

COMMUNITY MEETING
HELD IN EINASLEIGH

WEDNESDAY 01 JUNE 2016
EINASLEIGH HALL

Mayor Warren Devlin opened the meeting at 9.10am

ATTENDANCE

Cr Tony Gallagher (TG)
Cr Troy Barnes (TB)
Michael Kitzelmann (CEO)

Cr Warren Bethel (WB)
Cr Warren Devlin (WD)
Sara Alexander (SA)

Community Members: Total of 5 people attended from the Einasleigh Community.

APOLOGIES

Cr Will Attwood (WA)

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY, EWAMIAN PEOPLE

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

COUNCIL VISION

WD informed the room that Councils vision is to promote businesses with economic development while keeping our focus on the cattle and tourism industries.

ROADS UPDATE

WD advised Council has \$12.2 million of NDRRA, R2R and TIDS money to upgrade the roads within the Shire. The first project Council will be looking at completing is the Georgetown to Forsayth road.

The Undara road has 6km of critical work that needs resealing. There is also a kilometre on the other side of the Einasleigh Bridge to minimise the amount of dust blowing into town. This will be confirmed in the next financial year. Current works include the Georgetown Airport road and widening works on the Gulf Development road.

Residents of Einasleigh would like Council to push for the Einasleigh crossing on the Short Cut Road be extended at least 20 metres either side of the bridge to make it possible to cross during the wet season.

Residents would like signage to be placed on the Charters Towers Road advising Einasleigh is past the Lynd Roadhouse.

Residents would like a sign for the Copperfield Gorge, to make it better known to tourists. The residents also informed they would like the Short cut and Lynd roads widened due to the increase of cattle trucks and caravans on the road.

DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY UPDATE

WD informed the community that Council has the opportunity to place a new radio station called Black Star into our Shire which has a variety of programs and music as well as advertising of the Tablelands and coastal areas, which our local businesses could participate in.

WD explained that adding this radio station to the radio tower means that another radio station must be taken offline and asked the Community if there is a preferred station that Einasleigh as a community would not mind having disconnected?

The residents of Einasleigh agreed for the new radio station to be added to the tower and advised that they have no issue with whatever station is taken off the air.

MK gave the room an update on the current process of the mobile phone coverage project. MK informed the residents, that the project has been short listed in round two but is still a long way away, possibly two years.

MK advised the room there is an Aviation school commencing in our Shire within the next six months. There will be a deputation at the next general meeting for a company to use the airspace and airstrips at Mt Surprise and Forsayth for the use of drones and unpiloted aircrafts. All necessary information and flight paths will be registered but the drones will be operating above 5,000 feet.

WD informed the residents that Council has the opportunity to take over the Copperfield dam but for this to occur Council will have to take on a greater reasonability and expense.

WF advised the room that maybe we hold a special meeting regarding this in three months' time (August) and invite all property owners on the river to attend for their opinions.

MK gave the room an update on the water testing declaring that the results will be distributed soon as well as a brief reasoning for the testing.

GENERAL BUSINESS AND DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

The residents of Einasleigh delivered an issue to the Councillors regarding the lack of attendance due to shortage of advertising of the meetings.

WD informed the residents that Council would like to make these meetings less formal and have as many residents attend as possible. If this means that the time, day or location of the meeting be changed then the Council would be open for discussion on this topic. Council is also looking into holding all Community Consultation meetings within one week for every town once a month so that all the issues are noted and worked on more regularly as different issues arise at different times of the year.

TB - Council now has a social media page on Facebook.

ACTION – Invite to go join the Etheridge Shire Councils Facebook page to go in the next inform.

The residents also questioned if the Council could help with where RFDS send their patients to see specialists as a lot of times Cairns isn't the closest or most convenient.

WD informed the residents that Council has no jurisdiction over such things and that perhaps the patients could explain to the RFDS that Townsville specialists are sometimes more convenient.

The residents of Einasleigh brought up the topic of the terrible phone lines and horrible internet connection. Informing the Council that in a few weeks there will be no more internet connection available for Einasleigh unless you're connected to Sky Muster, who are extremely difficult to get in touch with.

ACTION – Bekky Hill to contact property owners to find out who is connected to Sky Muster and who isn't and help them connect.

WB informed the room that he has received a phone call from a resident of Einasleigh in regards to starting a Men's Shed here. If Cr Barnes could possibly inform them of the process which they will need to undertake to start such a program.

TB advised the room that such a program is run through the Progress Association but he will touch base with the resident and inform them of the process as it is such a great program.

Einasleigh residents requested the property information for the Rural Fire Brigade block so that a fence can be built around the lot.

ACTION – David Munro to provide the property boundary information of the Einasleigh Rural Fire Brigade block so that it can be fenced.

CONCLUSION

Cr Devlin closed the meeting at 11.54 am.

ACTION TABLE		
Who	Action Item	When
Bekky Hill	To contact property owners to find out who is connected to Sky Muster and who isn't and help them connect.	Next Meeting
Bekky Hill	Invite to go join the Etheridge Shire Councils Facebook page to go in the next inform.	Next Inform
David Munro	To provide the property boundary information of the Einasleigh Rural Fire Brigade block so that it can be fenced.	As Soon As Possible