

**MINUTES OF THE BLAND SHIRE COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP MEETING  
HELD IN THE BLAND SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON TUESDAY 11 JUNE 2019  
COMMENCING AT 6.30PM**

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**Present:**

**Jill Funnell, Sarah Gillett, Jo Price, Andrew Raiti, Bernadette Pettit, Amanda Stitt, Melissa Ryan, Raylene Spackman, Sarah Bellefleur, Steven Kyriacou, Cr Brian Monaghan (Mayor), Cr Liz McGlynn (Deputy Mayor), Cr Jan Wyse, Cr Murray Thomas, Cr Rodney Crowe, Cr Kerry Keatley, Cr Penny English, Cr Bruce Baker, Ray Smith (General Manager), Craig Sutton (Community Relations Officer), Rebecca McDonell (Community Development Officer).**

**WELCOME**

Mayor Brian Monaghan welcomed everyone to the meeting at 6.30pm.

**APOLOGIES**

Cr Tony Lord.

**BUSINESS ARISING**

**1. Country Hope Public Art proposal**

Jo Price updated the meeting regarding Country Hope's proposal to build and install a large sign in a prominent location in West Wyalong spelling out the word "Hope".

Ms Price said she hopes the sign will inspire people to draw strength while also supporting local tourism and local businesses.

Local businesses and residents have generously donated their time, materials and expertise to build, powder coat and install the sign free of charge while Evolution Mining has approved a grant to assist with costs of the project including the purchase of locks to be placed on the structure by members of the public and the planned shop local promotion.

Ms Price said she will apply to Council for a Strengthening Communities grant. A number of questions were asked by members of the gallery and Council and after constructive discussion the consensus of the meeting was supportive of the project.

Ms Price will continue to liase with Council's Community Development Officer to move the project forward.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**2. Community Chest**

Raylene Spackman and Melissa Ryan addressed the meeting to discuss her progress investigating the establishment of a local community chest.

Ms Spackman said that following recent events she believes there is a need and a place for a community chest in West Wyalong/Bland Shire to financially support local residents and families provided the organisation works closely in conjunction with existing local charities and service organisations.

She envisages that a committee of interested community members would be established to administer the program and a number of suggestions were put forward from the gallery and Councillors.

General Manager Ray Smith said the local Councils are no longer permitted to administer community funds and therefore manage such an initiative but offered to pass on the research previously conducted by Council in regards to the establishment of a community chest several years ago.

Mr Smith also provided Ms Spackman and Ms Ryan with copies of the updated by-laws of the long running and successful Cowra Community Chest.  
Ms Spackman agreed to update Council on the progress of her investigations moving forward.

### **3. Street Numbering**

Amanda Stitt addressed the meeting regarding street numbering in Main Street, West Wyalong.

Mrs Stitt said that the street address of most buildings are not clearly marked and raised concerns from an emergency services point of view where a physical address needs to be provided rather than the name of the store or property.  
General Manager Ray Smith will investigate options to address the issue.

### **4. Bust the Dust Festival**

Rebecca McDonell provided an overview of plans for the Bust the Dust Festival in West Wyalong's Main Street on Saturday 29 June.

The event will include a colour run, live music, amusement rides, free food and guest speaker and MC Ben Pettingill and is an initiative of Bland Shire Council utilising funding from the Federal Government's Drought Communities Program.

### **5. Bland Flavour Festival**

Ray Smith told the meeting that Council has received funding from the Foundation of Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) to support a Bland Flavour Festival later in 2019. Council is also providing significant financial support towards the event while discussions are ongoing with potential other event partners.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **6. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the West Wyalong Knockout**

Councillor Liz McGlynn advised that the West Wyalong knockout will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> year in 2020 and suggested something be done to mark the occasion.

Cr McGlynn said the agriculture, rugby league and mining have been a part of the community for over 100 years and suggested Council look at developing a monument to celebrate their role in the community.

### **7. Fireworks**

Amanda Stitt enquired about the laws surrounding fireworks.

She said a number of fireworks were discharged without notice during the previous June long weekend. Riding for Disabled representative Sarah Gillett added that a number of her animals were spooked by the unadvertised fireworks.

Ray Smith advised that licencing and approval for fireworks do not come through Council and people should report illegal activity to the police.

### **8. Riding for Disabled West Wyalong**

Sarah Gillett told the meeting that Riding for Disabled West Wyalong is partnering with Charles Sturt University for a work placement program.

Ms Gillett also advised that she has recently completed training which will allow her to deliver Certificate III training in equine therapy to interested local residents.

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Community Reference Group meeting will be held on Tuesday 13 August 2019 at the Bland Shire Council Chambers at 6.30pm.

**CLOSE**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.08 pm.