

## ADMINISTRATOR MINUTE 2

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The Local Housing Strategy provides for 6 new living areas in Chelsea Gardens/ Coomungie (now known as the Ashbourne Estate), Bowral South, Moss Vale West, Mittagong East, Roberston (North-East) and Colo Vale. Whilst these new living areas are part of the adopted 20-year Local Housing Strategy it is important to consider as part of Council's forward plan the impact in services and associated financial impacts. Given the impact that the new living areas will have on the Shire and the increased demands on services – such as maintenance, cleansing, development assessment and customer services I have asked the General Manager bring forward a report on the feasibility of a special rate for the new living areas.

The General Manager and the Council team continue to devote considerable attention to improve community and resident consultation and from resident feedback I know it is appreciated. We acknowledge there is still a way to go.

On this agenda, there is a major report in relation to one source of truth for DA's which in my view will make a quantum improvement.

When I suggested that corflutes be used to advertise the Emergency Management and Resilience meetings for the northern and southern villages, I was somewhat surprised to be told by the General Manager that some in the community consider the use of corflutes to be an environmental issue and Council would not be using this form of communication in the future. This is an inconsistent approach, as the Council uses corflutes to advertise DA's, Tulip Time and they are commonly used by resident groups to advertise a variety of matters such as market days, school fetes etc.

Additionally, corflutes are used by State and Federal Government to bring matters to the attention of the public and of course are used by all political parties at election and referendum time.

In my view, common sense must prevail and while they may not be in some people's eyes environmentally acceptable, they do get the message across – particularly for such an important gathering as resilience meetings.

I have no idea whether the Council has the ability to ban the use of corflutes generally, but it needs a consistent policy and I have asked the General Manager for a report in that regard, to the October meeting.

I attended the 2023 National Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress in Canberra on 6-7 September 2023 organised by the Australian Local Government Association.

A number of Ministers and Opposition Shadows Ministers addressed the conference with Natasha Bradshaw from the Grattan Institute providing the opening key-note address outlining preliminary research findings which indicate Federal Funding to Local Government is not keeping up with soaring construction costs.

Cost estimates for repairing flood damaged roads is estimated in Australia to be \$3.8 billion and for many Councils including Wingecarribee, the reality is that we just can't keep up without increased support from other levels of Government. It's already been reported to Council that the independent assessed cost of damage to Council assets from recent weather events is at excess of \$90M.

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From October to December this year, I will again be conducting town village and locality visits and full details are attached to this Minute and available on Council's website. This is a continuing learning experience for me and an opportunity for residents to raise matters firsthand.

Arrangements have now been confirmed for the Candidate Information Sessions, with the first one being on 11 October 2023 at 3:30pm in the Council Chambers.

These are open sessions and if you are considering presenting yourself as part of the new Civic Leadership team for Wingecarribee Shire, I would encourage you to come along - further details are available on the Council's website including dates for the further sessions in April, May and June next year. I again make it very clear that the General Manager and Council staff will not be involved in the sessions but are already planning a comprehensive induction process for those who are elected.

The sessions will be facilitated by John Rayner and are being run in a partnership with the Office of Local Government, along with Central Coast and Balranald Councils which are also in Administration.

For the record I advise that I knew Mr Rayner in a professional capacity as the General Manager of Sutherland Shire, but had little or no contact with him. My first contact was when I was approached by the Department of Premier and Cabinet to undertake the Administration of Georges River Council in 2016 for several weeks as Mr Rayner had a pre-arranged trip to Europe with his wife. At the time I was also the Administrator of Cumberland Council.

Following my appointment as Interim Administrator of Armidale Regional Council, I approached Mr Rayner to become acting General Manager as I knew he was undertaking a similar role in Edward River, and he agreed.

Together with Mr Rayner and several community members we appointed a new General Manager to Armidale and Mr Rayner was subsequently appointed by the then Minister as the Council's Special Advisor and Financial Controller.

I valued Mr Rayner's input and insights into the General Managers selection process at Armidale and he assisted me together with LGNSW and two citizen members in the appointment of Ms Miscamble.

Wingecarribee is on show at the moment and the early hot weather has meant the Tulips have bloomed earlier and it is great to see so many locals taking advantage in our local parks. No doubt over the coming weeks there will be large numbers of visitors in the area and the importance of visitation to the economy of the Highlands cannot be underestimated. I was recently told that the Borealis program at Centennial Vineyards injected over \$10M into the local economy which is an extremely positive outcome for our community. The Council team whether it be gardeners who planted over 90,000 bulbs or staff at the Visitors Centre in Mittagong work very hard to ensure that there is the least possible inconvenience to locals whilst acknowledging the important role that visitors play. There have been several changes with sharing Tulip Time across the Shire with Villages and localities being provided with planter boxes and the newly introduced Tulip Trail and at the completion of Tulip Time this year Council will again be giving away the bulbs to local residents - it is planned that this will take place on 11 October at Corbett Gardens and further details are available on Council's website.

## Administrator Village Visits Schedule

LOCATION	DATE	TIME	BOOKING LINK
<b>BERRIMA</b> Anglican Church Hall	5 October 2023	4:00pm – 5:00pm	<a href="#">Berrima Booking Link</a>
<b>ROBERTSON</b> Robertson CTC	10 October 2023	4:00pm – 5:00pm	<a href="#">Robertson Booking Link</a>
<b>BOWRAL</b> Henrietta Room – outside Bowral Library	16 October 2023	5:00pm – 6:00pm	<a href="#">Bowral Booking Link</a>
<b>MITTAGONG 1</b> Renwick Community Centre – Meeting Room 3	17 October 2023	5:00pm – 6:00pm	<a href="#">Mittagong Booking Link</a>
<b>BUNDANOON</b> Bundanoon Soldiers Memorial Hall	19 October 2023	6:30pm – 7:30pm	<a href="#">Bundanoon Booking Link</a>
<b>YERRINBOOL</b> Yerrinbool Community Hall	20 October 2023	3:00pm – 4:00pm	<a href="#">Yerrinbool Booking Link</a>
<b>MOSS VALE</b> Council Civic Centre – 68 Elizabeth Street Moss Vale Waratah Room	31 October 2023	4:00pm – 5:00pm	<a href="#">Moss Vale Booking Link</a>
<b>BALMORAL</b> Balmoral Community Hall	6 November 2023	5:30pm – 6:30pm	<a href="#">Balmoral Booking Link</a>
<b>COLO VALE</b> Colo Vale Hall	7 November 2023	5:00pm – 6:00pm	<a href="#">Colo Vale Booking Link</a>
<b>HILL TOP</b> Hill Top Community Centre	9 November 2023	6:30pm – 7:30pm	<a href="#">Hill Top Booking Link</a>
<b>NEW BERRIMA</b> New Berrima Hall	23 November 2023	5:00pm – 6:00pm	<a href="#">New Berrima Booking Link</a>
<b>EXETER</b> Exeter Village Hall	27 November 2023	5:00pm- 6:00pm	<a href="#">Exeter Booking Link</a>
<b>MITTAGONG 2</b> Mittagong Senior Citizens Centre	30 November 2023	5:00pm – 6:00pm	<a href="#">Mittagong Booking Link</a>
<b>PENROSE</b> Penrose Community Hall	14 December 2023	5:30pm – 6:30pm	<a href="#">Penrose Booking Link</a>

**Note:** Appointments for the following locations are still to be confirmed. Please check Council's website for updates: *Canyonleigh, Kangaloon, Burrawang, Medway*