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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **THE CASE FOR CACE STRENGTHENS**

Coonamble has moved a few steps closer to having its own artesian bathing facility this week.

The bore bath project is also known as the Coonamble Artesian and Cultural Experience (CACE) project. The purpose of the project is to build an artesian bathing facility, with a rustic look and feel, with associated tourism and leisure experiences.

In addition to the main tourist and recreational facility, it would include a separate free to use community facility for residents.

In addition to the bore baths, a new function centre is also proposed, together with eco-cabin accommodation and camping sites.

Council purchased the seven hectare freehold site in 2023. Since then significant background work has been undertaken, including asbestos assessments, geotechnical reports and environmental risk assessments. Council has also applied for a new bore licence.

To realise the project, a total of \$5.5 million was secured from the NSW Regional Tourism Activation Fund, with Coonamble Shire Council committing a further \$1.25 million.

Following Council's meeting this week, Council has decided to commence negotiations with a consortium that has experience and capability to both build and manage this type of tourism project.

Mayor Tim Horan said, "This concept and project has been contemplated for decades, and I am delighted to see it finally starting to take shape, with its best chance ever of actually happening."

"We are now putting out a draft masterplan for the site to get community feedback," the Mayor said.

The next priorities for the project include clearing the site and rezoning.

General Manager Paul Gallagher said, "A business case was prepared in 2022 on behalf of Council. It showed that the project would generate increased tourism visitation, increased employment and offer a valuable community facility for the Local Government Area."

In addition to stimulating growth in regional tourism visitation the proposed artesian bathing experience would act as a major wellness facility for local residents.

This project would be the southern gateway to the Great Artesian Drive across northern NSW and southern and central Queensland, attracting longer visitor stays in Coonamble to boost the local and regional economy.

Paul Gallagher  
**GENERAL MANAGER**

*Attached draft masterplan*



