

Business Paper

LATE REPORTS ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

COOTAMUNDRA MEETING SPACE

6:00PM, TUESDAY 26th June, 2018

Administration Centres: 1300 459 689



LATE REPORTS

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8 GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

8.2 CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE

8.2.2 COOTAMUNDRA AND GUNDAGAI LIBRARIES REPORT APRIL - JUNE, 2018

DOCUMENT NUMBER	282863
REPORTING OFFICER	Marianne McInerney, Personal Assistant to the General Manager
AUTHORISING OFFICER	Allen Dwyer, General Manager
RELEVANCE TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN	To be included from July, 2018 following the adoption of the new CSP.
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	There are no Financial implications associated with this report.
LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS	There are no Legislative implications associated with this report.
POLICY IMPLICATIONS	There are no Policy implications associated with this report.
ATTACHMENTS	Nil

RECOMMENDATION

The April – June Report for Cootamundra and Gundagai Libraries be noted.

Introduction

The Cootamundra and Gundagai Libraries Reports are provided quarterly on the goings on in each Library for the information of the Mayor and Councillors.

Report for Cootamundra/Gundagai Libraries: April-June 2018

March to May were busy months at the library with a total of 13,868 loans and 21,785 visits through the library doors. 3,880 people accessed the Stephen Ward Rooms at the Cootamundra Library during the three months. There were 4,019 active members at the end of May, 2018. Total number of new library members in the last three months is 106.

Holiday and Children's Programs:

Never a dull moment at our libraries with Easter, Anzac, Seniors Week and Youth Week all demanding our utmost attention and programs based around these occasions and celebrations filling much of this reporting period.

During the school holidays our focus switches to primary school presentations and programs and this time of the year youth are also well catered for with Youth Week being celebrated across the state and our libraries being no exception. Storytime attendance remains steady at both libraries and Baby Bounce at Cootamundra and Music Fun at Gundagai are still very well attended. A wide range of activities for primary aged children were provided during the school holidays:

- The Bubble Muffin healthy cooking workshop was held at both libraries during the school holidays. Children learnt the importance of healthy food whilst learning how to create their own deliciously healthy snacks.
- Comedian, Sean Murphy, presented a comedy show as well as a comedian workshop for budding stand-up comics at the Cootamundra Library.
- Gundagai library had Virtual Reality demonstrations throughout the week and despite being aimed at the youth over 30 seniors were given the opportunity to try it and were amazed and impressed by the experience, some of them having their very first underwater diving experience ever, without even getting wet!
- Both libraries hosted Hump Day and Drug and Alcohol Information Displays aimed at young people. These programs were supported by the Gundagai Dual Diagnosis Action Group for Youth Week. This group also sponsored children's activities at both libraries including the healthy cooking and comedian workshop.

Cultural events:

- The autumn weather was kind to us and allowed for a perfect backdrop for the Cootamundra Libraries lunchtime concert series near the pond 'Playing @ The Pond' (every Friday fortnight). We have decided to break for the winter and resume in the spring.
- Author Jeremy Scott recently spoke to packed crowd at the Cootamundra Library. He kept the crowd enthralled for over an hour with his honesty, humour, beautiful slides, and above all, the critical message of the importance of getting out of your comfort zone and not allowing easy options to rule your life.

Community education:

- Gundagai supported the Seniors week program with an online library app Borrow Box info session and a "Know Your Device" workshop for seniors during Seniors week.
- Cootamundra library has recently introduced "Conversational English" lessons for people who have English as a second language.
- The Australian government's 'Be Connected' network program is going strong with over 60 people now signed up with both libraries and looking to learn more about digital literacy and cyber safety. People are finding the one on one lessons invaluable in developing their skills with devices such as smartphones, iPads and laptops.

Book Clubs:

Riverina Regional Library Book Clubs continue to meet all around the region with around 130 avid book lovers sharing their passion each month in our council area. While many are older readers Gundagai are currently excited to be promoting an 'under 35's' book club at the request of some younger readers and are very pleased to see the younger generations looking to literacy as part of their social recreation.

Operations:

- Gundagai Libraries recent change to a full day Tuesday from a half day Tuesday and half day Saturday has been well received with the benefits extending not just to library patrons but now also to customers of the Neighbourhood Centre as they have decided to follow our lead and open all day Tuesday as well (previously they were closed on Tuesdays). This now give residents and visitors 9-5 Monday to Friday access to all the services offered from Mirrabooka.
- Cootamundra have changed their closing hours for the winter period from 5:30 to 5:00pm
- The Cootamundra library is currently hosting the Cootamundra Office's council front counter team. The Office staff will stay in the library until the downstairs refurbishments have been completed at council.
- Consultation with architect Brette Morton is underway for the proposed extension to the Stephen Ward Rooms. The extensions are a part the Stronger Communities Fund major projects program. \$200,000 has been set aside for the project.
- The Gundagai library 'Tech and Rec' reading area extension is getting closer to completion with the roof now installed and plans for the stage being finalised. Plans to start monthly entertainment supporting local artists and enthraling patrons, similar to Cootamundra's very successful "Playing @ the Pond" is underway as well.
- Kevin Hennah visited both libraries in April to provide suggestions and observations we could use to update and showcase our library spaces to their best advantage. Kevin suggested various changes and solutions to re-invigorate our libraries and make our collections even more attractive to the public. This included external signage, digital notice boards, bright professional displays, upgrading the Cootamundra entrance and Gundagai's furniture and shelves to improve the customer impact, workflow and overall giving the libraries a book store look and feel which leads to better usage of books and libraries. The managers have taken this on board and look forward to making changes and sourcing funding to ensure our libraries continue to deliver an excellent customer experience to all our members.

TRAINING

Library staff participated in a sustainability training day in Temora. They learnt how to make paper, beeswax wraps, and rolling candles and recycled book art. Staff will then run these workshops for adults and children in the library. Cootamundra has already run a successful crafting paper flowers workshop with 10 adults in attendance.

8.2.1 COUNCILLOR WORKSHOP REPORT - 21ST JUNE 2018

DOCUMENT NUMBER	282911
REPORTING OFFICER	Allen Dwyer, General Manager
AUTHORISING OFFICER	Allen Dwyer, General Manager
RELEVANCE TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN	To be included from July, 2018 following the adoption of the new CSP.
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	There are no Financial implications associated with this report.
LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS	There are no Legislative implications associated with this report.
POLICY IMPLICATIONS	There are no Policy implications associated with this report.
ATTACHMENTS	Nil

RECOMMENDATION

The report on the Councillor Workshop held on Thursday, 21st June, 2018 be received and noted.

Introduction

Regular workshops are held for Councillors to meet with the General Manager and relevant Council staff to discuss matters of business.

Attendance

Cr Abb McAlister (Mayor), Cr Dennis Palmer (Deputy Mayor), Crs Bowden, Graham, Kelly Nicholson, Phillips and Sheahan, Allen Dwyer (General Manager), Phil McMurray (Deputy General Manager) and Tim Swan (Finance Manager).

Apologies

Cr Craig Stewart

Discussion

Councillors considered a working paper explaining some of the more relevant issues concerning 2018/19 Delivery Plan as follows:

- 1 Cemetery Fees – the principal fees in Cootamundra be reduced by 20% and increased in Gundagai by 20%. Further that a report be presented to Council in October suggesting there be no reserved plots in lawn cemeteries.
- 2 Cootamundra Arts Centre Contribution – the proposed contribution of \$50,000 be considered on an annual basis.
- 3 Schedule of Asset Depreciation – was considered to be satisfactory

Fees and Charges

Swimming Pool - Free access is to be provided for supervisors and carers of participants in swimming club activities and carnival swimmers.

Cootamundra Stadium - The charge is to be reduced to \$40 per hour in an endeavour to increase usage.

Waste Depots - Free access is to be provided to the waste depots for a day at the commencement of each quarter.

Cootamundra Trade Waste Charges - Council adopt and work towards implementing the mechanism of the former Gundagai Shire area for Trade Waste across the new Local Government Area and that the policy of the former Cootamundra area be rescinded.

Asset Management Plan Workshop - A Workshop is to be held on Tuesday, 17th July, 2018 from 3:00pm to 6:00pm in the Council Chamber, Gundagai.

Draft Organisation Structure - Councillors considered a draft organisation structure.

Internal charge to water from Parks and Gardens - The proposal to introduce a charge for maintenance of the catchment areas from 2019/20 was noted.

Kerb and Guttering - The proposal to price each project according to cost was noted.

Merger Implementation Projects – The need for more reporting on these projects was noted.

Pigeon Maintenance – the workshop agreed Council would contribute \$5,000 toward a \$10,000 project to reduce nuisance pigeons in Cootamundra and make enquiries as to whether the same exercise could be undertaken in Gundagai.

The workshop closed at 7:25pm

8.3 OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE**8.3.1 NEW SOUTH WALES LOCAL ROADS CONGRESS - 4TH JUNE, 2018**

DOCUMENT NUMBER	282875
REPORTING OFFICER	Charlie Sheahan, Councillor
AUTHORISING OFFICER	Allen Dwyer, General Manager
RELEVANCE TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN	To be included from July, 2018 following the adoption of the new CSP.
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	There are no Financial implications associated with this report.
LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS	There are no Legislative implications associated with this report.
POLICY IMPLICATIONS	There are no Policy implications associated with this report.
ATTACHMENTS	1. New South Wales Local Roads Conference

RECOMMENDATION

The report on the NSW Local Roads Congress attached to the report be noted

Introduction

On Monday, 4th June, 2018 I attended the NSW Local Roads Congress meeting in Sydney with Mark Ellis, Manager Civil Works. I have provided a brief report on the meeting for the information of the Mayor and Councillors.

2018 NSW LOCAL ROADS CONGRESS Mon 4th June

Speakers were;

Cr Linda Scott (Pres LG NSW); Hon Melinda Pavey (minister roads, maritime and freight); Warren Sharpe OAM (Pres IPWEA NSW); Ms Jodi McKay (shadow minister, transport roads maritime and freight); John Crozier (chair Trauma Committee, Royal Australasian College of Surgeons); John Gilbert (National Heavy Vehicle Regulator); Jeff Roorda (2017 Road Asset Benchmarking Report); John Dinan (RMS Roads Maintenance Council Contracts); Mick Savage (Mngr Roads & Transport Directorate); Greg Aplin (Chair NSW Staysafe Committee).

As well as these presentations we also had a Q&A session with panellists;

Cr Ken Keith OAM (mayor of Parkes); Bernard Carlon (Centre for Road Safety Trans. NSW); Chief Inspector Phillip Brooks (Stakeholder Mngr NSW Traffic and Highway Patrol Command); Ben Maguire (CEO Australian Trucking Association); John Gilbert (NHVR); Martin Dwyer (State Emergency Committee Engineering Functional Area).

Let's say it was a full on and extremely informative day.

The primary theme and focus was on safety with rising death tolls, over the past three years there has been an increase in road toll with 47% of fatalities occurring on Local roads. This year alone there have been 159 deaths in NSW and 109 of those have been on regional roads. Over the past 3 years a total of 528 fatalities have occurred on Council roads.

LGNSW will continue to advocate for better outcomes with funding for roads and bridges across the state.

The minister announced \$125m fund for Safety Programme, committed to maintaining Regional Roads Fund, and stressed that through JO's councils can push collectively for wider regional road safety funding.

The emphasis was on Councils developing a Road Safety Plan, even though it is not mandatory, it was strongly recommended. To implement a safety plan across your local road network, in conjunction with safety audits and reports to support funding submissions for action such as engineering, road design, safety barriers etc. Also through education initiatives to address safety and driver behaviour. Addressing speed limits on minor roads, something Councils should consider in their safety plan.

Unsealed roads safety can be improved as well as budget efficiency gains over time, by addressing re-sheeting programme, looking at materials used and construction method; quality of gravel, increasing cross-fall, extending culverts and widening road. Similar is proven with same approach to minor sealed roads.

Rest areas need to be improved, toilets, tables and lighting, to better cater for drivers to manage fatigue. Road managers need to be able to grant permits quickly and should look at a policy of preapproval for regular users. NHVR admits work needed to be done on permits.

With a shortage of engineers, councils are recommended to undertake cadetship programme. Only 53% of councils have a cadet engineer and only 10% of councils target cadets in infrastructure services.

The major measurable problems to safety were mobile phones, speed and not wearing seat belts. Last year there were over 42,000 bookings for mobile phone use, and still many not wearing seat belts. Also, driver fatigue is also suspected in many instances as a major factor in accidents.

The medical profession outlined the huge costs associated with road accident injuries. This impacts massively to the states hospital and health services.

We as councils were made fully aware of the huge responsibility we have, to provide the safest environment possible for the motoring public. The Government is committed to improving road safety, and that will start with Councils adopting and implementing a local Road Safety Plan.

Report presented by

Cr Charlie Sheahan Local Traffic Committee CGRC