



COMMUNITY MEETING – TUESDAY 25 MARCH 2025
CAMEL LANE THEATRE
COMMENCEMENT: 5.30PM

ATTENDANCE:

Shire of Carnarvon

Mr Eddie Smith	Shire President
Cr Paul Kelly.....	Councillor, Town Ward
Cr Luke Skender.....	Councillor, Town Ward
Cr Marco Ferreira.....	Councillor, Plantation Ward
Cr Luke Vandeleur.....	Councillor, Town Ward
Mrs Amanda Dexter.....	Chief Executive Officer
Mrs Amanda Leighton	Executive Manager,
Mr Stefan Louw	Executive Manager
Mrs Renee Louw.....	ICT Support Officer
Jamie Bone	Executive Business Manager
Giana Covella	Strategic Communications & Economic Development Manager

Community in Attendance

C Radevicius
Denise Kealley
Andrey Robson
Tom O'Brien
Sue Smith
Ernie Reynolds
Paquita Boston
Chris Boston
Cameron Perry
Thomas Jellinek
Richard Oakley
Marion Oakley

1. Welcome and Acknowledgment:

- Mandy Dexter opened the meeting by greeting attendees and recognising the traditional owners of the land, the Inga people.

2. Leadership Updates:

- Introduction of the new executive team, aiming for contemporary leadership in key areas like community planning, lifestyle performance, and infrastructure services.

3. Major Projects:

- The town president emphasised approximately \$40 million in upcoming projects including housing, a regional airport runway upgrade, and a significant development in Coral Bay.

4. Youth and Public Safety:

- Discussions centred around rising antisocial behaviour among youth and associated measures. The local government is pursuing a no-confidence vote towards the state and federal governments for systemic failures in youth services.

5. Community Engagement:

- Engaging with community members, addressing feedback from past meetings, and emphasizing the importance of collaboration with various stakeholders.

Key Insights

Introduction

Mandy Dexter opened the meeting by welcoming participants and acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land, the Inga people. She emphasized the importance of community engagement and informed the audience that the meeting would also serve to address several questions previously gathered from community members.

Executive Management Structure

Dexter introduced the new executive team and outlined a streamlined management structure focused on four primary areas: community planning and sustainability, lifestyle and community performance, economic development, and corporate strategy. The newly appointed executive managers are Stefan Low and Amanda Leighton, who both hold long-standing ties to the community, which is seen as a strength for future initiatives. The CEO expressed optimism about filling the position of executive manager of infrastructure services soon, anticipating a complete management team by early May.

Major Projects and Financial Investments

Exciting developments were highlighted, with potential investments in Canarvon amounting to \$25-\$30 million. Discussions included the ongoing Coral Bay developments, including the RAAC project and the Peoples' Park, both of which promise to elevate the tourism appeal of the region. Another vital project mentioned was the Canarvon airport runway upgrade, aimed at enhancing the region's connectivity. The community was informed of a new strategic projects team that is expected to formalize planning around significant initiatives, such as the Canarvon activation plan.

Challenges and Community Concerns

The meeting didn't shy away from sensitive issues, addressing the rise in antisocial behaviour among youth. The CEO and council representatives expressed frustration with systemic failures in child protection services and youth justice, which have contributed to increasing juvenile

crime rates. It was reaffirmed that a motion of no confidence has been declared against state services for their inaction in dealing with at-risk youth.

Concerns were raised about the availability and effectiveness of programs targeting youth delinquency. Local leaders urged for more substantial community-led initiatives that provide proper support and preventive measures for at-risk youth, emphasizing the need for long-term strategies rather than reactionary policing.

Community Involvement and Immediate Actions

A significant portion of the meeting was dedicated to community feedback and dialogue. Issues raised included the need for improved youth engagement, the responsibility of parents, and the importance of community involvement in addressing these pressing social issues. The audience expressed a desire for greater communication about their rights when addressing youth behaviour, advocating the involvement of police and social services in parental support initiatives.

The council representatives acknowledged the importance of sports and community activities in engaging youth positively. They discussed ongoing efforts to revitalize local sports by generating volunteer involvement.

Conclusion

The meeting concluded with a call to action for the community to remain proactive in addressing local concerns and supporting council efforts. The representatives reassured attendees that they would continue to push for necessary funding and policy changes from higher levels of government. There was a clear commitment among the council and leadership to improve communication and sustain community engagement in future meetings.

1. Leadership and Structure Changes

- **New Executive Team:**
 - The newly formed executive team is comprised of local residents with a vested interest in the community. This change aims to ensure a direct link between leadership and the residents' needs.
 - Key positions have been filled, and an executive manager for infrastructure services is anticipated, enhancing the council's operational capacity.
- **Continuity and Sustainability:**
 - The leadership changes are designed to offer continuity in governance with a focus on long-term planning and project management, impacting budget discussions positively.

2. Major Project Developments

- **Financial Commitment:**
 - The community is looking at a variety of significant projects with a total investment estimated between \$25 to \$30 million, covering infrastructure improvements in housing, tourism sites, and recreational areas.
- **Regional Airport Upgrade:**

- A proposed \$8 million investment aims to enhance the Canavan Airport, which would facilitate more efficient air travel and improve accessibility. Increased tourism traffic is anticipated as a result.

- **Community Facilities:**

- Development of spaces such as the 'People's Park' in Coral Bay is highlighted as a means to enhance local tourism and living standards, ensuring that the area remains an attractive destination.

3. Antisocial Behaviour and Youth Crime

- **Rising Concerns:**

- There is significant concern surrounding youth-related antisocial behaviour linked to systemic failures in local youth services. The council is advocating for changes through a motion of no confidence against governmental bodies failing to address these issues.

- **Community Initiatives:**

- The meeting addressed the need for increased funding and support for youth programs. Advocating for mechanisms that engage youth in positive activities rather than criminal behaviours is seen as vital to addressing the community's needs.

- **Parental Involvement:**

- Several participants voiced the need for greater involvement of parents in the discourse surrounding youth behaviour, emphasizing that many issues stem from a lack of discipline and support.

4. Community Communication and Engagement

- **Stakeholder Interaction:**

- The emphasis on keeping an open dialogue with community members has led to initiatives ensuring that the council remains attuned to public sentiment and local opinions on governance.

- **Future Meetings:**

- The necessity for ongoing community meetings to maintain transparency and encourage participation in local governance processes is highlighted as essential for fostering trust between residents and elected officials.

FAQs

1. What are the main goals of the new executive team?

- The new executive team aims to enhance community engagement, streamline governance, and promote local development.

2. What key projects are being discussed for investment?

- Major projects include housing developments, airport upgrades, and leisure facilities, with investments estimated at around \$40 million.

3. How does the council plan to address youth crime?

- The council is advocating for enhanced youth services and has proposed a no-confidence motion against state governments for systemic failures affecting youth programs.

4. What role do community members have in these projects?

- Community members are encouraged to participate and provide input in future meetings, thus fostering transparency and collaborative decision-making.

5. When is the next community meeting?

- The next community meeting is expected to occur in June, with an emphasis on further discussion of ongoing projects and community concerns.

Summary

In the second community meeting led by Mandy Dexter, the CEO of the Shire of Carnarvon, various topics significant to the local community were discussed, including updates about the executive team, ongoing and upcoming projects, issues concerning youth crime and antisocial behaviour, and community involvement and support systems.

Highlights

- Introduction and welcome from CEO Mandy Dexter
 - Acknowledgment of traditional owners, Inga people
 - Updates on new executive management structure
 - Announcement of significant financial investments and major projects in progress
 - Discussions on youth crime and public safety concerns
 - Open for for community questions and concerns
-