

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF COONAMBLE SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE SHIRE CHAMBER, COONAMBLE ON WEDNESDAY, 13TH
AUGUST, 2008 COMMENCING AT 9.17 A.M.**

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PRESENT: Cr Tim Horan, Mayor, in the Chair, with Crs. J Canham, T. Cullen, D. Swansborough, J. Atkinson, D. Taylor, M. Webb and B. Jackson. Also present were the General Manager, Mr Griffiths, the Director of Engineering, Mr Russell and Mrs. Moorhouse.

Council noted that the Director of Corporate Services did not attend due to his commitment to the functions being organized for the Sir Roden Cutler Charities Wheelchair Roll which was arriving in Coonamble this morning.

3.0 APOLOGY

7055 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Atkinson and Webb that an apology for non attendance be accepted from Councillor Callaghan.

4.0 DELEGATIONS

Council noted that the Sir Roden Cutler Charities Wheelchair Roll will arrive in Coonamble this morning and Council will join participants and locals for morning tea at 10.30 a.m.

A late booking was made yesterday afternoon for students from the Coonamble High School to attend and give a presentation on their Outward Bound experience. The students were to be accompanied by Rebecca Lackey.

During luncheon presentations were to be made to retiring employees Shane Horan and John McLellan who will accompany Council to lunch, accompanied by their spouses.

5.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Two declarations of interest were reported to the meeting:

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| Cr Webb | Correspondence Item 10.14 Applicant former client – outstanding account |
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| Cr Horan | Correspondence Item 10.16 Relative of applicant |
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7056 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Taylor and Atkinson that the Declarations of Interest be noted.

6.0 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

7057 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Jackson and Webb that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Coonamble Shire Council, held on 9th July 2008 be confirmed.

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BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(a) Item 9.38 Bawrunga Medical Service

In respect to a question from Councillor Canham the General Manager informed the meeting that he met with a prospective doctor in Gulargambone recently. Mr Griffiths said that the current service is provided by a locum from Sydney one day/week. The General Manager said that the doctor who inspected the house recently has completed his fellowship and is practicing at Bega. Mr. Griffiths said that he and the Health and Building Officer had lunch with him at Two Eight Two Eight, however no further information is available at this time. The General Manager informed Council that there is not the required support for a full-time doctor at Gulargambone.

(b) Item 10.3 Residence for Medical Doctor

The General Manager informed the meeting that he has written to Ochre Health regarding in an endeavour to negotiate rental for the properties occupied by its doctors, however no response has been received to date. Mr. Griffiths said that he would be taking steps to proceed this matter shortly.

Council noted that the Gulargambone house would be occupied one day/week from now on, however there is some question as to whether the service will continue, as 25 patients per day is the quota for a successful outcome.

(c) Item 9.6 Murdi Paaki Regional Enterprise Corporation Limited

Councillor Taylor asked whether a formal approach for land at "The Meglo" has been made by MPREC to Council for the Intense Farming Project. The General Manager advised that this will not eventuate until the results of the feasibility study are known.

7.0 RESOLUTION BOOK UPDATE

7058 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Jackson and Atkinson that the Resolution Book Update be received and dealt with.

(a) Min No. 4228/1 – Illegal Development "Pillicawarrina"

In response to a question from Cr Atkinson the General Manager informed the meeting that part of "Pillicawarrina" has recently been purchased by the Government and at this point he is unsure whether it contains the area of illegal development. Mr. Griffiths said that Council's legal representatives have been implementing a strategy to commence the process to remove the illegal works, however at this point no actual steps have been taken.

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(b) Min No 5957 Warrana Creek/Common Area

Both Crs. Jackson and Swansborough drew attention to the amount of rubbish that has been dumped on this area. The Director of Engineering informed the meeting that a grant has been awarded and he was endeavouring to organize Murdi Paaki staff to carry out the cleanup, however if this is not possible another contractor will be employed to carry out the work. Council noted that the grant was given for drought relief support in the promotion of employment.

8.0 MAYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

7059 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Swansborough and Jackson that the Mayor's Annual Report for period 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 be received and noted.

COONAMBLE HIGH SCHOOL – OUTWARD BOUND PARTICIPANTS

At this stage 9.36 a.m., four students together with Ms Rebecca Lackey and Mrs. Ginny Taylor (Coonamble Education Foundation) were welcomed to the meeting.

The students gave accounts of their experiences during the Outward Bound program in which they participated and Ms Lackey showed pictures of the various activities involved in the program. The students answered questions and all agreed that it was a worthwhile exercise and one they would be positively promoting to other students to undertake.

Following the presentation, the Mayor thanked the group for its address and presentation. The delegation left the meeting at 9.50 a.m.

9.0 MAYOR'S ACTIVITY REPORT

The Mayor presented a report outlining his activities throughout the month.

- Campbelltown City Council –In company with the General Manager visited Campbelltown, attended a meeting of Campbelltown City Council and signed the Partnership Agreement. The Mayor informed Council that it was an experience to attend a Council Meeting at Campbelltown and encouraged others to do so if the opportunity arose.
- Attended a meeting, in company with the General Manager, with representatives of Santos regarding natural gas drilling. The firm commenced drilling in the Gunnedah region recently and will touch on our boundary.

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- Together with Lee O'Connor, Economic Development Manager, met with the Department of Primary Industries in Dubbo on 12 August regarding the loss of positions at the local office. Advice is that Coonamble will lose one position (Technical Officer), however an Agronomist will be appointed to work from the Coonamble office. The Mayor reported that the EDM requested that a local representative be included on the selection panel and this was agreed. The Technical Officer position will be serviced from Narrabri and the Mayor suggested that Council should make representations to have the position returned to Coonamble.
 - Attended the opening of Yorkie's Foods and congratulated the Swansborough Family on its commitment to the community.
 - Attended a meeting of the Orana Area Consultative Committee – Cr. David Taylor was also in attendance. It was proposed at the meeting that better handling of smaller projects and other advantages could be achieved if they were controlled by local government and it was envisaged that projects of up to \$50,000 could be included.
 - Met with representatives of Gowest to discuss issues. A Memorandum of Understanding is now being prepared between Council and Gowest. The Mayor reported that the turn out to the Gowest dinner was poor.
 - The Mayor referred to the Sir Roden Cutler Charities Wheelchair Roll which is due to arrive in Coonamble this morning. Councillors would be joining participants and locals for morning tea. The Mayor pointed out that the Wheelchair Roll is making a donation to the Sports Team that will attend the Tri State Games and he suggested Council also contribute.
- 7060 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Taylor and Canham that Council “kick off” donations and contribute \$200 to the Team to help cover costs of accommodation when they attend the Tri State Games.
- 7061 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Taylor and Webb that the Mayor's Activity Report be noted.
- 10.0 CORRESPONDENCE**
- 7062 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Atkinson and Jackson that the Correspondence be received and dealt with.

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Section A – Matters for Action by Council:

10.1 COONAMBLE CWA EVENING BRANCH E4 (28337)

Proposing that Coonamble have its own Community Emergency Fund whereby needy families/ individuals can access help. Stating that this would be possible only with total community support and willingness to fundraise. Pointing out that an eligibility criteria would need to be put in place, managed by an elected board and asking Council to facilitate this Fund, or perhaps oversee the nominated board. Stating the Branch is willing to approach other volunteer organizations seeking support.

The General Manager drew Council's attention to a number of concerns with the proposal, such as:

- Who will coordinate the ongoing fundraising?
- How will eligibility criteria be developed?
- What hierarchy will be needed to allocate actual money?
- Who will elect the Board of Community Representatives?
- Who will be eligible for the Board of Community Representatives?
- What is meant by '*...ask the Councillors and Council to facilitate this fund*'?
- How would Council oversee the nominated board?
- Council does not employ community services staff – which staff member would be allocated such a task?

Mr. Griffiths stated that dot points 2 & 3 which have the potential to be extremely controversial, are of particular concern.

7063 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Atkinson and Taylor that Council commend the Coonamble CWA Evening Branch on its initiative and offer advice on how the Group should proceed, however Council decline to become involved in a Community Emergency Fund for Coonamble.

10.2 GRAHAM HALL & PARTNERS G5-13 (28361)

Suggesting a review of the terms of his engagement which have remained the same for just over four years. Stating that every effort has been made to drive the budget as far as possible, but recent levels of inflation are affecting costs and market rates. Advising that he proposed a daily rate of \$800 and an hourly rate of \$110 from 1 July 2008, including the cost of telephone calls, to be adjusted in a year's time on the basis of the variation in average weekly ordinary time earnings for NSW.

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7064 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Atkinson and Taylor that this matter be deferred for consideration later in the day in conjunction with the report by the Economic Development Managers.

10.3 LIVESTOCK & BULK CARRIERS ASSOCIATION S1 + R8-13 (28390)

Writing to the Mayor on behalf of members seeking clear leadership from Council in ensuring a smooth transition in meeting requirements of the tough new road transport laws relating to heavy vehicle driver fatigue management that will be introduced in September 2008.

The General Manager stated that this correspondence is lengthy and refers to the practices at Coonamble Saleyards whereby stock are sometimes not ready for transport until 9 pm. – 10 pm, which the Association states is “unacceptable”. Mr. Griffiths pointed out that a copy of the letter was attached to each Councillors’ business paper.

The General Manager further informed the meeting that following receipt of the correspondence a meeting of the Saleyards Management Committee was held on 30 July, 2008 when it was recommended to invite the Association representatives to conduct a workshop in Coonamble.

Councillor Cullen informed the meeting that the Economic Development Manager was to research yard comparisons and the possible use of wands in lieu of scanners and he requested that this matter be deferred until she is present at the meeting. He pointed out that \$5,000 has been set aside for Saleyards Promotion.

10.4 STANDING COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT & WORKPLACE RELATIONS S6 (28406)

Advising that it is conducting an inquiry into pay equity and associated issues related to increasing female participation in the workforce. Stating it is to inquire into and report on causes of any potential disadvantages in relation to women’s participation in the workforce. Seeking comments on current policies and suggestions on how these can be improved, as well as what council believes is best practice and how government policy can facilitate this. Advising that submissions must be received by 28 August 2008.

7065 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Jackson that Council not make a submission to the Inquiry into pay equity and associated issues related to increasing female participation in the workforce.

At this juncture, 10.25 a.m., Council adjourned for morning tea and resumed at 11.10 a.m.

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**10.5 LOCAL GOVERNMENT & SHIRES ASSOCIATIONS OF NSW L9
(28411)**

Referring to the 2008 Local Government Elections which will be conducted on behalf of councils by the NSW Electoral Commission (EC) based on full cost recovery. Stating that the EC hold a monopoly within the state and should be reviewed and regulated in the same way as local government bodies. Pointing out it is neither right nor proper that councils are forced to simply take the Commission's costing particularly given the numerous examples of questionable estimations. Urging Council to refer this matter to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal for urgent review.

7066 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Canham and Webb that Council support the Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW in its efforts in referring this matter to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal for urgent review.

**10.6 LOCAL GOVERNMENT & SHIRES ASSOCIATIONS OF NSW D5-22
(28408)**

Advising that the Associations are looking to establish a monitoring system to evaluate the impacts of the new planning laws on councils and their communities and to provide local government input into the implementation of the laws. Saying that if council wishes to become part of the Reference Group it should submit an expression of interest. Thanking council for its help and support throughout the *"Keep It Local" Campaign*.

7067 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Canham and Atkinson that Council not submit an interest in becoming a member of the Reference Group on Planning.

10.7 MOORAMBILLA COMMITTEE R8-10 (28407)

Seeking permission to close the main street on Saturday 20 September 2008 from 8.00 a.m. until 1.00 p.m. for the street markets and again from approximately 6.00 p.m. until 6.30 p.m. for the Lantern Parade.

7068 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Atkinson and Taylor that Council advise the Moorambilla Committee permission is granted to close Castlereagh Street (from the Peace Tree to the Aberford Street intersection) on Saturday 20 September 2008, at the following times:

8.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. Street Markets

6.00 p.m. – 6.30 mp.m. Lantern Parade,

subject to approval also having been sought and obtained from the local police.

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10.8 MRS KERRY McDONALD (NEE MORRISSEY) B10 (28426)

Stating that should an official naming ceremony for the Lucy Morrissey Bridge be planned she would very much like to attend along with her aunt, Aileen Hickey, one of Lucy's few remaining nieces in the Morrissey family. Providing contact details for Mrs Hickey and asking to be kept in touch if an official naming ceremony is envisaged.

The General Manager said the question of official opening or naming ceremonies has not previously been addressed, but he suggested that nine such functions will be very time consuming for elected members and staff.

7069 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Atkinson and Webb that Council investigate the possibility of arranging an Official Naming Ceremony for both the Lucy Morrissey Bridge at Teridgerie and the Castlereagh River Bridge at Gulargambone.

10.9 MARITIME INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM G5 (28444)

Advising that applications for grants under the NSW Maritime 2008/2009 Maritime Infrastructure Program (MIP) are being accepted. Encouraging Council to submit an application for funding and pointing out the closing date is Friday 22 August 2008.

The General Manager informed Council that the letter has been referred to the Coonamble Aquatic Club for its attention and should an application be sought, Council will auspice the grant, provided there is no cost to Council.

7070 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Atkinson and Taylor that Council authorise the submission of an application for grant funding under the Maritime Infrastructure Program on behalf of the Coonamble Aquatic Club, provided it is developed by the Club and there is no cost to Council.

10.10 TIM HARRIS R4-2 (28442)

Drawing Council's attention to water usage at his property 47 Wilga Street, Coonamble between 7 February and 26 May 2008. Pointing out that other bills for water have been no more than \$20 - \$30. Stating that when representations were made concerning excessive water usage, advice was that the meter was replaced. Asking why he was not informed that the meter was replaced and why it was necessary to replace the unit.

The General Manager informed the meeting that staff are at a loss to explain the massive consumption of over 1,100 kl, except for the malfunction of the dials on the meter. Mr. Griffiths said that in the circumstances the writing off of 1,000 kl. would appear to be a prudent course of action.

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7071 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Atkinson and Swansborough that Council authorise the writing off of 1000 kl of water from the account for the property at 47 Wilga Street, Coonamble.

10.11 COONAMBLE BOWLING CLUB LTD PR1263 (28450)

Commending Council on the upgrade of Macdonald Park. Advising that the Club is discussing renewal of the boundary fence with the Park as it is becoming dangerous and asking if Council would be interested in joining the Club to replace the fence.

7072 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Jackson and Atkinson that Council instruct staff to prepare costings for the proposed replacement of the boundary fence with Coonamble Bowling Club Ltd. for consideration at the September meeting and advise the Club accordingly.

**10.12 INDEPENDENT PRICING AND REGULATORY TRIBUNAL (IPART)
L9 (28457)**

Advising IPART has been requested under section 9(1)(b) of its Act to assist the Minister for Local Government by conducting a review of the revenue framework for local government. Stating an Issues Paper outlining key aspects of the review process and major issues to be considered, has been prepared. Inviting a submission from Council no later than 29 August, 2008.

The General Manager informed Council that the Issues Paper is a document of approximately 100 pages and may be perused on request. Mr. Griffiths said that a copy of the Terms of Reference section of the Paper was attached to the business paper for Councillors' information.

7073 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Canham and Webb that Council authorise the General Manager to lodge a submission on the IPART Review of the Revenue Framework for Local Government Issues Paper should time permit and table the submission at the September Council meeting.

10.13 INCITEC PIVOT L11-1 (28448)

Referring to land leased at the Coonamble Aerodrome and seeking to continue the arrangement for a three year period, with a three year option.

The General Manager reported that the current lease with Incitec expires on 30 September 2008 and contains a five year option to renew. Mr. Griffiths said that discussions with Company representatives reveal that it has a business plan concluding in three years and thus, the request for a shorter lease period.

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He informed Council that approval has been given for the proposed three x three year lease to be drawn up by Incitec Pivot at the existing rental, plus June 2008 CPI.

7074 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Swansborough and Jackson that Council endorse the action of the General Manager in approving of the three x three year lease to Incitec Pivot for land currently leased at the Coonamble Aerodrome and that authority be given to affix the Seal to the relevant documents.

At this juncture, Cr. Webb left the room, having declared an interest in the following matter.

10.14 DAMIR SANTEK L11 (28480)

Resubmitting his application for lease of land at Gulargambone (Lots 132 & 7021 in DP 753385) to read \$625/annually equating to \$2,500 for four years, in lieu of \$2,500/annually. Stating he misunderstood the original submission.

The General Manager informed Council that Mr. Santek initially offered \$2,500 per year for lease of the subject land and this was clearly stated in his written submission. Mr. Griffiths said he has now submitted the above amount (\$625.00), which is \$275.00/year higher than the next highest offer.

A MOTION

PROPOSED by Cr Canham that expressions of interest in the subject land be readvertised, **WAS WITHDRAWN**

7075 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Atkinson and Jackson that Council offer the land to Mr. Santek at his original offer of \$2,500 per year and if he declines then the land be offered to the Gulargambone Lions Club in accordance with Council's previous resolution.

At this juncture, Cr. Webb returned to the meeting.

10.15 MURDI PAAKI REGIONAL ENTERPRISE CORPORATION LTD I6-7 (28482)

Referring to the Expression of Interest submitted in April for the CDEP to carry out works for Council and suggesting that the CDEP commence work until such time as the meeting between Council and MPREC takes place. Submitting a monthly work plan on areas within the town that MPREC believes requires attention

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The General Manager informed Council that despite numerous attempts to meet with MPREC CEO, Ms Janelle Whitehead, discussions have not yet progressed. Mr. Griffiths said that the Director of Engineering feels this meeting needs to take place prior to any work commencing as he needs to ensure efficient service with value for money for Council.

Council was also advised that Murdi Paaki staff were engaged to clean the yard at the doctor's residence in Gulargambone and the result was less than satisfactory. It was noted that trees were cut and branches left strewn about and the overall appearance of the area was untidy.

7076 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Swansborough and Taylor that Council write to Murdi Paaki Regional Enterprise Corporation Inc. advising that no work will be provided for participants of the program until a service level agreement has been prepared, with Council's expectations for value for money and satisfactory work performance clearly understood.

At this juncture, the Mayor vacated the Chair, having declared an interest in the following matter. Cr Webb, the Deputy Mayor, assumed the Chair.

10.16 PATRICK HORAN

Referring to an area of land fronting Wingadee Street and adjoining his property which was purchased when Council intended to widen Ross Lane and advising that the widening process did not proceed. Requesting permission to purchase the land which is approximately 50 metres by 9½ metres and currently wasted space.

7077 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Jackson and Swansborough that Council agree to sell this portion of unused land to Mr. Horan, the adjoining landowner, at market value on the condition that there is no cost to Council in connection with survey and transfer.

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

Section B: For Information Only

10.17 DEPARTMENT OF LANDS N7 (28342)

Advising the Department has entered into a cost sharing arrangement with the Department of Primary Industries and the Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee to fund weed control projects on Crown land and other land in previous years. Inviting applications and advising they close on 15 August.

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10.18 DEPARTMENT OF LANDS E5 (28341)

Advising that the Department has been funding pest animal and feral animal control projects on Crown land and other land under its control. Inviting applications and advising they close on 15th August 2008. Stating some 47 projects were funded in the 2007/2008 year at a cost of \$190,000 and that applications can be made for any serious pest or feral animal problem on Crown land.

10.19 ELECTORAL COMMISSION NSW E2 (28362)

Advising that Mr John Whitney has been appointed as Returning Officer for Coonamble Shire Council and will occupy his office full time from 21 July 2008 to organize staffing, polling places, etc. Pointing out, however, that the office will not be open to the public until 28 July and will be the same opening times as Council office hours. Advising that due to statutory requirements the office will be required to be open as follows:

- Monday 4 August up to 6 p.m. Close of rolls
- Friday 5 September up to 5 p.m. Close of registration of electoral material
- Friday 12 September up to 6 p.m. Pre-poll voting
- Saturday 13 September 8am – 6pm Election day
- Monday 15 September up to 6 p.m. Return of postal votes.

The Mayor drew Councillors' attention to their responsibilities in meeting time frames in connection with the forthcoming elections.

10.20 LOCAL GOVERNMENT & SHIRES ASSOCIATIONS OF NSW L2 + L9-3 (28387)

Saying the Associations have been made aware that there appears to be confusion amongst councils in relation to applications for and the granting of assistance by way of the Associations' Legal Assistance Policy and providing details of the policy.

10.21 GRAHAM WEST MP, MINISTER FOR SPORT AND RECREATION G5-38 (28400)

Advising that Council has been granted \$20,000 under the 2007-2008 Facility Assistance Grant for the construction of a skate park at Smith Park, Coonamble. Stating that specific details of the grant will be provided shortly and appropriate acknowledgement of support provided by the State Government would be appreciated.

The General Manager informed the meeting that a letter of thanks from the Mayor has been forwarded to Minister West for his support.

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10.22 OFFICE OF THE MAYOR, WELLINGTON COUNCIL G2 (28409)

Advising that Mr Allan Dive has been appointed to the position of General Manager of Wellington Council. Saying that he was previously Council's Director of Corporate Services and, having worked at several other councils over the years, he has an extensive knowledge of local government, particularly in the financial area.

Council noted that the Mayor has forwarded a letter of congratulations to Mr Dive on his appointment.

**10.23 DIRECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT
D6 (284367)**

Writing to inform council that the Coonamble Veterinary Clinic is an 'approved premises' operating in this LGA. Encouraging Council to liaise closely with 'approved premises' and consider entering into agreements to address issues relative to the Companion Animals Act.

Council noted that a copy of this letter has been made available to Council Rangers for their information and appropriate attention.

10.24 NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE L3-1 + B13 + A5 (28443)

Seeking letter of support in respect to application for grant funding to build a permanent water storage tank (approx 180,000 litres) at Coonamble airport. Stating the purpose of the tank would be to allow sufficient 'on hand' water for aerial water bombing in the event of a major fire in the area. Advising the cost to purchase is \$14,000 with minor installation cost which will be covered in the grant proposal, leaving no cost to Council.

The General Manager informed the meeting that the proposal covers the airstrips in each of the Council areas within the North West Zone & Bogan District- i.e. Nyngan, Walgett, Warren and Coonamble. Mr Griffiths said that a letter of support has been provided, including advice of the requirement for a development application, particularly in respect of siting and operation of the tank.

**10.25 OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY PREMIER, MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT,
MINISTER FOR FINANCE R2 (28445)**

Advising that the Hon John Watkins MP has requested that Council be advised its correspondence regarding the upgrade timetable for the Coonamble Branch Line be acknowledged. The Minister's Office advises the matter has been referred to the Director General of the Ministry of Transport for a response.

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10.26 NSW DEPARTMENT OF ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS, BOURKE

Advising the meeting scheduled with Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly (MPRA) for 20 – 21 August 2008 has been postponed to 28 – 29 October 2008, the reason being that MPRA has a very full agenda in August and discussion with local government representatives needs a separate forum. Stating that confirmation of actual date and time will be conveyed by the end of August.

**10.27 LOCAL GOVERNMENT & SHIRES ASSOCIATIONS OF NSW E2
(28459)**

Writing in connection with indicative costs for the 2008 local government elections and advising resolutions passed by the Joint Committee of the Associations. Referring to a letter Council received from the NSW Electoral Commission stating in part that “*There may be some instances where councils are suffering from financial stress and the NSW Treasury has agreed to allow such councils to pay for the cost of their election over two financial years*”.

Stating that the NSW Electoral Commission’s questionable cost indications are adding further pressure to councils’ capacity to deliver services and urging council to write to the EC requesting that any payments for election costs be made over two financial years. Stating the Associations have written to the NSW Electoral Commission requesting a full breakdown of costs, including explanations as to how the costs have been determined and calculated for each individual council and if the request ‘falls on deaf ears’ they will consider lodging a Freedom of Information application.

Drawing attention to Resolution 3A(2) of the Shires Association Conference which states:

That the Shires Association::

2. *Advise the NSW Electoral Commission that councils will pay a maximum amount based on 2004 costs plus cumulative CPI.*

Advising they are currently seeking legal advice in relation to this motion and if the advice indicates that this course of action is open to councils, they will advise accordingly.

10.28 SHIRE OF WALGETT E1 (28465)

Referring to Council’s correspondence regarding a strategy to reduce truancy and advising that a review of public education outcomes and issues (including attendance rates) in the shire, but with a particular focus on Walgett Community College, has recently been undertaken by the Department of Education.

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Advising that Walgett cannot see the need for another series of meetings on truancy issues at this point in time and saying it would be inappropriate to take a position on Coonamble Council's proposal until the outcomes and recommendations from the Walgett Shire specific review are known.

The General Manager informed the meeting that the Working Group on Truancy will now be asked to ratify a submission in respect to staffing of a Truancy Officer dedicated to Coonamble Shire; make application for funding of a Suspension Centre and the setting up of a Mentoring Program for 'at risk' students.

Cr. Webb referred to a current Mentoring Program for 'at risk' children which is not being utilized by the Coonamble High School. The Director of Engineering also indicated that this service is available as he is part of the Mentoring Program.

10.29 ROADS & TRAFFIC AUTHORITY R8-13 (28468)

Stating the RTA is committed to funding the Local Government Road Safety Program until 2010 and saying that a strategy for delivery of the program post 2010 has not been determined. Saying that a report on the research conducted into the development of an appropriate strategy will be released by October.

10.30 ROTARY CLUB OF COONAMBLE D7 (28486)

Thanking Council for its continued general support of the "Blackduck" Memorial Shoot which was held at "Youie" on Sunday, 28 May 2008.

10.31 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY – STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS A11 (28483)

Advising that the NSW Public Works Committee is currently holding an inquiry into the development of arts and cultural infrastructure outside the Sydney CBD. Saying the Committee would appreciate receiving a response or submission to the Inquiry by 29 August 2008.

Council was advised by the General Manager that its Tourism Development Manager is liaising with Outback Arts and other councils in the region and will provide a response by the due date.

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10.32 SHIRES ASSOCIATION OF NSW L9-1 (28500)

Advising that at the recent Conference, Carrathool and F Division put forward the following motion:

“That the NSW Shires Association call on the Federal Government to delay the introduction of the wheat marketing legislation in order to give the wheat industry the time and opportunity to develop an alternative export marketing model which would retain advantages of single desk selling”.

Forwarding copy of response from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

Council noted that the letter from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry stated that the Department, in conjunction with the state farming organizations, is finalizing arrangements for information sessions to help growers and customers understand the proposed changes so that they are able to take full advantage of the benefits the new system has to offer.

10.33 NSW ROADS & TRAFFIC AUTHORITY R8-13 (28475)

Advising that a Traffic Facility Program has been established and funds are available for road safety improvement works. Setting out works for which funds are available. Stating that the RTA is prepared to provide 100% of funding for works on State Roads and 50% for works on Regional and Local Roads and that funding will be allocated at the end of August 2008.

Council noted there are no issues at present that would be eligible for this funding.

7078 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Atkinson and Webb that the information contained in Item Nos. 10.17 to 10.33 inclusive be noted.

URGENT BUSINESS – CORRESPONDENCE

7079 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Jackson and Cullen that the following items be classified ‘urgent business’ and dealt with.

10.34 ATTORNEY GENERAL E4 + F5 (28518)

Advising that applications for funding in 2008/2009 under the Natural Disaster Mitigation Program have opened and inviting Council to submit an application if it has a suitable project for which to seek funding. Stating that applications close on Friday 29 August, 2008.

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The General Manager said Council would be aware that work on the Levee estimated at some \$1.5 million is required with Council having set aside one-third funding for that purpose. He stated that the long awaited Flood Study is still not to hand however that will not preclude Council from seeking funding to rectify deficiencies in the levee.

7080 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Taylor and Webb that Council authorise staff to make application for Levee Rectification funding under the Natural Disaster Mitigation Program.

10.35 WATERFORD RYAN PR2616-1 (28531)

Responding to Council's enquiry regarding building approval for property in Munnell Street, Gulargambone (Lots 26 & 27) which is zoned Rural 1(a) under the Coonamble LEP and for which Council has received a request by a prospective purchaser to erect a dwelling. Providing a lengthy opinion which, in summary, states that in their opinion Council may consent to the development of this land as proposed by the prospective purchasers.

7081 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Atkinson and Jackson that the prospective purchasers of Lots 26 and 27 Munnell Street, Gulargambone be advised according to the legal opinion provided by Waterford Ryan.

**10.36 IAN MACDONALD MLC, MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES
D5 (28534)**

Referring to Council's letter concerning staffing levels at the NSW Department of Primary Industries Coonamble Office and advising that action has commenced to fill the District Agronomist position. Stating that in relation to the Technical Assistant position at Coonamble, the Department has concluded that the best option for conducting crop evaluation and agronomy trials is to use mobile Crop Evaluation Units. Advising that the Coonamble area is now serviced by the Crop Evaluation Unit from Narrabri.

The General Manager informed the meeting that discussions with the Chairman of the Local Cooperative indicate that the service rendered from Narrabri is inadequate.

7082 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Jackson and Cullen that Council make representations to the Minister for Primary Industries seeking to have the Technical Officer position again located in Coonamble.

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10.37 DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT C2 (28535)

Replying to Council's letter regarding concerns about possible breaches of the Local Government Act 1993 by the "Leave No Trace" and "RV Friendly Town" schemes and advising the Department of Planning is responsible for administering the Local Government (Manufactured Home Estates, Caravan Parks, Camping Grounds and Moveable Dwellings) Regulation 2005. Advising that a copy of Council's letter has been forwarded to the Director General, Department of Planning for consideration and appropriate reply.

The General Manager indicated that Council's letter was dated 18 June 2008 and it has taken eight weeks for the letter to be forwarded to the Department of Planning.

7083 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Atkinson that Council note the information.

10.38 ST BRIGID'S SCHOOL R8-10 (28536)

Seeking permission to close the main street from Tooloon Street to Aberford Street from 9.30 a.m. to approximately 9.50 a.m. for a march. Saying the street would need to be officially closed with road-blocks and police/council staff restricting vehicular access. Advising that after the march the children will participate in sporting activities at the oval.

7084 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Canham and Atkinson that Council agree to close Castlereagh Street, from Tooloon Street to Aberford Street, as requested on Thursday, 18 September, 2008 to enable the primary school students to conduct a march, noting that this permission is subject to approval from the local police.

**10.39 ORANA REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS O5
(28551)**

Forwarding advice of next meeting which will be held on Friday 29 August 2008 at the Western Plains Cultural Centre, Dubbo commencing at 10.00 a.m.

The meeting noted that Council's delegates to OROC are the Mayor and General Manager.

7085 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Atkinson and Jackson that the Mayor or his nominee and General Manager be authorised to attend the next meeting of OROC in Dubbo on Friday 29 August 2008.

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10.40 KEVIN HUMPHRIES MP L9-1 (28552)

Forwarding copy of his letter to The Hon Paul Lynch MP on behalf of Council regarding concerns with the Review of State Taxation – IPART Draft Report. Requesting the Minister to give fair and favourable consideration to having the proposals outlined in the IPART Draft Report rejected.

7086 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Atkinson that the letter be noted.

10.41 CASTLEREAGH LOCAL AREA COMMAND P5 (28548)

Providing information on the new Castlereagh LAC Precinct Committee which replaces the former PACT Committee. Inviting Council to attend a meeting to be held at Walgett Police Station on Thursday, 11 September 2008 commencing at 10 a.m. Advising the purpose of the meeting is to deal with policing and community issues, as well as extend a welcome to Superintendent Mark Gallagher.

The General Manager said it would appear that Council is now only represented by the Mayor. Mr. Griffiths said that General Managers were included in the former PACT system and meetings were alternated between Coonamble and Walgett whereas they will be held only in Walgett.

7087 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Jackson and Webb that the Castlereagh Local Area Commander be informed that as the meetings of the Committee will now be held only in Walgett, Council requires a monthly update by either the Inspector or Superintendent at meetings of Council (the second Wednesday of each month).

10.42 FOXEARTH HOLDINGS PTY LTD D6 (28550)

Advising it has been brought to attention the legality of contractors used by councils to enforce legislation, specifically the Local Government Act 1993 and the Companion Animals Act 1998. Saying until the matter has been resolved, Foxearth Holdings Pty Ltd requests direction, in writing, from Council to allow it to continue to fulfil the terms and conditions of the contract.

The General Manager informed Council that immediately this matter was raised, contact was made with the Department of Local Government which is carrying out further research into the legality issues and it seems a result could still be some time away. Mr. Griffiths said a response was forwarded to Foxearth Holdings Pty Ltd. advising it would be advised when a definite course of action has been suggested by the Department, at which time Council will then develop rectification measures that will permanently solve the problem.

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The General Manager advised Council that both Foxearth Holdings Pty Ltd. Rangers hold "Special Constable" status and, as such, can carry out enforcement of the Companion Animals Act and the Impounding Act, however he said it is not clear as to their status under the Local Government Act.

Mr. Griffiths informed Council that he has directed Foxearth Holdings Pty Ltd to continue duties in respect of the Companion Animals Act and the Impounding Act as required under the Contract, but not act on matters pertaining to the Local Government Act until the matter has been clarified.

7088 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Taylor and Atkinson that the information be noted and Council endorse the action of the General Manager in directing Foxearth Holdings Pty Ltd to continue duties in respect of the Companion Animals Act and the Impounding Act as required under the Contract, but not to act on matters pertaining to the Local Government Act until clarification by the Department.

10.43 COUNCILLOR JOHN MIKELSONS, KOGARAH COUNCIL S6 (28557)

Advising that Kogarah Council has moved to introduce new purchasing rules which only purchase uniforms from suppliers who have signed up to the Homeworkers Code of Practice. Advising that last year Kogarah Council sought and obtained endorsement of the LGSA who resolved to urge councils to purchase their uniforms ethically and endorse the campaign for fair working conditions for home workers in Australia. Asking Council to consider endorsing the campaign and purchasing uniforms from suppliers signed up to the Homeworkers Code of Practice.

7089 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Taylor and Webb that Council note the contents of the letter but take no action.

**10.44 DIRECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT
L9-3 + L10-1 (28565)**

Advising that the Department has become aware of differing opinions expressed by councils about the acceptance of third party financial contributions for the purpose of financing and maintaining a council's legal action on behalf of or against an individual or company. Stating that while it may not be unlawful for a third party to fund litigation to which it is not a party, a council's acceptance of such funding should not be contrary to the public policy of objectivity, clarity and transparency in its decision making processes.

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Advising the Department's view is that financial contributions from a third party specifically to fund legal action can create a public perception of bias or distortion in the council's decision making process. Stating that councils should carefully consider third party proposals to fund litigation and the impact that might have on the local community's confidence in the council.

7090 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Webb and Taylor that the information be noted.

10.45 THE HON ANTHONY ALBANESE MP A5 (28564)

Advising that through the Remote Aerodrome Safety (RAS) Program the Government has delivered nearly \$137,000 to Coonamble and Baradine airstrips. Stating funding of \$122,770 to Coonamble Shire Council will provide a perimeter fence, reseal the runway, including line marking (a total project cost of \$245,540) for Coonamble Airport. Saying the project was funded through round two of the RAS Program which will deliver \$20 million over four years.

7091 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Taylor and Atkinson that Council accept the \$122,770 funding under the Remote Aerodrome Safety (RAS) Program, enter into the Funding Agreement as required and authorise the affixing of the Common Seal to any necessary documents.

10.46 DIRECTOR GENERAL, MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT R2 (28586)

Referring to correspondence received by the Minister for Transport regarding the Dubbo to Coonamble branch line and advising that over the past four years Rail Infrastructure Corporation has been resleepering, rerailing and continuously welding the line between Gilgandra and Armatree. Stating that rail has been laid out between Armatree and Coonamble in readiness for work to be done on that section. Advising that work on the Dubbo to Coonamble line and over the Country Network generally will guarantee grain freight operations to support this year's harvest. Further stating that the Commonwealth Grain Rail Taskforce, headed by the Australian Transport Council, will recommend any engineering upgrading needed to support the lines operations.

The General Manager said that the request by Council to the Minister in its letter dated 18 June 2008 was to provide a current upgrade timetable for the line to Coonamble. Mr. Griffiths said that again the question has not been answered except to say that proposed work will "guarantee grain freight operations to support this year's harvest".

7092 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Taylor and Webb that the information be noted.

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**10.47 INDEPENDENT PRICING & REGULATORY TRIBUNAL (IPART)L9-1
(28584)**

Referring to previous request for submissions to IPART's Review of the Revenue Framework for Local Government and advising a number of councils have sought an extension of the period for making submissions in light of the forthcoming elections. Pointing out that the Department of Local Government has confirmed that providing comments on the draft IPART paper is not considered to fall within the scope of Council Circular 08-37 *Council Decision Making Prior to Ordinary Elections*. Saying submissions should be provided by 29 August 2008.

7093 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Atkinson and Webb that the information be noted.

10.48 NSW ROADS & TRAFFIC AUTHORITY, PARKES DA24/08 (28577)

Referring to the proposed petrol station development on Lot 1 DP303902; Lot 1 DP126967, Lot 2 DP9003541, Castlereagh Highway Gulargambone and advising the Authority will not object to the development provided certain conditions are met.

The General Manager pointed out that this response is well overdue however the conditions imposed do not hinder the proposed development. He said that staff will determine the development under 'delegated authority' paying particular attention to the requirements of the RTA and concerns expressed by the Director of Engineering in respect of ingress and egress of road trains to the site.

7094 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Jackson and Atkinson that Council note the information.

10.49 DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT M3 + E2 (28578)

Informing councils about the role of a mayor after an ordinary election is held. Advising that under section 233(2)(b) of the Local Government Act 1993 all councillors – other than the mayor – cease to hold office on the day of the ordinary election. However, section 230(3)(b) provides that the mayor holds the mayoral position until a successor is declared to be elected to the office.

A copy of the circular was provided in the business paper for Councillors' information.

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7095 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Canham and Webb that Council note the information contained in Circular 08-46.

10.50 DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT E2 + C13-1 (28581)

Advising that the Local Government and Planning Legislation Amendment (Political Donations) Act 2008 is expected to commence on 1 September 2008 by Proclamation published in the Government Gazette. Pointing out the object of the amending Act is to amend the Local Government Act 1993 and the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 in relation to political donations.

The General Manager said that because this is a lengthy and detailed circular a copy was included with the business paper.

7096 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Taylor and Webb that Council note the changes to the Local Government Act as detailed in Department of Local Government Circular 08-45 and instruct the General Manager to implement the changes from 1 September 2008

11.0 REPORT BY GENERAL MANAGER

7097 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Atkinson and Taylor that the report submitted by the General Manager be received and dealt with.

11.1 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS DETERMINED UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

7098 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Jackson and Webb that Council note Development Application Nos. 015/2008, 022/2008 – 023/2008, and Complying Development Application No. 027/2008 which have been approved under delegated authority.

11.2 END OF COUNCIL TERM FUNCTION

The General Manager reported that most Councils, including Coonamble, conduct some form of function at the end of the four year Council term. Mr. Griffiths indicated that because we are a small council, any function outside of a dinner would seem inappropriate. He suggested that a dinner be held following the September 10 Council Meeting.

Mr. Griffiths pointed out that Councillors contribute a lot more time and effort than they are rewarded for and, likewise, their partners are required to also contribute in different ways. The General Manager stated that after four and a half years it is felt that one last expression of camaraderie for a team that has achieved a great deal would not be inappropriate.

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A MOTION

PROPOSED by Cr Canham **SECONDED** by Cr Swansborough that the September 2008 meeting be held in Coonamble in lieu of Quambone **WAS WITHDRAWN.**

7099 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Atkinson and Swansborough that Council hold an End of Council Term Dinner following its final meeting on Wednesday, 10 September, 2008, commencing at 6.30 p.m. at the Cypress Motel Restaurant, inviting Councillors, three Executive Staff and partners and that Council agree to pay the full cost of the function.

11.3 SECTION 355 COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL – DRAFT CHARTER

The General Manager pointed out that as part of the Promoting Better Practice Review Council needs to develop a consistent approach to the administering of Section 355 Committees. A draft Charter of Operations was submitted to the meeting.

Mr. Griffiths informed the meeting that at the present time Council has a number of Committees that have no actual Council representation and Council does not receive or consider minutes pertaining to the activities of such Committees. He said this clearly leaves Council vulnerable should issues arise in respect of poor administration or poor operational decisions.

The meeting noted that under the Local Government Act Council has a responsibility to ensure compliance by its Committees with the whole of the Act as well as the Code of Conduct and record keeping.

7100 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Jackson that Council place the draft Charter – Guide to Operations of Section 355 Committees on public exhibition, forward a copy to each of Council's current committees for their comments and the document be submitted to the new Council along with submissions at the 1st of October meeting.

12.0 REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

7101 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Jackson and Taylor that the report by the Director of Corporate Services be received and dealt with.

12.1 RATE COLLECTIONS

7102 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Jackson that the Total Combined Rate Collections to 31 July 2008 be noted.

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12.2 LIST OF INVESTMENTS

7103 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Canham and Taylor that that the Investments held at 31 July 2008 be noted.

12.3 STORES AND MATERIALS UNACCOUNTED FOR & STORES AND MATERIALS WRITTEN IN – PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2008 TO 30 JUNE 2008.

7104 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Jackson and Webb that Council authorise the writing in of stores and materials in the sum of \$519.70 and the writing off of stores and materials in the sum of \$316.70 as shown below for the period ending 30 June 2008:

Items Unaccounted For:

| <i>Stores No</i> | <i>Description</i> | <i>Qty</i> | <i>Amount</i> |
|------------------|--------------------|------------|---------------|
| 450 | Oil | 11 | 40.25 |
| 472 | Petrol | 199 | 276.45 |
| | Total | | 316.70 |

Items in Excess:

| <i>Stores No</i> | <i>Description</i> | <i>Qty</i> | <i>Amount</i> |
|------------------|----------------------|------------|---------------|
| 143 | Diesel– Coonamble | 314 | 519.70 |
| | Total | | 519.70 |

Summary:

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| <i>Items in Excess</i> | \$519.70 |
| <i>Items Unaccounted For</i> | \$316.70 |
| <i>Total S&M Written in</i> | \$203.00 |

12.4 FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30/06/2008

The Director of Corporate Services reported that each year Council is required, in accordance with Section 413(2)(c) of the Local Government Act 1993, to provide General Purpose Financial Reports and Special Schedules, which were presented to the meeting.

7105 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Taylor and Webb:

- (1) That the necessary elected members and staff be authorised to sign the Statement by Council on the Financial Reports for the year ended 30 June 2008.
- (2) That Council's Financial reports for the year ended 30 June 2008 be referred for audit.

13.0 REPORT FROM DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING

7106 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Atkinson and Jackson that the report by the Director of Engineering be received and dealt with.

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13.1 SUPPORT RANGER DUTIES

The Director of Engineering reported that in the past there has been a role of Support Ranger within Council that assisted with various Ranger duties when the contract ranger was not available. Mr. Russell said this role has never been formally incorporated into a position within Council, but has, for several years, been done by the Team Leader, Parks and Gardens.

Council noted that earlier this year the Team Leader, Parks and Gardens indicated that he no longer wished to undertake the Support Ranger duties within his role and since that time the Support Ranger duties have been undertaken by a member of staff that is currently employed on a temporary basis. The Director of Engineering informed Council that this employee's current term of employment will be terminated in the near future, and as a result, the future of the Support Ranger duties needs to be resolved.

The Director of Engineering informed Council that the staff member in question has been reliable and it is only the lack of an appropriate full time role that has prevented his ongoing employment. Mr. Russell said that since volunteering for the 'Support Ranger' duties earlier this year his temporary employment has been extended and he has undertaken the duties in a satisfactory manner. The Director of Engineering said that as the extended temporary employment is complete in the near future, it is proposed to make this a permanent role.

Council noted the position would have the Support Ranger duties incorporated into the position description so that it became a permanent, mandatory part of that employee's role within Council, permanently solving the problem of support for the contract rangers. The position would also make the temporary employment of additional Parks and Gardens staff over summer unnecessary.

7107 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Atkinson and Jackson that Council:

- (1) Approve a minor organisational restructure to change the existing temporary position within Parks and Gardens to a permanent position that incorporates the Support Ranger duties
- (2) Seek the Consultative Committees endorsement of these changes

13.2 SHOWGROUND PAVILION

The Director of Engineering reported that following the award of the contract for the replacement of the Showground Pavilion and the demolition of the old pavilion there was a request from the Rodeo Association for a Showground Users Meeting and a meeting was held on 31 July 2008.

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Mr Russell advised that at the meeting the Rodeo Association suggested the Pavilion be shifted from its previous position. He said this proposal was vigorously debated during the meeting, with a compromise eventually being agreed to by all parties. Council noted that, at the site meeting, it became apparent that the alternative location could only be achieved by relocation of the power line and sewer.

The Director of Engineering informed Council that the General Manager and three Councillors, including the Mayor, visited the site to inspect the proposed relocation and agreed that the change could proceed, noting that there are additional costs of approximately \$10,000 - \$15,000. Council noted that the Rodeo Association has advised it will consider a contribution toward the power at an upcoming meeting and additional cost of the sewer will be funded from the Sewer Reserve as the connection point has now been moved.

Cr. Taylor asked whether the former bar building was going to remain, as it would look out of place adjacent to the new building. It was suggested that the building be left until after next Show and then a decision be made regarding its future.

Cr. Cullen referred to a request by the Rodeo Association for Council to provide the basis for showers to be installed at a later date between the toilet facilities and the storeroom.

7108 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Cullen and Swansborough that Council endorse the actions of the Director of Engineering in relocating the proposed Showground Pavilion and that provision be made for drainage of future shower facilities.

7109 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Swansborough and Taylor that staff be instructed to investigate the purchase of a portable shower/toilet block which could be hired to organisations for various functions, in lieu of Council making contributions towards these amenities for events such as the Coonamble Rodeo/ Campdraft event and Marthaguy Picnic Races.

13.3 WORKS PROGRAM UPDATE

The Director of Engineering provided Council will a detailed list of works in progress, which included an update on footpath reconstruction in Macdonald Park, work on the Netball canteen at Smith Park, installation of fluoridation system, tender for water treatment oxidation and filtration units (closing early September), and bridgeworks which are underway.

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(a) Purchase of New Graders & Truck

In response to a question from Cr Jackson, the General Manager advised that a decision can be made at the September meeting regarding the purchase of the subject plant, as it is in accordance with the advertised Management Plan.

(b) Caterpillar Service Agreement

The Director of Engineering advised that this agreement is working satisfactorily, although from time to time there are managerial issues that need to be addressed.

(c) Rewiring of Caterpillar Grader

Cr Jackson enquired if one of the Caterpillar graders has been completely rewired three times. The Director of Engineering said he would make enquiries concerning this issue, however if it was one of the items being serviced under the Agreement, it would have been at Caterpillar's cost. Mr. Russell pointed out that two graders are fully maintained under the maintenance contract.

7110 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Jackson and Webb that the Works Program Updated provided by the Director of Engineering be noted.

14.0 REPORTS FROM VARIOUS COMMITTEES

7111 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Taylor and Jackson that the reports from Committees be received and dealt with.

14.1 MEETING OF TRAFFIC COMMITTEE

7112 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Jackson and Webb that the minutes of the Traffic Committee meeting held on 19 June, 2008 be noted and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

(a) Items 5 & 6 – Quambone Village

The Director of Engineering informed Council that he had recently had a meeting with representatives from the Quambone Resources Committee regarding these two issues.

Mr. Russell said that parking in the village area is parallel unless marked otherwise and Council will seek to install 90 degree front to kerb parking areas on the eastern side of the road in front of the pub, as well as the western side of the road across from the school. All other areas of town will remain unmarked.

The Director of Engineering referred to the request to install a pedestrian crossing or 'Children Crossing' in front of the School and advised that this would prevent parking along most of the road in the immediate vicinity (20m on approach side and 10m on departure side of the crossing, both sides of the road) and would also require the existing bus stop to be relocated further south.

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The Quambone Resources Committee representatives were also advised the Safety Around Schools Project Officer with the RTA was planning to visit Quambone on 28 August to inspect the site and hopefully may be able to provide some alternatives.

14.2 MEETING OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

7113 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Canham that the minutes of the Occupational Health and Safety Committee meeting held on 17 July, 2008 be noted and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

(a) 3.1 Drug & Alcohol Policy

The Director of Engineering informed the meeting that more work would have to be done on this Policy before its submission to Council for adoption. He said that employees would prefer testing of all employees on a random day, rather than a random number of employees. Mr. Russell referred to the action of some councils in employing independent contractors to carry out testing and said this was done probably four times a year, testing up to 30 staff members at a time.

Councillor Canham enquired what was the Union's policy on drug and alcohol testing. The Director of Engineering replied that the union was totally against random testing in any form.

14.3 MEETING OF COONAMBLE SALEYARDS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

7114 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Jackson and Swansborough that the minutes of the Saleyards Management Committee meeting held on 30 July, 2008 be noted and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

At this juncture, Economic Development Manager Amanda Glasson, was present at the meeting

Councillor Cullen referred to Recommendation 6(b) and asked whether any information is available on the research into the operation of other yards and investigation of potential improvements that may expedite movement of stock on sale days.

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The EDM said that this is proceeding, however contact has been made with Dubbo Yards who pre-sale scan using a contractor. Ms Glasson said agents need to be more responsible in preparing stock for sale and ensure that all animals are correctly tagged – if this is not done the whole process is slowed considerably. She said that Murdi Paaki staff are used by the Associated Agents and, whilst they work well, there is no continuity of staff. Ms Glasson said that it seems the problem Coonamble is experiencing is more to do with the sale day being Friday.

4. Livestock & Bulk Carriers' Association

7115 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Jackson that Council adopt the recommendation from the Saleyards Management Committee that the Livestock & Bulk Carriers' Association be requested to arrange a workshop in Coonamble to discuss issues associated with late loading and driver fatigue, with a view to seeking solutions to the problem.

6(a) Fees & Charges 2008/2009 – NLIS

7116 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Jackson that Council adopt the recommendation from the Saleyards Management Committee to increase the fee for supply and issue of tags in accordance with NLIS requirements to \$10.00 each for the 2008/2009 financial year.

6(b) Investigation into Time Management Systems

7117 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Jackson that Council adopt the recommendation from the Saleyards Management Committee that the Economic Development Managers investigate potential improvements that may expedite movement of livestock on sale days, including availability of hand scanning contractors, a comparison of management of throughput in other yards and that this information be available prior to the meeting in Coonamble with the Livestock and Bulk Carriers' Association

Item 10.3 Livestock and Bulk Carriers Association S1 (23890)

Writing to the Mayor on behalf of members seeking clear leadership from Council in ensuring a smooth transition in meeting requirements of the tough new road transport laws relating to heavy vehicle driver fatigue management that will be introduced in September 2008.

This item was deferred from earlier in the day for consideration during the minutes of the Saleyards Management Committee

7118 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Jackson and Webb that Council note the issues raised have been discussed by the Saleyards Management Committee.

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15.0 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGERS REPORT

7119 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Atkinson and Taylor that the report by the Economic Development Managers be received and dealt with.

- **myKP** – Council viewed a map showing coverage for the community internet access project which was previously presented to Council by a representative of myKP. It was noted that only a percentage of the town would receive benefits – not whole-town coverage as promised. Council also noted that the cost has risen to \$8,500 – an increase of \$3,500 on the original quote.

7120 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Taylor and Swansborough that Council decline the offer, on the basis that it is not what was originally presented to Council.

- **Solar Thermal Power** – Council noted that a project has been commenced in Forbes, with a \$6m capital cost.

15.1 HERITAGE ADVISORY SERVICES TO COONAMBLE SHIRE

7121 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Atkinson that Council:

- (1) Write to its current Heritage Advisor, Graham Hall, indicating
 - (a) that Coonamble Shire Council is giving one month's notice that it will be terminating the agreement whereby it engaged him to act as Council's Heritage Advisor;
 - (b) convey appreciation for heritage advisory services provided during the term of the agreement;
 - (c) seek expressions of interest, prior to the termination of the agreement, in conjunction with Walgett Shire Council, from suitably skilled people to be appointed as Council's Heritage Advisor.
- (2) In accordance with the guideline titled "*How to Establish a Heritage Advisor Service*" published by the Department of Planning in June 2007 and in consultation with Walgett Shire Council, seek expressions of interest from suitably skilled people to be appointed as Council's Heritage Advisor.

15.2 NOTES FROM GULARGAMBONE ROUNDTABLE OF KEY GROUPS

7122 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Taylor and Webb that the notes from the Gulargambone Roundtable of key groups held on Monday 14 July 2008 be noted.

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16.1 MINUTES OF COONAMBLE STREETS AHEAD

7123 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Jackson and Webb that the minutes of the Coonamble Streets Ahead meeting held on 17 July, 2008 be noted.

16.2 MINUTES OF BUSINESS ACTION GROUP

7124 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Jackson and Atkinson that the minutes of the Coonamble Business Action Group held on 17 July, 2008 be noted.

(a) School Truancy

7125 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Swansborough and Jackson that the General Manager attend the next meeting of the Business Action Group to provide an update on the next phase of action to be taken on this important issue.

At this juncture, Council's Tourism Development Manager, Mr Steven Baldwin, was at the meeting to present his report.

16.0 REPORT BY TOURISM DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

7126 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Jackson and Atkinson that the report by the Tourism Development Manager be received and dealt with.

- **Vibe Alive** - 4 staff will be arriving on Thursday to commence installation of equipment and setting up for the two day event. Fireworks will definitely proceed and residents adjacent to the Sportsground have received letters. Some 600 – 700 people are expected to attend, with accommodation required for 200.
- **Campbelltown Art Exhibition** – 10 pieces of art from Coonamble will be displayed as part of the Campbelltown Art Exhibition and will be eligible for prizes of up to \$25,000. Previously art sent to Campbelltown was displayed at the Campbelltown City Council building and not included in the Exhibition. TDM requested that Council consider sponsoring the Art Exhibition as Campbelltown is generous in its support of the Rodeo/Campdraft event and Council should reciprocate.

7127 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Cullen and Swansborough that Council sponsor the Campbelltown Art Exhibition to the amount of \$1,000.

- **Visitor Information Centre** – The TDM reported that three packages have been collected for hosting of the Visitor Information Centre. Expressions of Interest close on Friday 15 August 2008.

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- **Women's Gathering** – Expecting 400 – 500 people. Tent city will be set up at Coonamble Racecourse (anywhere between 80 – 200 tents) - a development application is being prepared.
- **Quambone Business & Tourism Services** – TDM attended meeting. Asked to convey apologies from Committee for not having completed work at Quambone Library for which Council allocated funds. Work will be done by the end of the year.

17.0 REPORT BY SALEYARDS MANAGER

7128 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Taylor and Webb that the report by the Saleyards Manager for the month of July 2008 be received and noted.

18.0 REPORT BY CONTRACT RANGER

7129 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Taylor that the report submitted by the Contract Ranger for the month of July 2008, be received and noted.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Jackson: Requested that Urawilkie Road be graded.

Cr Swansborough: Suggested that Council seek legal advice from the Local Government and Shires Association when required. The General Manager said that the LGSA assists Council regularly with advice and also in matters of Industrial Relations.

Cr Canham: Thanked Cr Atkinson for the work expended during her term in Council and wished her well in the future, noting that she would not be attending the September meeting.

Cr Horan: Supported Cr. Canham's comments in thanking Cr. Atkinson and wished her all the best from Council and staff.

This concluded the business and the meeting closed at 1.09 p.m.

These Pages (Page 1/3839 – 33/3871) were confirmed on the day of2008 and are a full and accurate record of proceedings of the ordinary meeting of Coonamble Shire Council held on 13 August 2008.

MAYOR

MAYOR

GENERAL MANAGER

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