

## Key Findings from Community Focus Groups

<p><b>Young People</b></p> <p>Health Consultation Respect Information</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do we have fluoride in the water to assist with dental hygiene?</li> <li>• Over regulation seems to be an issue as it means that young people are constantly limited in the activities they are able to organise for themselves.</li> <li>• The lack of respect from younger children in Warialda is a concern for this group of young people and they are asking for assistance in overcoming this dilemma.</li> <li>• Young people would like to see more opportunities for discussion and inclusion in Shire issues.</li> <li>• The drought has had a significant affect on this group with issues such as fire, finances, parents frustrated and cranky, heat and daylight savings being the most prominent.</li> <li>• Harvest is a difficult time as young people are angry during the day at school from lack of sleep at night due to many hours spent on farm machinery.</li> <li>• Young people want more information on how to access council services.</li> <li>• The young people understand the need to increase fees and charges and while a rate rise will not affect them directly it will impact on their families however they were accepting of the need to remain sustainable as a shire and were not keen on amalgamation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Old People</b></p> <p>Information Mobility Transport Communication</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This group indicated that the aged care services in Gwydir were very good and they would like to expand these by offering a telephone service for older people who live alone and have no family to check on them.</li> <li>• This group would be interested in a shopping bus once a month to other centres.</li> <li>• A list of services and what's happening around the shire would also be useful.</li> <li>• They would like to see the works program listed in the community newsletter and be included in the distribution list for the Crooble Chronicle and the Coolatai Bush Telegraph.</li> <li>• Mobility is an issue for this group and they would like to see a better slop on the curb for</li> </ul>

	<p>better access.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A list of available trades people who can do handy man jobs for the elderly.</li> <li>• Information on POA and Enduring POA for older people</li> <li>• The possibility of having an ipad available to them at Naroo to access family photos and stay in touch with families without having the individual cost of the technology.</li> <li>• This group also understood the need to enforce fees and charges and the necessity of a rate rise.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Women</b></p> <p>Drought New Business Mentoring GLR Communication</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This group was interested in drought proofing the Shire. How can we encourage people to come and settle if there is no water?</li> <li>• They would like to explore the possibility of attracting new business and expanding on the tourism potential of the Shire.</li> <li>• The establishment of a mentoring group for young people would be handy.</li> <li>• Encourage volunteering and involvement in community groups.</li> <li>• Support P and C in all towns</li> <li>• Expand on the GLR and have more community involvement in other smaller projects like homework help or suspension centres.</li> <li>• Fees and charges need to be explained fully and communicated to the community in a manner that they will understand, the rate rise is necessary but not going to be easy for those struggling with drought issues.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Young Families</b></p> <p>Continued Services Education GLR Child Care</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This group indicated that they were very happy with the level of service that is delivered across the shire.</li> <li>• The Toy Library and play groups are essential services for this group as they have addressed the issues of isolation, depression and anxiety around bringing up a family in rural/remote Australia.</li> <li>• The Preschool in Bingara is one of the only child care options and this group seemed to be</li> </ul>

	<p>happy to have the fees increased to ensure ongoing service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Having a txt alert for broken pipes so that people don't wash white clothes would be helpful.</li> <li>• More information about the self help program needs to be available.</li> <li>• Education for children is high on the list of priorities for this group. Starting early seems to be favoured and this is being addressed through Toy Libraries and Preschools across the Shire.</li> <li>• This group would like to see better educational options for their children as they go into primary and High school.</li> <li>• The most important things for this group were a safe environment for their children, some sports to be available and to be involved in their community.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Businesses</b>          Entrepreneurship          Mentoring          Tourism</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This group would like to see more regular focus group meetings for consultation and discussion.</li> <li>• A combined Warialda/Bingara business group to be started.</li> <li>• Encourage entrepreneurship through a mentoring program through the GLR.</li> <li>• Organise bus trips to Warialda and surrounds for tourism and business.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indigenous</b>           Share History          Communication          Education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NADOC Week to be recognised in schools.</li> <li>• Community education through VIC.</li> <li>• Important to share history but not dwell in disaster.</li> <li>• Provide guided tours of Cranky Rock with an educational slant.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Disability/Carers</b>           Information          Access          Mentoring          Mobility</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lists of available services.</li> <li>• Better access to shops and facilities.</li> <li>• Curbing to be adjusted for better access.</li> <li>• Mentoring programs through GLR.</li> </ul>