



All communications to be addressed to the General Manager

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Briefing notes Community Forum 25th November, 2017

The Brewarrina Shire Council is committed to working with the community to secure long term sustainable job opportunities in tourism, construction and development and wants to ensure that the community is engaged and involved in working with Council on that future.

Today Council held a briefing on business, tourism and construction opportunities that have started, others that are in the planning stages and opportunities that are being considered.

Council is keen to seek community feedback on the proposals and has and will provide an opportunity for questions, comments and ongoing community dialogue.

Clr Phillip (Ocker)O'Conner

Jeff Sowiak

Mayor of Brewarrina Shire Council

General Manager

1. Brewarrina Fish Traps Suspension Bridge

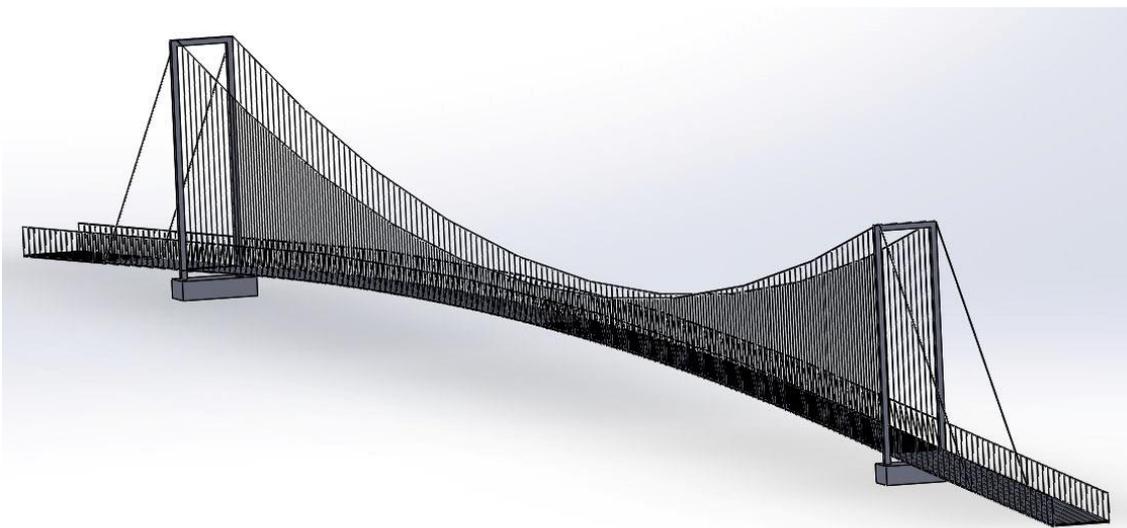
The Brewarrina Fish Traps may be one of the oldest human constructions in the world. They have been listed on the State Heritage Register and the National Heritage List. They are a significant cultural heritage site and an attraction for both Aboriginal and non-aboriginal people.

Council has a proposal to construct a suspension bridge over the Barwon River that would provide a unique tourism experience. This proposal is an opportunity to develop Brewarrina as an icon for Aboriginal cultural experience, generating long term employment opportunities in tourism, accommodation as well as sustainability of the cultural museum and its art and historical collection.

The project will involve the construction of a walking/wheelchair accessible suspension bridge over the Barwon River at Brewarrina. The bridge would link the aboriginal museum to the community of Barwon 4 and provide a suspended viewing platform over the Heritage Listed Brewarrina Aboriginal Fish Traps (Baiaame's Ngunnhu).

Much of the structure will need to be suspended above river flood height or able to withstand flood inundation with footings and construction that minimises any disruption to the culturally sensitive area. The structure must also avoid disturbance to significant cultural areas and sites and blend in with the Aboriginal museum and surrounds. The project design location will require cultural heritage clearance and support from the Local Aboriginal Land Council, Working party and traditional owners.

Council believes that the project will put Brewarrina on the map in terms of tourist destinations and a viewing platform would entice many visitors to the area, both local and international and generate significant employment opportunities in tourism, accommodation and service related industries. By partnering with the Museum Trust and community this project is promoted as a potential to offer long term employment.



2. Kangaroo Abattoir

The site of the old Roo Abattoir has laid idle for almost 13 years. In its heyday this abattoir processed over 2,000 roo's per day and directly employed approximately 50 people both in full time and casual roles. There were also significant community employment opportunities in roo shooting, freight, marketing and service industries.

The current owner of the property is using it as a storage depot for plant and equipment. Council is seeking to see if there is an opportunity to get a roo abattoir going again.

Because of the time that has passed, there will be a lot of work that needs to be done on the plant, but the power, water, road and possibly disposal issues are addressed. However, the reality is that it may be more practical to start with a new abattoir processing plant.

A project of this nature would involve the attraction of a private/government investor and Council is working with State agencies to try and work through the process.

The new owner would also need to obtain a Fauna Dealer Wholesaler License. i.e the permit to accept and process kangaroos. The current owner of the Fauna License for this area operates other abattoirs in other states and is holding the license and not doing anything with it.

Given the prolonged drought and great numbers of kangaroos in the region there will be no shortage of supply.



3. Goodooga Road Sealing

Council has repeatedly sought funding for the sealing of the Goodooga Road from Brewarrina through to Hebel in QLD and has been successful in attracting grant funding for a substantial part of this to be undertaken.

The total length of the unsealed section of the road is approximately 96 km. There is 32 km of unsealed road between Goodooga and the QLD border with Balonne Shire in Queensland. There is 64 km of unsealed road between Goodooga and the sealed section of the road, North of Brewarrina. The total cost of the project is \$42.6m and Council has been allocated \$21.3m at this stage from the NSW State Government.

Currently the project is in the planning stage with work being done to arrange for the design, sourcing material for the road base, and other project related activities.

In addition to the unsealed sections of the project, there is a need to replace and upgrade two existing bridges; these are the Dumble Bridge and Muckerawa Bridge. The total cost of the bridge replacement is \$3.4m and Council has secured funding of \$1.7m from the Commonwealth with the balance coming from the Goodooga Road allocation.

It is anticipated that the project will be staged over three to four years so there will be some long term benefits in terms of the community of Goodooga especially and for Brewarrina as well.

The benefits for this community are :

- **Employment.** Depending on how the project is funded, it will deliver at least 8 new staff positions during construction and significantly improve the viability of service industries, accommodation and related services.
- **Permanent Camp Goodooga:**
 - Council has already established a permanent camp at the Goodooga depot to accommodate 10 Staff.
 - The bridge building projects will also involve the engagement of contractors and staff.
- **Plant or contractors:** Council will need to purchase around \$1.8m of plant and engage contractors, including grader, rollers, road trains for both water and gravel as well as quarry and concrete batching operations.
- **Economic Benefits:** The new sealed road will greatly improve the movement of freight and visitors in and around the shire, adding another significant long term employment and economic benefit.

Council is still waiting on final documentations from the State Government to confirm the final allocation and approvals for work to commence. Council's Manager of Transport Amer Tawlik will be the Project Manager and will have overall responsibility for the final design and supervision of the works.

4. Sewerage Treatment Plant

The Brewarrina sewerage treatment plant was constructed in 1969 and is reaching the end of its useful design life. It is also subject to flood water which has impacted on the foundations and this has destabilised the existing facility. The oxidation ponds and drying beds are flooded during high flood events, leading to an increase in the risk of pollution and public health issues.

The replacement of the Sewerage Treatment Plant at Brewarrina is a key component of Council's infrastructure to improve the amenity of living in this part of the State, and to reduce the risk of public health issues.

Council has attracted funding for this work and has finalised the design.

Because of the high level of evaporation in this area it is proposed that the sewerage treatment involve the construction of large evaporation ponds. These ponds will hold treated water and will be constructed on land opposite the current cemetery, as this provides the best location in terms of level access for the evaporation ponds.

The modern plant construction will involve primary and secondary treatment to minimise any odours and the size of the ponds will ensure that there is sufficient capacity for treated water to evaporate.

As the area of land on which the sewerage treatment plant is to be constructed is currently a Crown Reserve under management of the Common Trustees and subject to native title claims, Council is seeking approval from the Brewarrina Aboriginal Land Council, the Common Committee and the community generally to allow this facility to be constructed.

The total project cost is approximately \$3.5m and Council will be contracting out this work. It is anticipated that the work will commence next financial year, once land title issues are completed.

Council has plans and drawings available for consideration and David Kirby the Manager of Utility Services will be responsible for the overall design and Management of the project.



5. Geoff New Oval Grandstand and Clubhouse

The Amenities building at the Geoff New Oval was constructed in the 1960's and is in need of a makeover.

The proposal is to construct a new grandstand and clubhouse on Geoff New Oval. This project will provide facilities for users and spectators at the Geoff New Oval.

Key features of the project:

(1) Development of a Club House, incorporating:

- Multi-purpose Club room, to be used for fitness classes, martial Arts, indoor recreation, community and sporting club meetings and Small functions.
- Kiosk with kitchen / catering facilities
- Toilets and storage.

(2) Spectator Facilities: Stepped spectator seating on either side of the Club House.

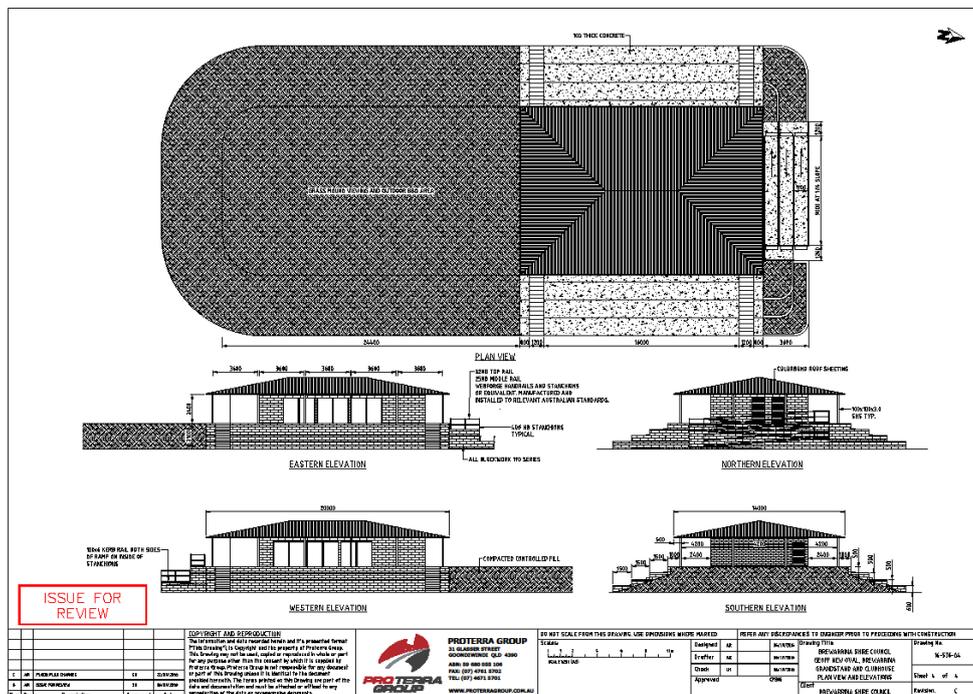
- Long grass berm for informal seating, with viewing of both playing fields.
- Outdoor sealed and covered area for barbeques and other activities.

(3) Refurbishment of the existing showers and toilets

(4) Improvements to the lighting, PA system, car park and fencing.

(5) Installation of security system.

Council has completed the design and is seeking \$980k in funding to complete the project.



6. Goodooga Mineral Baths

Council has identified the need to develop long term opportunities for employment and business development across the whole of the Shire and one proposal that has gathered support has been the concept of constructing a mineral Bath at Goodooga. This proposal was strongly supported by the local community and consequently Council has been successful in attracting grant funding to undertake the project.

The project will involve the fabrication of a shallow pool suitable for mineral bath, the construction of a toilet /change room, connection of the hot spring bore water, fencing, parking area and landscaping. The new Mineral Baths will provide a long term opportunity for tourism attraction, as well as a valuable community facility which is desperately needed in this small remote community. Council will engage contractors to complete the construction of the mineral baths and associated toilet and fencing and will utilize the current town bore to supply the heated mineral water.

Once completed, the mineral bath will attract visitors to the township, particularly the caravan and camping travellers who chase opportunities to experience hot artesian baths. The Mineral bath will also provide respite for locals and ongoing employment in food shops and café's associated with increasing tourism numbers. Local contractors will be involved in the construction and transport of materials to the site during the construction stage. The increase in visitor numbers will greatly improve the viability for the reopening of the Community Store that was destroyed by fire several years ago and is currently in the planning and construction stage. Combined with the Goodooga Road sealing Council believes that there is a significant growth and improvement ahead for the township



7. Industrial & Medical Waste Facility

Have you ever had a CAT-Scan, X-RAY, cancer treatment, dental procedure or complex surgery and wondered about how the stuff that goes into those little vials is produced or how important it is today to have facilities that can produce nuclear medicines.

We tend to take it for granted that we use nuclear medicine in hospitals on a daily basis. At present over 10,000 people each week receive a medical treatment involving the use of radioactive isotopes produced at the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) Opal Reactor at Lucas Heights near Sydney. I personally have had radioactive iodine injected into my body several times during heart surgery, so that the doctor can see where to place life-saving heart stents. I am sure that many of you would have had friends or relatives who have had similar experiences.

Australia is the world leader in the production of nuclear medicines designed to assist with the diagnosis and treatment of heart disease, bone injuries and a range of cancers.

Clearly, the need to produce radioactive Isotopes, the compounds that make such procedures possible, is a life-saving innovation. Obviously the manufacture and use of radioactive isotopes in medical procedures or the use of nuclear science in materials testing and identifying defects in aircraft and critical manufacturing components produces waste.

Some of that waste takes the form of cleaning cloths, personal protective equipment, empty containers and instruments. The waste that we are talking about has potentially been generated from manufacturing isotopes that are used in our bodies and are currently stored at Lucas Heights and in hospitals all around Australia. A small percentage of the waste that is produced, when manufacturing nuclear medicines and testing materials etc., about 10m³ per year, needs to be stored in a facility specifically designed for the storage of low level radioactive waste.

There is an opportunity for this community to take the lead within Australia by hosting the storage of this nuclear medical & industrial waste. There are significant benefits for this community if such a facility is built. There is direct funding for community infrastructure and at least 15 permanent jobs and a host of service, transport and manufacturing opportunities.

Councillors have undertaken a study tour of the waste storage facilities in Lucas Heights and stood in the room full of drums of low level nuclear waste, we have stood next to and leaned on the medium level nuclear waste container and we see this as a great opportunity for a long term sustainable employment future for our community.

Council has engaged a consultant to provide you with some more information. Mr Robert Parker will make a presentation and answer questions about what this waste is and what such a facility would look like. Robert is an Engineer and past President of the Australian Nuclear Association, Robert has a Masters in nuclear science from the Australian National University.