

Community Conversations Talking Points

21 September 2023 – Gunns Plains & Preston

Mayor Cheryl Fuller hosted a Community Conversation at the Gunns Plains Community Hall on Thursday 21 September 2023 where residents of Gunns Plains, Preston and surrounds enjoyed morning tea courtesy of the wonderful Gunns Plains community and an informal chat on local issues.

Conversation talking points are below:

How long before the road into Gunns Plains can be repaired? Currently concerned about safety of the road. More signage suggested.

There is a process to ensure an appropriate design solution for this road. Geotechnical investigations have been carried out and this is now with the designers. We anticipate design in November/December and the construction process to be initiated in January 2024.

We are currently aiming for completion of work by June 2024. It is a challenging project. Improved signage solutions for better safety for interim transport through this area are currently being considered.

As you are coming into Gunns Plains there are numerous trees, branches and rocks that have fallen onto the road and it makes it impossible to pull over. The road needs to be cleaned on the edges?

Rocks are removed from the road on a weekly or more frequent basis depending on need. The issue of roadside edges has been forwarded to the Council's Works Operations group to rectify. This work has been scheduled for December/January to coincide with other maintenance programs.

At the top of the Gunns Plains/Preston Road intersection there is a high bank that makes it hard to see, can the bank be brought back?

There is limited space to provide trimming to the embankment without affecting the existing fence and adjacent private property. A minor trim of the embankment near the intersection will provide a small improvement and will be carried out in December/January to coincide with other maintenance programs.

Weeds along the Council easement – they seem to be spread by the mowing that takes place. In particular the western side of Gunns Plains there is Ragwort, California stinkweed, Capeweed and Gorse?

We have roadside weed management processes which will be investigated for spread of weed improvements. Some of these roads need statewide and private property program involvement.

Feral cats are a huge issue now, we are losing a lot of wildlife and land usage. We are also losing sheep and lambs to disease – there are cats everywhere, and we have been trying to trap them. What can Council do to assist?

The Council currently has no funding or legislative responsibilities to deal with cats but will note that feedback. The Cradle Coast Authority that houses NRM have a project manager surrounding cats, focusing on education etc. The Council will be evaluating what the best approach is and making contact with the NRM project manager.

Who do we have to approach and lobby to get the legislation changed toward feral cat management? What is something practical that we can do?

The best thing we can do is provide you with the contact details for the Cat Project Officer that works for the Cradle Coast Authority in Burnie.

What can the Council do to assist with conversations with Forestry? Issues for neighbours with fencing, wildlife control, spraying etc?

The Council can facilitate discussion between the community and Forestry.

I would like to thank Council for what they have done in the last couple of months regarding fencing surrounding nuisance pigs, more has been done in the last month than what has been done in the last 10 years. But this does need to be fixed ASAP.

How much is the Council paying for someone else to have their fencing done? And how efficient is the fencing going to be to keep the pigs in?

We are working with the fencing contractor and that will be at the cost of the landowner, we have had neighbours also offering to help with these costs which shows the community spirit. We will also tidy the road up and maintain it.

There are other issues with pigs around the regions – particularly Mount Gnomon and South Preston, the fences are inadequate – the pigs are escaping and when they start going wild there will be major issues.

The Council has not had any formal complaints regarding roaming pigs in these areas, however notes and appreciates this feedback.

In regard to the geotechnical engineers doing their surveys – what should the process be with people making contact with landowners? There have been people turning up with no notice.

At what point do we get looped into the planning process when work is done – regarding the Lowana Road Landslip.

We tried many times to get into contact with the owner of the property in question and sent a letter via registered mail 14 days in advance. There may have been a communication error with passing the details on to the geotechnical engineers. Confirmed owner contact details and agreed to advise owners of any visits requiring access to their property. Owners also to be kept informed of design developments as appropriate to the property. The Council apologises for any inconvenience.

Road signage on a sharp corner of South Riana Road needs some signage – there have been numerous accidents with vehicles coming through the fence into community member's property.

Information has been forwarded to the Council's Parking & Traffic Management Committee to investigate warning signage on South Riana Road. Any approved signage will then be purchased and scheduled for installation in January 2024.

What is the lifetime on the signage in Central Coast? The signs out here in Gunns Plains are in terrible condition. Either covered in grass/moss or old and decrepit.

We are currently conducting a full signage audit across the entire municipal area. From this a signage replacement program will be prepared. An inspection of the Gunns Plains area has been requested to supplement the survey.

Potholes – from Bannons Bridge Road – they have been filled multiple times but it just doesn't last.

The issue has been forwarded to the Council's Works Operations group to rectify.

The appropriate use of Bannons Park particularly over summer, the rubbish is terrible and people are dumping things there.

We want to encourage camping in our municipal area and Bannons Park is one such place that we'd like to do this, but it must be in a controlled way. We do regular patrols, and our Compliance Officers will be out in these areas more regularly.

I would like to acknowledge the amazing job that Paul and his team have done in responding to the two major weather events last year. When it comes to emergency response, Council are second to none and we really appreciate this.

Thank you for the feedback, it is appreciated when positive comments are received. This will be passed to those involved.

The bridge at Bannons Park needs some maintenance and approaches strengthened.

The issue has been forwarded to the Council's Works Operations group to consider improvements.

Marshalls Bridge is now full of cracks, quite nerve racking when you have cattle trucks etc. going over this bridge, what is the plan for this bridge? Concern due to multiple people on-site last week using drone technology.

The company utilising the drone technology wanted to test the drone and demonstrate it to those on-site. The cracks are superficial, the bridge is structurally sound.

Thank you to all of the community members who participated.