

## **From the Mayor's Desk**

**October 2021**

I have pleasure in reporting on my activities in the role of Mayor since the September meeting.

### **Rail upgrade**

Cr Bill Fisher, the General Manager and I participated in a zoom meeting with representatives from Seftons (communications consultants) regarding the upgrade to the Gilgandra-Coonamble rail line.

The upgrade will allow for heavier trains, connecting with the Inland Rail line at Curban, for freight from both Coonamble and Gilgandra.

### **Rural Fire Service meeting**

I attended the local Rural Fire Service meeting at the Coonamble Fire Control Office, where the upcoming 'fire-season' was one of the major topics on the agenda for discussion. Also on the agenda was the Community Protection Plans updates for both Gulargambone and Quambone.

### **Welcome to Daniel Noble**

I would like to formally welcome Mr Daniel Noble to the position of Executive Leader Infrastructure, replacing recently retired Kookie Atkins. Daniel comes to Coonamble from the Gunnedah Shire Council. He brings with him extensive knowledge and experience from work at Gunnedah Shire and Tamworth Regional Councils.

Daniel is no stranger to the Central West, as he started his local government career with Warren Shire Council. Daniel's wife and three children will be joining him in Coonamble in the near future.

### **Vaccination Rates**

Of 2,444 eligible residents in the 2829 postcode area of Coonamble and surrounds, 90%+ have received their first jab, and 80% to 90% are fully vaccinated; and of the eligible 637 people in the 2828 postcode area of Gulargambone and district, 90%+ have received their first shot and 60% to 70% are fully vaccinated. These numbers have been obtained from NSW Health as of Thursday, 7 October 2021.

Meanwhile, information from NSW Police at the same date indicate percentages of 86% for the first dose and 72% for second vaccinations for our entire Local Government Area.

Variation in vaccination data made available from different government agencies is a result of measuring by either postcode—which sometimes overlaps into other Local Government Areas—or the specific address.

Regardless of the precise percentage, there is no question that the Coonamble Local Government Area is and has been a front runner within regional NSW as far as vaccination rates are concerned.

We, as a community, are well-placed to meet the opening up of the State with confidence and enthusiasm.

I would like to commend our local health professionals and front-line workers for their efforts servicing the people of our Local Government Area during the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been a challenging time, and their commitment and professionalism has been outstanding.

Should anyone wish to contact me to discuss issues or concerns, please phone 0427 887 666.

**Ahmad Karanouh**  
**Mayor**