

# EDWARD RIVER COUNCIL

## CONFEST MEETING MINUTES

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Venue: Conargo Shire Council Office, 122 End St, Deniliquin  
Date: 17 May, 2016  
Time: Commenced 11.00 am  
Chair: Barry Barlow , Deputy General Manager, Edward River Council

### 1. PRESENT:

Steve Worthington, Jy Brown (NSW Police) James Puniard (RFS) Kev Prior (NSW Health) Steve Poynton, Simon Byers, Malcolm Matthews, Matt English, Troy Reid, David Cruise, Kate Shapiro (Down To Earth) Norm Brennan , Marie Sutton, Barry Barlow (Edward River Council),

### 2. Agency Reports

NSW Police –Steve Worthington, Jy Brown

- Reported that there was a reduction in Drug Detections at this year's Easter Confest. Car searches using dogs have been conducted annually prior to each event. Better co-operation was noted from patrons this year during drug detection operations. Six charges were made for drug detections
- User pays for next Easter Confest was discussed. Police are happy to have a police presence on site to assist event organisers with crowd management and security on a user pays basis. DTE committee was urged to keep in mind for next year's event as police will be pushing for user pays.
- Discussion about a MVA that occurred at the entrance to the site. A car collided with the back of a vehicle turning to enter the confest site. No injuries reported and it did not appear that Police had been notified .

NSW Rural Fire Service – James Puniard

- From a Rural Fire perspective this year's event was better organised and had better cooking circles and other fire safety measures in place, than in previous years
- There were 2 incidents of deliberately lit fires along the roadside – opposite the confest site .
- Council was also contacted by brigade members who had concerns about fires in the vicinity of the of the confest site.
- RFS had a presence on site this year for community engagement. Officers were on-site for 3 days of the event and felt that this was a successful exercise.

- Requested earlier notification prior to onsite inspections for Easter Confest to allow an officer to attend.
- Require that Confest have an up to date quality assurance plan and contingency plan for the water supply. Kevin tabled the documents at the meeting and will further liaise with the committee to assist them in providing the required information and documentation.

### **3. Traffic Control Plan**

- Council advised that the traffic control measures documented in the Event Management Plan were not implemented and it was evident that traffic management was not effective. Council requires that a traffic management plan be provided prior to the Easter Confest. This is to be drawn up by a suitably qualified person . Council may be able to assist (on a cost basis) or an independent qualified person may be used. The plan will need to be approved by Council prior to the event.
- An updated event management plan and Emergency Response Plan is to be provided to Council and NSW Police prior to the Easter Confest event

### **4. Food Safety Documentation:**

- The provision of the required documentation for food stall holders at the Easter Confest was not satisfactory. Council will require the Confest organisers to ensure that all the necessary documentation is provided to them by stall holders prior to the event and provided to Council before the inspections are carried out. The documentation should also be available on site. Council has the authority to prevent the operation of a food stall if the necessary documentation is not available or if serious food safety breaches are detected. Council will forward a list of the required documentation to the DTE committee.

### **5. Water contingency supply**

- Issues relating to the Blue green Algae outbreak at the Easter Confest were discussed. Procedures need to be formally documented to ensure that the necessary measures can be implemented in the event of such events that compromise water safety.

### **6. Compliance inspection costs**

- Council advised that it would be necessary to implement a cost to recover the costs associated with assessing compliance documentation and inspections for each Confest event.
- The committee was asked to put forward ideas on what they thought was the best means of implementing this cost , with options considered on a per head or per hour basis. The committee will come back to council with their preferred cost implementation means.

## **7. General Business**

The holding of a Summer Confest event was discussed. RFS and NSW Police advised that a Summer Confest would not be supported due to lack of resources in the area at that time and due to the fire risk being too great at that time of year. Council advised that without the support of RFS and NSW Police it would not consider approval for a summer event as the risk to patrons and the surrounding communities was too great.

The holding of a confest event at another time outside the summer fire danger period was discussed and NSW Police and RFS agreed in principle that they may be supportive of this provided it was not held on Ute Muster Weekend (October long weekend ) Council advised that if DTE wished to submit a proposal for an alternative date then this would be assessed and referred NSW Police and RFS for their comments.

**Meeting closed**