



PARKES SHIRE COUNCIL

Our Mission: To Deliver Progress and Value to our Community

Our Communities Vision:

In 2022 the Parkes Shire will be a progressive regional centre, embracing a national logistics hub with vibrant communities, diverse opportunities, learning and healthy lifestyles.

LATE AGENDA

TUESDAY 18 JANUARY 2022

Notice is hereby given that an Ordinary Meeting of Parkes Shire Council will be held at the Council Administration Centre, 2 Cecile Street, Parkes, commencing at 2.00 pm for the purpose of considering the items included on the Agenda.

GENERAL MANAGER: Kent Boyd

Ordinary Meeting Agenda

Order Of Business: Tuesday 18 January 2022

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15. QUESTIONS AND MATTERS OF URGENCY

15.1. Q&M Learn to swim cancelled classes

Submitted by

Councillor JP Cass

Report

Parkes Pool notified Shire residents on Friday 14 January that some Learn to Swim classes would be cancelled in session 2. I understand that this is due to staff issues and the current COVID-19 climate. I would like to know our plan as a Council to address this staff shortage in 2022? Pool and water safety for our children is a critical focus, and I believe Parkes Shire Council should be leading the charge on this. Can we look into funding to train more of our residents as Learn to Swim Instructors so that we can secure our pipeline of staff and be encouraging upskilling in our community?

A partnership between a Registered Training Organisation and Parkes Shire Council to offer this training for free could be arranged under Smart and Skilled Funding.

Comments from General Manager or Director

Director Response - Learn to Swim

Learn to swim is being significantly affected by staff shortages, like most other industries across Australia.

Every effort has been extended to address the issue, including the previous training of a number of staff. Unfortunately, the current work opportunities have resulted in many of those staff gaining opportunities elsewhere.

We will continue to offer training and seek additional staff to run the important learn to swim program, however until staffing is obtained, there may be deferment of some classes.

Recommendation

Nil

Attachment

Nil

15.2. Q&M Increased Mosquito population

Submitted by

Councillor JP Cass

Report

On December 5, Forbes Shire Council advised residents that they would be treating park and public areas for mosquitos due to the increased population of the insect with the unusual rain period we are experiencing. After receiving comments from Parkes Shire residents regarding large mosquito populations in our park areas, making them uncomfortable to use if useable at all. Similar coments have been made regarding parts of the bike/walking track where the path intersects areas around storm water drainage and the Water Treatment Plant. With COVID-19 on the rise again, outdoor activities are a safe alternative for many Shire families, and we need to be doing everything we can to make use of these spaces as easy as possible. Can Parkes Shire Council move to treat our public areas and parks similarly?

Comments from General Manager or Director

Director response - Mosquitos

It is acknowledged that with the wetter than average summer we are experiencing, there has been an increase in the numbers of mosquitoes present in the community. The treatment of the parks and playing fields with an insecticide may reduce this number, however would require considerable amounts of product and numerous applications. Depending on the product it may preclude activities for a specific time.

The use of these products is considered appropriate in communities such as Forbes (lesser so in Parkes) due to the extent of water bodies, both natural and recreational and their proximity to their communities playing fields and parks.

In addition, due to the Forbes topography, there is substantial casual water from rain events that provides ready access for mosquito populations. It is further acknowledged that these breeding areas are in and around the recreation areas of Forbes.

The community of Parkes has the advantage of relatively fast stormwater disbursement and delivery away from a majority of our parks and playing fields, many of which are located at higher levels of the catchment.

The full cost and impact of spraying would need to be investigated if Council would like to advance this suggestion.

Recommendation

Attachment

Nil

15.3. Q&M State of Road, Parkes to Bogan Gate

Submitted by

Deputy Mayor Councillor NC Westcott

Report

During the recent harvest I received concerns as to the condition of the State Road from Parkes to Bogan Gate. Grain trucks carting to the Bogan Gate terminals have reported that the condition of the road deteriorated to the extent that Transport Operators were reticent to use the road.

Can this be raised with Transport of NSW?

Comments from General Manager or Director

Director Comment

Recommendation

1. This matter could be raised with both Transport for NSW and The Hon. (Sam) Samuel FARRAWAY, MLC, the newly appointed Minister Minister for Regional Transport and Roads

Attachment

Nil