

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF COONAMBLE SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE SHIRE CHAMBER, COONAMBLE ON WEDNESDAY, 9TH JULY,
2008 COMMENCING AT 9.06 A.M.**

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PRESENT: Cr Tim Horan, Mayor, in the Chair, with Crs. J Canham, T. Cullen, M.Callaghan, D. Swansborough, J. Atkinson, D.Taylor, M. Webb and B.Jackson.

Also present were the General Manager, Mr Griffiths, the Director of Corporate Services, Mr. Warren, the Director of Engineering, Mr Russell and Mrs.Moorhouse.

3.0 APOLOGIES

6979 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Canham and Taylor that apologies for late arrival be accepted from Councillors Cullen and Swansborough.

4.0 DELEGATIONS

Council noted that Mrs. Chandra Rajalingam would be attending the meeting at 10.30 a.m. to be presented with her Certificate of Australian Citizenship.

5.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Michael Webb, Jane Atkinson and Tim Horan declared an interest in matters being discussed at the meeting:

- (a) Cr Webb Item 9.14 – Forensic Services Police Bush Safari
 Committee member
 Item 10.3 – Residence for Doctor
 Board member of CAHS
 Item 12.3 – Lease of Land at Gulargambone
 Applicant former client
- (b) Cr Atkinson Rural Lands Protection Board – Letter of Support
 Former employee, possible contract project work in future.
- (c) Cr Horan Item 10.3 – Residence for Doctor
 CEO of Coonamble Aboriginal Health Service

6980 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Taylor and Callaghan that the Declarations of Interest be noted.

6.0 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

6981 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Jackson and Canham that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Coonamble Shire Council, held on 11th June 2008 be confirmed.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Nil

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7.0 RESOLUTION BOOK UPDATE

6982 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Atkinson and Taylor that the Resolution Book Update be received and dealt with.

8.0 MAYOR'S ACTIVITY REPORT

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

6983 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Horan and Webb that the Mayor's Activity Report be noted.

9.0 CORRESPONDENCE

6984 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Taylor that the Correspondence be received and dealt with.

Section A – Matters for Action by Council:

9.1 COONAMBLE ABORIGINAL HEALTH SERVICE M5-1 (28202)

Advising that the Coonamble Aboriginal Health Service (CAHS) commenced in August 2007 and have been successful in employing a doctor on a full time basis. Saying the current housing arrangements for the doctor were on a short term basis and are due to expire shortly. Seeking provision of a residence for the doctor, similar to the arrangement with other health services in Coonamble and Gulargambone.

Councillors noted that this matter is the subject of a report from the General Manager later in the day.

6985 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Canham and Atkinson that this matter be deferred and dealt with in conjunction with the General Manager's Report later in the day.

9.2 SHIRES ASSOCIATION OF NSW L9 (28225)

Saying that for many years the Association has kept increases to member subscriptions in line with the annual rate pegging limits approved by the Government, however this year has been unable to continue that trend. Stating that both Associations have resolved to increase subscriptions by the rate pegging limit of 3.2% plus 5%. Attaching an invoice in the amount of \$15,321 (GST free).

The General Manager informed the meeting that Council's budget allocation is \$14,700, a shortfall of \$621.

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6986 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Atkinson and Canham that Council note the increase in the subscription to the Shires Association of NSW and instruct staff to adjust the budget allocation accordingly.

9.3 NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (NSW) D7 (28223)

Detailing the Trust's role in providing advice, assistance, historical research, assessments of significance and physical descriptions relating to heritage places and heritage management at the local, state and national level. Pointing out that the National Trust receives no recurrent funding from State or Commonwealth governments in support of its work.

Seeking funding directly from local government through an annual retainer of \$5,000 from each council to counter the trend of reduced government support for the identification, conservation and improved management of heritage at a local level. Asking for Council's support and enclosing a registration form.

The General Manager informed the meeting that Council already expends significant funds in respect of heritage to promote local works and provide consultative services for the community. Mr. Griffiths said that no budget allocation exists for the forthcoming year and Council should carefully consider an addition of \$5,000 to its budget this early in the financial year.

6987 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Jackson and Callaghan that Council decline to pay a \$5,000 annual retainer to the National Trust of Australia (NSW).

9.4 ARMIDALE DUMARESQ COUNCIL C8 (28222)

Advising that Armidale will host the 2008 Local Government and Shires Association Aboriginal Network Conference from Tuesday 25th to Thursday 27th November, 2008. Advising the theme of this year's Conference is *Community Strength, Sustainability and Resilience*". Inviting Council to send representatives to the Conference.

Council noted that Registration costs for the Conference are \$650 (payable before 12 September 2008) or \$750 paid after 12 September, 2008. The General Manager stated that Council has not been represented at this Conference in the past four years.

6988 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Atkinson that Council not be represented at the Aboriginal Network Conference in Armidale.

9.5 NSW DEPARTMENT OF ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS I6 (28155)

Inviting representatives to the Murdi Paaki Construction Roundtable to be held on 9 August from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Dubbo (venue to be announced). Stating the This is **Page 3/3807** of minutes of ordinary meeting of Coonamble Shire Council held on 9th July 2008.

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Roundtable is being conducted as part of the Murdi Paaki Economic Development Strategy. Saying that a full briefing paper and agenda will be forwarded shortly.

The General Manager pointed out that this "Roundtable" is not to be confused with the Indigenous Disadvantage Workshop being held in Bourke on 20 August, 2008 which will be attended by himself and Cr. Jackson. Mr. Griffiths said that Council attended a similar meeting last year and found little value with no outcomes.

6989 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Canham that Council not be represented at the Murdi Paaki Construction Roundtable in Dubbo on 9 August, 2008.

9.6 MURDI PAAKI REGIONAL ENTERPRISE CORPORATION LTD I6-1 (28240)

Referring to concerns that have been raised about the proposed investigation of the Intense Farming project and taking the opportunity to provide an update. Stating that funding for investigation of the project by MPREC was applied for and approved by DEEWR and as a result consultants have been engaged to develop a feasibility study which will canvas all aspects of development of the project in Coonamble.

Suggesting that a site at "The Meglo" could be made available to establish the project should it proceed, subject to Council approval. Advising that 20 hectares of land would be required with road and power access and that upon completion of the Feasibility Study (if satisfactory) a formal approach will be made to Council for a process of acquiring the site. Pointing out that at this stage no further action can be taken.

The General Manager pointed out that this letter is in response to concerns expressed by him in that Council has not been formally requested to supply 20 hectares of land at "The Meglo" and that MPREC had taken upon itself to arrange testing of the soil in the vicinity of the power location. Mr. Griffiths said no formal representation had been made to Council for that particular site, with the previous Aquaculture location being on the eastern side of the block.

Council noted that authorisation for the soil sampling had been given to allow the Feasibility Study to progress, however the General Manager said that Council needs to make a decision as to the location of the 20 hectares of land that may be utilized by MPREC for the Intense Farming Project.

This matter was deferred until later in the day to be dealt with in conjunction with the report by the Economic Development Managers.

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At this stage, 9.20 a.m., Cr. Swansborough arrived at the meeting, followed by Cr. Cullen at 9.21 a.m.

9.8 COONAMBLE BUSINESS ACTION GROUP T3-1 + D5-2-1 (28233)

Referring to an offer by Allan Karanouh to make available Visitor Information in his Global Village Restaurant on Saturdays/Sundays (when Cottage Industries VIC is closed). Urging Council to take up Mr Karanouh's offer or to seek better arrangements and make visitor information services a priority.

The General Manager informed Council that it is not permissible under the Accreditation Process to have more than one location as the Visitor Information Centre (VIC). Mr. Griffiths said that Council's TDM has spent considerable effort seeking accreditation for both Coonamble and Gulargambone and the regulations are quite imposing.

The General Manager referred to a number of issues which need to be considered, including:

- (1) Removal of the VIC from Cottage Industries will result in it losing the rent subsidy from the RTC – this has been highlighted during discussions and acceptable to Cottage Industries.
- (2) Council should not be seen granting a private business the rights to the VIC and expressions of interest would need to be invited to allow all Coonamble businesses the opportunity to become the licensed holder.
- (3) Toilet facilities need to be of a reasonable standard and it would not seem prudent to direct travellers across the road, up the lane and around the back of the RTC.
- (4) Continuity is essential and interested businesses would need to clearly identify future plans.

6990 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Taylor and Atkinson that the Business Action Group be advised Council will seek expressions of interest from Coonamble business proprietors to become the licensed holder of an Accredited Visitor Information Centre in accordance with the regulations and the points mentioned above.

9.8 COONAMBLE BUSINESS ACTION GROUP I4-3-6 + D5-2-1 (28232)

Referring to the Workshop on Retail Business Presentation held recently which was attended by 22 local business people. Advising that during the workshop the use and placement of sandwich boards and similar footpath signage was discussed with some confusion and conflicting information as to Council's approach regarding these signs.

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The General Manager informed Council that the issue of advertising boards and goods on footpaths, along with alfresco dining, has been the subject of negative comment to him over the past six months. Mr. Griffiths said he has instructed the Health and Building Officer to develop a policy to overcome the anomalies that are apparent. The General Manager reported that basically, at present, the only policy that Council has is the requirement that insurance needs to be held by a business operator placing goods, advertising signs or table/chairs on the footpath.

6991 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Callaghan and Jackson that the Business Action Group be advised that the only current requirement is that insurance is held in respect of placing material on the footpath and a policy will be forthcoming before the end of the year on which Council will seek comment from the Group.

9.9 FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES F5-2 (28231)

Thanking councils for support shown in undertaking representations to Parliamentarians ensuring the continuation of a Commonwealth Flood Mitigation Program, the outcome of which is an extension of NDMP funding for the forthcoming financial year only. Requesting all local government bodies to engage their local members at both State and Federal level with the flooding problems facing the council and seeking the continuation of joint funding by Federal:State:Local governments of the solutions to the flood problem.

6992 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Atkinson and Webb that Council engage its Federal and State Members' support in seeking an ongoing program that addresses solutions to the flood problem.

9.10 DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT L10-1 (28237)

Stating that under section 440 of the Local Government Act 1993 councils must adopt a code of conduct that incorporates the provisions of the Model Code (or is consistent with the Model Code). Stating further that councils were required to establish conduct committees to consider relevant complaints about the conduct of councillors and/or the general manager. Advising that a review of the Model Code has been completed and a revised Model Code will take effect from 20 June 2008.

The General Manager advised the meeting that this correspondence deals with changes to the Model Code, together with transitional arrangements, and due to the lengthy nature of the correspondence a copy was included with the Business Paper.

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Mr. Griffiths said that Council may change the provisions of the Model Code (a hard copy of which was also provided to each Councillor with the business paper). The General Manager said that whilst it would have been preferable to implement the new Code after the Local Government elections, the instruction is clear in that it needs to take effect as soon as possible after 20 June 2008.

6992 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Jackson and Webb that Council formally adopt the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW (as revised) after a public exhibition period of twenty eight days in which the public is invited to comment.

9.11 SPENCER STEER A12 (28265)

Advising they have conducted their interim audit in respect to the year ending 30 June 2008 and report that Council's books and records are being well maintained and up to date. Drawing attention to matters which warrant some attention and offering recommendations on possible ways to strengthen and/or improve procedures.

A copy of the Audit Management Letter from Spencer Steer was included with each Councillor's business paper.

The General Manager informed the meeting that matters referred to in the report will be addressed by staff in accordance with recommendations from the Auditors. The Director of Corporate Services informed Council that all small councils are faced with lack of staff numbers for segregation of duties. Mr Warren said this has been and will continue to be the case in most small rural council organizations.

6993 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Jackson and Taylor that Council note the Audit Management Report provided by Council's Auditor, Spencer Steer following the interim audit in respect to the year ending 30 June 2008.

9.12 COONAMBLE PUBLIC SCHOOL D7

Advising that the School celebrates NAIDOC Week each year and requesting that Council consider contributing funds towards expenses. Stating a barbecue is usually provided and in past years Council has contributed to this activity.

Council was informed by the General Manager that last year it contributed \$500 towards this event, and the amount donated in 2005/06 was \$450.)

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6994 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Cullen that Council agree to contribute \$400 towards NAIDOC Week Celebrations at the Coonamble Public School.

9.13 ROBERT SINCLAIR ON BEHALF OF LOLA SCARLETT D7 + C4-21 (28159)

Asking if Council would consider providing funds to fence the Quambone Cemetery, i.e. materials and clear the fence lines (i.e. grade/doze). Advising that all labour and equipment will be supplied to erect the fence.

The General Manager pointed out that Ms Scarlett's property adjoins the Quambone Cemetery, hence the offer on her behalf. Mr. Griffiths said that engineering staff advised that to provide materials and clear fence lines as requested would cost Council approximately \$3,000.

6995 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Jackson and Webb that Council agree to provide materials as requested and clear the fence lines to enable the fencing of the Quambone Cemetery, noting that its contribution would be in the vicinity of \$3,000.

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

9.14 FORENSIC SERVICES POLICE BUSH SAFARI D7 (28293)

Advising the Forensic Services Police Bush Safari will be staying in Coonamble on the night of 28 September (registration day) and returning on 9 October (final dinner). Requesting that Council make available a suitable area for entrants who wish to camp. Anticipating up to 40 vehicles/100 people with various sets ups (e.g. swags, tents, camper trailers) and saying the area would need to have some form of amenities with showers.

Advising it is a non-profit charity organization which takes family on an outback tour and stating this year's charity will be the "Royal Flying Doctor". Referring also to the unfortunate illness of "George" Webb and saying they will also be donating to the "Leukemia Foundation". Stating that on 9 October (the final night) the Safari will be organizing a venue within Coonamble to prepare the evening meal at the final dinner presentation. Asking Council to make available a suitable venue.

The General Manager informed the meeting that in previous years Lightning Ridge was the base but, due to the involvement of Michael Webb, it has been decided, as a mark of respect, to make Coonamble the start/finish point this year.

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6996 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Canham and Atkinson that Council agree, in principle, to the request for use of the Coonamble Showground as a camping base for the start/finish of the Safari and refer the letter to the Health and Building Department for the compliance issues in accordance with the Regulations.

Section B: Matters for Information Only.

9.15 DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT I3-1 (28182)

Advising that the department has completed a review of parking enforcement by local councils at the request of the Minister. Stating that the report is available for download from the Department's website: www.dlg.nsw.gov.au. Saying the review identified a number of elements that are considered to be good practice in relation to councils carrying out their parking enforcement responsibilities and listing same.

A copy of this circular was included with the business paper for councillors' information.

9.16 DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, WATER, HERITAGE & THE ARTS AND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY E5 (28174)

Acknowledging receipt of Council's representations seeking the continued commitment of the Australian Government to support Local Government's natural resource management facilitator project in NSW. Advising that the Government will have more streamlined and better integrated facilitator network arrangements under *Caring for Our Country* and, for this reason, will not be renewing contracts for facilitators/coordinators currently hosted in local government agencies. Further advising that it will appoint a National Coordinator for Local Government within the Australian Government Natural Resource Management Facilitator Network.

9.17 ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER, ELECTORAL COMMISSION NSW E2 (28106)

Acknowledging Council's letter regarding the budget estimates for the Coonamble Shire Council elections and advising that Council was given the option of joining a region and sharing a Returning Officer (RO), which would have provided a cost saving. Stating that the RO Accommodation budget estimate of \$12,320 includes accommodation at a commercial rent of \$5,256, security, signage, furniture, postage and electricity.

Stating that when the Commission calculated the cost of security, signage, furniture, postage and electricity for each council it took the total for the State

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General election and divided it among all councils evenly. Saying that the final actual costs may be less than the budget estimates for smaller councils and the final invoice will be based on actual costs.

Confirming that the Returning Officer has inspected the premises offered by Council and advised they are suitable. Stating that as Council is able to provide suitable premises it will recover office rent cost by invoicing the Commission after the election.

Council was informed by the General Manager that the matter of providing a tax invoice to the Electoral Commission to recover rent will be further investigated and pursued.

9.18 DIRECTOR GENERAL, NSW DEPARTMENT OF STATE & REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT D5 (28120)

Acknowledging Council's correspondence regarding possible assistance for the Gulargambone and Coonamble communities following the closure of the Gulargambone Cypress Timber Mill and the loss of 40 jobs. Referring to the community meeting held on 27 May in Gulargambone as a first step and encouraging Council to work with the Department through Mr Dennis (Business Development Manager at Dubbo).

9.19 NSW DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES S1 (28169)

Referring to visit by Regulatory Officer, Ross Taylor, to the Coonamble Saleyards on 19 May for the purpose of conducting a cattle Saleyard Audit in relation to the National Livestock Identification Scheme (NLIS) and advising that all compliance requirements were met during the audit. Thanking staff for cooperation during the audit.

9.20 GILGANDRA SHIRE COUNCIL R2 (28163)

Providing a media release concerning the Melbourne-Brisbane Inland Rail Alliance (MBIRA) advising that a meeting held at the NSW Shires Association conference reaffirmed support and need for the Melbourne to Brisbane inland rail line to be progressed as a priority infrastructure project for Australia. Advising that MBIRA will continue to work until a commitment to construct an inland rail line between Brisbane and Melbourne is achieved.

The General Manager informed the meeting that a copy of this media release was forwarded to Councillor Cullen as soon as it was received.

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9.21 UNIONS NSW S6-4 (28192)

Advising that the Productivity Commission has begun an inquiry into the issue of paid maternity, parental and paternity leave and plans to have a final report completed by February 2009 to hand to the Rudd Government. Stating that Unions NSW has made a submission to the inquiry for six months paid maternity leave which is in comparison to what is available in other countries. Advising that Unions NSW is in the process of launching its Paid Maternity Leave campaign throughout NSW with part of the campaign being a petition calling on the Government to support a minimum of six months paid leave.

9.22 MAX PHILPOTT OAM L3 (27208)

Sincerely thanking Council for cleaning and associated works at Coonamble Catholic Cemetery in preparation for the Brigidine Celebrations on 21/22 June 2008. Conveying a personal thanks to Groundsman Ian Proctor for his efforts.

Councillors requested that staff convey this message of thanks to Mr. Ian Proctor for his efforts.

9.23 GRAHAM WEST MP G5-38 + G6 (28210)

Acknowledging Council's letter regarding funding under the 2007-2008 Capital Assistance Program (CAP) for the Skate Park Project and the allocation of race meeting dates for Coonamble Greyhound Racing Club. Advising that the Department received 552 applications under the CAP and 299 applicants were successful in gaining funds for projects worth over \$12m. Stating that if Council wishes to discuss its application and the assessment process, it should contact Mr Mark Golledge.

In regard to allocation of greyhound race dates advising this is the responsibility of Greyhound Racing NSW which is an industry board independent of Government. Advising the primary function of the Board is to manage the strategic direction and economic development of the State's greyhound racing industry in the overall interest of that industry.

9.24 TONY KELLY MLC, MINISTER FOR LANDS F5 + G6 + C7 (28211)

Advising he has approved grants totaling \$86,814 under the Natural Disaster Relief Scheme to Council as corporate trust manager of the Warrena Recreation Reserve and the Coonamble Common towards the cost of restoration works at the reserves following the December 2007 floods. Advising that \$31,500 is for restoration of the weir spillway and \$55,314 is for fencing at the Common.

6997 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Cullen and Swansborough that a letter of thanks be forwarded to the Hon Tony Kelly MLC for his assistance on this occasion.

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**9.25 IAN MACDONALD MLC MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES
D5 (28212)**

Acknowledging the impact potential loss of the Gulargambone sawmilling business will place on the community. Advising he is concerned at the effects of the decision by Gulargambone Sawmilling to divest itself of its Wood Supply Agreement and timber allocation and cease operations. Stating the Government has provided very considerable support for this business over the last two years, including granting a 20-year Wood supply Agreement which provided an unprecedented level of resource security and Industry Development Assistance funding to Gulargambone Sawmilling and Gulargambone Cypress to ensure that it could upgrade its business and product in the future.

Saying he does not believe the proprietor's actions have any relation to the Government's decision in respect of the Brigalow-Nandewar Forests and establishment of the Community Conservation Area. Stating the Government cannot prevent the business ceasing to trade and selling its timber allocation which it is legally entitled to do. Saying a number of initiatives have been taken to secure a more favourable outcome for Gulargambone and a prospective purchaser has been encouraged to submit an application for Industry Development Assistance under the current second round of grant funding which is now being considered.

**9.26 BAWRUNGA ABORIGINAL MEDICAL SERVICE M5-1 + M5-2
(28153)**

Writing in response to Council's letters regarding provision of the medical service at Gulargambone.

The General Manager pointed out that because this is a detailed and lengthy letter, a copy was attached to the business paper for Councillors' perusal and information.

9.27 DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT E2 (28197)

Reminding councils that major decisions affecting their areas should not be undertaken during the period leading up to ordinary elections. Stating that councils are expected to assume a "caretaker" role during election periods to ensure that major decisions are not made which would limit the actions of an incoming council.

The General Manager informed the meeting that because this circular contains information that should be made available to councillors and staff, a full copy was included with the business paper.

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9.28 PRESIDENTS OF LGSA W1 (28224)

Extending an invitation to councillors and staff to attend the 2008 Water Management Conference in Ballina from 13 to 15 August 2008. Advising the event is sponsored by Country Energy and the NSW Department of Water and Energy.

The General Manager pointed out that the neither the Director of Engineering nor his staff are available to attend the Conference.

9.29 SIMON MULHOLLAND E933 (28238)

Giving advice of his intention to resign from his position with Council effective 4 July 2008. Thanking Council for the opportunity afforded and saying he has enjoyed his employment.

Councillors noted that Mr Mulholland had been employed by Council since 6 August, 2007. The Director of Engineering pointed out that Simon has been offered an opportunity to complete his apprenticeship in building and has decided to take that course of action. The General Manager reported that a replacement trades assistant would be appointed in due course.

9.30 THE HON FRANK SARTOR MP, MINISTER FOR PLANNING D5-22 (28247)

Advising that the NSW Planning reforms have now been passed through Parliament and the department is now getting on with the implementation phase to deliver on these reforms. Stating that the LGSA and LGMA have been invited to join the Implementation Advisory group and the Department will keep council informed of the implementation program and staging in due course.

9.31 DIRECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT E2 (28284)

Advising that the Governor has approved the making of the *Local Government (General) Amendment (Elections) Regulation 2008* which commenced on 27 June, 2008. Advising that the Regulation is designed to deliver efficiencies by updating and streamlining the local government electoral machinery provisions, to align council election procedures as closely as possible with those for State elections and to enhance public accessibility to the council election process.

9.32 NSW DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING D5-22 (28291)

Acknowledging Council's letter to the Hon P Lynch MP, Minister for Local Government, concerning the proposed planning reform. Advising that Mr Lynch forwarded the letter to the Hon F Sartor MP, Minister for Planning for consideration and a response will be provided shortly.

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**9.33 LOCAL GOVERNMENT & SHIRES ASSOCIATIONS OF NSW E2
(28295)**

Advising they have received some 38 responses outlining individual councils budget estimates as provided by the Electoral Commission and stating there are clear trends emerging with the numbers. Providing general comments and stating the whole matter will be discussed at the LGSA's Joint Committee meeting.

A copy of this email communication was provided to each Councillor.

9.34 NETWASTE H2 (28297)

Advising of a successful application by NetWaste to NSW Health for \$41,450 for a community Sharps Funding Project (to be distributed over the Central West). The program will commence in August 2008 and be completed by June 2009. Stating that this Council will receive six toilet cubicle units and one pharmacy container. Advising that implementation of the program will commence shortly.

6998 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Taylor and Webb that the information contained in Item Nos. 9.15 to 9.34 (excluding Item No 9.24) be received and noted.

URGENT BUSINESS – CORRESPONDENCE

6999 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Jackson and Webb that the following items be classified 'urgent business' and dealt with:

9.36 UNITED SERVICES UNION (USU) S6-4 (28311)

Stating that by taking a pragmatic and cooperative approach in 2007, the USU, LGEA, DEPA, LGSA and Councils, through the use of Council Agreements, delivered wage and allowance increases to NSW local government employees that were no less than those contained in the Local Government (State) Award 2007 for period 1 November 2008 – 31 October 2008.

Advising that a further 3.2% wage increase is due under the Award from 1 November 2008. Pointing out, however, the respective governments are in the process of developing the legislative details of their respective industrial relations systems. Pointing out that the question whether councils are constitutional corporations is yet to be determined by a court of competent jurisdiction and given such uncertainty and the extension of the expiry date of National Agreements Preserving State Awards from 27 March 2009 – 31 December 2009, proposing that, subject to any negotiations at the local level, industry parties again take a pragmatic and cooperative approach to wage and allowance increases and provide all NSW Local Government employees with increases due under the Award on 1 November 2008.

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Advising that a Model Council Agreement has been prepared which will provide employees, industry unions and councils with certainty of terms and conditions of employment for at least a further 12 months from 1 November 2008 – 21 October 2009. Seeking advice, as a matter of urgency, whether Council intends to sign a Council Agreement and pay, as a minimum, the 3.2% increase in wages and increases in allowances due under the Award from 1 November 2008.

The General Manager informed the meeting that the Industrial Division of the LGSA advised that recommendations will be forthcoming within the next week in respect of both requests. Mr. Griffiths said that the Local USU representative has made an appointment with him for Thursday, 10 July 2008 in respect of both matters.

The General Manager said it should be noted that Council is not covered by the Local Government Award but by the NAPSA in the Federal sphere and no determination has been made at this time on any likelihood of a level of pay increase.

7000 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Canham that Council authorise the General Manager to implement advice given by the Industrial Division of the Local Government and Shires Associations when available.'

9.37 GREATER WESTERN AREA HEALTH SERVICE H2-2 + R7 (28309)

Referring to Council's concerns about irresponsible disposal of "party packs" and apologising for the delay in responding. Pointing out that the Needle & Syringe Program (NSP) was introduced to minimise the risk of HIV – saying the program does not condone the use of illicit drugs, nor does it seek to legitimise activities associated with drug use, but accepts the fact that drug use does exist in our communities. Stating that clients are reminded and encouraged to return all injecting equipment to appropriate disposal bins. Advising that on 9 May 2008 officers met with Council's Director of Engineering to discuss the issue of unsafe disposal and to develop strategies to address the issue.

The General Manager informed the meeting that this correspondence is in response to concerns received by Council from a Gulargambone resident and does little to suggest that the problems being experienced will be mitigated by the strategies stated in the letter.

Mr. Griffiths said that representatives of GWAHS made and cancelled an appointment with him recently which was to have discussed this matter. The General Manager drew Council's attention to Item No 9.34 which refers to the installation of additional 'sharps units' and a pharmacy container.

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7001 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Atkinson and Jackson that Council convey the information received on this issue to the complainant.

9.38 BAWRUNGA MEDICAL SERVICE M5-1 + M5-2 + D7 (28322)

Asking that Council make a financial contribution towards air fares from Sydney to Dubbo (average flight cost – return journey - \$315 - \$400 weekly) for the doctor to service Gulargambone. Pointing out that upon arrival in Dubbo the general practitioner is driven to Gulargambone (and return two days later) - saying another way to assist Bawrunga would be to provide financial assistance towards fuel costs.

Stating that current fuel costs amount to around \$500/month and with further projected increases in fuel/air fares Bawrunga Medical Service may be unable to continue to maintain the GP in Gulargambone. Pointing out another expense is payment of six hours work for a driver to make the round journey (Dubbo/Gulargambone) twice weekly.

Drawing attention to the fact that Gulargambone health service has been running at a loss over the past seven months and will continue to do so until it secures a permanent general practitioner willing to live in Gulargambone.

The General Manager informed the meeting there appears a very real possibility of Bawrunga Health Services closing in Gulargambone as the Service has not been supported to an economically viable level. Mr. Griffiths said the request is for a contribution towards air fares for the visiting doctor from Sydney which, he said, are claimed to be in the order of \$315 - \$400 per visit. Council noted that bookings are not being made in a timely manner to access discounted air fares which would equate to \$242 per visit.

The General Manager said that , apart from this, it would seem reasonable for Council to make some contribution towards the air fares, together with contributing to accommodation costs until the residence at Gulargambone becomes available at the end of July. Mr. Griffiths said the question of contributing towards transport to and from Dubbo seems to be unrealistic as the doctor does not possess a driver's licence and, thus, requires chauffeuring. Council noted that the Service has purchased a small vehicle to use for this purpose.

7002 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Cullen that Council contribute \$150/week towards air fares for the doctor servicing the Bawrunga Medical Service in Gulargambone for the period 1 July 2008 to 31 August 2008 and advise Bawrunga that no further subsidy will be available.

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9.39 STEVEN RUTLEDGE, USU REPRESENTATIVE S6-2

Requesting that Friday 11 July 2008 be recognised as a holiday for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island staff members to enable them to celebrate NAIDOC Week. Stating the request is made in accordance with Clause 18A of the award.

The General Manager informed Council that the Award states, in part:

“(ii) ...employees who are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders shall be entitled to one day during NAIDOC week so that they can participate in National Aboriginal and Islander Day celebrations”.

Mr Griffiths also said that advice from the LGSA Industrial Division confirms the right to a public holiday and further, that in ascertaining whether an individual is of Aboriginal descent the following applies:

- (a) a member of the Aboriginal race of Australia and includes a descendant of the indigenous inhabitants of the Torres Strait Islands; and
- (b) a person who identifies as an Aboriginal person; and
- (c) is accepted by the Aboriginal community as an Aboriginal person.

The General Manager pointed out that it would appear spouses/partners who can satisfy the above conditions would also be entitled to one day's leave.

7003 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Atkinson and Taylor that Council agree to recognise Friday 11 July 2008 as a holiday for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff members so that they can participate in National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Day celebrations, subject to them producing evidence of their Aboriginality and this being provided within three (3) months, otherwise the leave will be deducted from annual leave entitlements.

9.40 AUSTRALIAN PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE D7 (28327)

Advising that the Australian Paralympic team needs the support of local communities to get athletes to the Games in Beijing in September. Saying that Australia has finished amongst the top five Nations at each of the last three Paralympic Games, however the cost to send the team is \$3,500,000. Seeking support of Council in donating \$500.

The General Manager advised Council that a request was received from the Winter Paralympics in 2005 and, at that time, Council made a contribution of \$250.

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7004 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Canham and Taylor that Council contribute \$500 towards expenses of sending an Australian Paralympic Team to the Olympic Games in Beijing.

9.41 NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE B13 (28319)

Referring to the proposal to “close off” the northern end of the lane at the rear of Namoi Street to prevent vehicular access to the levee bank. Raising concerns that should this proceed there will be no access for emergency services in times of need to the river area beyond the levee crossing. Asking Council to further consider the issue prior to finalising the matter.

The Director of Engineering pointed out that the NSW Rural Fire Service personnel had misunderstood Council’s intention, being of the opinion that Namoi Street would be closed. Mr. Russell contacted the Service to explain that Council is referring to the lane that runs along the rear of the houses and there would be no change to Namoi Street traffic flows. The Director of Engineering informed the meeting that the Rural Fire Service has no problem with the intended action.

7005 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Atkinson and Webb that the letter be received.

9.42 ROADS AND TRAFFIC AUTHORITY, PARKES R8-5 (28308)

Advising the 2008/09 REPAIR program has been finalised and the following projects selected for funding:

- MR7515 Warren Rd– 8.96 – 11.69km \$204,450
- MR7515 Warren Rd– 13.2 – 14.31km \$ 88,325
- MR7515 Warren Rd– 1.63 – 3.4km \$107,225.

7006 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Canham and Atkinson that the information be noted.

9.43 NSW LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS COMMISSION G5-1 (28321)

Advising that the Minister for Local Government has approved of the Grants Commission’s preliminary recommendations for the 2008/2009 financial assistance grants, however the final recommendations will be subject to approval by the Commonwealth Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government. Advising that the estimated grant payment to this Council for 2008/09 is \$2,747,732 and consists of:

General Purpose Component	\$1,610,653
Local Roads Component	\$1,137,079.

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Council was advised by the General Manager that the foregoing amounts are preliminary and may vary, up or down, from final entitlements, which will be advised late August. Mr Griffiths said that in the 2007/08 year the FAG amount was \$2,573,874 and that budget allowance for 2008/09 was \$1,540,000 for the General Purpose component and \$1,050,000 for the Rural Local Roads component.

7007 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Canham that the information be noted.

10.0 REPORT BY GENERAL MANAGER

7008 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Atkinson and Jackson that the report submitted by the General Manager be received and dealt with.

10.1 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS DETERMINED UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

7009 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Jackson and Taylor that Council note Development Application Nos. 009/2008, 012/2008 – 014/2008, 017/2008 and 018/2008 and Complying Development Application Nos. 016/2008, 019/2008 – 021/2008 which had been approved under delegated authority.

LETTER FROM COONAMBLE TIMES – PRINTING OF ROTARY TELEPHONE BOOK

At this juncture, Council considered a letter from Coonamble Times referring to costs associated with inclusion of a “Business Listing” in the Rotary Club Local Telephone Directory. The Editor of the Times, who was present at the meeting, stated that information provided to Council by the Rotary Club concerning “extra costs” associated with printing the Business Section of the Directory, were clearly misleading and he merely wished to set the matter straight.

The Editor stated that the initial quote to the Rotary Club for printing of the telephone book was \$6,000 (i.e. without a business listing) and this amount did not change – so the cost to Rotary to have a business listing was nil.

7010 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Taylor and Jackson that Council write to the Rotary Club of Coonamble seeking information which will clarify costs incurred by the Club in providing a “Business Section” in the recently completed Local Telephone Directory.

10.2 BURIALS ON PRIVATE LAND

The General Manager pointed out that this Guideline is intended for the guidance of local authorities in their role as the approval authority under Public Health (Disposal of Bodies) Regulation 2002, of locations to bury bodies on private land not being a public or private cemetery.

Mr. Griffiths said the policy has been prepared following recommendation from the Department of Health NSW in an attempt to eliminate the confusion and distress to families who wish to have family members interred on private land. He said the public need to be aware of the procedure and statutory obligations that need to be adhered to permit burials on private land.

- 7011 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Atkinson and Callaghan that Council:
- (1) Adopt the recommendations of the NSW Health Guidelines as a draft policy for burials on private land;
 - (2) Set an application fee of \$220.00; and
 - (3) Advertise the draft policy for a period of 28 days, seeking public comment, prior to formally adopting it at a future meeting.

NOMINATION & ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

- 7012 RESOLVED** on the motion of Crs. Taylor and Atkinson that Councillor Cullen be nominated to take the Chair whilst the following matter is being discussed.

At this juncture, the Mayor vacated the Chair and left the meeting, along with Cr. Webb, who had both declared an interest in the following matter. Cr. Cullen took the Chair.

10.3 RESIDENCE FOR MEDICAL DOCTOR

Council noted that a request has been received from the Coonamble Aboriginal Health Service to provide accommodation for its doctor on a similar arrangement to that afforded to other Health Services within Coonamble and Gulargambone.

The General Manager said that Council provides two houses, free of rental, to Ochre Health for doctors associated with the Castlereagh Medical Service and has recently purchased a residence for the doctor attending the Bawrunga Aboriginal Medical Service in Gulargambone.

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7013 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Taylor and Callaghan that Council:

- (1) Advise the Coonamble Aboriginal Health Service that it is willing to provide the Nash Street residence at a subsidized rental of up to \$92/week, subject to negotiation with Ochre Health.
- (2) Authorise the General Manager to negotiate with Ochre Health to provide a contribution of up to \$92/week towards the outgoings of each residence.
- (3) Authorise the General Manager to enter into a Residential Lease with Coonamble Aboriginal Health Service at a similar rental to that negotiated with Ochre Health.
- (4) Acknowledge that a reserve will be set up for the maintenance of the three residences in question utilizing the rental negotiated for future major maintenance of the premises.

At this juncture, 10.21 a.m., Councillors Horan and Webb returned to the meeting and the Mayor resumed the Chair.

10.4 TEMPORARY OCCUPATION PERMITS POLICY

At its May meeting Council considered a policy aimed to set minimum guidelines and streamline the approval process for temporary occupations.

The General Manager reminded Council that the policy, which provides a minimum guide for the temporary occupation of caravans, garages, sheds, etc. for a restricted term during the construction of a dwelling, was placed on public exhibition for the prescribed period and no written comments and/or objections received were received. Mr. Griffiths said that Council should now formally adopt the policy to become effective immediately and apply to the whole of Coonamble Shire.

7014 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Atkinson and Jackson that Council formally adopt the policy for Temporary On Site Residential Accommodation Permits which applies to the whole of Coonamble Shire, noting that no objection/comment was received and that a fee of \$110/Permit be fixed for the 2008/2009 year.

10.5 REVIEW OF STATE TAXATION – IPART DRAFT REPORT

The General Manager informed Council that this draft report was recently released and contains two issues that will have a major impact on Local Government. He said that currently NSW Rural Fire Service operations are funded by a 13.3% council contribution on total expenditure for this Shire of \$331,000 which equates to \$44,000 towards bush fire services. The proposal is for Council to pay the total \$331,000 and recover the additional by way of an increase in its rates income.

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Council noted that similarly, the NSW Fire Brigades currently expend \$119,800 within the Shire, leaving Council to pay \$14,700 and again, the proposal is that Council pay the full cost and increase its rates with the State Government expense being eliminated and the Fire Service Levy becoming redundant. This proposal is for local government councils to lose their exemption from Payroll Tax and this would be a direct cost to Council of about \$225,000 in the first year.

The General Manager drew Council's attention to the fact that the report recommends that the rate pegging limit be increased by about 6% to account for this extra expense. Mr. Griffiths said it is proposed that the exemption be phased out over two years and, thus, the additional rate increase phased in to fully recover the additional costs to Council.

7015 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Atkinson and Webb that Council:

- (1) Support the LGSA in their endeavours to have the State Government not implement these proposals.
- (2) Engage the State Member for Barwon seeking his support in having the proposals rejected.

At this juncture, 10.23 a.m., Council's Director of Engineering, Mr. Murray Russell, left the meeting.

10.6 PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL – DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING SERVICES

The General Manager informed the meeting that the contract of employment for the Director of Engineering provides for the General Manager to carry out a performance appraisal on each anniversary of commencement, which was 8 December. Mr. Griffiths stated that the Contract allows for a remuneration package increase of 4% and, given the high level of achievements by the Director of Engineering, this has been granted.

7016 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Taylor Jackson that Council acknowledge the excellent performance achieved by the Director of Engineering and note the General Manager's actions in granting the 4% incentive bonus.

NATURALISATION CEREMONY

At this juncture, 10.35 a.m., the Mayor adjourned the meeting and warmly welcomed Mrs Chandra Rajalingam and her guests.

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The Citizenship Ceremony was conducted by Mayor Horan as prescribed in the Australian Citizenship Act 1948 and the Australian Citizenship Regulations 1960 under the authority of the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship.

The Mayor read a message from Senator Chris Evans, Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, congratulating Mrs Rajalingam and wishing her well as she takes this very important step. Mrs Rajalingam recited her Australian Citizenship Pledge and was presented with her Certificate of Australian Citizenship.

The Mayor welcomed her as a citizen of Australia and congratulated her on her decision to take up citizenship. Morning tea was then served and the meeting resumed at 11.25 a.m.

URGENT BUSINESS – SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT BY GENERAL MANAGER

7017 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Canham and Webb that the following matter be classified “urgent business” and dealt with.

10.7 ELECTION OF MAYOR – 2008

The General Manager referred Council to Section 290 of the Local Government Act which provides that the election of Mayor will be required within three weeks after the ordinary election, i.e. 4 October. Mr. Griffiths said that to fulfill this requirement, Council would have to consider changes to meeting dates.

7018 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Canham and Jackson that Council hold its September meeting as usual on 10th and the October meeting be held one week early (viz 1st) to allow election of the Mayor in accordance with Section 290 of the Act.

11.0 REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

7019 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Jackson and Taylor that the report by the Director of Corporate Services be received and dealt with.

11.1 RATE COLLECTIONS

7020 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Atkinson that the Total Combined Rate Collections to 30 June 2008 be noted.

11.2 LIST OF INVESTMENTS

7021 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Jackson and Taylor that that the Investments held at 31 May 2008 be noted.

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11.3 STATEMENT OF RESERVES

7022 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Jackson and Webb that Council note the Reserves Estimated as at 30 June 2008.

11.4 USE OF COUNCIL CREDIT CARDS

The Director of Corporate Services referred to Council's requirement to comply with guidelines from the Department of Local Government concerning appropriate controls on the use of Council issued credit cards. Mr. Warren said that Council currently has four credit cards in use (issued to the Mayor, General Manager, Director of Engineering and Director of Corporate Services).

Council noted that a draft policy on the use of credit cards was attached to the report.

7023 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Atkinson and Cullen that Council note the information relating to the current credit card position and adopt the draft policy submitted to the meeting, to be known as Coonamble Shire Council Corporate Credit Card Policy.

12.0 REPORT FROM DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING

7024 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Canham that the report by the Director of Engineering be received and dealt with.

12.1 NAMING OF BRIDGES

The Director of Engineering informed the meeting that following receipt of a number of letters regarding names for the bridges at Teridgerie and Gulargambone, Council decided to advertise for expressions of interest. Mr. Russell submitted to the meeting all suggestions received.

(a) Gulargambone Bridge

7025 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Canham and Taylor that the bridge be known as ***Castlereagh River Bridge*** because it passes over the Castlereagh River and is known as this name.

(b) Teridgerie Bridge

7026 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Jackson and Canham that the bridge be known as ***Lucy Morrissey Bridge*** (with Teridgerie Creek underneath) because of her contribution and connection to the area.

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12.2 RURAL ADDRESSING

The Director of Engineering advised that during further public exhibition a number of comments were received concerning the following six roads:

- Shire Road 6 – Currently Wingidgeon Road
- Shire Road 7 – Currently Come-by-Chance Road
- Shire Road 54 – Currently Wingadee Road
- Shire Road 102 – Currently Warrabah Road
- Shire Road 113 – Currently Winnaba Road
- Shire Road 132 – Currently not named.

7026 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Atkinson and Taylor that Council gazette the following names to the subject roads:

- Shire Road 6 Bramble Road
- Shire Road 7 Wingadee Road
- Shire Road 54 Floddenfield Road
- Shire Road 102 Warrabah Road
- Shire Road 113 Winnaba Road
- Shire Road 132 Wool Shed Road.

Cr. Webb left the meeting while the following matter was being discussed, having declared an interest earlier in the day.

12.3 LEASE OF LAND AT GULARGAMBONE – RESERVE NO. 95736

This area of land at Gulargambone has been leased in the past, with the current lease expiring on 30 June, 2008. The Director of Engineering informed the meeting that expressions of interest were called and six offers were received.

7028 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Atkinson and Callaghan that Council accept the offer of \$2,500/pa from Mr Damir Santek however in the event that he withdraws his bid, the lease be offered to Gulargambone Lions Club (\$350/pa) and authority be given to affix the Common Seal to the Lease Agreement.

12.4 REMOVAL OF JACARANDA TREE

The Director of Engineering informed Council that concerns have been raised regarding the condition of the Jacaranda Tree situated adjacent to the Shire Administration Centre. Council noted that the tree has been inspected by a qualified Arborist who recommends removal.

7029 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Jackson and Canham that the Jacaranda Tree situated in front of the Council Administration adjacent to the driveway be removed and replaced with an advanced Jacaranda Tree.

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12.5 TWO HOUR PARKING RESTRICTIONS

Council noted that the trial period for the two hour parking restrictions has concluded and the Director of Engineering provided a report giving Council the opportunity to review these arrangements and consider whether to continue them permanently.

In making the final determination, Council considered the petition and letters presented against the proposal, letters in support and comments made during the trial.

7030 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Canham and Cullen that Council retain the two hour parking restrictions in Castlereagh Street (from Aberford St to Tooloon Street) both sides and expand the area to include Aberford Street - both sides – (from the bridge to the intersection with Castlereagh St).

At this juncture, 12 noon, Councillor Callaghan left the meeting. The Economic Development Managers were at the meeting to present their report.

13.0 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGERS REPORT

7031 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Atkinson and Taylor that the report by the Economic Development Managers be received and dealt with.

(a) Great Artesian Basin Water Sharing

In speaking on this matter, the EDM said that when the Water Sharing Plan came into force on 1 July 2008 water allocations owned under existing licences become tradeable and this may be an alternative to waiting for the Controlled Allocation Order to enable purchase of water savings from the State Government.

Council noted that it could be up to two months before the Controlled Allocation Order and Prospectus are completed. It was then up to the Minister to act, however no time frame could be given.

7032 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Taylor and Webb that Council write to the Minister for Water and Energy encouraging early determination of the Great Artesian Basin water allocation issue as a number of developments are awaiting the opportunity to access water.

The following matter was discussed in conjunction with Item 9.6 which was deferred from earlier in the meeting.

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(b) Intensive Horticulture Project

9.6 Murdi Paaki Regional Enterprise Corporation

This letter was in response to concerns raised by the General Manager in that Council has not been formally requested to supply the 20ha of land and MPREC has taken upon itself to arrange testing of the soil in the vicinity of the power location. Mr. Griffiths pointed out that the block in question was that proposed for the Aquaculture project, it has not been approved for any other development proposed by MPREC.

The EDM said it was her understanding that when a feasibility study and business plan are completed, the proponent would then discuss with Council the location and area required at "The Meglo" to proceed with the project. Council noted that permission was granted for a soil test to be undertaken to allow the feasibility study to proceed.

7033 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Taylor and Atkinson that Murdi Paaki Regional Enterprise Corporation be advised that Council agrees in principle with the project and the release of land for this purpose subject to formal approach to Council concerning the area to be used for the Bush Tucker/Intensive Horticulture project.

(c) New Residents – Welcome Packs

Council noted that 70 new adults have been given these packs and positive comments are being received. The EDM reported that this is an effective method of gauging movements of people to Coonamble.

(d) Awards Night

Councillors were advised that the Business Award Nominations for 2008 have now closed, with a large volume of nominations being received. The local awards night is Saturday, 6 September and Councillors were invited to attend.

(e) Shell Depot Site

The EDM informed Council that the Shell Company is cleaning up its block in Coonamble and intends to package all vacant sites that are superfluous to its needs and offer them for sale. Councillors noted that if local persons are interested they can "get on the books" by submitting an offer. Council was also mindful of the huge cost of decommissioning these sites which would become the responsibility of the buyer.

(f) Gulargambone Public Meeting

Council noted that a public meeting would be held in Gulargambone on Monday, 17 July 2008 to identify projects that can be pursued following closure of the Gulargambone Cypress Mill.

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13.1 GREAT ARTESIAN BASIN WATER SHARING PLAN UPDATE

7034 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Canham and Atkinson that the report be noted.

13.2 MINUTES OF COONAMBLE BUSINESS ACTION GROUP

7035 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Atkinson that the minutes of the Coonamble Business Action Group meeting held on 5 June, 2008 be noted.

COONAMBLE SHIRE HERITAGE ACTIVITIES – ANNUAL REPORT 2007/08

7036 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Jackson that the report on Coonamble Shire Heritage Activities for 2007/08 be noted.

14.0 REPORT BY TOURISM DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

7037 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Atkinson and Canham that the report by the Tourism Development Manager be received and dealt with.

At this juncture, 12.30 p.m. Councillor Callaghan returned to the meeting.

Mr. Baldwin was at the meeting to present his report.

- **Campbelltown City Council** – TDM advised Campbelltown City Council has passed the Memorandum of Agreement, with no major changes. It is proposed that the Mayor and the General Manager from Coonamble Shire Council attend the Campbelltown City Council meeting in August to sign the Agreement.
- **Visitor Information Centre** – TDM informed the meeting that Cottage Industries has no problem with the relocation of the VIC to another business. Council suggested that a letter be sought from Cottage Industries, indicating this stance. Council noted that expressions of interest will be sought from local business owners to host Visitor Information services.
- **A3 Pad Maps** – TDM reported that there have been a flurry of changes, additions, etc. which will all be addressed when the new version is being prepared.
- **Coonamble Rodeo and Campdraft Event** – TDM reported results of a survey was conducted on numbers based on postcode analysis. Council noted that the event made a net profit of approximately \$16,000.
- **Marthaguy Picnic Races** – TDM informed Council that the committee has agreed to spend \$1,000 on television advertising for this year's event.

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At this juncture, 12.58 p.m. the meeting adjourned for lunch and resumed at 1.45 p.m.

12.6 SHOWGROUND PAVILION - TENDER NO 07/03

The Director of Engineering reported that the budget for this project was revised to \$400,000 at the September 2007 meeting and approximately \$50,000 of this has already been spent on demolition of the grandstand the design costs. Mr. Russell informed the meeting that to proceed with the work will require a revised budget of \$620,000, an additional \$220,000.

7038 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Cullen and Taylor that Council:

- (1) Undertake the Showground Pavilion reconstruction at a total project cost of approximately \$640,000
- (2) Award Tender No 07/03 (showground pavilion) to L Crawford Constructions, Coonamble in accordance with the tender submission;
- (3) Allocate an additional budget of \$240,000 (in addition to the existing \$400,000 budget);
- (4) Source part of the additional budget by allowing the Showground car park to remain unsealed and allocate \$70,000 towards the Showground pavilion;
- (5) Source the remaining \$170,000 of the additional budget from anticipated surplus from 2007/2008 or borrow if necessary;
- (6) authorise affixing of the Common Seal to any relevant documents.

12.7 WATER AND SEWER ALLIANCE

The Director of Engineering reported that the Minister for Energy & Water, Hon Nathan Rees, has sought and is undertaking a review of how local government delivers its water and sewerage services. Mr. Russell pointed out there has been a suggestion that this may be the first step towards removing these activities from local councils and putting them into some form of regional structure.

Council noted that submissions have been sought from all water authorities and the Director of Engineering summarised points raised in the one provided from this Council.

7039 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Taylor and Webb that Council:

- (1) Endorse the concept of a Coalition arrangement between Coonamble Shire Council, with Warrumbungle and Gilgandra Shires to provide strategic management services between each for water and sewerage;

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- (2) Support the retention of the assets and operational management being retained by each Council;
- (3) Authorise the Mayor and General Manager to progress a formal agreement and affix the Common Seal, if required.

12.8 MACDONALD PARK

The Director of Engineering informed the meeting that he has had discussions with a number of the original complainants regarding the new layout of the park and gave a brief summary of these discussions. Council noted that at the June meeting it resolved to continue with the park project in its original form, with a review after the public had the opportunity to use the new layout. Mr. Russell said that no further correspondence has been received since completion of this stage of the work.

7040 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Horan and Atkinson that Council permit the closure (not locking) of the rear gates during the day by users of the park and, in consultation with Playgroup organisations, install a second picnic table towards the rear of the park.

12.9 QUARRY PLANT

The Director of Engineering informed the meeting that enquiries have been made in relation to purchasing a second hand excavator and it would appear from these enquiries that such a limited budget (i.e. \$35,000) is likely to result in the purchase of a very poor quality machine.

7041 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Cullen that Council approve a revision to the Mt Magometon Quarry budget to provide \$50,000 (plus GST) to be spent on a second hand excavator to be funded from the Quarry Reserve.

21.10 WORKS UPDATE

Council noted the information contained in the works update provided by the Director of Engineering.

7042 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Taylor that the Works Update provided by the Director of Engineering be noted.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Due to an oversight Council's luncheon arrangements had not been met and alternate arrangements had been made to provide lunches to the meeting. At this juncture, 2.30 p.m. the meeting adjourned for lunch and resumed at 2.40 p.m.

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URGENT BUSINESS – SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING

7043 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Jackson and Webb that the following be classified “urgent business” and dealt with.

12.11 REGIONAL & RURAL ROADS PROGRAM

The Director of Engineering informed Council that the Roads to Recovery (R2R) funding is received from the Federal Government to assist in maintenance of road infrastructure and the current round of funding will be complete in 2008/09, with a new program to commence in 2009/10.

Mr Russell pointed out that with this financial year being the final one of the current program it is important that all funding is fully acquitted as it is not able to carry forward to the new program. He said that Council must submit the Roads Program to the Department of Transport before the end of July.

7044 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Jackson that Council:

- (1) Proceed with the Regional and Sealed Rural Road Works Program as identified by the Director of Engineering;
- (2) Increase the income and corresponding expenditure in the 2008/09 budget to reflect the anticipated additional \$266,000 Roads to Recovery, additional \$100,000 REPAIR grant funding and additional \$54,000 Block grant funding;
- (3) Allocate \$142,000 of the 2008/09 Block grant towards the cost of the Urawilkie Bridge and reduce anticipated borrowings accordingly.

15.0 REPORT BY SALEYARDS MANAGER

7045 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Webb and Canham that the report by the Saleyards Manager for the month of June 2008 be received and noted.

16.0 REPORT BY CONTRACT RANGER

7046 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Jackson and Callaghan that the report submitted by the Contract Ranger for the month of June 2008, be received and noted.

Councillor Swansborough asked if the Ranger “staggered” his work days in Gulargambone, as it had been stated that people know when he will there. The General Manager undertook to clarify this matter with the Ranger.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Councillor Swansborough

- Truancy Meeting – General Manager informed the meeting that following the Truancy meeting he forwarded a letter to Walgett Shire Council, as well as Walgett Schools and is waiting on responses. He pointed out that other strategies cannot be actioned until advice is received.

Councillor Cullen

- Informed the meeting that wheat has been sown at “the Meglo” and Common, with barley sown to the area at the Aerodrome

Councillor Canham

- Trees been cut at the corner of Sydney and Wilga Streets – all over the footpath and causing concern to residents. The Director of Engineering advised that it was Council’s responsibility to collect these loppings, however plant had not been available. He said he would address the matter and have the branches moved shortly.

General Manager

- The General Manager said a request has been received to have and use pyrotechnics as part of the Vibe Alive Final Concert on Thursday 21 August at Coonamble Sportsground.

7047 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Horan and Swansborough that permission be granted for the use of pyrotechnics at the final Vibe Alive Concert at Coonamble Sportsground on Thursday 21 August, pointing out that the fireworks must be held no later than 9.00 p.m., that no heavy vehicles are used on the playing fields and that a full mail out to residents be arranged advising of this activity.

- Coonamble Rural Lands Protection Board – seeks letter of support to go with Walgett/Bogan in the proposed boundary changes, pointing out that if this is the case Coonamble may be headquarters.

7048 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Cullen and Taylor that Council provide a letter of support to the Coonamble Rural Lands Protection Board as requested.

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Mayor

- **Block at Gulargambone – Erection of Dwelling**

The Mayor referred to a request from a Gulargambone ratepayer who wishes to build a residence on land in Gulargambone in which to retire. Cr Horan said it seems unreasonable that Council has to refuse permission.

7049 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Jackson and Webb that Council seek a legal opinion on whether a dwelling can be erected on land located south of Gulargambone in the vicinity of Gulargambone Golf Club, noting the land is currently zoned Rural 1(a).

- **Photos of Shire Presidents / Mayors**

7050 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Horan and Cullen that endeavours be made to get pictures of all Shire Presidents/Mayor since amalgamation and they be placed in Council's Administration Centre.

Councillor Callaghan

- Requested a copy of the Council photo which was taken today – it was agreed that a photo be supplied to each Councillor.

Councillor Webb

- Tendered an apology for the next meeting (i.e. 13 August 2008).

CLOSED SESSION

7051 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Jackson that Council resolve into Closed Session in accordance with Section 10A 2(a) "*personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors)*" of the Local Government Act 1993.

7052 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and Jackson that the press and public be excluded from the meeting.

RESUME OPEN MEETING

7053 RESOLVED on the motion of Atkinson and Jackson that Council resume Open Meeting.

ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATION OF CLOSED SESSION

7054 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Taylor and Atkinson that Council adopt the recommendation of Closed Session as follows:

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GENERAL MANAGER – PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS that following the Performance Review of the General Manager in accordance with the Contract of Employment under the Performance Agreement, Council advise the General Manager that a 4% performance incentive has been granted, effective from 5 July 2008.

This concluded the business and the meeting closed at 3.25 p.m.

These Pages (Page 1/3805 – 34/3838) 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 9 July 2008.

MAYOR

MAYOR

GENERAL MANAGER

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