



AGENDA

Meeting: Community Consultation Meeting

Date: Wednesday 6th December 2017

Location: Mt Surprise Community Hall

Commencing: 9:00am

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING
2. WELCOME TO COUNTRY
3. APOLOGIES
4. CHARLESTON DAM
5. GILBERT RIVER IRRIGATION SCHEME
6. GEOTOURISM
7. W4Q – FUNDS PROGRAM/PROJECT
8. ROAD UPDATES
 - GEORGETOWN TO FORSAYTH ROAD
 - HANN HIGHWAY
 - GREGORY DEVELOPMENT ROAD
 - GULF DEVELOPMENT ROAD
9. 2018-2023 CORPORATE PLAN
10. GENERAL ISSUES FROM THE COMMUNITY



MINUTES: Community Consultation Meeting Minutes

DATE: 6 December 2017

COMMENCING: 9:00am

LOCATION: Mt Surprise Community Hall

The Mayor opened the meeting at 9:10am.

WELCOME TO COUNTRY

We respectfully acknowledge the Ewamian People - the traditional custodians of this land where we meet for the Community Consultation 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 Troy Barnes
Cr Warren Bethel
Chief Executive Officer Norm Garsden
Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer Anna Christensen
Business Administration Trainee Caitlin Tansey

Community Members: Total of 7 people attended from the Community.

APOLOGIES

Ian Carrol
Callum Fahey

CHARLESTON DAM

The Mayor updated attendees on the progress of the Charleston Dam Project. The Mayor informed attendees that the EOI for the dam wall, fish ladder and piping will be out by mid-December. A 26 kilometre pipeline will be constructed between Georgetown and the Charleston Dam. The dam is still expected to be finished at the set date.

Q: Is the dam water going to be treated?

A: Water from the dam will be part treated before entering the pipeline, which will lessen the growth of algae in the pipes.

Q: How much does the dam actually cost?

A: \$10 million has been given to council from the federal government. The Federal Grant money is being used and as a part of the grant conditions, Council must spend 1 dollar for every three dollars of the grant spent.

Q: What area will the dam cover?

A: The dam will approximately cover 342 hectares at maximum capacity. This will hold around 12.3 gigalitres when full.

Q: Will we be allowed to jetski or go tubing in the Charleston Dam?

A: It has not yet been decided whether water sports will be allowed in the Dam.

Q: What is going to happen with Big Reef Dam?

A: The old dam will still be functioning and will be used. Council has decided that it will be used as a reserve. The foot valve will also be lowered to periodically release anaerobic water from the dam floor.

GILBERT RIVER IRRIGATION SCHEME

The Mayor updated attendees on the progress of the Gilbert River Irrigation Project. Rolfe Ellem has been working hard to secure funding opportunities. The grant application for the research centre was unsuccessful. The Mayor also discussed the possibility of Ministers holding a regional conference in Georgetown next year regarding irrigated agriculture.

GEOTOURISM

The Mayor updated attendees on the Geotourism concept for the Etheridge Shire. He discussed the total of 6 advertisements that have been filmed showcasing the Etheridge Shire and these will be displayed next year in March on the television channel, Imparja.

Q: Why are the advertisements being shown on Imparja and not channels that deliver to more urban areas in Australia?

A: By displaying our advertisements with Imparja, it leaves an entire travelling footprint not just on the coastal area. Our aim is to target travellers that are already enroute.

Cr Barnes also discussed the television advertising being a part of a campaign which will include social media, print advertising and the development of an app.

ACTION ITEM

Development of a survey to be distributed to local businesses recording numbers, destinations of travellers and their homes.

W4Q

The Mayor and CEO discussed the Work for Queensland grant and its progress. The grant finished in November with most projects complete. The Mayor also discussed the beautification working hand in hand with the Geotourism and overall aim to increase tourist numbers.

ROAD UPDATES

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

Forsyth to Georgetown Road

A total of 30 kilometres of bitumen has been completed on this road. There is hope to do another small stretch with \$620'000 of remaining funding.

Hann Highway

A meeting was held with Transport and Main Roads in Georgetown and Council has been granted \$18 million of the \$40 million for road upgrades to the Hann Highway.

Gulf Development Road

The Mayor informed attendees that unfortunately TMR announced that there would be no Western Roads Upgrade Program.

Gregory Development Road

There may be 1 or 2 passing lanes done between Einasleigh and the Oasis in the future using government funding and funds from GENEX.

The Mayor discussed his trip to China with Rolfe Ellem last week. He discussed the opportunities available to distribute farm products to China due to the high levels of pollution.

The community raised the condition of the Gemfields Road (O'Brien's Creek Road) and how it needs urgent attention.

GENERAL ISSUES FROM THE COMMUNITY

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

Q: Is a fence going to be built around the Mount Surprise cemetery? The cemetery is getting damaged by cattle. Also, the shoulders for the airport road need attention.

A: The fence was not identified as a high priority as a part of the W4Q and not all community members were in agreeance. If other funding opportunities become available we will revisit this. In regards to the airport road, we will get the Engineer onto this matter.

Q: Could we please get lights for the playground at night?

Q: The only issue that I have is what we have already spoken about. The Gemfields Road needs upgrading.

ACTION ITEM

Grid application to be submitted to Main Roads on junction creek road.

ACTION ITEM

Jeff to organise work on shoulders of airport road.

CONCLUSION

The Mayor closed the meeting at 10:55am.