
**NARROMINE SHIRE COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING BUSINESS PAPER – 14 MAY 2025
QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE REPORT**

The following Questions with Notice have been received:-

Questions with Notice from Cr Roberts

1. WATER HEIGHT SENSOR

What is the status of the Narromine River water height sensor on the bridge?

Response from Director Infrastructure and Engineering Services

WaterNSW owns and maintains a network of electronic river gauges across New South Wales that provide publicly accessible, real-time data on water levels. The closest gauge to Narromine is the "Baroona" gauge, located approximately halfway between Narromine and Dubbo.

Council does not currently have any budget allocated for the installation of a gauge within Narromine township, nor has a suitable location typically a bridge been identified for such infrastructure. Council could request to enter into an agreement with WaterNSW to install and maintain a gauge at a specific location. It is estimated that installation would cost approximately \$20,000, with ongoing annual maintenance costs of around \$5,000. In this instance WaterNSW would take on maintenance responsibilities and the data would be made available on their website.

Council notes that, while gauges can provide helpful indicators of river levels, they may not always offer an accurate reflection of flood impacts in town due to variations in flood behaviour.

2. MAIN STREET SECURITY CAMERAS

Have the main street security cameras been beneficial since being installed?

Response from Director Community and Economic Development

The Street Watch system continues to prove beneficial to the community. There are many instances where staff are aware of the footage being used to investigate activities including break and entering, lighting of fires and stealing of motor vehicles.

The Police can access the CCTV in real time and also the recorded footage.

3. PEOPLE SLEEPING IN THE STREETS OR GARDENS

What is Council's position on people sleeping in the streets or gardens?

Response from Director Governance

The NSW Government Protocol for Homeless People in Public Places provides that people experiencing homelessness have the same rights as any member of the public to: -

- Be in public places
- Participate in public activities and events
- Carry with them and manage their own belongings
- Request or decline support to assistance

The Department of Communities and Justice is the lead agency for the Protocol.

A Council Officer or Police Officer can only approach a homeless person if: -

- They ask for help
- They look upset or like they need help
- Their behaviour makes them unsafe, or people around them unsafe
- They might or have damaged property, the environment or places of cultural value
- They are staying in a place that is unhealthy or unsafe for them, or people around them i.e. out in times of very bad weather, or staying in an unsafe building
- They are a child or young person under the age of 18 and known to be a 'child in care'
- The Council Officer/Police Officer wants to give them information.

If a homeless person is behaving in a manner that is a threat to themselves or others or is considered to be in breach of the peace, a Council Officer will call the Police for assistance.

4. SUBMITTING CRMs

Are staff encouraged to submit a CRM if they notice a problem in roads or buildings?

Response from Director Infrastructure and Engineering Services

Staff are actively encouraged to report any problems or defects identified in roads, buildings, or other infrastructure assets. When such issues are identified, staff are advised to report them to their supervisors. These reports may result in the scheduling of immediate works or, where appropriate, inclusion on the "long term project" list to be considered in future budget planning.

Defects and issues identified during routine Asset Inspections are also logged as Customer Request Management (CRM) entries to ensure they are tracked and addressed systematically.

Questions With Notice from Cr Smith

5. FIRE OUTBREAKS AT THE NARROMINE TIP

In recent months, there have been several fires at the Narromine tip.
What measures is Council taking to minimise outbreaks of fire at the Narromine tip?

Response from Director Infrastructure and Engineering Services

Council takes the risk of fire at the Narromine Waste Facility very seriously and has implemented several proactive measures to minimise the likelihood of future incidents. These include:

- Slashing vegetation and placing ballast across the southern area of the site to reduce flammable material and improve emergency access.
- Restricting public access to active waste cells to help prevent the illegal dumping of hazardous materials, such as batteries, which are known ignition sources.
- Upskilling Council staff in fire management and emergency response procedures to ensure faster, more effective action when incidents occur.
- Collaborating closely with the Narromine Rural Fire Service (RFS) to strengthen site monitoring, preparedness, and response coordination.

The following works are scheduled in the next 12 months:

- Reducing the size of the open tip face.
- Installing litter fences to better contain loose material.
- Improving site security through new fencing and CCTV surveillance.

Council is also working closely with NetWaste to enhance community education, including the delivery of three school-based programs, distribution of updated waste information flyers with upcoming rates notices, and an increased focus on social media engagement.

Council's kerbside collection provider takes a proactive approach to monitoring household waste, using bin-mounted cameras to identify non-compliant materials. This process includes rejecting bins containing inappropriate items and issuing advisory letters to residents to improve compliance and reduce contamination.

6. SCREENING PROCESSES TO DETECT TOXIC SMOKE

Does Council have any screening processes in place to detect toxic smoke that nearby residents are subjected to?

Response from Director Infrastructure and Engineering Services

While Council does not currently operate fixed toxic smoke detection systems at the Narromine Waste Facility, it actively monitors conditions in collaboration with the Rural Fire Service (RFS) during and after any fire event. The scale and duration of recent fires have been limited; however, Council remains vigilant and responsive to any potential environmental and public health impacts, including the generation of smoke and airborne pollutants.

6. SCREENING PROCESSES TO DETECT TOXIC SMOKE (Cont'd)

As Narromine Waste Facility is not licenced to receive hazardous material (e.g. paints or chemicals) at this stage it is not expected that the fumes released to the community are harmful. However, in line with Council's Pollution Incident Response Management Plan, Council ensures that all neighbouring properties are promptly notified in the event of a fire and information including prevailing wind direction is given.

Council reports all fires to the EPA.

7. EVACUATION PLAN

Does Council have an evacuation plan (including accommodation) for neighbours in the event of toxic smoke or fire placing their residence at risk?

Response from Director Infrastructure and Engineering Services

Council has established emergency protocols through the Pollution Incident Response Management Plan (PIRMP), which includes the prompt notification of neighbouring properties in the event of a fire or other pollution risk. The plan also details emergency evacuation areas. In circumstances where a fire may pose a direct threat to nearby residences, Council would coordinate with the Rural Fire Service and emergency management agencies to assess risk levels and implement evacuations if necessary. While Council does not maintain a dedicated accommodation plan, in an emergency situation it would work with relevant state agencies and local service providers to facilitate temporary shelter and support for affected residents.

8. ROAMING DOGS AND DOG ATTACKS

What measures are Council employing to deal with the increasing issue of roaming dogs and dog attacks in Narromine?

Response from Director Governance

The Companion Animals Act 1998 provides that dog owners have a legal responsibility for ensuring that their dogs are under effective control and are not a threat to the community. Dog owners are liable if their dog attacks another person or another animal. Council reports dog attacks to the Office of Local Government.

Compliance and Enforcement varies depending on the specific circumstances and contexts of each matter.

Nuisance orders may be issued for consistently roaming dogs. Dependent on the circumstances dogs that attack a person, or animal may be declared menacing or dangerous. Fines may also be issued.

Under the Companion Animals Act 1998 Council is required to promote awareness within its area of the requirements of the Act with respect to the ownership of companion animals. Council does this through its website and social media pages.

Council is currently undertaking recruitment of a Senior Ranger.