

12 February 2026

February Council Meeting Brief

Australia Day

Australia Day celebrations held across the Australia Day weekend showcased the strong community spirit of Coonamble Shire, with Council congratulating all award recipients and nominees.

Australia Day Ambassador Katryna Robinson, founder of the charity *Every Little Bit Helps*, joined the celebrations, recognising her ongoing work supporting people experiencing homelessness across Australia.

A dinner for nominees was held on Sunday evening with Mayor Dan Keady, Jamie Chaffey MP and Mrs Judy Chaffey, while Deputy Mayor Steve Butler attended the Gulargambone dinner, acknowledging the dedication and pride of the local community.

Monday's Australia Day Awards ceremony was a highlight of the weekend, celebrating the many individuals who contribute their time and effort to strengthening the community. Council also thanks the Rotary Club of Coonamble and the Coonamble CWA for their support.

Access to Paediatric Services in Coonamble Shire

Coonamble Shire Council has been approached by the Coonamble Aboriginal Health Service (CAHS) regarding the urgent need to improve access to paediatric services for local children, amid ongoing shortages of paediatricians across inland NSW.

Currently, wait times of more than two years are common, with some children waiting since kindergarten to see a specialist. These delays can have significant short- and long-term impacts on children's development, learning, behaviour and social wellbeing.

CAHS has been working with medical charity Little Wings, which has advised it can provide a qualified paediatrician to visit Coonamble one day per month on an ongoing basis, at an annual cost of \$18,000. Council will play an advocacy and facilitation role in supporting the establishment of this much-needed service.

To help secure the service as soon as possible, Council has committed \$9,000 in one-off seed funding to commence the program. Council will also continue to advocate strongly to State and Federal Government, and seek additional external funding sources, to secure the remaining funds required and ensure the long-term sustainability of paediatric services in Coonamble Shire.

Tallegar Creek Causeway

The successful tenderer for the Tallegar Creek Causeway project has been appointed. Conseth Solutions Pty Ltd has been awarded the contract.

Sale of Land for Unpaid Rates

Council has rescheduled the public auction for the Sale of Land for Unpaid Rates to a proposed new date in May 2026. The revised timing is intended to maximise the likelihood of a successful auction outcome.

All 31 properties previously advertised in the Government Gazette remain listed for sale.

Aerodrome Fence

Work has officially commenced on the construction of the animal exclusion fence. It is expected to take approximately two weeks to complete.

Unsealed Road Maintenance

Over the past month, Council staff have been actively undertaking maintenance works on a number of unsealed roads across the Shire. A key focus throughout December has been natural disaster restoration to repair and improve impacted road networks.

Significant progress has also been made on reforming and reshaping Wingadee Road, with further works still to be completed.

Gulargambone Youth Centre

Significant progress has been achieved at the Gulargambone Youth Centre, with recent repairs completed to ensure the facility is now fully compliant with Work Health and Safety standards. The Centre has now moved into the recruitment phase, seeking casual staff to support the launch of an after-school care program. This initiative is expected to deliver valuable support to local children and families.

Water Supply and Restrictions

Current water restrictions in Coonamble are the result of ongoing issues with the town's water filtration system, combined with increased demand during the hot January weather. The restrictions are necessary to manage water use, maintain supply and ensure the continued safety and reliability of drinking water while essential repairs are carried out. Council staff are working diligently to resolve the issue and minimise disruption, and Council sincerely thanks residents and local businesses for their patience, cooperation and water-wise efforts, which have significantly reduced demand and helped replenish water tower reservoirs.

Current Restrictions

Residents are currently able to hand water gardens between the hours of 7:00pm and 7:00am ONLY. Hand watering includes:

- Handheld hose with trigger nozzle
- Bucket or watering can

The following activities are still STRICTLY PROHIBITED:

- Sprinklers and irrigation
- Washing vehicles, caravans, boats, or trailers
- Filling or topping up swimming pools, spas, or water features
- Hosing driveways, paths, buildings, or hard surfaces

All other restrictions will need to be adhered to, including the Boil Water Alert.

All water used for drinking or food preparation must be brought to a rolling boil to make it safe.

Kettles with automatic shut-off switches can be used.

After boiling, allow water to cool, store it in a clean container with a lid, and refrigerate.

Use bottled water or cooled boiled water for:

- Drinking
- Washing uncooked food (fruit and salad vegetables)
- Making ice
- Cleaning teeth and gargling
- Pet drinking water

Additional advice:

- Wash dishes in hot soapy water or use a dishwasher
- Children should take bottled or cooled boiled water to school
- Tap water is safe for bathing, however, avoid swallowing water. Parents and carers may consider sponge baths for children

Updates will be available via Councils Website and Facebook as the situation changes