

## RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY CONCERNS AROUND PROPOSITION 3 OF 17<sup>th</sup> SEP SGM AGENDA

By Ellen Brogan (mover of this item)

Hi folk, I have received support, queries and concerns about my application to DTE to fund a working bee at Woorooma starting during the September school hols (school hols start on the 25<sup>th</sup> Sep).

I will aim to attend the 7<sup>th</sup> Sep meeting and address questions in person. I will attempt to answer any fresh stuff. However if I am not online its because I have commitments with my 13yo daughter whom I am sole %100 parent.

### Use of zoom chat function.

I ask that whilst I am talking to my motion, folk, please refrain from using the chat function in zoom unless posting amendment ideas OR as with those linke Peter Tippett, Robin and Kathy posting relevant links, agenda information, rules and previous minutes.

If you have constructive advice then I can best address it via email OR with a statement so you get a solid answer. Understand you may not agree with my answers. I'm honouring my own way forward.

I see chat as useful if:

- **You have audio issues.**
- **You have had your hand up for a long time and chair has missed your input**

[Link here to more of my thoughts about DTE zoom chat](#)

### CONCERNS & MY ANSWERS

#### 1. 1. Have you developed a DRAFT DTE – Wooroomah COVID-19 Safety Plan

**Yes**, is the short answer. As a qualified First Aid officer and school teacher who has recently studied the NSW government school policy process which includes COVID-19 protocol, I wrote the first draft and two other members have since responded to my motion submission and made some suggestions.

After the meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> Sept I will submit the draft to the GSC asking for review meetings and discussion.

- The Safety plan will stipulate that all attendees are tested within a week of intentions to attend site.
- The safety plan will be registered with Deniliquin hospital for review. I have met several staff at the Deni hospital last Easter and have their direct contacts though I will asking the GSC the appropriate steps to take on this point.
- Grace and I will get tested again just prior to attending site
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[Link to recent NEGATIVE COVID-19 test results for my daughter Grace and I](#)

I have always demonstrated a concern for safety of DTE volunteers via developing plans and inductions that mitigate risks for volunteers onsite.

If anyone would like to attend the next GSC to help form a COVID-19 Safety Plan, it would be great to have **a Certified plan** in place even if my application for the working bee does not go ahead.

Like many other workplaces in NSW we can still operate under covid restrictions. With a small group this process will be easily implemented.

[Link here to my credentials supplied with the original motion](#)

**2. This item disregards a previous SGM motion. The community spent ALOT of time and energy discussing expenditure to conserve cooperative funds for future ConFests.**

I agree with this feeling. I have for the past 8 years sat through hundreds and thousands of meetings to actively assist with AND form consensus which stabilises the community only to have this time sometimes overwritten, ignored or not utilised. **So I haven't used my initiative lightly**

When I first emailed my notice with intention to submit a budget, Peter T and Steve P pointed me to the previous SGM. I then listened to the 20hrs of audio and thought **yep that all seems valid.**

This is the reason WHY I sat on my **submission until my anxiety was screaming at me** to submit my idea at the very last minute and without even calling anyone to support.

I sent the email hoping for somebody to support and for my submission to make it in time.

Sometime with all the logic thought...the deciding factor can be just putting it out there for the planets to align.

An intuitive sense AND awareness of compliance legalities were both screaming at me.

**I believe that unless we address the criteria laid out by NRAR (Natural Resources Access Regulator), that we may be fined \$\$\$ that far exceeds any saving made towards another ConFest.**

That the poor PR with council authorities may jeopardise a DA.

The Wemba Elders registered traditional owners of Wooroomah are also very interested in the Edward River and have been active in the clean up and auditing of waterways in that region.

I would like to attend a meeting in Deniliquin whilst onsite so that I can personally assure the Wemba delegates that our community is ensuring the Edward River is kept clean and clear.

This is why I have linked the Wemba authored documents to my original submission

**3. Have you EVEN asked Jack and Andrew if its ok? to bring folk to site which MAY make them more susceptible to catching COVID-19**

**No** I haven't for a few concurrent reasons:

- I have taken care not to call Jack and Andrew. I wanted to. In the past folk have been onsite in between official bees. I noticed that other members lobby the 'caretakers' support to circumvent the committees for access to site. In my view this puts ALOT of pressure on 'caretakers' and they may feel like the meat in the sandwich. Therefore, not being free to vote with their own feelings.
- This **issue is a legal compliance issue** as a share-holding landowner I take this very seriously. Whilst Jacks and Andrews health is my first and foremost concern, I believe we can contain their safety AND the future of Wooroomah as a venue for future ConFests.
- I am hoping that the wider community would vote, the OC of dedicated volunteers would then determine if the budget application was valid under current unease AND then I would talk to Jack and Andrew in person. I would also involve Jack and Andrew in the safety process as ratified Co-Facilitators. They would have equal jurisdiction over decision making during the works program.

**4. How long are you intending on facilitating the working bee**

To ensure COVID-19 safety criteria, a maximum of 10 people registered including myself, Grace, Andrew and Jack. So 6 more folk who will need to test negative to COVID-19 in the week prior to entry. Sign an pre-induction to site agreement AND then turn up (some may know we generally have a %30 drop out of registered bees

**5. How can you justify asking DTE to pay for your personal expense of pet motel? This is a gross misuse of cooperative funds. Nobody else has asked for this before!!**

Yes well this one is a **very contentious suggestion** on my behalf I completely understand this MAY incite some anger and sense of protection of DTE funds.

This also MAY seem highly insulting to those who have closed site from April such as Jack, Andrew, Sue and Mark Helson and Tania.

I mean absolutely no disrespect with my application to be supported via this expense being paid.

I also see this as an exceptional circumstance and support this not becoming a precedent.

For the past several years, I have attended working bees onsite during Sep and also for set up.

Each year I have been more than happy to pay for my cat to be looked after or go to a pet motel as its my choice to volunteer for DTE. I would not normally consider paying for this extra expense for other working bees unless we had specifically asked them to attend the bee so that we could utilise their skills.

I have even felt guilt buying a personal comb with DTE funds.

However when I looked at the nature of this project and assessed the importance of it from a legal and PR perspective I thought, Wow I have the skills, I am now located in NSW AND I have the school holidays.

I have recently moved interstate (DEC 2019), Apart from being the %100 sole parent to my 13yo daughter I also had my teaching contract decreased when COVID-19 hit whilst I was home-schooling my daughter.

I was the last teacher the school had hired and hence the first to have my contract hours decreased.

I live in a fairly isolated town of sorts as its determined a city due to population but that population is spread widely across farms with forest in between.

I have not made any new friends yet who would pop in a feed my cat for me unfortunately.

**Hence, I can offer my time and credential but can-not afford to self-finance volunteering for DTE on this occasion despite how important this project is.**

- I have asked the pet motel to quote for \$392 @ 14 days. **A purchase order would be paid directly** to the pet motel from DTE Organising Committee. They have said they could do this up to two days prior and have open bookings due to the tourist season being minimised.

**HAD THIS ISSUE BEEN DEFERRED TO NEXT YEAR then perhaps I would have made some more friends in town and could have volunteered my skills without applying to DTE to cover this.**

I have tried to be up front, transparent and offer a fair solution to this problem we all need to resolve in some way.

Thanks for your time those have read this far



Ellen Brogan aka Elle Meoww