

# Record of Proceedings

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## Community Forum Monday 9 October 2017

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The Community Forum commenced at 6.32pm and was held in the Council Foyer,  
62-64 Menangle Street, Picton 2571.

## WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

Record of Proceedings of the Community Forum held in the Council Foyer, 62-64 Menangle Street, Picton, on Monday 9 October 2017

<b>OPENING BY THE CHAIRPERSON.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>PRESENT .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>ALSO PRESENT .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>APOLOGIES .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>FORMAL COMMUNITY FORUM MATTERS.....</b>	<b>5</b>
1. RFS Bushfire Presentation.....	5
<b>COMMUNITY QUESTION/STATEMENT TIME .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>INFORMAL QUESTION/STATEMENT TIME.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>CONCLUSION AND INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>YOUR COUNCILLORS .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>COMMUNITY FORUM DATES.....</b>	<b>12</b>

Record of Proceedings of the Community Forum held in the Council Foyer, 62-64 Menangle Street, Picton, on Monday 9 October 2017

---

## **OPENING BY THE CHAIRPERSON**

The Chairperson, Cr Lowry opened the Community Forum at 6.32pm. The Chairperson welcomed all those in attendance at the Community Forum. The Chairperson introduced the Mayor, Cr Hannan; Councillors, the General Manager, Directors and to the Community Forum participants.

The Chairperson stated that the electronic recording of the Community Forum and the use of electronic media during the proceedings is not permitted including devices such as laptops, mobile phones, tape recorders and video cameras. The Chairperson requested that participants switch off their mobile phones.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

The Chairperson acknowledged the Traditional Custodians of the Land:

I would like to pay my respect and acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which this meeting takes place, and also pay respect to Elders both past and present.

## **PRESENT**

Councillors: Landow, Hannan (Mayor), Gould, Banasik, Briggs, Khan, Deeth and Lowry

## **ALSO PRESENT**

Acting Executive Director Corporate and Community, Director Planning, Director Infrastructure and Environment, Manager Works and One Administration Officer.

## **APOLOGIES**

General Manager

## **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Cr Deeth declared a Pecuniary Conflict of Interest in Items GR2 Station Street, Menangle Planning Proposal – DCP Provisions and GR3 Draft Planning Agreement for Station Street, Menangle. The reason being that he lives on Station St. Cr Deeth advised he would leave the forum if these Items were discussed.

Record of Proceedings of the Community Forum held in the Council Foyer, 62-64 Menangle Street, Picton, on Monday 9 October 2017

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Cr Gould declared a Non Pecuniary (Significant) Conflict of Interest in Items GR2 Station Street, Menangle Planning Proposal – DCP Provisions and GR3 Draft Planning Agreement for Station Street, Menangle. The reason being that he is on the South West Planning Panel for these matters. Cr Gould advised that he would leave the forum if these Items were discussed.

Cr Gould declared a Non Pecuniary (Less than Significant) Conflict of Interest in the RFS Presentation as he is employed by the NSW Rural Fire Service and also a Deputy Captain of the Silverdale Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade.

Cr Briggs declared a Non Pecuniary (Less than Significant) Conflict of Interest in the RFS Presentation as he is the Deputy Captain of the Lakesland Rural Fire Service.

## FORMAL COMMUNITY FORUM MATTERS

TRIM 2089

### 1. **RFS Bushfire Presentation**

Russell Bott from the Rural Fire Service (RFS) gave a presentation to the Community on how to prepare for the upcoming Bushfire Season.

Mr Bott opened his presentation with a chilling reminder of The Black Saturday fires that occurred in the state of Victoria on Saturday, 7 February 2009. Black Saturday resulted in Australia's highest ever loss of life from a bushfire event. Across Victoria 173 people lost their lives. In the town of Marysville 34 people died in the fires. Mr Bott advised the population was 435 prior to the fires with only 35 staying on after the fires. The town was devastated with nearly every building damaged or destroyed.

What was realised was that no one was properly prepared for a bushfire and in the wake of the fires and the casualty toll, policies for dealing with bushfires and management practices were revised.

Participants were provided with a copy of the NSW RFS Bush Fire Survival Plan pack. Mr Bott referenced this publication throughout the presentation and advised that more information could be found on the RFS website [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au).

In summary Mr Bott advised that in order to prepare for a bushfire you need to ask yourself the following questions.

1. Are you aware of the risk for where you live?
2. Do you know the fire danger levels?
3. Do you know the bushfire alert levels?
4. Do you believe you can protect yourself in the event of a fire?

Mr Bott referred to a Map of Wollondilly which clearly showed the vast amount of bushfire prone area in the Shire, stating that almost our entire Shire is at risk of bushfire.

Mr Bott advised that if you live within 2 streets of bush then you are at severe risk of ember attack. He asked the participants "do you have an up to date Bushfire Survival Plan?"

Mr Bott highlighted the Bushfire Survival Plan pack which contains a risk assessment which he stated was well worth doing, that he had personally done it and it was very accurate. In planning your escape routes he asked people to consider if they have to travel through bush, and if they have only one way out.

Formal Community Forum Matters

Mr Bott stated that if the fire danger rating is above severe and your plan is to stay you will only survive if you have a properly prepared house and you're fit to survive the conditions. He further stated that no building, no matter how well prepared, will survive a fire on a catastrophic day.

He explained the bush fire alert levels. Advice – Watch and Act (Get your Plan Handy) – Emergency Warning (Enact your Plan). He stressed that these levels don't always come in sequence, fires can take hold fast.

Mr Bott explained that the Neighbourhood Safer Place is a bit of a misnomer. He advised that at best this will only be an open paddock, you will still have smoke, heat and will be very uncomfortable and he preferred that it be called a place of last resort.

In preparing a Bushfire Survival Plan, Mr Bott said that step 1 is to discuss this with your family. If you don't have one he again urged people to make one. The Fires Near Me App was highlighted. This App shows you the status and location of all active fires in NSW. Keep an eye on the alert levels for the trigger to bring into force your plan.

The main two points are:

1 – Decide if you will stay or Leave? RFS general advice is to leave and only stay if your house and yard are well prepared and you're physically capable.

2 – Get your home prepared. Basic things to do are to clean out your gutters, ensure there is no wood or burnable things close to the house, mow the lawns, trim back any branches and bushes, fix any holes in the house and any windows that won't close. Ahead of the bushfire water down the gardens; garden mulch has been known to lead to spot fires hours after the event.

The AIDA Program was highlighted where the RFS will come out and tidy up houses belonging to the infirmed and elderly where they have no other assistance available to them.

Mr Bott stated that his and others lives as fire fighters depend on people being ready urged people to "do the exercise and make a plan".

Mr Bott asked if there were any questions on the night, there were none.

The Chairperson, Cr Lowry thanked Mr Bott for his presentation and asked that his thanks be passed onto his fellow RFS members as the upcoming bushfire season approaches.

Community Question/Statement Time

**COMMUNITY QUESTION/STATEMENT TIME**

In line with the Community Forum Guidelines matters must be submitted on the *Community Forum Question/Statement Form* in order to be addressed. The Record of Proceedings will only record the name of the person who raised the Question/Statement, who they represent and the topic discussed. Any additional documents handed in on the night will be noted. No verbal comments from the speaker will be documented.

A copy of all questions submitted by the cut off time is given to Councillors to consider regardless of whether they are addressed during the proceedings.

The Chairperson stated that Community Question/Statement Time is for matters that relate to items in Council's Ordinary Meeting Agenda. Reports are written by Council officers and reflect the views of the applicants' proposal, community views, legal aspects and where appropriate, comments.

All questions must be submitted in writing by 12 noon on the day of the Forum. There will be a maximum of 2 speakers for and against a matter with each speaker limited to 5 minutes.

The Chairperson reinforced that Community Forums are to provide information and to allow comment and are not a debate night. The Chairperson asked that speakers address them and Councillors on all occasions, to stay on the subject matter and avoid making personal remarks about individuals.

The Director Environment and Infrastructure, Michael Malone read out the Executive Summary from the Council report for each agenda item discussed throughout the night.

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Ques 1      John Pritchard representing Self  
Matter raised – GR1 – Development Application for Modification of Consent for Intensive Plant Horticulture at 275 Bargo Road, Bargo

Mr Pritchard addressed the Forum.

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Ques 2      Jeff Bulfin representing the Property Owner  
Matter raised – GR1 – Development Application for Modification of Consent for Intensive Plant Horticulture at 275 Bargo Road, Bargo

Mr Bulfin addressed the Forum.

## WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

Record of Proceedings of the Community Forum held in the Council Foyer, 62-64 Menangle Street, Picton, on Monday 9 October 2017

### Community Question/Statement Time

TRIM 9019

Ques 3      Tanya Mulley-James representing Self  
Matter raised – GR6 – Planning Proposal – Boundary Adjustment and Minimum Subdivision Lot Size for Community Title Scheme & Associated Amendments to Wollondilly Development Control Plan 2016

Ms Mulley-James addressed the Forum.

TRIM 9019

Ques 4      Sharon Mulley representing Self  
Matter raised – GR6 – Planning Proposal – Boundary Adjustment and Minimum Subdivision Lot Size for Community Title Scheme & Associated Amendments to Wollondilly Development Control Plan 2016

Ms Mulley addressed the Forum.

Community  
Question/Statement  
Time



WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

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Record of Proceedings of the Community Forum held in the Council Foyer, 62-64 Menangle Street, Picton, on Monday 9 October 2017

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Informal Question/Statement Time

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**INFORMAL QUESTION/STATEMENT TIME**

There were no informal questions/statements.

Informal Question  
/Statement Time

Record of Proceedings of the Community Forum held in the Council Foyer, 62-64 Menangle Street, Picton, on Monday 9 October 2017

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Conclusion and Informal Discussions

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**CONCLUSION AND INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS**

The Chairperson thanked those present for attending, for the feedback provided and interest shown in the matters discussed. The Chairperson invited everyone to tea and coffee and to speak openly to Councillors about any matter they wish to raise.

The Community Forum closed at 7.15pm.

About 15 people present.

## WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

Record of Proceedings of the Community Forum held in the Council Foyer, 62-64 Menangle Street, Picton, on Monday 9 October 2017

### Your Councillors

#### YOUR COUNCILLORS

##### East Ward

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Vacant

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Cr J A (Judith) Hannan  
**Mayor**

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Cr S (Simon) Landow

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Your Councillors

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Record of Proceedings of the Community Forum held in the Council Foyer, 62-64 Menangle Street, Picton, on Monday 9 October 2017

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Community Forum Dates

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**COMMUNITY FORUM DATES**

Community Forums will generally be held on the second Monday of each month and will commence at 6.30pm except in the case of a public holiday when it will be held on the second Tuesday.

Dates for upcoming Community Forums in 2017 are as follows:

- Monday 13 November 2017
- Monday 4 December 2017