.05 A.M.**

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**PRESENT:** Cr Tim Horan, Mayor, in the Chair, with Crs. A. Karanouh, J. Canham, M. Webb, B. O'Brien and T.Cullen.  
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.

At this juncture, Cr. Cullen arrived at the meeting.

**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.

**4.0 APOLOGY**

Cr Schieb submitted a written apology for non-attendance, advising he would be on annual leave.

**7884 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Webb and Karanouh that the apology submitted by Cr. Schieb, giving reason for his absence from the meeting, be accepted

**5.0 DELEGATIONS**

Two delegations are booked to attend this meeting:

9.30 a.m. Coonamble Rodeo & Campdraft Association  
representatives

12.00 noon Far West Academy of Sport

**6.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Nil

**7.0 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES**

**7885 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Webb that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Coonamble Shire Council held 8 July 2009 be confirmed.

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

**(a) Land Use Strategy – Notification to Landholders**

Cr. Karanouh asked whether affected landholders have been notified – the General Manager responded that the matter is in hand and letters will be sent shortly.

**(b) Smith Park Canteen**

The Mayor raised this matter and said he is pleased with the progress being made. Council noted that the building will have no windows – it will be fitted with two roller doors.

**8.0 RESOLUTION BOOK UPDATE**

**7886 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs O'Brien and Webb that the Resolution Book Update be received and dealt with.

**(a) Fluoridation of Water Supplies (Min.No.5166)**

A question was asked regarding progress of this project. The Director of Engineering Services informed the meeting that training will take place next week. The Director said that five employees, including himself, will take part, Mr. Gamage said it is hoped that fluoride will be added to the town water within two – three months.

Following discussion on this matter, the General Manager indicated that a report would be presented to Council on the project.

**(b) Cheaper Fuel Option**

Cr. O'Brien asked whether any progress has been made in this investigation. The Director of Engineering Services said he had prepared a report, however he did not present it to Council as he was waiting on additional data. It was pointed out that Gilgandra Shire Council no longer use additives, as it ascertain that no measurable benefits were being achieved.

It was noted that the Director of Engineering Services has organized training for plant operators within the next few weeks. This decision was made in the hope that some changes in operation of plant may reap benefits. It was stated a review of this matter would occur in six months.

**(c) Fencing at Racecourse (Min No. 7669)**

Cr. O'Brien asked, on behalf of Cr. Schieb, whether any progress has been made with this item. The General Manager informed the meeting that he has been unable to make contact with the Chairman of Trustees, however he said he will keep the matter in hand.

**(d) Future Sporting Fields (Min No. 7812)**

The Mayor made enquiry concerning discussions held regarding this matter. Cr. Cullen, together with Cr. Schieb and Council's Manager – Services, have had discussions with various groups who are happy to utilize the sportsground.

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The General Manager said he is concerned there will be conflict, with the senior league and union, junior league and soccer all using the same ground. Cr. Cullen said that he is confident the arrangement can work with communication between all clubs.

Council noted that a meeting with all user group representatives will be held later in the month and that Councillors Cullen and Schieb will continue to be involved. The Mayor said the arrangement can be trialled and if conflict arises, other alternatives will be investigated.

At this juncture, 9.25 a.m., representatives from the Coonamble Rodeo and Campdraft were welcomed to the meeting. Council's Manager – Services and Tourism Development Manager also sat in on discussions.

**FUTURE PLANS – COONAMBLE SHOWGROUND**

Spokesmen for the Association were David Burtenshaw and Jim Hiscock. Mr. Burtenshaw thanked Council for allowing the Association to present its case and explained that they are endeavouring to establish a more 'user friendly' venue and looking at a 10 – 20 year plan. He said that issues needing immediate attention are the boggy condition of the yards, which is also becoming a concern with the RSPCA and the lack of shower/toilet facilities to cater for the event, pointing out that hiring these facilities annually is not satisfactory.

Mr. Hiscock pointed out that there are safety issues with the layout of the area at present with horses and people intermingling around the arena. He pointed out that the event cannot grow due to the fact that the structure of the venue cannot handle additional numbers. He referred to an incident which occurred during the 2009 event, when emergency vehicles had to attend – due to congestion of the camping area, access was difficult and emergency personnel were critical of the situation.

The Mayor pointed out that it is Council's intention to open the soccer fields which would provide much more space. Cr Horan said the ground was for use by all organizations and Council would be working towards this goal in its management plan for the Showground.

The representatives pointed out that a permanent structure at the northern end of the arena would allow better cattle movement and less congestion at the southern end as is the case at present. Mr. Hiscock said the Association had discussed splitting the campdraft and rodeo to be held over different weekends as a way to proceed the event as so many people are being turned away from the campdraft event due to the inability of the present set up to cope with additional numbers.

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In response to a question as to whether there was a pump station at the northern end of the ground, the General Manager said there was not. It was noted that Councillors Cullen, Schieb and Webb would be Council's delegates on a committee dealing with the future development of the showground and would meet with user representatives to bring the Management Plan to fruition.

Mr. Burtenshaw referred to showers that were to have been provided within the new Pavilion and discussion regarding this matter ensued, with the Mayor agreeing to investigate.

Mr. Hiscock asked for clarification on Council's policy of Financial Assistance to Events/Function insofar that if the event/function returns a profit that Council's contribution has to be returned. The General Manager pointed out that Council contributes around \$110,000 per year for events within the Shire and this is one way that Council can reduce this expenditure.

The representatives informed Council that planning for next year's rodeo and campdraft is underway. It was pointed out that the cleaning out and repacking of the yards would be an operational matter that could be attended to by staff. The General Manager said he has had discussions with Country Energy regarding the adequacy of power supply. Councillors noted that both the Association and Council are continually seeking funding and looking at alternative options to provide a covered arena.

Cr. Cullen suggested that the Rodeo Association bring all its plans to the meeting of users to be held later in the month. The delegates left the meeting at 10.00 a.m.

**21. GENERAL MANAGER – PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL**

At this juncture, the General Manager, the Director of Corporate Services and the Director of Engineering Services left the meeting.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**7887 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Webb and Canham that Council resolve into Closed Session in accordance with Section 10A 2(a) "*personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors)*".

**7888 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Webb and Canham that the press and public be excluded from the meeting.

**RESUME OPEN MEETING**

**7889 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Cullen and Webb that Council resume Open Meeting.

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**ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATION OF CLOSED SESSION**

**7889 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Cullen and Canham that Council adopt the recommendation of Closed Session, as follows:

**7889/21 THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS** that the General Manager be granted a 5% increase in his remuneration package and that the Mayor be authorised to negotiate the offer discussed by Council for the incumbent to extend his contract for a minimum period of 12 months.

At this juncture, 11 a.m., the meeting adjourned for morning tea and resumed at 11.22 a.m.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**7890 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Webb and Canham that Council resolve into Closed Session in accordance with Section 10A 2(a) "*personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors)*".

**7891 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Webb and Canham that the press and public be excluded from the meeting.

At the resumption of the meeting the General Manager was present to answered questions from Councillors concerning matters relative to his performance appraisal.

**RESUME OPEN MEETING**

**7892 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Webb and Canham that Council resume Open Meeting.

At this juncture, the Director of Corporate Services and the Director of Engineering Services returned to the meeting.

**9.0 MAYOR'S ACTIVITY REPORT**

The Mayor gave a verbal report of his activities since last meeting, mentioning the following:

- John Oxley Memorial – 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary. Thanked Crs. Webb and O'Brien for attending. Congratulated the Gulargambone Historical Society on an enjoyable function.
- Thanked Cr Webb for attending the Murdi Paaki meeting in Cobar with the General Manager – refer item in General Manager's report.
- Referred to a person seeking business opportunities – advised the Economic Development Managers have been showing the person around.
- Congratulated Steve Baldwin on his recent Award.

**7893 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Horan and Webb that the Mayor's Activity Report be received and adopted.

**10.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

**7894 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Canham and O'Brien that the Correspondence be received and dealt with.

**Section A Consideration by Council**

**10.1 UNITED SERVICES UNION A19 (30879)**

Advising that local government makes significant contributions to community efforts to help reduce effects of alcohol and other drug related crime. Saying the Union is aware that members who have law enforcement functions have been reporting increases in violence while performing their duties. Stating the Union is concerned that there needs to be more considered attention given to reducing council officer exposure to the risk of assault.

Saying the Union will be writing to the Minister for Local Government, the Local Government and Shires Association and other stakeholders to request focused attention on the safety issues of council officers with law enforcement functions. Calling for councils to **commit to not require officers to confiscate alcohol** and asking Council to complete a survey enclosed with the letter to assist the Union in understanding the view of councils across the State.

The General Manager informed the meeting that Council has no staff authorised to confiscate alcohol, with that duty being left to the NSW Police Service. Mr. Griffiths said it should be noted that Council cannot authorise contractors to perform this duty. He said that a response has been forwarded to the United Services Union accordingly.

**7895 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that Council reaffirm that staff will not be required to enforce alcohol free zones nor to confiscate alcohol.

**10.2 MEALS ON WHEELS ASSOCIATION LTD T4 (30866)**

Enclosing copy of letter from Mrs Carmen Miller requesting street numbering in the town of Coonamble. Saying that the Meals on Wheels Committee agrees that it would be beneficial as a lot of volunteers are new to Coonamble. Pointing out that it is also important for emergency services to be able to identify properties when called.

The General Manager referred to his comments to an earlier meeting that he carried out the meals on wheels delivery and found all premises to be clearly marked, however it is granted that weekend services are sometimes fewer than during the week.

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**7896 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Karanouh and O'Brien that Council refer the matter to the Engineering Department for review and suggest to the Meals on Wheels Association that it again provide a map of Coonamble to the volunteers and make it a condition of supply that numbers be clearly displayed at premises.

**10.3 GULARGAMBONE HISTORICAL SOCIETY T3 + PR3310-1  
(30830)**

Requesting that a double sided "tourism attracting sign" with "Historic Site 6.4kms" be erected at the Bourbah crossroads as per a diagram attached to the letter. Also requesting that a double sided sign be erected at the road side at the site of the John Oxley Merri Merri Creek Crossing Memorial. Stating this memorial was suggested by the Lands Department because the piece of land had been relinquished by the late Mrs Margaret Ryan, "Cre Crin", Gulargambone and it was on the course taken by Oxley in 1818.

The General Manager said that Council agreed to the establishment of the John Oxley Merri Merri Creek Crossing Memorial, however the resolution indicated that it would not maintain the site.

Cr O'Brien said it was the intention of the Gulargambone Historical Society that Council provide and install the signs although this was not actually stated in the letter. She said it was intended that the signage be installed through the Tourism Development vote.

**7897 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Canham that this matter be deferred until the Tourism Development Manager is present to ascertain whether he has funding available to provide/erect the signage.

**10.4 LOCAL GOVERNMENT & SHIRES ASSOCIATIONS OF NSW D5-22  
(30865)**

Pointing out that Joint Regional Planning Panels (JRPP) commenced on 1 July 2009 in five regions of the State and advising that the Panel for the western region is due to commence shortly. Advising that the Associations continue to oppose the Panels – saying that with a majority of State appointed members (including the Chair) and only two council nominees, the Panels will undermine local decision making and local accountability.

Advising the Associations recently met with the Minister for Planning to discuss the planning reform agenda and she indicated the Department would undertake an evaluation of the panels' operation after the first six months and that there would be no transfer of the costs of the panels to local government while she remained Planning Minister.

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Pointing out that the Associations will be making representations to the Premier and Treasurer to ensure that the cost of panels are fully provided for in future State budgets. Stating the Department made a number of amendments to the code and guidelines in response to the Associations' representations and now recommending that councils need to make their own decisions based on local circumstances. Saying the Associations will monitor the panels over the course of the next few months and will be happy to hear from councils about issues relating to the panels and their operation.

The General Manager pointed out that Item 6 of his report refers to this matter.

**7898 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Webb that this matter be deferred and considered in conjunction with Item 6 of the General Manager's Report.

**10.5 NSW DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING D5-22 (30806)**

Reminding Council that council nominations for the Western Region JRPP were due on 30 June, 2009. Pointing out that each council is required to nominate two members and one alternate member – one of whom must have expertise in planning, architecture, heritage, the environment, urban design, land economics, traffic and transport, law, engineering or tourism. Requesting Council to forward its nominations in the near future as provisions for the commencement of the Western Region panels are presently in preparation and important matters, such as training and provision of materials are required to be arranged.

This matter is also dealt with in Item 6 of the General Manager's report.

**7899 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Webb that this matter be deferred and considered in conjunction with Item 6 of the General Manager's Report.

**10.6 NSW TREASURER G5 (30787)**

Stating that as part of the 2009/2010 State Budget the NSW Government announced the creation of the NSW Local Infrastructure Fund which provides interest free loans to local councils to bring forward urban development infrastructure works, including roads, water, sewer and drainage projects. Stating the Government has created a new interest free loan facility for local councils backed by the NSW Government's strong balance sheet which will provide substantial savings compared to accessing funds from the market place. Inviting Council to submit infrastructure project proposals by close of business on 31 August 2009.

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Cr Karanouh suggested the following projects as suitable for this funding:

- industrial subdivision
- Tooraweenah road

The Mayor suggested the showground project.

Council's Director of Corporate Services pointed out that the \$1 million dollars is an interest free loan, with repayments to be made at \$100,000/year over the next decade. Mr. Warren pointed out that Council has not accounted for such expenditure and should it decide to proceed, other works over that period will need to be deferred.

**7900 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Canham and Cullen that Council note the information and authorise senior staff to investigate the potential sources that could be applied to the repayments.

**FAR WEST ACADEMY OF SPORT**

At this juncture, Ms Kathy Barber and Matt Thompson from the FWAS were received to the meeting, along with Jarred Linton-Harland, Joanne Day and Nathan Burtenshaw, to discuss programs and opportunities offered to country children.

Ms Barber said that currently 132 young people have scholarships with the Academy and pointed out the area covers approximately 42% of NSW. She asked Jarred and Nathan to explain how the Academy has helped them in their chosen sport as well as personal development. Both students addressed Council advising of their individual experience. Ms Day spoke from a parent's perspective as her son Aiden started off with the Academy and is now on a 2 year contract with the Cowboys under 20s. She said the Academy kept costs low for parents travelling with their children and offered huge opportunities to participants.

Matt Thompson thanked Council for its support when events are held in Coonamble. Kathy said that all sporting categories are catered for and she hoped to broaden the horizon and encourage budding sportsmen and women to consider the benefits and opportunities provided by the Academy.

The Mayor thanked the Academy for its presentation and said that we are very proud of our young people and their achievements. The delegation left the meeting at 12.28 p.m.

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**10.7 FAR WEST ACADEMY OF SPORT C8 (30812)**

Advising that the Far West Academy of Sport (FWAS) is one of eleven Regional Academies of Sport (RAS) in NSW and provides a pathway that assists young talented athletes, officials and coaches residing within regional NSW to reach their personal and sporting potential. Saying there are currently four athletes from Coonamble Shire on scholarship with the Academy. Stating they would like to discuss the possibility of Council hosting an athlete function for FWAS athletes residing in the area.

**7901 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Webb and Canhan that Council note the presentation and also the achievements of our local sportsmen and women in their chosen sport.

At this juncture, Council's Economic Development Manager, Ms Amanda Glasson, was present.

**15.0 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGERS REPORT**

**7902 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs O'Brien and Webb that the report by the Economic Development Managers be received and dealt with.

Ms Glasson reported on the following issues:

- Saleyards planning – DSRD has been asked to clarify issues with funding for this project – it appears more money will be needed to prepare a business plan.
- Industrial Subdivision development – a draft policy will be presented to the September meeting on landuse in industrial areas.
- Railway Station & Reuse - ARTC has advised that more quotes are required – can't get suitable tradesmen – works required include painting, electrical and general repairs.
- Orana ACC & Regional Development Australia (RDA) – Orana ACC has been wound up and assets transferred to the new RDS – Orana ACC ceases from 3/8/2009. Disappointing that of 11 persons on new board, 6 are from Dubbo – weak representation for this area.
- BAG – another meeting planned – guest speakers from Chambers of Commerce have been invited. BAG is leaning towards becoming a Chamber of Commerce.
- In response to a question from Cr O'Brien, Ms Glasson said there has been a good response to the Business Awards and reminded the meeting that the Presentation of Awards will be held at the Golf Club on 29 August.

**7903 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Cullen that the report by the Economic Development Manager be adopted.

Ms. Glasson left the meeting at 12.37 p.m.

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**10.8 LOCAL GOVERNMENT & SHIRES ASSOCIATIONS OF NSW**

Advising that Berrigan Shire Council has approached the Associations for assistance with legal costs in litigation in which it has been involved. Stating that Berrigan Shire Council refused a development application that sought to subdivide two existing rural lots to create two alternative lots which would have resulted in two individual lots separated by approximately 8.5kms. Saying that, although Council was successful, the Court ordered each party pay their own costs – Council incurred the sum of \$66,848.62. Asking that Council contribute towards the costs saying that the Joint Committee of the Associations consider that the decision was sufficiently important to all councils to warrant the giving of support. Enclosing a tax invoice in the sum of \$260.06.

**7904 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Webb and Canham that Council agree to contribute \$260.06 towards legal expenses incurred by Berrigan Shire Council.

**10.9 ORANA REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS O5 (30847)**

Forwarding copy of minutes of the meeting held in Narromine on Wednesday, 8 July, 2009. Pointing out that the Code of Conduct Review Committee Panel membership (included as Annexure 1) was adopted and now individual councils are required to resolve this panel as an Annexure to their Code of Conduct.

A copy of the minutes, together with the adopted Code of Conduct Review Committee Panel Membership was included with each Councillor's business paper.

**7905 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Karanouh and Webb that Council agree to include the Code of Conduct Review Committee Panel as detailed in the annexure to the minutes of the OROC meeting, as an Annexure to its Code of Conduct.

**10.10 NETWASTE G1-5 (30931)**

Advising NetWaste has recently requested the support of the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) to co-fund a household hazardous chemical collection campaign in the region. Stating approval of the request has been received up to the value of \$120,000 and a condition of funding is that each participating Council is to sign an agreement individually, acknowledging their responsibilities and financial implications. Pointing out it is intended that the regional collection campaign will be held in October/November 2009, as tender documents are currently being finalized to engage a contractor for the project.

The General Manager informed Council that advice from the Director of Engineering Services is that Council can be part of the program, but the basis of costs and charges will be subject to the tender still being sought.

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Mr. Griffiths said that if the tender is not satisfactory, Council may still decide to not be part of the program. The General Manager said that on this basis the agreement has been signed on behalf of Council.

Cr. O'Brien requested that an item be placed in Council's column concerning the disposal of light bulbs, which are classified as a hazardous substance.

**7906 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Webb and Canham that Council endorse the action of the Director of Engineering Services in signing the Agreement and authorise participation in the program at the discretion of the Director, noting that at least one town cleanup is also to be funded from the vote.

**10.11 STEVEN RUTLEDGE, LOCAL UNITED SERVICES UNION  
REPRESENTATIVE S6-10 (30926)**

Wishing to change the date already approved for the Coonamble Shire Employee's Picnic. Advising that due to conflict with a community date that date is no longer viable. Requesting that Council approve Friday, 4 September 2009 as the date for the Employees Picnic.

The General Manager pointed out that the 18 September, 2009 previously approved for the Picnic, clashes with the Coonamble Community Theatrical Group's performance.

**7907 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Canham that Council raise no objection to approving Friday 4 September, 2009 as the annual picnic day holiday for employees, in lieu of Friday, 18 September which is not now viable.

**10.12 LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANAGERS AUSTRALIA (LGMA) (NSW)  
S6-3 (30838)**

Inviting the General Manager to attend the LGMA NSW Annual Conference to be held in Sydney from 15 – 18 September 2009. Saying this year is the 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference themed *Reflecting on the Past – Looking to the Future*.

The General Manager informed Council that the "early bird" registration for this Conference is \$1,150 with the standard registration being \$1,350 and he said he cannot justify this expense to Council in attending the LGMA NSW Annual Conference.

**7908 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Canham and Webb that Council's General Manager not attend the 2009 Annual Conference of the Local Government Managers Australia (NSW) from 15 – 18 September.

**10.13 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE NSW  
PR1209 (30913)**

Referring to Council's letter regarding odour surveys around Coonamble and confirming that if any court proceedings arose following Council's assessment of odour from the Moonya feedlot:

- The department would handle the matter, including assessing whether or not to continue with proceedings in the Local Court based on all the evidence
- Council's involvement would extend to providing the department with the odour information it obtained, staff preparing a statement of evidence with the department's assistance and attending court to give evidence if required, and
- The department would be willing to reimburse council's reasonable costs of their officers attending court to give evidence in proceedings.

Pointing out if Council is concerned that staff may fail to accurately assess odour, for example (or any other shortcomings in Council's assessment), the Department would not seek costs from Council. Stating the quality of information may merely influence the department's decision on whether or not to continue with court proceedings, in light of all available evidence (and not just Council evidence).

**7909 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Cullen that Council waive the requirement for a detailed agreement and instruct staff to commence assessments as requested by the Department of Environment and Climate Change, noting that every request cannot be actioned.

**10.14 NSW ROADS AND TRAFFIC AUTHORITY R8-13 (30920)**

Advising that a traffic facility program has been established in the Dubbo office and funds are available for road safety improvement works. Stating the RTA is prepared to provide 100% of funding for works on State Roads and 50% for works on Regional and Local Roads. Requesting Council to provide a schedule of proposed works, with estimated costs listed in priority order, for consideration for the 2009/2010 financial year. Stating that funding will be allocated at the end of August 2009.

**7910 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that Council instruct the Director of Engineering Services, through the General Manager, to identify necessary works and submit applications accordingly.

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**10.15 MURDI PAAKI REGIONAL ENTERPRISE CORPORATION LTD S10  
(30958)**

Drawing attention to the lack of street lighting in Yoolundry Street, Gulargambone and saying no lighting is provided in the location of two new houses in the street. Pointing out this situation has potential safety, security and amenity issues and seeking Council's assistance in remedying the situation.

The General Manager informed the meeting that Country Energy recommends a new 70w HPS luminaire on Pole 117401 at the intersection of Breelong Street at a cost of \$3,000 plus GST. Mr. Griffiths said that if Council wishes a second luminaire on Pole 117402 the cost would be \$4,200 plus GST. He said annual charges for each street light are approximately \$100.

Cr O'Brien said she had inspected the area and only one light is warranted – to be located on Pole 117402. She suggested that an additional light be positioned at the corner of Yoolundry and Kirban Streets as it is very dark.

The Director of Corporate Services said that if Council proceeds with the additional lighting it should identify a funding source – reminding Councillors that Council has a balanced budget, with no surplus funds.

**7911 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Karanouh that additional street lighting in Gulargambone be deferred until the next budget review and in the meantime request Country Energy to conduct an audit of the Kirban/Yoolundry Streets intersection.

**10.16 CHRIS GRAY R8-11 (30959)**

Expressing an interest in purchasing the parts of Yuma Street and Calga Street which he currently has fenced off and leased from Council.

The General Manager reported that when Mr Gray initially made application (in 2004), he wanted to purchase the subject portions of roads, however Council approved the closure and fencing on the understanding that the portions of road be leased only at a yearly fee of \$200. Mr Griffiths said that another condition of the lease was that access be available to Council at any time should the need arise and Mr. Gray agreed to these conditions.

The Mayor pointed out that it would be necessary to obtain a valuation of the land sought prior to making any decision in the matter.

**7912 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Horan and Cullen that Council investigate the possibility of securing a valuation plus costs involved and report back to Council.

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**10.17 COONAMBLE COMMUNITY SHED PR2460.1 (30955)**

Making application to have sewerage connected to the shed at the rear of premises 32 Yarran Street which is owned by Council and used as the Community Shed. Pointing out that toilet facilities are needed for patrons using the shed and saying it would add value to Council's asset.

The General Manager informed the meeting that the anticipated cost of connection will be in the order of \$3,000 due to the distance from the sewer main located in the Public School grounds. Mr Griffiths said this cost has been included in the grant application submitted under the Building Communities Program of the NSW Government that is the subject of a report by him to this meeting.

**7913 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Karanouh and O'Brien that this matter be deferred and considered in conjunction with the General Manager's report later in the day.

**10.18 PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (PHAA) M5  
(30941)**

Saying there is a strong commitment from the Federal Government to support public health agendas and asking Council to join in this effort by becoming a member of PHAA. Stating that around the country there is need to ensure that we have an articulate voice not only for public health, but also for public health professionals. Enclosing a membership form – subscription for Council being \$665.

The General Manager stated that Council has, in recent times, become involved in the public health issue, particularly relating to continued attempts to downgrade the service level at Coonamble hospital. Mr Griffiths said that such an organization is more policy-based and it is doubtful that remote rural areas such as ours will achieve value for money should membership be attained. Cr. O'Brien supported the General Manager's opinion in this matter.

**7914 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Webb that Council decline making application for membership to the Public Health Association of Australia on this occasion.

**10.20 COONAMBLE RODEO & CAMPDRAFT ASSOCIATION INC S5  
(30963)**

Advising of ongoing issues representatives wish to discuss with Council – these issues relate to the future success and prosperity of the event which is one of the biggest functions held in Coonamble annually. Referring to the Master Plan being developed and saying the Association is anxious to view the proposal and comment on its implementation.

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Saying they intend to show a long term plan for the showground which will improve facilities for competitors and the public. Advising at this stage OH&S is becoming a major factor for event hosts and organizers.

Submitting a program of works as “first priority”, together with an “order of preference” for longer term problems.

The General Manager said he understands that each councillor received a copy of this letter and that the Rodeo Association intended to lobby councillors. Mr. Griffiths reminded Councillors of the provisions of clause 4.1A of the Guidelines for the Model Code of Conduct that should be observed when being lobbied.

The General Manager referred to Council's resolution of February 2008 which provided for the preparation of a formal site plan for the Showground as part of a master plan towards ongoing development. He said that users will be invited to participate in a workshop towards the end of August as part of the master planning process.

**7915 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Webb that Council refer the issues requested by the Rodeo and Campdraft Association for inclusion in the master plan for ongoing development of the Showground, noting the discussions earlier in the day when representatives from the Association addressed Council.

**10.20 MAUREEN NALDER**

**P1 (30973)**

Writing on behalf of residents in the vicinity of Mendooran, Macquarie and Bimble Streets concerning the formal naming of parks. Suggesting that Broome Park be named after a long term resident of Mendooran Street, Mrs Edie Jerrett. Saying that if Council is not in favour of this request, asking that some type of memorial be established (e.g. shelter, bench, etc) with her name clearly marked.

The General Manager informed the meeting that this letter was received on 4 August, 2009 and suggestions for the naming of parks closed on Wednesday, 22 July, 2009. He said that in any case it is not permissible to utilize the name of a living person for such purposes.

**7916 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs O'Brien and Webb that the writer be informed her suggestion was too late for inclusion with others received concerning the naming of parks – the closing date being Wednesday, 22 July, 2009 and that Council is not permitted to utilize the name of a living person for such purposes nor can a memorial be applicable.

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**10.21 BOURKE SHIRE COUNCIL M5-3 (30979)**

Referring to the tender for NSW Air Ambulance Contract and urging Council to give urgent attention to the information supplied. Advising that Bourke experienced the withdrawal of its local commercial air service on 19 December 2008 which was contracted to Rex Airlines.

A copy of the Tender for the NSW Air Ambulance Contract was attached to the business paper.

**7917 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Webb and O'Brien that Council write to the Premier, the State and Federal Ministers for Health, objecting to any tender process and requesting that the status quo be retained.

At this juncture, 1.12 p.m. the meeting adjourned for lunch and resumed at 2.00 p.m.

**Section B: For information only.**

**10.22 INFINITY ENVIRONMENTAL TO8-3 (30839)**

Referring to Tender 08-3 "Supply and Delivery of Oxidation and Filtration Equipment" and providing responses to Council's requests following concerns raised by the Department of Water and Energy.

A copy of this letter was included for Councillors' information. Councillors noted that a response has been now sent to the Department of Water and Energy in respect of water treatment for Coonamble.

**10.23 CENTRAL WEST LHPA R11 (30815)**

Responding to Council's letter regarding service delivery and addressing the points raised by Council concerning the activities of the Central West Livestock Health and Pest Authority in the Coonamble Area.

A copy of this letter was included in the business paper.

**10.24 DEPARTMENT OF LANDS R4 + P1 (30811)**

Advising that all trusts are required to submit to the Minister an annual report as prescribed in section 122 of the Crown Lands Act 1989. Stating that the Department has developed a simple online reporting process for the submission of reports and most trusts are expected to move to the new online system from 1 July 2009.

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**10.25 DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY TOURISM AND RESOURCES  
(AUSINDUSTRY) G5 (30822)**

Acknowledging receipt of the application for Coonamble Eco-spa made under the TQUAL Grants funding and advising that the outcome will be announced around October 2009 at which time Council will be advised.

**10.26 COONAMBLE SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION C6-12-1**

Forwarding copies of the Association's Profit & Loss Statement and Balance Sheet to June 2009 for Council's information.

The General Manager advised that because the Coonamble Senior Citizens Association is a Council Committee under section 355, it is required to provide this information to Council. Mr. Griffiths said the information was included as an appendix to the business paper.

**10.27 ORANA AREA CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (ACC) D5-20  
(30891)**

Enclosing cheque for \$1,100 being seed funding sponsorship of the 2009 Coonamble Business Awards and thanking Council and the business community for supporting the Regional Business Excellence Awards. Advising that the local awards throughout the region are underway and will culminate with the Regional Gala Presentation to be held in Cobar on 10 October, 2009.

**10.28 COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION D5 (30894)**

Forwarding copy of *Community Relations Report 2008*, which has been prepared under the *Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000*. Advising that the theme for 2008 was *Joining our Neighbourhood* and saying the report is available through the Commission's website at [www.crc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.crc.nsw.gov.au)

**10.29 INDEPENDENT PRICING & REGULATORY TRIBUNAL (IPART)**

Advising that it has released the draft report for the review of the Revenue Framework for Local Government and saying copies are available from the website, along with a media release and a fact sheet. Inviting written comments on the draft report by 18 September and advising IPART will be conducting workshops in August & September (Dubbo on 9 September – Council's September meeting day). Saying that IPART is happy to meet with regional organizations of councils during the consultation period and is keen to gain input from the wider community.

A copy of the Fact Sheet was attached to the business paper.

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**10.30 CASTLEREAGH MACQUARIE COUNTY COUNCIL N7  
(30976)**

Forwarding copy of Business Paper for meeting to be held at Lightning Ridge on Wednesday, 19 August, 2009.

A copy of the minutes of the County Council's meeting held on 17 June, 2009 (excluding section recommendation from Committee of the Whole) was included with each Councillor's business paper.

**10.31 ELIZABETH MARKEY, PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER**

Advising that after 126 years Coonamble will be without a Brigidine Convent as, at the end of August, Sr Clare is retiring to Maroubra and Sr Finian moving to Koonambil Hostel from where she will continue her parish work. Inviting Councillors and partners, as well as staff and partners, to a Mass and dinner being held on Friday 21 August. Stating the Mass will be celebrated by the Bishop of Bathurst at 5.45 p.m., with dinner at the Bowling Club from 7 p.m.

This matter was further discussed following Item 10.33.

**10.32 CENTRAL NSW TOURISM T3-2 (30968)**

Inviting Council to renew membership for the 2009/10 year – enclosing tax invoice in the amount of \$2,469.35 which takes into account the 3% increase advised in February. Taking the opportunity to advise Council of its return on investment for the financial year 2008/09 which was detailed as an attachment to the letter.

**10.33 DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT L10-1 (30970)**

Advising councils of the release of *Practice Note No 9 – Complaints Management in Councils*, a joint publication of the Department and the NSW Ombudsman. Advising that it has been prepared to assist in the management and handling of complaints and for councils to develop and implement effective complaints management systems. Further saying complaint handling is also a key component of sound corporate governance and is fundamental to ensuring an appropriate level of accountability in the exercise of council functions.

Pointing out that councils are strongly encouraged to develop complaint handling policies and procedures that incorporate the essential features of an effective complaints management system described in the Practice Note. Saying that where councils have an existing complaints management system, encouraging them to review it to ensure that it is consistent with best practice described in the Practice Note.

The General Manager reported that staff will be reviewing the Practice Note and comparing current procedures to improve this Council's processes.

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**7918 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Webb that the information contained in Item Nos. 10-22 to 10.33 inclusive be noted.

**Item 10.31 – Farewell to Brigidine Sisters – 21/8/2009**

**7919 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Cullen and Canham that Council agree to hold a Civic Function in McCullough Hall on Friday, 21 August, 2009 to Farewell the Brigidine Sisters, purchase a suitable gift for Sisters Clare and Finian and noting that the Brigidine Order has been active in Coonamble Shire for 126 years.

**URGENT BUSINESS – SUPPLEMENTARY CORRESPONDENCE**

**7920 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Webb and Karanouh that the following items be classified “urgent business” and dealt with:

**10.34 WALK THE LOOP (RAE MURRAY) D7 (30993)**

Advising that the Coonamble Quota Cancer Survival Fund will hold its annual “Walk the Loop” fundraiser on Sunday, 6 September 2009 and seeking the same support from Council as in previous years. Advising Coonamble Police support the route proposed for the walk which will commence at approximately 10 a.m. Hoping to receive Council’s support and calling for any suggestions or concerns that Council may have to make the day successful.

The General Manager informed the meeting that staff have been liaising with the organizers and see no difficulties with the proposal.

**7921 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Webb and O'Brien that Council approve of the ‘Walk the Loop’ fundraiser being held on Sunday, 6 September, 2009 in accordance with route and arrangements advised in the letter.

**10.35 NARROMINE SHIRE COUNCIL O5 (30987)**

Advising that at a meeting of 21 July 2009 it resolved:

1. *That Narromine Shire Council supports the initiative of OROC to engage a full time Executive Officer on a trial basis for six months;*
2. *That Narromine Shire Council agrees to host the position and act as secretariat for the OROC Executive Officer.*

Advising it is intended that the position will be housed at the Council’s Community Services / Visitor Information Centre situated at 37 Burraway Street, Narromine.

The General Manager informed the meeting that this proposal is in accordance with the ongoing discussions over the past seven months and Council made budgetary allowance in this year’s management plan as its contribution towards the employment of a full time executive officer).

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**7922 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Webb and O'Brien that Council concur with the arrangements to have Narromine Shire Council engage a full time executive officer for the OROC Group and act as the secretariat for the OROC executive officer.

**10.36 GULARGAMBONE HISTORICAL SOCIETY L3 + T3 (30985)**

Expressing gratitude to Council for the recent maintenance carried out at the John Oxley Memorial Rest Area prior to the function on Saturday 1 August, 2009. Saying when she arrived at the site on Saturday morning she was amazed at the "transformation" of the area. Asking that appreciation be conveyed to the workers for a job well done.

The General Manager reported that a copy of this letter has been provided to the Manager – Services requesting that she advise appropriate employees accordingly.

**7923 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Webb that Council concur with the action taken in conveying thanks to the relevant staff.

**10.37 ROTARY CLUB OF COONAMBLE INC A8 (30989)**

Saying that from observation and discussion with users of the Rotary Shelter near the Golf Club it is apparent that that it is a frequently used facility which is appreciated by travellers. Advising that Rotary would be willing to support any Council submission for funding for toilet facilities and/or contribute to the capital cost of their installation. Requesting Council to give further consideration to the provision of toilet facilities at this roadside shelter.

The General Manager informed the meeting that this is in response to Council's request at the July meeting that the Rotary Club submit options of what project(s) it wished to be involved with and/or contribute towards.

**7924 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Karanouh and O'Brien that the Director of Engineering Services, through the General Manager, be instructed to obtain comments from the RTA and prepare a thorough design of toilet facilities that could be installed at the Rotary Rest Area on Castlereagh Highway north of Coonamble township.

**10.38 PARKES SHIRE COUNCIL – OFFICE OF THE MAYOR R8-18 (30995)**

Advising that the inaugural meeting of the Newell Highway Taskforce was hosted by Parkes Shire Council on 6 July 2009. Stating that two most immediate actions emanating from the meeting and requiring comment from Councils are as follows:

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- Item 1 – Finalisation of Mission Statement
- Item 2 – Survey of Council Priorities

Asking for Council's comments on both issues by 10 a.m. Monday 31 August 2009.

**7925 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Canham and Webb that Council make no comment on the two items put forward as it does not govern any of the Newell Highway.

**10.39 COONAMBLE BOWLING CLUB LIMITED D7 (31003)**

Advising that the Club conducts a Bowls Carnival each year during the October long weekend. Saying the Carnival has grown in size and popularity and bowlers from all over the State nominate, making it a very competitive weekend. Pointing out it is the only time the Club looks for sponsorship and requesting Council to consider supporting the event.

**7926 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Canham and O'Brien that Council not contribute as a sponsor to the Bowls Carnival held during the October long weekend.

**10.40 COONAMBLE CRISIS CARE SERVICE INC. D7 + C8 (31000)**

Pointing out there is presently no established accredited facility locally and advising the stage has been reached where the committee is working with potential Government service providers and agencies and a requirement is to gauge the level of community collaboration, assistance and involvement. Seeking a letter of support and pointing out it is not a binding agreement, however anything Council is able to provide or donate would be appreciated. Seeking a response before 14 August 2009.

**7927 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that Council not commit to any contribution, noting that no budgetary provision has been provided for this type of community service, however advise the Service that it will still be involved in the activities of the Service.

**10.41 COONAMBLE & DISTRICT EDUCATION FOUNDATION E1 (31028)**

Advising it is moving into its sixth year of operation and advising that the Foundation has awarded \$32,900 this year in scholarships to 25 young TAFE, college and university students. Pointing out its most pressing task is to continue to raise funds for ongoing scholarships programs and asking Council to support the Foundation.

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The General Manager informed the meeting that last year Council contributed amounts of \$3,000 and \$2,000 for the Scholarship Program and Outward Bound respectively. No application for contribution under Council's new policy has been forthcoming from the Foundation.

**7928 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Cullen and O'Brien that Council request the Foundation to complete the application under the Financial Assistance for Events/Functions Policy and authorise staff to approve the requested contribution of \$3,000 for the Scholarship Program.

At this juncture, Council's Tourism Development Manager was at the meeting. The Mayor congratulated Steve on his recent Award and thanked him for his outstanding efforts on behalf of council.

**PRESENTATION – NEW WEBSITE**

The TDM gave a comprehensive presentation of the new website and demonstrated its ability to address all Council issues. He explained in depth how it could be used and would give the public the opportunity to obtain much more detailed information, forms, policies without the need to come into the Council office. Mr. Baldwin indicated he hoped to launch the new site later this month. The Mayor congratulated Steve on the presentation.

**16.0 REPORT BY TOURISM DEVELOPMENT MANAGER**

Mr. Baldwin presented his report, elaborating on the following items:

- Flyer – Marthaguy/Moorambilla – handed to councillors and advised that 4500 would be posted to residents within this and adjoining Shires shortly.
- Signage – Merri Merri Ck Oxley Memorial – Cr. O'Brien referred to the earlier letter from the Gulargambone Historical Society and requested whether the Tourism budget has funds for such signage. The TDM said he would have sufficient funds.
- Nickname Hall of Fame – it is hoped to have further caricatures installed in September.
- Visitor Information Centre – the VIC at the Cypress is attracting more travellers, with 85 people recorded for July. Caravan Park numbers are also increasing.
- Campbelltown City Council – confirmed sponsorship of Festival of Fisher's Ghost Arts Prize 2009 – 30 October – 15 November. 10 works of art from Coonamble will be on display. Council should select representatives to attend.

**7930 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Karanouh that the Tourism Development Manager's report be adopted.

**16.1 2009 COONAMBLE RODEO & CAMPDRAFT**

The TDM submitted a report on the outcome of surveys and assessments conducted at the Coonamble Rodeo providing Council with information that will assist with future planning and figures that provide accurate value of events to the community. Council noted that the total estimated visitor spend in Coonamble (including competitors) for the Coonamble Rodeo & Campdraft in 2009 was \$982,2777. He pointed out that due to the grant of \$10,000 the promotion was more widespread than previously and an application has been made for funding for that purpose again in 2010.

Councillor Cullen pointed out that the Rodeo supports local businesses, which pay a nominal amount to conduct a stall.

**7931 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Karanouh that the report be noted.

**SIGNAGE – JOHN OXLEY MEMORIAL**

**7932 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs O'Brien and Karanouh that Council agree to provide and erect the signs requested by the Gulargambone Historical Society, indicating the location of the John Oxley Memorial at Merri Merri Creek and that funds be allocated from the Tourism Signage vote.

**11.0 REPORT BY GENERAL MANAGER**

**7933 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Webb that the report submitted by the General Manager be received and dealt with.

**11.1 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS DETERMINED UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY**

**7934 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Canham and Webb that Council note Development Application Nos. 020 & 027/2009, together with Complying Development Application Nos. 024/2009 & 025/2009, have been approved under delegated authority since the last meeting.

**11.2 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR EVENTS/FUNCTIONS**

The General Manager referred to the draft policy which was presented to the June meeting, following Council's request for a 'donations policy' and Council's resolution to change the name of the draft to "*Policy for Financial Assistance for Events/ Functions*".

Mr. Griffiths said the draft document, as amended, has been on public exhibition and no submissions were received.

**7935 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Webb that Council formally adopt the Policy for Financial Assistance for Events/ Functions, as amended, noting that the draft document has been on public exhibition for the prescribed period and no submissions were received.

### **11.3 NAMING OF PARKS**

The General Manager reminded Council that to meet obligations required under Section 54A (*Community Land to be Described in Common Terms*) of the Local Government Act, it needs to formally identify the land by way of gazettal.

Mr. Griffiths said that Council sought public comment on the names of parks within the Shire, with a view to having them formally gazetted. The closing date for submissions and/or comments was Wednesday, 22 July, 2009 and four were received.

Two suggested that the area be named *The Janet Cant Memorial Park* as a memorial to Mrs Cant who died in tragic circumstances at an early age. The General Manager said both submissions referred to the former Girl Guides' Hall, which was named in honour of Mrs Cant and located in that area, noting that the hall has now been demolished, with no recognition of Mrs. Cant remaining. Mr. Griffiths said that both these submissions referred to the area as the *Apex Park*.

Another submission suggested that the area continue to be known as *Rotary Park*, with no objection to the inclusion of *Janet Cant Memorial*. The fourth submission was not to change the name of Broome Park and giving reasons why it should always remain in honour of a wonderful GP who was part of Coonamble's History.

**7936 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Webb and Karanouh that Council:

- (1) Note the submissions received and determine the name for the area currently known as "Rotary Park" as "*Janet Cant Memorial Rotary Park*"
- (2) Proceed with formal gazettal of all parks and recreation areas within the Shire, with the exception of Smith Street Park which is owned by the Department of Housing.

### **11.4 PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL – TOURISM DEVELOPMENT MANAGER**

The General Manager reported that, in accordance with the terms of Mr. Baldwin's Contract of Employment, a performance appraisal was conducted with him on 9 July, 2009. Mr. Griffiths listed points that were identified and indicated that the employee's work ethic and standards attained were found to be of an excellent quality as is his involvement with the community in a personal capacity.

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Council noted that the Tourism Development Manager is employed under a five year performance based contract which expires on 28 February 2013. The General Manager said that in accordance with the provisions of the Employment Contract the remuneration package has been increased by 4%.

**7937 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Karanouh that Council note the performance appraisal of the Tourism Development Manager.

**11.5 LOCAL GOVERNMENT / MURDI PAAKI REGIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ENGAGEMENT FORUM**

The General Manager reported that he attended the forum in Cobar on 22 July, 2009 in company with Cr Webb. He said the purpose of the forum was to strengthen local governance in the region by building a stronger working relationship between the Assembly and the eight Councils in the Murdi Paaki region.

Mr. Griffiths said those present were given background information on the signing of an agreement between MPRA and the NSW & Australian Governments. He pointed out that the demographic trends involving the Aboriginal population and non-Aboriginal population were stressed, along with the changing economic base of the region and the withdrawal of services.

The General Manager pointed out that in Coonamble it was seen that the community working party needed to be reinvigorated and the "them and us" mindset eliminated. He said an example of the problems encountered included the long held view that significant funding is provided to local government for Aboriginal issues but not expended accordingly.

Council noted that the establishment of a Youth Council incorporating participants in the Young Leadership Program was endorsed by both the coordinator of that program and Coonamble Council delegates. However, it was also noted that previous attempts to form such a body have met with lack of interest.

It was pointed out that the Wungali Community Working Party needs to be reinvigorated and undertake a comprehensive review of its action plan. The General Manager said a positive move could be for Council to receive constructive input into its management planning process from the CWP and "dovetail" mutually beneficial aspects of its action plan.

The General Manager reported that Aboriginal Cultural Awareness training was identified as being helpful for staff at a participating council and this was suggested for staff of all councils in the Murdi Paaki region.

**7938 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Cullen and O'Brien that Council:

- (1) Attempt to form a Youth Council through the Indigenous Young Leaders Program currently established by MPRA;
- (2) Advise the Wungali Community Working Party of the small amount of funding received under the Financial Assistance Grant for working with Indigenous populations;
- (3) Nominate Councillor Michael Webb as the delegate to the Wungali Community Working Party;
- (4) Invite representatives of the Community Working Parties to participate in Council's management planning workshop for the 2010-2013 period;
- (5) Investigate Aboriginal Cultural Awareness training for all staff.

#### **11.6 JOINT REGIONAL PLANNING PANELS (JRPP)**

The General Manager reminded Council that, acting upon the advice of the LGSA, this Council declined to nominate representatives for the Western Region Joint Planning Panel. Mr. Griffiths pointed out that the LGSA has now stated "...we recommend that councils need to make their own decisions based on local circumstances".

Mr. Griffiths suggested that without local delegates on JRPPs, the outcomes of individual developments may not be positive for the community and lack the local input necessary. He said Council is required to nominate two representatives and an alternative for the panel and may, if a suitably qualified person is available, substitute a non-elected member for nomination. Mr. Griffiths said that representatives will be required to conform with the Code of Conduct and procedures for the operation of Joint Regional Planning Panels.

**7939 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Karanouh and Cullen that Council nominate Councillors Horan and Schieb as its two representatives and Councillor O'Brien as an alternate to sit on the Western Region Joint Planning Panel to determine developments that are considered by the panel for Coonamble Shire.

At this juncture, 2.58 p.m., Councillor Canham left the meeting and did not return.

#### **11.7 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION 2007/08**

The General Manager reported that the Department of Local Government annually publishes comparative information for Councils and recently the information for 2007/08 was released, albeit belatedly! Mr. Griffiths said the information is useful to compare how this Council is performing against like councils and to achieve this, the Department has divided councils into varying groups with Coonamble being included in Group 9.

He said a group average is produced and probably provides a baseline for comparative overall within that group.

Councillors noted that the comparatives cover a wide range of information but are basically confined to rating, overall income and expenditure and financial key performance indicators.

- (i) *Residential Rates*
- (ii) *Farmland Rates*
- (iii) *Business Rates*
- (iv) *Outstanding Rates and Charges*
- (v) *Percentage Movements in Rates and Annual Charges Revenue*
- (vi) *Percentage Movements in User Charges and Fees*
- (vii) *Sources of Income from Continuing Operations*
- (viii) *Continuing Operations Income Per Capita*
- (ix) *Dissection of Expenses from Continuing Operations*
- (x) *Total Expenses from Continuing Operations Per Capita*
- (xi) *Unrestricted Current Ratio*
- (xii) *Debt Service Ratio*
- (xiii) *Capital Expenditure Ratio*
- (xiv) *Number of Equivalent Full Time Staff*
- (xv) *Compliance with Statutory Reporting Deadlines*
- (xvi) *Environmental Management and Health Services*
- (xvii) *Recreation and Leisure Services*
- (xviii) *Community Services*

Mr. Griffiths advised the meeting that overall this Council's performance is considered to be more than satisfactory, with variations from previous years being explained by resolutions of Council on specific areas.

**7940 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Webb that Council note the Comparative Information 2007/08 as published by the Department of Local Government.

#### **11.8 COMMUNITY BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS**

The General Manager referred to a resolution at the July meeting that the \$30,000 available from the State Government's allocation to each Electorate be put towards the relocation of the Soccer Fields. Mr. Griffiths said that since that time a meeting was held with the Soccer Club and it was determined that the Sportsground would be the preferred option and this is to be taken to a meeting involving the other users of the ground. The General Manager pointed out that the subject meeting is not yet scheduled, but the application for funding must be submitted prior to 10 August 2009.

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Mr. Griffiths said grant applications were submitted as follows:

1. Refurbishment of Gulargambone Hall – fix roof	\$11,000
2. Soccer relocation	\$ 7,000
(Both of these projects to be submitted in Council's name with the matching \$9,000 to be sourced from surplus identified by the Director of Corporate Services in the preparation of the 2008/09 financial reports)	
3. Construction of toilet for Coonamble Men's Shed, including connection to sewer main	\$ 8,000
4. Stage 2 of the Quambone Memorial Hall restoration – supper room upgrade	<u>\$13,000</u>
(Both of these projects to be submitted in the name of the group requesting the funding)	
<b>Total Value of Projects</b>	<b>\$39,000</b>

To be funded by:

Council	\$ 9,000
Grant	<u>\$30,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$39,000</b>

**7941 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Cullen that Council confirm the actions of the General Manager in submitting applications for grants as detailed in the report and note the contribution by Council of \$9,000.

**11.9 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION – RESTRICTION ON LIQUOR SALES**

The General Manager reported that a public meeting was held at the Coonamble RSL Club on Tuesday, 4 August 2009 to obtain input into suggested provisions on restricting the sale of certain take away alcohol products. Mr. Griffiths said that the Liquor Accord met on 30 July, 2009 and called a special meeting of all licensees on Monday 3 August in an attempt to gain consensus on the most applicable restrictions for Coonamble.

Council noted that such consensus was not forthcoming and the Accord will meet once again and present its recommendations to a meeting of the Coonamble Interagency on 2 September 2009, following which the provisions will be released to the public for comment.

The General Manager advised Council that attendance at the community meeting was disappointing with only Interagency and licensee personnel in attendance. He said the provisions suggested for Coonamble are as supported by the Walgett licensed premises proprietors and comprise:

- No fortified wine in containers greater than 750ml.
- No beer in 750ml bottles.
- No four (4) litre wine casks to be sold before 2 p.m.

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- Between 10.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m., only alcohol products with 4% alcohol by volume or less may be sold.

Mr. Griffiths said that some of the provisions discussed at the Accord meeting included:

- Persons living outside a 10 kilometre radius from town are exempt.
- Hours of restriction commence at 9.00 a.m. and conclude 1.00 p.m.
- No take away sales after 9.00 p.m.

The General Manager pointed out that the issue of limiting sale of alcohol was one of the actions provided in the Crime Prevention Plan placed on public display at the July Council Meeting. He said it is important that Council support the implementation of some take away sales restrictions and attempt to mitigate negative impacts on businesses across the Shire.

**7942 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Karanouh and O'Brien that Council support the implementation of restrictions on the sale of take away alcohol across Coonamble Shire.

**12.0 REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES**

**7943 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs O'Brien and Webb that the report by the Director of Corporate Services be received and dealt with.

**12.1 RATE COLLECTIONS**

**7944 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that the Total Combined Rate Collections to 31 July 2009 be noted.

**12.2 LIST OF INVESTMENTS**

**7945 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Webb that that the Investments held at 31 July 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.

**12.3 STORES AND MATERIALS UNACCOUNTED FOR AND STORES AND MATERIALS WRITTEN IN – PERIOD 1 JANUARY TO 30 JUNE 2009**

The Director of Corporate Services reported that the stock-take of stores and materials has been completed and he provided a list of store items requiring adjustment to the meeting.

**7946 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Karanouh and Webb that Council authorise the writing in of stores and materials in the sum of \$646.25 and the writing off of stores and materials in the sum of \$115.14, as submitted to the meeting, for the period ending 30 June 2009.

#### **12.4 SALE OF LAND FOR OVERDUE RATES**

The Director of Corporate Services reported that Council, at its meeting on 10 December, 2008, resolved to proceed with the sale of twenty six properties identified for recovery of overdue rates and charges under the provision of the Local Government Act and Regulation. Mr. Warren said that Waterford Ryan was appointed to act on legal matters and the firm AJF Brien & Sons conducted the auction which was held on Saturday 13 June, 2009.

Council noted that of the twenty six (26) properties offered, three (3) were residential dwellings which were subject to appropriate reserves. It was also noted that twenty four (24) properties were sold, with two (2) being "passed in". The Director informed the meeting that at the time of writing this report only eight of the twenty four properties have been settled.

He provided a list of expenses incurred in connection with the eight completed sales which amounted to \$7,732.42. Mr. Warren reported that a total of \$52,450 was obtained from the sale and once allocated against each property settled to date, an amount of \$23,910.01 is to be written off.

**7947 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Karanouh and O'Brien that Council:

- (1) Note this report
- (2) Agree to write off the balance of rates, noting that in accordance with s.719 the rates taken to be "fully satisfied" is an amount of \$23,910.01

#### **13.0 REPORT FROM DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING SERVICES**

**7948 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that the report by the Director of Engineering Services be received and dealt with.

#### **13.1 PROGRESS REPORT – JULY 2009**

The Director of Engineering Services provided an update of works in progress and projects being carried out by Council during July. Mr. Gamage mentioned the following:

- State highway
- Road maintenance annual program
- Local & regional roads
- Parks & gardens
- Levee
- Tully Park bore
- Central West CMA
- Water supply
- Asset management forum
- Quarry

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- Country Energy – tower
- CWCMA Salinity & Water Quality Alliance Conference

With regard to the issue with Country Energy concerning the ownership of the tower located on “Toora”, Council requested that the Director provide a report as soon as information is received from Country Energy.

**7949 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Karanouh and O’Brien that the progress report submitted by the Director of Engineering Services be noted.

**13.2 GULARGAMBONE LIONS PARK - FENCING**

The Director of Engineering Services referred to an issue of safety raised with him in relation to the Lions Park at Gulargambone about the possibility of a child accidentally running into moving vehicles on the adjoining main road.

Mr. Gamage said that from an aesthetic point of view it is proposed to erect a one (1) metre in height white wooden picket fence I, with 0.5-1 metre wide garden beds both sides of the fence.

Cr. O’Brien thanked the Director for submitting the report and pointed out all that is required would be telegraph logs which would stop cars and caravans encroaching on the park area.

The Mayor informed the meeting that he is of the opinion that the logs have already been replaced.

**7950 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. O’Brien and Webb that Council clarify this issue and advise the Gulargambone Lions Club to consult with the Director of Engineering Services.

**14.0 REPORTS FROM VARIOUS COMMITTEES**

**7951 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Karanouh and O’Brien that the reports from various Committees be received and dealt with.

**14.1 MINUTES OF COONAMBLE STREETS AHEAD COMMITTEE MEETING**

**7952 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Cullen and Webb that the minutes of the Coonamble Streets Ahead Committee meeting held on 16 July, 2009 be noted.

**17.0 REPORT BY SALEYARDS MANAGER**

**7953 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Cullen and O’Brien that the Saleyard Manager’s Report for the month of June, 2009 be adopted, noting that the fees provided for the Saleyards Account are incorrect and should read as follows:

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Period to 31 July 2009	Income	\$15,602.66
	Expenditure	\$16,558.64
	Loss	\$ 1,049.22

**18.0 CONTRACT RANGER'S REPORT**

**7954 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Cullen and O'Brien that the information contained in the Contract Ranger's report for the month of July 2009 be received and adopted.

**General Business:**

**Cr Karanouh:**

- Main street gardens – request that some greenery be planted to brighten the look of the street.
- Requested that the bricks from the garden bed adjacent to AJF Brien be replaced to tidy the area.
- Concrete around flower bed near Noel's His & Hers is lifting - needs attention.
- Post Office corner and along the footpath between the Post Office and the pedestrian crossing adjacent to the Shire office – needs cleaning (bird droppings) and is dangerous due to being slippery when wet.

**7955 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Karanouh and O'Brien that regular checks should be carried out of the CBD area, taking into account the aesthetics of the area and any maintenance needed be carried out.

- Condition of footpath – cnr Wilga and Aberford Streets – seems to be difficult for gophers to negotiate.

**Cr O'Brien:**

- Referred to the car park for disabled persons which was approved in front of twoeighttwoeight and asked when it would be installed. The Director of Engineering Services said it will be done shortly.
- In response to a question, the Director of Corporate Services advised that at the close of business each day all Council's systems are backed up and stored off site.

**Cr Karanouh:**

- Referred to pigeon droppings especially in front of the National Bank and the Post Office.

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**7956 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Karanouh and O'Brien that staff look at ways to get rid of pigeons from the main street area and work with owners of premises, i.e. National Bank, requesting that the footpath in front of the building be cleaned.

- Requested that Council's Manager of Environmental Services inspect the Plaza Theatre to ascertain whether there is any loose brickwork which may be dangerous to pedestrians.

**Cr. Cullen:**

- Referred to the wheat crop on the common, saying that at this stage it is looking good.

**Director of Corporate Services:**

- Reminded councillors/designated persons that they must hand their Pecuniary Interest forms back to him as soon as possible.

**General Manager:**

- Referred to letters received from Minister for Planning and Department of Local Government advising that the LEP has been placed on a two year holding period. Advised that there were only a few LEPs on the list to proceed.
- Grant of \$65,000 has been offered as contingency funding for the flood plain management on a 6:1 basis.

**7957 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Webb that Council formally accept the grant.

**Mayor:**

- Asked whether electricity used at the sportsground/smith park is charged out to the Clubs – the Director of Corporate Services said that each Club was billed for electricity used.
- Coonamble Museum – referred to the amount of voluntary work Angie Little carries out at the Museum and the wonderful job she continues to do.

**7958 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs Horan and O'Brien that Council look at some honorarium payment in appreciation of her service.

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**Director of Engineering Services:**

- Referred to the road inspection set down for 1 September which was not a suitable date. Asked councillors to provide a date that would be suitable so that it can be arranged with the bus driver, etc.
- Men's Health Seminar – Advised that on 1 October a men's health seminar would be held and that he has requested field staff attend. Extending an invitation to councillors also to attend. Further details would be forwarded as available.

This concluded the business and the meeting closed at 3.45 p.m.

These Pages (Page 1/4225 to 35/4259) were confirmed on the ..... day  
of .....2009 and are a full and accurate record of proceedings of the  
ordinary meeting of Coonamble Shire Council held on 12 August 2009.

MAYOR