



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.

Minutes

TUESDAY 18 JANUARY 2022

An Ordinary Meeting of Parkes Shire Council was 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

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held in the Parke Shire Council Offices 2 Cecile Street Parke, on Tuesday, 23 November 2021 at 2:00 PM.

PRESENT

Councillor KJ Keith OAM, (in the Chair)
Councillor WP Jayet
Councillor GW Pratt
Councillor JP Cass
Councillor LA O'Leary

Councillor NC Westcott
Councillor KM McGrath
Councillor GS Wilson
Councillor DR Weber
Councillor ME Applebee

IN ATTENDANCE

General Manager - K Boyd
Director Planning & Community Services - B Hayes
Acting Director Operations - L Hignett
Acting Director Customer, Corporate Services and Economy - A McGrath
Chief Financial Officer - J Barnard
Director Customer, Corporate Services & Economy - C Middleton
Minutes - B Hinton

MEETING COMMENCEMENT

The Meeting commenced at 1.30pm with Confidential Items.

The Mayor opened the meeting with the following declaration. It is now 1.30pm Tuesday 18 January 2022 and as the Mayor I declare the Ordinary Meeting of the Parke Shire Council being held face to face and electronically due to the restrictions surrounding the COVID-19. As such the confidential items will be discussed at the commencement of the meeting.

The open section of the meeting will commence as publicly advertised at 2.00pm and was livestreamed to Council's Facebook page and audio recorded.

A copy of the audio recording will be available on the Council website for a period of 12 months.

16 CONSIDERATION OF CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS ITEMS

The Mayor asked the Meeting whether it agreed that the items listed by the General Manager appeared to be items which should be discussed in closed session for the reasons given.

The General Manager advised that there were no written representations from the public on the proposed closure of the Council Meeting.

22 - 001 Resolution

That the meeting be closed for consideration of the listed items as they involve: Personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than Councillors) or information that would if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business or commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed, prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it or advice concerning litigation or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege.

Information contained in this report includes results of an award selection process in which winners will be announced during an upcoming community ceremony.

Moved Councillor NC Westcott, seconded Councillor WP Jayet

CARRIED

16. CONSIDERATION OF CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

16.1. CONFIDENTIAL - (DO) Purchase of land for Bogan Road Realignment

Executive Summary

As part of Council's relationship with Northparkes Mine, the intersection of Bogan Road (Shire Road 76) and Plowman's Lane have been identified as requiring realignment for road safety purposes. To improve the intersection of Bogan Road and Plowman's Lane, a portion of adjoining land will need to be acquired.

Recommendation

1. That Council agree to the purchase of 949.3m² of land from the land owner to facilitate the boundary adjustment for Bogan Road (Shire Road 76).
2. That the General Manger and Director of Operations be authorised to negotiate the purchase price of the land based on a market valuation.
3. That the seal of Council be affixed to documentation as required to facilitate the process of subdivision, sale, transfer and/or resumption.

22-002 Resolution

1. That the recommendation be adopted.

Moved Councillor KM McGrath, seconded Councillor GW Pratt.

CARRIED

16.2. CONFIDENTIAL - (GM) Australia Day Awards 2022

Executive Summary

Council has been asked to formally endorse recipients of the annual Australia Day Awards in the citizen, young citizen and community event categories as well as cultural awards and environment award to be presented at a ceremony in Cooke Park on Australia Day Tuesday 26 January 2022.

Recommendation

1. That Council endorse the recommended recipients of 2022 Australia Day awards as outlined.

22-003 Resolution

1. That the recommendation be adopted.

Moved Councillor ME Applebee, seconded Councillor KM McGrath.

CARRIED

16.3. CONFIDENTIAL - (GM) Purchase the artist plaster copies of Sir Henry Parkes and Elvis Presley

Executive Summary

Council has been approached by Terrance Plowright to purchase the artist plaster copies of Sir Henry Parkes and Elvis Presley, used to cast the statues in Cooke Park and the town square.

Recommendation

1. For council consideration.

22-004 Resolution

1. That Council purchase the molds.

Moved Councillor ME Applebee, seconded Councillor KM McGrath.

CARRIED

1. PRAYER

The General Manager commenced the meeting with a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Nil.

3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

22-005 Resolution

1. That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Parkes shire Council held on Tuesday 23 November 2021 and Tuesday 23 December 2021 copies of which have been forwarded to Councillors, be confirmed.

Moved Councillor WP Jayet, seconded Councillor ME Applebee.

CARRIED

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1. Councillor KJ Keith declared an interest in 9.7
(REASON: Executive member of group mentioned in the report).

5. NOTICES OF MOTION / RESCISSION

Nil.

6. LATE BUSINESS

In accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice 3.7(c) a decision is now required to determine which, if any Late item/s submitted to the meeting will be dealt with at the meeting or deferred for further consideration at a future Ordinary Meeting of Parkes Shire Council.

22-006 Resolution

1. That Late Items 15.1, 15.2 & 15.3 be considered at this Council meeting.

Moved Councillor NC Westcott, seconded Councillor WP Jayet.

CARRIED

7. MAYORAL MINUTES

7.1. Mayoral Minute - Functions attended by Mayor and Councillors

Executive Summary

A report on functions recently attended by the Mayor, Councillors or Senior Staff in relation to community events or civic matters.

Social distancing restrictions implemented due COVID-19, has resulted in meetings being limited and/or held electronically.

Recommendation

1. That the Report on functions attended by the Mayor, Councillors or Senior Staff be received and noted.

22-007 Resolution

1. That the information contained within the Report be received and noted.

Moved Councillor KM McGrath, seconded Councillor GW Pratt.

CARRIED

7.2. Mayoral Minute - Coming Known Events for Mayor and Councillors

Executive Summary

A report on the upcoming functions requiring the attendance of the Mayor, Councillors or Senior Staff in relation to community events or civic matters.

Social distancing restrictions implemented due COVID-19, has resulted in meetings being limited where possible and meetings being held electronically. Council has also been assisting local community groups to hold their respective meetings electronically

Recommendation

1. That the report of upcoming functions for the Mayor, Councillors or Senior Staff be received and noted.

22-008 Resolution

1. That the information contained within the Report be received and noted.

Moved Councillor NC Westcott, seconded Councillor JP Cass.

CARRIED

7.3. Mayoral Minute - Tamworth Country Music Festival

Executive Summary

As Council would be aware the organisers for the Tamworth Country Music Festival recently reschedule their January event, to now clash with the Parkes Elvis Festival. The Tamworth Festival is now on the 18-25 April, whereas the Parkes Elvis Festival was postponed to 20-24 April 2022.

The Parkes Elvis Festival committee considered the probable impacts of COVID and as a consequence rescheduled the Elvis festival in October 2021.

Recommendation

1. That the information be received and noted.

22-009 Resolution

1. That the information contained within the Report be received and noted.

Moved Councillor NC Westcott, seconded Councillor ME Applebee.

CARRIED

7.4. Mayoral Minute - Teeny Tiny Art Festival Opening

Executive Summary

Opening evening for the Parkes Community Arts Festival- Postcards from Parkes Exhibition on Friday 10th December 2021, sponsored by a CMOC Northparkes Community Grant.

Recommendation

1. That the Report on functions attended by the Mayor, Councillors or Senior Staff be received and noted.

22-010 Resolution

1. That the information contained within the Report be received and noted.

Moved Councillor GW Pratt, seconded Councillor JP Cass.

CARRIED

8. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Nil.

9. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

9.1. (GM) 2021 Local Government Election Declaration

Prepared By:

Director Customer, Community Services and Economy

Executive Summary

I place on record for historical purpose the 2021 election results having received the Declaration of the Poll from the Returning Officer. The Local Government election was held on Saturday 4 December 2021 with one group of 6 candidates and 13 individual candidates contesting the election for 10 Councillors.

Recommendation

1. That the information be received and noted.

22-011 Resolution

1. That the information contained within the Report be received and noted.

Moved Councillor JP Cass, seconded Councillor ME Applebee.

CARRIED

9.2. (GM) Local Mayor and Deputy Mayor Election Results

Prepared By:

General Manager

Executive Summary

The results of local Mayor and Deputy Mayor Elections held to are are shown below.

Recommendation

1. That letters of acknowledgement be forwarded to former Council Mayors and letters of congratulations be forwarded to the newly elected Mayors and Deputy Mayors.

22-012 Resolution

1. That the recommendation be adopted.

Moved Councillor WP Jayet, seconded Councillor NC Westcott.

CARRIED

9.3. (GM) Australian Local Government Association - Call for Motions - 2022 National General Assembly

Prepared By:

General Manager

Executive Summary

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) is calling for motions from Councils for discussion at the National General Assembly (NGA) scheduled to be held in Canberra 19 to 22 June 2022.

The theme for the 2022 National General Assembly is "*Partners in Progress*". This theme focuses on how partnerships particularly between the Australian Government and Local Government can tackle immediate challenges facing communities as well as confidently facing the future.

Recommendation

1. That motions be considered for submittal to the 2022 National General Assembly.

22-013 Resolution

1. That the recommendation be adopted.
2. That a motion raising the need to address the continuing decline in Regional Health services be submitted.

Moved Councillor NC Westcott, seconded Councillor GW Pratt.

CARRIED

9.4. (GM) 2022 Council Meeting Schedule and Other Key Dates

Prepared By:

General Manager

Executive Summary

Council is required to determine its meeting schedule for 2022. Parkes Shire Council Ordinary meetings are currently held on the third Tuesday of each month.

On a rotational basis, two (2) meetings a year have historically been held in the Shire towns. Attendance and participation (or otherwise) at all scheduled events will be subject to the impacts of NSW Government Health orders and Councils own safety due diligence.

Recommendation

1. That Ordinary meetings of the Parkes Shire Council be held on the third Tuesday of each month in Parkes at the Parkes Shire Council Offices, 2 Cecile Street, Parkes NSW 2870, commencing at 1.00pm with the confidential sessions, and 2.00pm for the open session, subject to the amendments below.
2. That the Ordinary Council meeting scheduled for 19 April 2022 be held in Bogan Gate at the Bogan Gate Memorial Hall.
3. That the Ordinary Council meeting scheduled for 18 October 2022 be held at the Tullamore Bowling Club 2 Haylock Street Tullamore NSW 2874.
4. That the Ordinary Council meeting normally scheduled for 21 June 2022 be rescheduled for 28 June 2022 to accommodate attendance at the Australian Local Government Association's National General Assembly in Canberra from 19 to 22 June 2022.
5. That a Councillor workshop/briefing session "Parkes Delivery Plus Workshop" be held on the first Tuesday of each month at the Parkes Shire Council Offices, 2 Cecile Street, Parkes NSW 2870, commencing at 2.00pm, subject to the amendments below.
6. That the Parkes Deliver Plus workshop normally scheduled for 1 March 2022 be rescheduled for Tuesday 8 March 2022 to accommodate attendance at the Local Government NSW Special Conference from 28 February to 2 March 2022 in Sydney.
7. That the Mayor (or nominee), General Manager (or nominee) and other interested Councillor/s be authorised to attend the Local Government NSW Special Conference from 28 February to 2 March 2022 in Sydney.
8. That the Mayor (or nominee) and General Manager (or nominee) be authorised to attend the Australian Local Government Association's National General Assembly in Canberra from 19 to 22 June 2022.
9. That the Mayor (or nominee) and General Manager (or nominee) be authorised to attend the 2022 Australian Logistics Council Forum at Sydney on 24 to 25 May 2022.
10. That Council Committee meetings be scheduled where possible, to be held from 9.00am to coincide with Ordinary meetings of Council, or the Parkes Delivery Plus Workshop, (or at any other time by agreement).

22-014 Resolution

1. That the recommendation be adopted.

Moved Councillor WP Jayet, seconded Councillor JP Cass.

CARRIED

9.5. (GM) Building Better Regions Fund - Community Stream to fund a 'liveability piece' for the Shire

Prepared By:

General Manager

Executive Summary

The Australian Government "Building Better Regions Fund" (BBRF) is now open for applications. It is proposed to lodge an application to fund a "Liveability Strategy".

Recommendation

1. That Council apply for funding under the Building Better Regions Fund - Community Stream, to fund a 'liveability Strategy' for the Shire
2. That 50% funding be allocated from the annual Northparkes Mines Voluntary Planning Agreement funds.

22-015 Resolution

1. That the recommendation be adopted.

Moved Councillor JP Cass, seconded Councillor ME Applebee.

CARRIED

9.6. (GM) Local Roads and Community Infrastructure - Round 3

Prepared By:

General Manager

Executive Summary

Applications opened late 2021 for the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure, round 3, grant. Parkes Councils allocation is \$2,675,226.

Project selection has been inhibited, as the grant application period conflicted with the Council caretaker period, the local government election, and the Christmas/New Year period.

There is significant work in scoping, costing, and submitting the grant applications, which are due by 30 June 2022. Projects must be completed by 31 December 2023.

Recommendation

1. That the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure - Round 3 grants be allocated as outlined in the table attached to this report.

22-016 Resolution

1. That the recommendation be adopted.

Moved Councillor LA O'Leary, seconded Councillor KM McGrath.

CARRIED

At this time being 2.49pm Councillor KJ Keith left the meeting.

9.7. (GM) Request to donate fees for the construction of the Pavilion at Parkes Showground

Prepared By:

General Manager

Executive Summary

Parkes Showground Land Manager is asking Council to make a donation equivalent to the fees associated with the construction and inspection fees and Section 94A developer contribution for the construction of a pavilion and hall.

Recommendation

1. That Council make a donation under its Community Financial Assistance Grants policy to an amount equivalent to the construction and inspection fees.
2. That the donation amount be allocated from the Parkes Town Improvement budget.

22-017 Resolution

1. That the recommendation be adopted.

Moved Councillor KM McGrath, seconded Councillor WP Jayet.

CARRIED

At this time being 2.54pm Councillor KJ Keith rejoined the meeting.

9.8. (GM) Investments and Borrowings as at 31 December 2021

Prepared By:

Chief Financial Officer

Executive Summary

The carrying value of Council's cash & investments at 31 December 2021 was \$27,874,500 and the principal outstanding on Council's borrowings was \$18,706,081.

Recommendation

1. That the information in relation to the investments and borrowings at 31 December 2021 be received and noted.

22-018 Resolution

1. That the information contained within the Report be received and noted.

Moved Councillor GW Pratt, seconded Councillor JP Cass.

CARRIED

10. DIRECTOR CUSTOMER, CORPORATE SERVICES & ECONOMY

10.1.(DSSCE) Councillor Representation on Council Committees, Community Committees, Community Groups and Organisations 2022

Prepared By:

General Manager

Executive Summary

Council normally reviews committee membership annually in September. The covid delays to the Local Government election has affected the normal cycle, requiring membership to now be established following the 4 December 2021 local government election.

A workshop will be held prior to the 18 January 2022 Council meeting to assist determine participation in the various committees and formalised thereafter at the Ordinary Council meeting.
Committee's no longer required
Water Security reference Group

Recommendation

1. Council representatives on the various Committee's are appointed.
2. Any Committees no longer required be terminated.
3. Letters advising of Council Delegates to external organisation's or committee's be sent.
4. Committee Operating Procedures to be updated.

22-019 Resolution

1. That the recommendation be adopted.
2. That membership as determined at the workshop held prior to this meeting be adopted and published in the next Council meeting Agenda.
3. That the Water Security reference Group and Peak Hill Sports Council be removed, and the Landcare, Country University Centre and Community Arts Inc groups be added.

Moved Councillor JP Cass, seconded Councillor KM McGrath.

CARRIED

10.2. (DCCSE) Parkes Shire COVID-19 Update

Prepared By:

Executive Manager Corporate Services

Executive Summary

The latest wave of COVID-19 infections is impacting on Parkes Shire Council and its communities.

Recommendation

1. That the information be received and noted.

22-020 Resolution

1. That the information contained within the Report be received and noted.

Moved Councillor LA O'Leary, seconded Councillor JP Cass.

CARRIED

10.3. (DCCSE) Aboriginal Project Officer update - September to December 2021

Prepared By:

General Manager

Executive Summary

Council has entered into a Joint funding Agreement with CMOC Northparkes Mines for the engagement of an Aboriginal Project Officer for a period of three years. This position is under the Auspice of the Parkes & District Neighbourhood Centre and Community Information Centre Inc.

The aim of the Aboriginal Project Officer role is to 'Close The gap' on Indigenous disadvantage in line with the Government's Indigenous building blocks.

The key priorities for this role are:

Health

Transport infrastructure

Employment

Education

Early Childhood

Housing

Economic Development

In addition to these priorities, the role supports the cultural development of the Aboriginal community of the Parkes Shire. This is achieved by the facilitation of community forums and working closely with the Parkes Aboriginal Working Party.

Recommendation

1. That the information contained in this report be received and noted.

22-021 Resolution

1. That the information contained within the Report be received and noted.

Moved Councillor KM McGrath, seconded Councillor GW Pratt.

CARRIED

10.4. (DCCSE) Visit to Parkes Shire by NSW Agent-General to the United Kingdom.

Prepared By:

General Manager

Executive Summary

Council hosted a visit by Stephen Cartwright OAM, NSW Agent General to the United Kingdom; NSW Senior Trade & Investment Commissioner to Europe and Israel on 16 December 2021. The visit included a round-table breakfast discussion with the regions exporters, which was very productive for all participants.

Recommendation

1. That the information be received and noted.

22-022 Resolution

1. That the information contained within the Report be received and noted.

Moved Councillor KM McGrath, seconded Councillor NC Westcott.

CARRIED

10.5. (ICR) Letters of Appreciation

Prepared By:

General Manager

Executive Summary

During the exercise of its various functions, Council frequently receives letters of appreciation for services rendered or actions taken by Councillors and staff. The most recently received is a thank you letter from Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and The Hon Michael McCormack MP.

Recommendation

1. That the information be received and noted.

22-023 Resolution

1. That the information contained within the Report be received and noted.

Moved Councillor WP Jayet, seconded Councillor NC Westcott.

CARRIED

11. DIRECTOR PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

11.1. (DPCS) Major Projects & Current Works - Progress Report as of 18 January 2022

Prepared By:

Brendan Hayes

Executive Summary

This report presents an update on the current major projects within the Shire being managed or undertaken by Council's Planning & Community Services Department. The report outlines work that has been carried out over the past month and is provided for the information of Councillors.

Recommendation

1. That the information be received and noted.

22-024 Resolution

1. That the information contained within the Report be received and noted.

Moved Councillor NC Westcott, seconded Councillor JP Cass.

CARRIED

11.2. (DPCS) Development Activity Report - November 2021

Executive Summary

The monthly Development Activity Report provides Council with information about the type and value of applications lodged and determined as well the average assessment time frames.

Recommendation

1. For the information of Council.

22-025 Resolution

1. That the information contained within the Report be received and noted.

Moved Councillor KM McGrath, seconded Councillor NC Westcott.

CARRIED

11.3. (DPCS) Development Activity Report - December 2021

Executive Summary

The monthly Development Activity Report provides Council with information about the type and value of applications lodged and determined as well the average assessment time frames.

Recommendation

1. For the information of Council.

22-026 Resolution

1. That the information contained within the Report be received and noted.

Moved Councillor KM McGrath, seconded Councillor WP Jayet.

CARRIED

11.4. (DPCS) Temporary Lift of Cooke Park Alcohol Free Zone

Prepared By:

Visitor Economy & Major Events Specialist

Executive Summary

Council's events team are requesting a lift of the Alcohol Free Zone in Cooke Park for the Overture event on the 2nd April 2022 from 12pm to 11pm.

Recommendation

1. That Council endorse a lift of the Alcohol Free Zone in Cooke Park on the 2 April 2022 from 12pm - 11pm.
2. That Council advise the Local Area Command of the lifting of the zone and location affected.
3. That Council provide a public notice regarding the lifting of the zone for the Overture event.

22-027 Resolution

1. That the recommendation be adopted.

Moved Councillor KM McGrath, seconded Councillor WP Jayet.

CARRIED

12. DIRECTOR OPERATIONS

12.1. (DO) Major Projects & Current Works - Progress Report

Prepared By:

Director Operations

Executive Summary

This report presents an update on the current major projects within the Shire being managed or undertaken by Council's Operations Department. The report outlines work that has been carried out over the past month and is provided for the information of Councillors.

Recommendation

1. That the information be received and noted.

22-028 Resolution

1. That the information contained within the Report be received and noted.
2. That the Peak Hill Community Garden Project be included in the report for the next meeting.
3. That Council request a report from transport for NSW on the recent expenditure on Henry Parkes Way from Parkes to Orange.

Moved Councillor KM McGrath, seconded Councillor WP Jayet.

CARRIED

13. DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE

Nil

14. CONSIDERATION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

14.1. Committee Minutes - Parkes Elvis Festival Committee Meeting 8 December 2021

Prepared By:

Executive Manager Corporate Services

Executive Summary

A meeting of the Elvis Festival Committee was held at the Parkes Shire Council on 8 December 2021. The Minutes are attached for Council's endorsement.

Recommendation

1. That the Minutes of the Elvis Festival Committee meetings held on 8 December 2021 be noted and the recommendations of the Committee be endorsed by Council.

22-029 Resolution

1. That the recommendation be adopted.

Moved Councillor GW Pratt, seconded Councillor WP Jayet.

CARRIED

14.2. Committee Minutes - Parkes Sports Council Meeting 14 December 2021

Prepared By:

Anthony McGrath - Secretary

Executive Summary

The Minutes of the Parkes Sports Council meeting held on 14 December 2021 are presented for the information of Council.

Recommendation

1. That the Minutes of the Parkes Sports Council Meeting held on 14 December 2021 be received and any actions endorsed.

22-030 Resolution

1. That the recommendation be adopted.

Moved Councillor LA O'Leary, seconded Councillor NC Westcott.

CARRIED

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

1. That Council note the response to the question regarding the Learn to Swim classes at the Parkes Shire Council public swimming pools submitted by Cr J Cass.

22-031 Resolution

1. That Council note the response to the question regarding the Learn to Swim classes at the Parkes Shire Council public swimming pools submitted by Cr J Cass.
2. That Council receive a further report at the next Ordinary Meeting regarding the public swimming pools, including training and operating costs and operating times.

Moved Councillor JP Cass, seconded Councillor DR Weber.

CARRIED

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 comments 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

1. That Council note the response to the question regarding the Increased Mosquito population submitted by Cr J Cass.

22-032 Resolution

1. That Council note the response to the question regarding the Increased Mosquito population submitted by Cr J Cass.
2. That Council Investigate the costs and environmental impact associated with chemical spraying to help reduce the mosquito population.

Moved Councillor JP Cass, seconded Councillor WP Jayet.

CARRIED

At this time being 3.49pm Councillor KM McGrath left the meeting.
At this time being 3.52pm Councillor KM McGrath rejoined the meeting.

15.3. Q&M State 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

Directors Comment

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

Recommendation

1. That Council note the response to the question regarding the State Road, Parkes to Bogan Gate submitted by Deputy Mayor Councillor NC Westcott.

22-033 Resolution

1. That Council make representation to the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, the Hon. Sam Faraway MLC, regarding the poor condition of the State Road from Parkes to Bogan Gate, following Councils inspection (scheduled for early February).

Moved Councillor NC Westcott, seconded Councillor WP Jayet.

CARRIED

17. MEETING CLOSURE

There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 4.06pm.