

Notes of Oak Park Community Consultation Meeting - 1 November 2017

Meeting Commenced 10:30am

Present: Cr T Gallagher; Cr Warren Bethel; Norm Garsden; Angus Robinson; Russell Lethbridge; Mary Dixon; John ; Roland Everingham; Amanda

Apologies: Cr Warren Devlin; Cr Will Attwood; and Cr Troy Barnes.

Welcome to Country:

We respectfully acknowledge the Ewamian People - the traditional custodians of this land where we meet for the General Meeting. We pay our respects to the Ewamian People, especially the Elders, past and present and acknowledge their traditional customs and lores and recognise 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.

Update: Norm Garsden spoke to the meeting about the following issues:

- Hann Highway (Kennedy Developmental Road): Council had completed about 60% of the road widening between 'The Lynd' and 'Forty Mile Scrub'. This job is expected to be completed early in the New Year. A further 2 jobs, each of about 3km in length have been allocated to Council (for widening and sealing) just north of Hospital Creek and the open tender for a 10km section of the Highway had closed and was currently being evaluated by the Department of Transport and Main Roads.
- Gregory Development Road: Council has started maintenance of the Gregory Development Road between the Lynd and Einasleigh on behalf of the Department of Transport and Main Roads. Council is also advocating for the sealing of two sections of this road (east of Mywyn Station and the other, east of Kidston Road), to allow for passing manoeuvres.
- Charleston Dam: The inundation area is currently being cleared and a Project Officer appointed to manage the Dam construction, with major earthworks expected to commence after the wet season.
- Gilbert River Community and Fire Shed: The Gilbert River Community and Fire Shed is completed and ready for commissioning.
- The Lynd Community and Fire Shed: The Lynd Community and Fire Shed has been purchased and will be erected once security of title over the land has been formalised.
- Council were attempting to arrange a meeting with Telstra to discuss mobile phone reception issues at Mt Surprise, Einasleigh and The Lynd.
- Council's Corporate Plan is currently the subject of consultation and available on Council's website for feedback and comment. The meeting suggested that the Council should focus its resources on 'long haul' roads and it was generally agreed that Gary Butler (Hopper) was doing a good job maintaining local roads and creating a network of water points that doubled as on-farm water storage.

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- Mary Dixon suggested that Council formally identify gravel reserves for future use; and Russell Lethbridge urged Council to continue to lobby for funding to completely seal the Hann Highway and queried the efficiency of moving a loader out of the area to replace with another loader (the ineffective use of plant).
- Biosecurity: The meeting was advised that Council would soon commence the development of its Biosecurity Plan, engaging the resources of Scott Middleton. Roland Everingham suggested that Council should endeavour to eradicate Parthenium and focus on preventing other pest plants that are not yet established in the area (e.g. Rats Tail grass). Parthenium was limited to his property, Locklea, Winedot and Conjubouy).
- An application was presented on behalf of the community for installation of solar power (10KW) to the Oaks Park Race Track to reduce the cost of pumping water and refrigeration within the facility. A future request for an improved sound system at Oak Park was also raised.

The community also:

- commented on the success of the Georgetown Bush Races in October;
- suggested that old /historic farm equipment be acquired and displayed outside the Oasis as a point of interest for travellers (the meeting was advised of the Green Motors project in Georgetown);
- a signboard be erected near 'The Lynd' to advise drivers which properties were located down the Gregory Developmental Road and which were located down the Kennedy Developmental Road, to reduce confusion and misdirection (similar to the signboard directing traffic to 'Robin Hood Station' signboard).

Meeting closed with a luncheon with the community at 1:10pm.