



Minutes of June meeting of the Progress Committee 12 June 2024

Present: Andy Tyrna, Lucinda Stump, Robert Schwager, Janine Powell, Steve Gardener, Jimmy Stevens, Cath Dickens, Sarokhan Malla, Ruby McGrath, Andrew Bowan (Wee Waa Chamber of Commerce), John Clements, Mel Manchee, Megan Dixon (GM Walgett Shire) Jasen Ramien (Walgett Mayor) Susie Marshall, Jenny Holcombe.

Apologies: Kate Schwager, Philip and Elizabeth Powell, Sandy Stump, Dee Peterson, Scott Hardy, Jacquel Miners.

Minutes of May meeting accepted with the following amendments:

- The VRA project is a VRA Emergency Services Precinct and Wellness Centre.
- The money spent on lunch at Anzac Day was sourced from the Calendar money not the ADAMA money.
- The group who can paint murals are called Murals on the Move, not Materials on the Move.

Shire update from Megan Dixon (General Manager) and Jasen Ramien (Collarenebri based Mayor of the Walgett council).

- The Shire Council is carrying a \$3.5M loss and had made the decision to cut all spending that is not supported by grant funding. IN other words, the funding for the cemetery upgrade and the sports oval (neither of which are the result of grants) are no longer funded despite both items being currently on the Shire website Capital Works program for 2024-25 [public-exhibition-draft-aop.pdf \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/public-exhibition-draft-aop.pdf). Megan was honest and open about the situation the Shire finds itself in and encouraged us to pursue any form of grant funding to have these projects undertaken. The timeline for any projects has now been amended by the Council so that the Community Strategic Plan can be updated and a new consultation process will begun by October this year. Council is also bringing in some expertise around asset management to assist with the management of its assets and has committed to report on the budget monthly.

ACTION: continue to make submissions to the Shire by June 25th on these two items despite the reality that they will not be pursued, so that our priorities, ideas and opinions are on record. Lucinda and Janine to nut out a submission.

- Walking Path: ARTC has given us a flat out NO on the walking track but Roy Butler's office has undertaken to explore further options for us.
- The issue of the zebra crossing outside the school has been passed on to the traffic committee.
- The truck stop has been raised with Jenny Aitchison, the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, by Mel Manchee from Roy Butler's office.

ACTION: John Clements recommended we talk to Dave Sullivan, Roy Butler's representative on the HVSP: The Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program (HVSP) is an Australian Government initiative, which has been providing at least \$65 million per year to fund infrastructure projects that improve the productivity and safety outcomes of heavy vehicle operations across Australia.

New Business:

- Jimmy and Robert have made a submission to Roy Bulter's office about the Burren airstrip which is considered unsafe because 15M has recently been allocated to regional airstrips. This is to cover 28 LGAs. Walgett LGA has 5 airstrips and has flagged Walgett and Collarenebri for an upgrade. Whilst the RFDS cannot land at Burren it may be possible for Little Wings or Angel Flight to handle emergencies in their place if the airstrip had an upgrade.

ACTION: John Clements advised us to write to Air Chief Marshall Sir Angus Houston (currently Chair of the Murray Darling Basin Committee) who used to fly into Burren to enlist his support.

- Westfund grant application unsuccessful. Still waiting to hear about Telstra grant for a Burren website.
- Janine presented her magnificent draft plan for the sports oval which clearly maps out a plan for the oval improvement beginning with the surface and the watering system. Sadly there appears to be no money to do any of the improvements we had all been excited about but Megan Dixon advised us to submit it anyway to the Shire so they can see the work that has been done and the priorities that the community has set for future reference.

ACTION: pursue Clubs grants and any other sporting grants to see if we can find funding ourselves.

ACTION: apply for Council Community grants of \$3000.

- Jenny Holcombe distributed information about the Indian Myna bird feral pest and suggested some ways of enlisting community support to start up a program to tackle them. Burren Landcare has approximately \$4K available to put towards the program, Jarfumigation has trained in how to trap and euthanise them and Dennis Lowder of the Wee Waa men's shed may be able to build some traps for us at a small cost. Jasen Ramien also knows a man in Collarenebri who may be able to assist in setting traps.

ACTION: Committee to liaise with Jenny and see if we can organise a whole community meeting to distribute traps and engage support either before or during the next meeting.

- Sharon Shearer alerted the meeting to the danger of the Athel pines at the end of Slack-Smith Street which make it hard to see approaching traffic on the highway. These need heavy pruning or removing.

ACTION: Lucinda to email Council to make sure they are aware of this.

Robert thanked everyone for coming, particularly Jasen, Megan, Mel and John and closed the meeting at 7.10pm.

Next meeting: 6pm July 10th