



MINUTES

General Meeting – Wednesday 12th August 2026
6.00pm – Burren School of Arts Hall

Present: Kate Schwager, Sharon Shearer, John Clements, Sarokhan Malla, Charmaine Clements, Steve Gardiner, Elizabeth Powell and Philip Powell.

Apologies: Lucinda Stump, Susie Marshall, Janine Powell, Scott Hardy and Angus Moore.

Meeting opened: 6.05pm

Previous Minutes

Previous minutes adopted.

Moved: Steve Gardiner

Seconded: Sarokhan Malla

Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Bus Shelters

The committee expressed considerable concern regarding the new bus shelters, which remain partly assembled and stored behind the Shire shed. Some appear to be in disrepair.

Installation was initially attempted approximately eight weeks ago; however, the required concrete slabs had not been laid. The shelters are intended to be installed at the school, pool and Post Office.

The committee is concerned that after eight weeks the concrete slabs have still not been completed and the shelters remain uninstalled.

Members also expressed disappointment that the shelters supplied are not the colour selected by the committee, particularly as Council had specifically requested the committee to choose a colour.

Action: Ask Walgett Shire Council when the concrete slabs will be laid and when the shelters will be installed.

Photos showing the current condition and storage of the bus shelters are attached to these minutes.

Drainage – Progress and Continuance

Philip Powell was asked whether he had contacted Roger Sendall regarding the drainage works. Kate advised that Scott had spoken with Roger, who indicated that he had been in discussions with Council.

Steve Gardiner raised concerns about whether the contractor was undertaking the works on the drain exiting the end of Waterloo Street onto Roger Sendall's property in accordance with what the landowner had requested. A considerable amount of soil was being removed and made available to

residents, and concern was raised that this was an expensive process if it was not what the landowner required.

To clarify the situation, John Clements contacted Walgett Shire Mayor Jason Ramien during the meeting. The mayor subsequently advised that he had spoken with the engineer, who had spoken with the contractor, and confirmed that the works being undertaken were as required.

The matter was therefore resolved during the meeting.

The committee would, however, like clarification from Council regarding the extent of the overall drainage program. Members would like to know whether the current works to Waterloo Street, Hastings Street and the outlet drain are the extent of the planned works.

The committee would also like to know whether drainage works are planned for:

- the area in front of the Junction City Hotel in Slack-Smith Street; and
- the large drain along Corona Street.

If these works cannot be undertaken under the current program, the committee would like to know whether they will be placed on Council's works register for completion in the next financial year or at another identified time in the future.

The committee acknowledged that it is pleased with the drainage works completed to date and appreciated that residents had been given the opportunity to have excavated soil allocated to their properties to assist in raising low areas. Residents receiving soil are responsible for levelling it on their properties.

Correspondence

A letter has been received from the Minister regarding the proposed truck stop. The letter was not available at the meeting.

As the Secretary was an apology, no other correspondence was presented, and correspondence was not formally moved.

Action: Correspondence to be brought forward to the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report

No Treasurer's Report was presented as the Treasurer was an apology.

Sports Precinct

Bore and Water Supply

Steve Gardiner provided an update on the sportsground bore.

The bore is currently producing only a trickle of water; however, sufficient water has been collected to fill the Rural Fire Service tank and there is currently enough water available for the fire truck.

The next step is to use the continuing trickle from the bore to fill the new tank at the oval.

It is also proposed that the tank previously removed from the hall when the container was installed be returned and positioned behind the hall toilets. Water from the bore could then trickle into this tank and a pressure pump installed to service the public toilets at the hall.

The committee stressed that these measures are only a **short-term or "band-aid" solution**.

Burren Junction remains in urgent need of a new bore, estimated to cost approximately **\$60,000**. Council has indicated that grant funding would be required to undertake the work; however, the committee believes that securing a reliable water supply for the town should be treated as essential infrastructure and a priority.

Truck Stop

John Clements, Advisor to local Member Roy Butler MP, provided an update on the proposed truck stop.

John advised that Roy had spoken with several people within the Minister's office.

GrainCorp's plans to install two additional bunkers have triggered an investigation into the existing rest area located within the GrainCorp facility to determine whether it is adequate for use as a truck rest area.

The committee reiterated its view that the existing location is unsuitable. It is situated on a bend and at the intersection of three roads and does not provide adequate space for the purpose.

The committee noted that this investigation is separate from its existing submission advocating for a properly located truck stop at Burren Junction. However, the investigation may further demonstrate the need for an appropriate truck stop facility.

John took copies of the committee's proposed response to the **Draft Far West Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan** and forwarded these to the appropriate contacts.

John also raised the importance of land ownership for any future truck stop site. He advised that the land should be owned or controlled by the appropriate local authority/entity rather than Transport for NSW, as land ownership could otherwise become an impediment to the proposal. Roy has raised this issue with the Minister on several occasions, and he had previously discussed the matter with Council.

Kate tabled the committee's response to the **Draft Far West Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan** and will submit the completed response to the appropriate authorities.

A copy of the response is attached to these minutes.

Bore Baths and Council Maintenance

Considerable discussion took place regarding the condition and management of the Burren Junction Bore Baths and other Council-maintained areas in town.

Members expressed concern that the Bore Baths are not being maintained to an acceptable standard and that the water temperature is frequently not hot enough.

It was noted that significant expenditure has recently been undertaken to increase water storage capacity, which members understood would allow the temperature of the baths to be maintained at an appropriate level.

The committee believes that maintaining an appropriate water temperature is essential to attracting visitors to the Bore Baths.

Concerns were also raised regarding interactions between the current Council worker and residents and visitors. Members felt that a more welcoming and service-focused approach is required, particularly given the importance of the Bore Baths to visitors and tourism.

Other maintenance concerns raised included:

- The operation and treatment of Council's John Deere mower, including concerns about the speed at which it is being driven and its use over heavy marshmallow weed.
- Concerns regarding the removal of wheels from the mowing/slashing attachment and the potential impact this may have on an expensive piece of Council equipment.
- The swimming pool robotic cleaner purchased last year being left outside exposed to the weather and, at times, left around the pool area when not in use, creating a potential hazard and risking damage to the equipment.
- The **town swimming pool boundary fence** remains in need of repair and has been deteriorating for some time.
- The Burren Junction Cemetery had not been mown for an extended period and had become very overgrown.
- Members of the community with family graves at the cemetery had taken it upon themselves to mow tracks to enable access to their family graves.
- The reason given for the cemetery not being mown was that there was no trailer available to transport the mower. The committee questioned why appropriate equipment was not available to undertake routine Council maintenance.

The committee noted that considerable work was undertaken at the cemetery last year and believes it should now be maintained in a reasonable condition and mown regularly.

Steve Gardiner advised that Jeff, the previous Bore Baths caretaker and Burren Junction Council worker, is expected to return to work for Walgett Shire Council.

Historic Bicycle Walk

Kate advised that the application for **\$3,000** towards the Historic Bicycle Walk photo-frame sign in Coronation Park had to be resubmitted without her personal telephone number.

Council was also advised that the Association is investigating appropriate insurance arrangements.

Insurance

Discussion followed regarding the Association's insurance requirements.

The committee would like clarification regarding the level of insurance Walgett Shire Council currently holds over the School of Arts Hall, particularly now that the hall contains a large television screen, projector/screen and museum collection.

The committee also needs to establish the appropriate level of insurance required by the Progress Association to cover volunteers and public liability.

Historically, many Association activities have taken place within the hall and were understood to be covered under the hall's arrangements. However, as the Association is increasingly undertaking activities outside the hall, members agreed that appropriate broader insurance coverage needs to be investigated.

The Treasurer, although an apology for the meeting, had advised that she is seeking insurance quotations for the Association.

Clubs Grant

The proposed Clubs Grant application was discussed.

As the Association currently does not have confirmed insurance arrangements and has not yet received the information requested regarding previous applications and the Sports Precinct, it was agreed not to proceed with the current round.

Sarokhan Malla and Kate Schwager will work towards an application for the **February funding round**.

It is proposed that the Association seek approximately **\$300,000** for a comprehensive Sports Precinct project, potentially including:

- a new bore;
- resurfacing and improvement of the oval;
- removal/disposal of condemned sheds;
- improvements to the camp draft area; and

- works to make the sporting fields suitable and usable for the school and wider community.

Letters of support will be sought from Walgett Shire Council and the local Member.

Action: Members are asked to provide Kate and Saro with any previous applications, plans, costings or other information relating to the Sports Precinct that may assist in preparing the application.

Walgett Shire Council Community Assistance Grant

An application has been submitted to Walgett Shire Council for funding towards the Historic Bicycle Walk photo-frame sign.

The Association is awaiting the outcome.

Museum Opening and Art Show

The Museum Opening, Historic Bicycle Walk launch and Art Show were considered a **great success**.

The Publicity Officer tabled her report, and website analytics were circulated among members.

John Clements commented favourably on the amount of time visitors spent on the website following the event. Analytics showed particularly strong interest in historical photographs.

It was suggested that additional historical photographs, as well as photographs of Burren Junction generally, should continue to be added to the website as this is clearly content visitors are interested in viewing.

Janine Powell was an apology and therefore a financial report on the event was not available.

The possibility of making the Art Show and associated activities an **annual event** was discussed.

Members suggested avoiding the same weekend as the Eulah Creek History Weekend and potentially holding the Burren Junction event the following weekend.

A possible format would be Saturday afternoon and evening, incorporating stalls, the Art Show, Museum and Historic Bicycle Walk. This could potentially replace the Flower Show weekend should the Flower Show no longer proceed.

Members commented positively on the food and the ability for people to move easily around the event. The bar also worked well. The possibility of constructing an Association-owned portable bar, at a slightly lower height, was discussed. Lucinda was believed to be investigating this with her son.

It was also suggested that the Museum be opened for **two or three mornings each week**, if volunteers and insurance arrangements permit.

Remaining funds associated with the Historic Bicycle Walk could potentially be used to purchase a teardrop/banner sign to place outside the hall when the Museum is open.

Insurance requirements would need to be confirmed before regular Museum opening arrangements are established.

Elizabeth Powell advised that former NSW Member of Parliament Ian Slack-Smith had visited the Museum and donated a number of items. Elizabeth is yet to go through and catalogue these items.

Following this discussion, John Clements suggested inviting Mayor Jason Ramien to Burren Junction for a barbecue, followed by a walk around town and an informal discussion about the issues and priorities currently facing the community.

Publicity Officer's Report

The Publicity Officer's Report and supporting website analytics were tabled at the meeting and are attached to these minutes.

General Business

Coronation Park Light

The light in Coronation Park still requires repair.

Kate advised that approximately six weeks ago she spoke with Jamie Fensom from Walgett Shire Council regarding the light and also followed this up by email, including photographs showing the issue.

Council advised that an electrician would attend; however, the light remains unrepaired.

Action: Follow up with Council regarding when the repair will be completed.

Major Bicycle-Themed Attraction

The committee revisited the idea of creating a significant bicycle-themed attraction for Burren Junction to build upon the Historic Bicycle Walk and establish a recognisable feature for the town.

Ideas discussed included a **large bicycle structure or bicycle stack**.

Sharon Shearer indicated that she would be happy for her spare block to potentially be considered as a location.

As Scott Hardy was not present, the matter will need to be discussed further with him, particularly as he had previously proposed a large boomerang attraction and it is not currently known whether that project will proceed.

Action: Further discussion at a future meeting.

What the Shire Needs to Know

Bus Shelters

- When will the concrete slabs be installed at the school, pool and Post Office?
- When will the bus shelters be erected?
- Why were shelters supplied in a different colour from that selected by the committee?
- Concern regarding the shelters being left partly assembled and exposed behind the Shire shed for approximately eight weeks.

Drainage

- Are Waterloo Street, Hastings Street and the outlet drain the full extent of the current drainage works?
- Will drainage works be undertaken in front of the Junction City Hotel in Slack-Smith Street?
- Will the large Corona Street drain be addressed?
- If these works are not part of the current project, can they be placed on Council's future works program/register?

Sports Precinct and Bore

- Burren Junction urgently requires a reliable bore and water supply.
- The current arrangements are only a temporary solution.
- The committee believes a replacement bore, estimated at approximately \$60,000, should be considered essential town infrastructure and a priority rather than being dependent solely upon future grant funding.

Bore Baths

- Water temperature needs to be maintained at an appropriate level.
- Cleaning and general maintenance require attention.

Town Swimming Pool

- The boundary fence requires repair and has been deteriorating for some time.
- Pool cleaning equipment needs to be appropriately operated, stored and protected.

Cemetery

- The cemetery requires regular mowing and maintenance.
- Appropriate equipment, including a trailer if required, should be available to enable Council staff to undertake this work.

Coronation Park

- The light in Coronation Park remains unrepaired.
- The matter was reported to Jamie Fensom approximately six weeks ago and was also followed up by email with photographs.
- Council had advised that an electrician would attend.
- The committee would like to know when the repair will be completed.

Next Meeting

Wednesday 9th September 2026 – 6.00pm
Burren School of Arts Hall

Meeting closed: 7.13pm

Attachments

1. Publicity Officer's Report – Museum Opening, Historic Bicycle Walk and Art Show, including website analytics.
2. Photographs showing the current condition and storage of the bus shelters.
3. Burren Junction Progress Association response to the Draft Far West Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan.