



AGENDA

Meeting: **Community Consultation Meeting**

Date: **Wednesday 7 February 2018**

Location: **Georgetown Shire Hall**

Commencing: 9:00am

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING
2. WELCOME TO COUNTRY
3. APOLOGIES
 - Cr Will Attwood
4. CHARLESTON DAM
 - Tenders closed yesterday
5. GILBERT RIVER IRRIGATION SCHEME
 - Water Allocation
 - Funding for Business Case (MIPP)
 - Food Futures program (Kununurra 28 March/Georgetown June)
6. GEOTOURISM
 - TTNQ / GULF Savannah Tourism Summit (8-9 March 2018)
 - Expressions of Interest – Geotourism ventures
7. W4Q – FUNDS PROGRAM/PROJECT
 - Community Shed at the Lynd – to be erected in March
 - Shade structures, signage, gates to be erected, gardens to be constructed
 - Sports Facilities – Advisory Committee – opportunity for community to ensure that Council builds what the community wants
8. ROAD UPDATES
 - *GEORGETOWN TO FORSAYTH ROAD*
 - *HANN HIGHWAY*
 - *GREGORY DEVELOPMENT ROAD*
 - *GULF DEVELOPMENT ROAD*
9. GENERAL ISSUES FROM THE COMMUNITY



MINUTES: Community Consultation Meeting Minutes
DATE: 7 February 2018
COMMENCING 9:00am
LOCATION: Georgetown Community Hall

The Mayor opened the meeting at 9:00am.

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
Chief Executive Officer Norm Garsden
Deputy Mayor Tony Gallagher
Cr Warren Bethel
Cr Troy Barnes
Cr Will Attwood (in attendance via teleconference)
Business Administration Trainee Caitlin Tansey
Accounts Officer Emma Bethel

Community Members: Total of 3 people attended from the Community

CHARLESTON DAM

The Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer updated attendees of the meeting on the progression and gave an overview of the Charleston Dam Project. Mayor Devlin informed the committee that Office has opened the tender and they are to be referred to the Engineer, Gary Fletcher, who will examine options for the Dam. Council also discussed the possibility of a change to the design of the Dam wall, which will be much more budget friendly. The Mayor mentioned that he is keen to see local contractors used to construct the Dam which will drive savings and also bring work to the community.

JZ – People constructing the wall should be professionals. Council needs to be careful when employing local contractors as we want this done properly.

WB – We will ensure that this job is constructed and finished to a prodigious standard.

GILBERT RIVER IRRIGATION SCHEME

The Mayor gave an update on the movements of the Gilbert River project and specifically mentioned how positive the project is looking. Mayor Devlin highlighted the fact that the Federal Government has got no other projects on their list in the North. The Mayor shared with the attendees that it will be \$2.1 Million to put the business case forward and explained the process of which it has to go through. Council will know if the business case funding has been approved in approximately 2 months, if approved, development and given funding it will result in a large amount of growth for the Shire.

GEOTOURISM

Mayor Devlin informed attendees that the television advertisements will be aired on Imparja very soon. With the release of the advertisements approaching Council have been cleaning and tidying the parks and gardens, in preparation for tourists. Mr Mayor also mentioned that overseas tourists such as the Chinese, who are more likely to visit Geoparks. Council is hoping that even though we don't have a GeoPark, the Geotrail 'UnEarth Etheridge' will still attract overseas tourists.

RM – Are overseas tourists currently going to Undara?

WD – Yes they are, however, it's more of a matter getting them to not only stop at Undara but to come to Georgetown and other towns in the Shire. Currently, we don't have enough attractions in Georgetown to draw them here.

TB – We need to capitalise that Cobbold Gorge is our jewel at the moment for tourism. With the airstrip being built we need to attract more people to Cobbold which will get them into the Shire.

W4Q – FUNDS PROGRAM/PROJECT

The Mayor notified the attendees that the 2017 Works for Queensland has come to an end. The Mayor congratulated the Forsayth people on the work to the gardens and parks. Mayor Devlin notified the attendees that the Georgetown sports facility has been approved, and may possibly be used to hold events such as interschool sports to bring together rural towns outside the Shire such as Karumba, Normanton and Croydon.

Cr Troy Barnes left the meeting at 9:30am

Cr Troy Barnes returned to the meeting at 9:31am

ROAD UPDATES

Forsayth to Georgetown Road

The Mayor was pleased to announce that there would be a total of 6 and a half kilometres of bitumen added to the road which will enable more passing opportunities.

Hann Highway

The Mayor announced that there will be 3km of widening to be conducted on the Hann Highway and that Etheridge and Flinders Shire Councils would be the sole invitees on 99A (Hann Highway).

Gregory Developmental Road

The Mayor advised attendees that an application has been proposed for two passing opportunities on the Gregory Development Road between the Lynd and Einasleigh; this has not yet been approved.

Gulf Developmental Road

The Mayor informed attendees that there is 38 kilometres of single lane to be done on the Gulf Developmental Road road. Mr Mayor also expressed Etheridge Shire and other Gulf Shires interest in sealing 2 lanes on this road.

GENERAL ISSUES FROM THE COMMUNITY

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

RM – Is it possible to move the Community Consultation meeting to 5:30 in the afternoon?

NG – The change of time for our meetings has been discussed. A live video on Facebook where we could see people's comments has also been considered as an option for broadening community engagement.

TG – Years ago when meetings were held at night time it was very well attended.

RM – The growth in Georgetown's population is poor

RZ – Yes, local kids are graduating school and choosing not to come back to Georgetown as there are limited job opportunities.

WD – The Gilbert River Irrigation Scheme and an increase in tourism will provide jobs for locals.

RZ – With Cobbold Gorge and Undara being outside of our town, nothing is bringing tourists to Georgetown.

TB – We need to do something to hold tourists in Georgetown. Considering we have free camping at Cumberland, what if we had a low fee, managed camping grounds at Georgetown to keep tourists here?

WD – I have already brought this issue to the FNQROC meetings.

TG – Tourist season is OK for our local caravan parks, it is this time of the year in which our small local businesses struggle.

RM – Has anyone put any thought into aged care facilities in the Shire? Richmond and Hughenden have aged care that is run by Council. They have small cottages with a caretaker.

WD – To have an aged care facility like Richmond and Hughenden it is a huge cost to the community and it has not worked they are not well attended at all. However, we would be interested in a nurse that goes around to the homes of community members who are in need of care.

WA – There is a new project being put into place, we have a good chance of getting aged care. I am currently getting numbers of people that may require care.

WD – It would be difficult to bring aged people to live in town when they may have lived on a property all of their lives, or don't want to leave the town they are currently in. Council is passionate about getting the funding for this matter.

Cr Warren Bethel left the meeting at 9:45am

Cr Warren Bethel returned to the meeting at 9:50am

Russell Zahner left the meeting at 9:55am

Russell Zahner returned to the meeting at 9:57am

Cr Troy Barnes left the meeting at 10:01am

Cr Troy Barnes returned to the meeting at 10:10am

CONCLUSION

The Mayor closed the meeting at 10:15am.