



# Riana Community Conversation

## 15 February 2024, Riana Primary School

Mayor Cheryl Fuller hosted a Community Conversation at Riana Primary School on Thursday 15 February 2024 where residents of Riana, South Riana, West Pine, Cuprona, and Camena enjoyed a supper provided by the South Riana Hall Committee and sponsored by Central Coast Council, and an informal chat on local issues.

**The conversation opened at 6:36pm.**

### Council Representatives in attendance:

Cr Cheryl Fuller	Mayor
Cr John Beswick	Deputy Mayor
Cr Garry Carpenter	Councillor
Cr Amanda Diprose	Councillor
Cr Casey Hiscutt	Councillor
Cr Michael Smith	Councillor
Cr Kate Wylie	Councillor
Barry Omundson	Chief Executive Officer
Daryl Connelly	Director Community, Growth and Development
Paul Breaden	Director Infrastructure Services
Samantha Searle	Director Corporate Services
Laura Wiggers	Coordinator Communication and Relationships

### Updates on matters raised at the 2023 Riana Community Conversation:

Mayor Cheryl discussed the progress Council has made on the actions from last year's Riana Community Conversation held on 17 February 2023.

<b>Issue:</b>	Road signs no longer reflective.
<b>Council's promise at the last meeting:</b>	Council will undertake an audit of road signs during the next 12 months to establish a replacement program. The signs mentioned will be passed onto to our Works Operations area for replacement.
<b>Responsibility:</b>	Director Infrastructure Service
<b>Progress:</b>	A sign audit was completed. Some signs have been replaced in the area. If there are still particular signs of concern, please report these directly to the Council on 6429 8100.

**Issue:** Road edges in very bad condition.

**Council’s promise at the last meeting:** Comments have been noted and passed onto Council's Works Operations area for inclusion in annual shoulder maintenance program.

**Responsibility:** Director Infrastructure Service

**Progress:** The comments were passed onto Works Operations area and shouldering of Pine Road was completed in 2023.

**Issue:** Feral cat population out of hand.

**Council’s promise at the last meeting:** A grant for cat enclosure is currently in process.

**Responsibility:** Director Corporate Services

**Progress:** Since we last met with the community, Council has committed to participating in a National Desexing Program. This Program is co-funded by the Cradle Coast Authority and is focused on domestic cats where eligible residents will be able to have their cat desexed and microchipped for free. Those on low incomes will be prioritised for subsidisation (those holding a valid pension, or concession card for example). This Program is expected to launch for Central Coast Council residents in March 2024 and will be advertised when available. Council does not currently undertake feral cat management activities; however, it understands that it has some very proactive community members within the Riana district that have been undertaking some good work in this space. The Director of Corporate Services is actively seeking an understanding of local issues to consider how the Council might be able to best support and build on this work.

**Talking points from the 2024 Riana Community Conversation:**

**Question** Scott complimented the existing work on the Coastal Pathway project and asked what the plans were for Lonah (the missing link between Penguin and Leith).

**Response** Paul Braden, Director of Infrastructure Services explained that the Council is currently seeking funding to conduct surveys and the initial design work. This section is difficult to plan for and will cost hundreds of thousands given the scale of the project. He also explained that the Council wants to ensure the plan is feasible and will work for the community.

**Question** Wendy informed the Council of her concerns regarding large trucks travelling around rural roads such as the bend on Camena Road. In particular, she referenced a Cadbury milk tanker that travels the road regularly that she feels is too large for oncoming traffic when coming around the blind corners.

**Response** Paul Breaden explained B-doubles that are under 26 metres in length can legally travel these rural roads, while B-doubles 26 metres in length and higher aren't allowed to travel these rural roads without NHVR permission and an associated permit. He elaborated that if the truck exceeded this limit and hadn't gone through the NHVR for the relevant permission and permits, then the Council is able to act on this.

**Council's Promise:** Wendy was provided with Paul's contact details to forward more specific information. Paul's team will then follow up with Wendy to gather more information about the specific area of the road she was concerned about and will enquire directly with Cadbury about the routes they take and whether they have the required permits. Subject to receipt of information this item is to be completed prior to end of April.

**Question** Des asked a question on behalf of Leigh Atkins regarding a landslip area on the bottom of the road on Bennetts Lane. He explained that the landslip had taken guideposts and that someone at Council was meant to look into it. Des requested that someone investigate this further.

**Response** Paul Breaden requested some clarification on whether it was the same section that was fixed during the 2016 floods. Des was unable to confirm this.

**Council's Promise:** Paul will have the road inspected during March 2024, make safe the current situation, and determine how the damage can be permanently rectified. Depending on the solution it may either be added to Council's current maintenance tasks or require a capital budget submission for 2024/25.

**Question** Des asked another question regarding what can be done about the ragwort weed on his neighbour's property that keeps blowing flowers onto his property.

Mayor Cheryl requested confirmation that ragwort is a declared weed.

**Response** Paul Breaden confirmed that ragwort is a declared weed. The Council can deal with infestations along the road, or on public land, however, weed management on private property is more difficult to address.

**Council's Promise:** Paul will investigate the process for handling declared weeds on private properties and send a letter to the Agricultural Minister seeking confirmation on their current stance and actions in March 2024.

**Council's Promise:** Paul will also seek further information from Council's NRM officer in March 2024.

**Council's Promise:** Laura Wiggers, Coordinator Communications and Relationships, will incorporate educational content on ragwort and other declared weeds regularly into future social media schedule throughout the year – concluding end December 2024.

**Statement** Delma highlighted that the line marking at the South Road Hall needs to be looked at. It is currently difficult to distinguish between the road and the hall.

**Council's Promise:** Paul will investigate the issue and arrange for appropriate line marking or delineation by April 2024.

**Question** Delma also asked about the maintenance of country roads and whether there is a maintenance program. She highlighted that past programs were more effective, as well as the cupped hotmix strategy that Burnie and Kentish areas use.

**Response** Paul Breaden confirmed that Council has a program for road maintenance, however, for gravel roads it is no longer an annual program like in the past. The Council now inspects and assesses the roads to determine the greatest priorities. A new Works Operations Manager is starting in March and part of their role will be to look at all of the road maintenance processes from scratch to reassess the road maintenance practices.

Mayor Cheryl added that the Council's Term Plan *'Our Place – Our Future, First Steps'* focuses largely on transport and connectivity. However, as 55% of the Council's revenue is from rates and the other 45% is from external funding, expectations on road maintenance need to be realistic and factor in the Council's budget. She urged the community to keep reporting road maintenance requests through the Antenno app, or directly to the Council on 6429 8900.

**Statement** Scott added to the above discussion by highlighting that historically, Penguin Council (before the amalgamation) removed the damaged section of the road and re-did it.

**Response** Paul Breaden confirmed that the Council has been developing its process over the past few years. The team had received great feedback on the work it had recently completed on Preston Road. However, it is getting harder to source suitable gravel for road shouldering.

**Question** Scott raised his concerns about the growing instances of homelessness in the area and asked if the Buttons Creek Caravan Park overflow area was a viable option to house people temporarily.

**Response** Mayor Cheryl reported that this comes up often and that this area belongs to the Crown. It is leased to the Big 4 Caravan Park for a few months each year.

Daryl Connelly, Director Community, Growth and Development has been at the forefront of this topic and developing the Council's Homelessness Strategy. He has been at the frontline of discussions with this for Midway

Point and Forth Camping Ground. There are pros and cons for encouraging those experiencing homelessness to congregate to public places.

Mayor Cheryl invited Daryl to talk about the actions from the homelessness roundtable.

Daryl Connelly thanked Scott and the committee for their compassion and flexibility, providing relief for the homeless community in Pioneer Park.

Daryl mentioned that the Council's Homelessness Roundtable was productive and brought together a range of vital stakeholders. The Council now has strong relationships with these stakeholders to call on for future collaborations or resources. He explained that one outcome of the roundtable, was for Council to make hot showers available at the Ulverstone Showgrounds in partnership with the Salvation Army.

Due to the work the Council has done in this space, people experiencing homelessness now present to the Council for help. In addition, the Council has changed its approach and tailors its response towards individual circumstances.

**Statement** Des noted that a lot of homeless individuals had been shifted to the Ulverstone Rodeo Grounds as a temporary solution.

**Response** Daryl Connelly explained that this was a negotiated agreement with the Rodeo Association, which had been extended. The process ran pretty smoothly, and everyone moved on without issue.

**Statement** Wendy noted that they left quite a mess, which created a large amount of work for the community afterwards.

**Response** Daryl Connelly confirmed that this would not be an ongoing solution.

**Statement** Sally thanked the Council for the grant she had received for the South Riana Hall. Without funding, they wouldn't have been able to hold their event.

**The meeting was closed at 7:44pm.**