

# Goolawah Co-operative General Meeting

## Minutes 11 December 2021

**Commence:** 9.00am

**Minute Taker:** Rose Mahar

**Chairperson:** Craig Singleman/Peter O'Hara

***Acknowledgement of Country Yahway - Barri Dhungatti***

**Housekeeping:** Reminder regarding meeting etiquette (Rule 49 Standing Orders at GMs).

**COVID:** Please check current restrictions before attending the General Meeting.

**Voting:** Inactive members are not permitted to vote at a GM either in person or via a proxy (Rule 41 Voting).

**Attendance:** Dan Rose, Lexie Gonzalez, Jac Larsen, Nick Reid, Callum Lawson, Alwyn Hunter, Clint Campisi, Gerard Shea, Greg Ryan, Belinda Ball, Andrew Barson. Samantha Wong, Jenny Skinner, Adam Cvetkovski, Marty Cole, Erika Schuster, Peter O'Hara

**Directors:** Kevin Harper, Julica Jungehuelsing, Wayne Skinner, Ralph Van Hulst, Denise Cobourn, Craig Singleman

**Apologies:** Bronwyn Little, Lee Albert, Trinh & Al, Dennis, Cindee & Jim, Roger, John Tennock

**Visitors:** Elizabeth Locke, Caleb Reid-Boquist, Natalie Lawler, Jonathan Matterson, Hazel Ortega & Emily

**Proxies:** Bronwyn & Wayne Ellis, Lee, Cindee & Jim

**Confirmation of previous General Meeting Minutes:** (Chairperson)

**PROPOSAL:** To accept the previous minutes (signed by Chairperson)

**PROPOSED:** Craig

**SECONDED:** Julica

**Abstain:** 1

**Approved:** Unanimous

**PASSED**

**Business arising:**

### 1. Special Resolution

To adopt Goolawah Co-operative rule amendments for Rules 4, 5, 19c, 21, 22, 25, 34, 42, 43, 52b,d.

**Rationale:** Since the full revision of the Co-operative Rules was adopted on the 19.1.19, the Policy Committee has been keeping note of any rules requiring amendments. Regular revision of the Rules is good practice and ensures the co-op complies with Co-operative National Law (CNL) and Co-operatives National Regulations (CNR). There is some scope to adapt rules to suit the particular activities of the co-op.

**Note:** A document noting the proposed changes to the rules was Tabled at the last GM and posted on the web for community comment. This document showed the rules that were to be changed and clearly highlighted the changes. No feedback was received during the consultation period from 15.10.21 to 12.11.21.

**PROPOSED:** Denise Cobourn

**SECONDED:** Peter O'Hara

**Vote: For:** 17

**Abstain:** 1

**PASSED**

2. Speeding signs on Frog Hollow / other signs (Nick) Project completed with assistance. Nick requested using the remaining budget amount (\$160) to purchase reflective child running signs for near the playground. Agreed.
3. Introduced species – management plans received.

3.1 Suggestion for discussion, possible vote in Feb, (Sam W.):

"Expanding the no cats and no dogs by-law so that animals considered invasive/feral by the department of agriculture, water and environment are not allowed in Goolawah. If the community supports this, suggest it applies to new animals not existing ones." Feral animals currently include: cane toads, camels, cats, deer, goats, horses, foxes, pigs, rabbits and water buffalo. (<https://www.awe.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/invasive-species/feral-animals-australia>)

There was some discussion about the above proposal. Some members are in favour of allowing animals such as goats to better facilitate permaculture and self-sufficiency. Others are more concerned about maintaining a space for native fauna to flourish, as per our vision statement. It was agreed that a formal vote would be conducted at the February General Meeting.

6 management plans were received via email. 3 were presented at the meeting. There are still some members who haven't presented plans. All plans received so far will be reviewed by the directors and put on the website for the information of other members. The directors will contact people who haven't yet submitted a plan.

4. Disputes and Rule Breaches Policy (Wayne and Nick)  
This will be ready for the February General Meeting.
5. Cattle on co-op – phone numbers of cattle owners.

Craig has agreed to contact the owners of cattle found on co-op land.

#### **Director's Meeting:**

DM Minutes 6<sup>th</sup> November posted on website (13 members attended the open invitation to discuss DA road progress). Any questions or comments? No questions.

**Secretary's Report:** Some mail such as bank statements. Have a new computer and printer.

#### **DA Report (Wayne):**

DA Committee Meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> October and summary of progress / timeline posted on the website.

#### **Ordinary Resolutions:**

1. To approve additional funds of \$21,611.90 to pay current invoices from Hones Lawyers (\$7,401.90) and the McLaren Traffic consultants (\$13,860).

**Rationale:** The original budget did not include the Traffic Impact Assessment report, the Pre-lodgement work or the costs for the Town-planner. With these inclusions further funds are required to pay current invoices. Although there are unspent funds in budget of \$2,640 this will be used to fund Lawyer's costs to review pre-lodgement Council comments.

Total Budget for DA Roads	Spent	Unspent	Current Invoices
32,080	29,794.30	2,640	21,611.90

**PROPOSED:** Wayne Skinner

**SECONDED:** Board

**Vote:** *Unanimous*

**PASSED**

2. To approve \$7,500 plus GST for the lawyers to prepare and lodge the appeal papers with the Land & Environment Court (LEC).

**Rationale:** Per the Timeline, the board sees the next steps after lodging the Amendment as lodging an Appeal with the LEC and then meeting with Council in a Conciliation conference. The Lawyers estimate the cost between \$4,000 and \$5,500 (excl GST) for the Lodgement of the Appeal step which would occur if the Council refuse the Amendment or do not respond in 41 days after the Amendment is submitted to council.

**PROPOSED:** Wayne Skinner **SECONDED:** Board

**Vote:** Unanimous

**PASSED**

3. To approve \$30,000 plus GST to continue the process of meeting with Council through an S34 Conciliation Conference.

**Rationale:** Lawyers estimate the costs to reach the s34 conference (conciliation meeting with council) at \$25,000 - \$30,000. These figures accord with the initial estimate of \$55,000 to \$65,000 provided by the Lawyers last year but does not include the cost of the work required to be carried out by traffic or town planning consultants. If further funds are required before the next GM then a Special General Meeting will be called for the purpose of asking Members whether to continue and if agreed requesting further funds.

**PROPOSED:** Wayne Skinner

**SECONDED:** Board

**Vote:** Unanimous

**PASSED**

4. To allow \$10000 for the cost of each Consultant (Traffic Engineer and Town Planner) for work up to the Conciliation Conference.

**Rationale:**

The Lawyers recommend that the board allows between \$5,000 and \$10,000 for each consultant's costs up to and including the final hearing (although we hope that the proceedings will be capable of resolution by way of an agreement between the parties at or prior to the s34 conciliation conference). If further funds are required before the next GM then a Special General Meeting will be called for the purpose of asking Members whether to continue and if agreed requesting further funds.

**PROPOSED:** Wayne Skinner

**SECONDED:** Board

**Vote:** Unanimous

**PASSED**

**Policy Report (Denise):**

Revised draft Guest Policy posted on the website for discussion and voting at the February GM.

**Treasurer's Report & Work Claims:** Treasurer's report and Annual Financial Statement were tabled.

There were no work claims.

**PROPOSAL:** To accept Treasurer's Report and Work Claims.

**PROPOSED:** John Tennock

**SECONDED:** Wayne Skinner

**Vote: For: 17**

**Abstain: 1**

**PASSED**

**Road Report (Craig):** George McKeon not able to come for some time due to wet weather and a long-standing contract to complete work elsewhere. Craig and Kevin looking into alternate contractors. Lots of ideas were floated. Suggestion that we do potholing at a working bee.

**Machinery Report (Kevin and Ralph):****Membership Report (Julica):****Proposals:**

1. To accept Natalie Lawler as eligible for Membership of Goolawah Co-operative and to ratify her as a joint member with Gerard Shea.

Rationale:

Natalie has fulfilled all requirements & successfully went through the membership process .

**Proposed:** Justine Shaw

**Seconded:** Julica Jungehülsing

**Vote:** Unanimous

**PASSED**

2. To accept Caleb Reid-Boquist as eligible for Membership of Goolawah Co-operative.

Rationale:

Caleb successfully went through the membership process and has fulfilled all requirements.

**Proposed:** Trinh Ngyuen

**Seconded:** Marty Cole

**Vote:** Unanimous

**PASSED**

**Fire and Flood Report (Craig):****Fire Management Plan**

There is an increased fuel load due to the ongoing wet weather. The best time to prepare for fire is when it is cool and wet. The cut off date for slashing blocks was 15<sup>th</sup> November. Craig has approached some members about clearing and slashing. Some informal assistance has also been offered.

Floods: The catchment is saturated so any further rain has the potential to cause flooding. If concerned check on the BOM website and search NSW River Heights. Once the river height comes up to 1m Illa Langi will flood.

**Land Care Report (Craig): -**

Forest Trails: Forest trails are necessary for fire management, access and tie in with Asset Protection Zones. They also provide amenity as walking trails. Kevin will produce a map for discussion so that informed decisions about future trails can be made. Jac, Andrew and Denise have offered to help with this task.

Local Landcare Services: The koala sniffing dogs came and located a lot of koala scat. They would like to come again and look at the area east of the beach track as a possible conservation area. The agreement would be up to 5 years. Craig has paperwork to complete which would give us access to a lot of LLS programs (such as feral pig control) and could include funding. It was agreed he should complete the paperwork and continue communicating with LLS.

## New Dam

### **Proposal:**

To approve a new dam on Red Hill, built and funded by a group of members.

Location would be behind the lots of Jac/Ric/Sam/Erika/, possibly connecting to the existing big dam. It would be completely on community land.

### **Rationale**

Several members don't have access to dam water due to the location of their shares in the moment. They'd like to build this new, large dam to improve irrigation options and water collection.

**Proposed:** Marty Cole

**Seconded:** Frank Dykshoorn

There was a lot of discussion about this proposal. Some points included:-

- The need for access to irrigation and recreation water for Red Hill residents currently locked out of existing water supply;
- Approval would allow the work to be completed when the machine is available;
- The proposed area has the best catchment and would augment the existing water supply;
- There would be considerable visual and environmental impact for the nearest residents;
- Currently the money for construction isn't available and there may be a request for the community to subsidise construction;
- Some residents felt the proposal was rushed and there has been no time for proper consultation and consideration;
- No map showing the location of the proposed dam has been provided.

**Vote: For: 3**

**Against: 8**

**Abstain: 9**

The proposal was lost but can be presented to another meeting.

**Social Committee Report:** There will be a NYE function this year. Bah Humbug will be happening on Christmas Day.

### **Project updates:**

1. Red Hill Last Resort (Julica). Virtually finished inside but could do with some support from members to complete. Suggest a 5 hour working bee with a few people who are handy with tools to complete before Christmas. Denise will prepare the emergency evacuation plan.

2. Accessible toilet (Wayne). The accessible toilet is almost finished. The water tap will be connected before Christmas. Old toilet decommissioned – do not use. Round of thanks to Wayne and Men's Shed.
3. Camp Kitchen (Bronwyn). There is now instant hot water in the kitchen and the gas stove is legally connected. It came in at \$2005.92 –\$ 5.92 over budget. Round of thanks to Bronwyn for organising this.
4. Red Hill Boomerang Garden. Some planting has been done. The rest will be done in Autumn.
5. Red Hill Playground. No money has been spent yet. Some play equipment damaged or wearing out. The pump track is most popular but needs some work with machinery.
6. Cemetery

**General Business:**

1. Regular working bees: put on hold due to Covid.
2. Dave Van Megchelen's proposal to update and maintain roads – no proposal received.
3. Outback survey (Wayne). There were some problems with access and boundaries in the outback. Wayne has consulted with the other residents and has re-surveyed some blocks and access roads. The new boundaries have been adjusted and located on the updated site plan.

**Next Director's Meeting:** Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2022 Camp Kitchen 9:00am *(If you'd like to attend, please email a request to the Secretary at [secretary.goolawah@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.goolawah@gmail.com) at least 48 hours before the meeting).*

**Next General Meeting:** Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2022 Camp Kitchen 9:00am  
**Meeting Closed:** 12:10