



AGENDA

Meeting: Community Consultation Meeting

Date: Wednesday 1 March 2017

Location: Forsayth CWA Hall

Commencing: 9:00am

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING
2. WELCOME TO COUNTRY
3. APPOLOGIES
4. CHARLESTON DAM
5. GILBERT RIVER IRRIGATION SCHEME
6. W4Q FORSAYTH PROJECT
7. ROAD UPDATES
 - *GEORGETOWN TO FORSAYTH ROAD*
 - *HANN HIGHWAY*
 - *GREGORY DEVELOPMENT ROAD*
 - *GULF DEVELOPMENT ROAD*
8. APPOINTMENT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING SERVICES
9. ETHERIDGE LEARNING FACILITY
10. GENERAL ISSUES FROM THE COMMUNITY



MINUTES: Community Consultation Meeting Minutes
DATE: 1 March 2017
COMMENCING 9:00am
LOCATION: Forsayth CWA Hall

The Mayor opened the meeting at 9:05am.

WELCOME TO COUNTRY

We respectfully acknowledge the Ewamian People - the traditional custodians of this land where we meet for the Etheridge Learning Facility Management Committee meeting. We pay our respects to the Ewamian People, especially the Elders, past and present and acknowledge their traditional customs and laws and recognize their continuing connection to this Country.

We look forward to a long and continuing relationship with the Ewamian People and value any opportunities in strengthening relationships and partnerships through collaboration by respecting their Country.

ATTENDANCE

Mayor Warren Devlin
Deputy Mayor Tony Gallagher
Cr Will Attwood
Cr Warren Bethel
Cr Troy Barnes
Acting Chief Executive Officer David Munro
Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer Anna Christensen

Community Members: Total of 7 people attended from the Community

APOLOGIES

Nil

CHARLESTON DAM

The Mayor updated attendees on the progress of the Charleston Dam Project. The Mayor informed all that there has been some slowing in the progression of the project as Council had to design a fish ladder to be installed due to legal requirements. This is being designed by consultant engineers currently. Mr Mayor also updated attendees on the search that had been going to find better quality clay. The clay has been found that is needed and this will go on the earth wall in the dam. The dam will hold 12.3GL of water; a pipe will be installed to run from Forsayth to Georgetown. Council hopes that construction will begin this year although there are still finalisations of paperwork to be conducted.

GILBERT RIVER IRRIGATION SCHEME

The Mayor updated attendees on the progress of the Gilbert River Irrigation Project. Council has been in liaison with Government officials regarding an application being submitted to the Northern Australia Water Infrastructure Fund. After meetings with ministers and executives for the State Government Council has been told that they will not have a chance to submit an application in March but they may have an opportunity in mid-August to submit. The Mayor was positive that Council had a large amount of support from persons at both State and Federal Government levels but unfortunately there are some officials that aren't supporting the project. Council is working hard on collaborating with State and Federal officials on bring the project together. Council has also engaged in working with an Engineer that worked on the Tasmanian Irrigation Scheme to assist and advise.

W4Q – FORSAYTH PROJECT

The Mayor updated attendees on the Work 4 Queensland Grant that Council received for One million and Seventy Thousand Dollars. This grant has been aimed at creating jobs for people locally. Council together compiled projects for successful applicants to complete through conversations at community meetings over the past few months and ideas that Council had. The following projects will be taking place in each township:

Forsayth:

- Levelling of the ground at the Forsayth Show Grounds
- Fixing drainage around the town
- Beautification of the park
- A shelter and tables and chair installed at the cemetery

Mt Surprise:

- Fencing of the town common
- Continuing on the playground project
- Installation of speed cameras near the School
- Fixing drainage problems

Georgetown:

- Beautification of all entrances into town
- Tidying of the River Walk

Einasleigh:

- Installation of a viewing platform over the Copperfield Gorge with a walkway down to the Gorge
- Seating and tables etc. along the top of the gorge

Gilbert River:

- Building of a Fire Shed

The Lynd:

- Building of a Fire Shed

David Munro informed attendees that advertisements for jobs had been put out this week.

ROAD UPDATES

The Mayor updated attendees on the following roads and the progress of funding for works on the roads;

Forsayth to Georgetown Road

TMR have been reluctant to work with Etheridge Shire on the road. TMR had forgotten to register the gravel pits chosen, however, David Munro and Neil Bethel have been working on securing alternative pits. Surveyors should be on the road next week. TMR did require a speed of 110kph on the road but Council have been arguing this point due to safety concerns of having a speed that high on the road.

TMR was overridden and we can now ring it down to 80kph around corners. There will be Two million dollars that must be spent by the 30 June 2017. There will be a total of 7km of bitumen.

Hann Highway

There has been indication that we will receive Twenty Four Million Dollars in funding over the next three years. We have had meetings with both TMR and Flinders Shire Council discussing the project. Etheridge Shire Council unfortunately has no creditation to work with Federal Government money but Flinders Shire Council does. Flinders are more than happy to include Etheridge in this process.

Gregory Development Road

With the Kidston Solar Farm going ahead Council is hoping that with negotiations with GENEX and FNQROC that Council might be able to get access to TIDS funding in the 2018/2019 Financial Year. This would see Council be able to develop a bitumen passing opportunity between The Lynd and Einasleigh.

Gulf Development Road

Council will receive further funding through the Western Road Upgrade to continue work on the Mt Surprise to Croydon road. The conditions are that work is split between Croydon and Etheridge.

APPOINTMENT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING SERVICES

The Mayor informed attendees that a Director of Engineering Services has been appointed. The Engineer's name is Jeff Bunt and he will be starting with Council on the 20th of February. Jeff is a family man and will be making the move with his wife.

APPOINTMENT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Council have appointed a CEO who will begin this month. Norman Gardsen will make the move from Toowoomba where he is the Manager of Governance.

ADVERTISING IN THE SHIRE

The Mayor informed attendees of Council's plan to have an Etheridge Shire television advertisement. The advertisement will play during prime time on Imparja, GO and Gem. Council is also in the process of updating and printing the Shire brochure. Updated signage will also be installed in townships around the Shire. Donations boxes will be installed at rest areas around the shire for tourists, these will be ready for tourist season.

ETHERIDGE LEARNING FACILITY

The Mayor updated attendees on the Etheridge Learning Facilities status and in particular that its future will be discussed by Council in coming weeks along with the Department of Education. This is due to the only child enrolled for this year pulling out of the program.

GENERAL ISSUES FROM THE COMMUNITY

The Mayor invited community members to discuss any issues, concerns or ideas that they may have.

IC: I have been in contact with Council regarding this but the Dump Point needs fixing.

DM: I believe that Kevin has ordered new tanks.

IC: The cells have been moved and steel should arrive next week for installation.

Mayor: How high will it be?

IC: 500mm to the floorboard. I have been working with Peter Gregory on this and would like to mention how great he has been as well.

WA: Will there be lighting?

IC: We are hoping for a donation to get some solar lighting.

IC: Cameras will be getting installed at flood prone areas between Forsayth and Georgetown, these will be then displayed for people to be able to check the water levels during wet season. This is being done in each police division.

IC: There are a couple of overgrown allotments in town, can Council please get onto the owners about this.

Mayor: We will get letters written.

CONCLUSION

The Mayor closed the meeting at 10:35am.