



ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

held on

Wednesday, 24 April 2013

at

2.05pm

at

Walcha Council Chambers

PRESENT: Cllr JM Archdale (Chairman) Mayor together with Councillors WJ Heazlett, L Levingston, CM Lyon, SJ Schmutter, RS Thomson and MJ Woods.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr JG O'Hara (General Manager), Mr SC McCoy (Director – Engineering Services) and Mr GA Moran (Director – Environmental Services).

1. APOLOGIES:

169 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Levingston that the apology received from Councillor Ferrier due to family commitments be **ACCEPTED**.

MINUTES



2. CONFIRMATION OF THE ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 27 MARCH 2013:

170 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday, 27 March 2013, copies of which have been distributed to all members, be taken as read and confirmed a **TRUE** record.

3. BUSINESS ARISING

Nil.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 9.2 – Beautification & Tidy Towns Committee Meeting Minutes

Clr Woods declared a non-serious non-pecuniary as her mother is a member of the Committee.

5. MAYORAL MINUTE

The General Manager and I have met with Scott McDonald MLC on Wednesday 10 April and have asked him to make representations on our behalf regarding the following matters –

1. A meeting with Hon Duncan Gay MLC, Minister for Roads and Ports regarding funding for Thunderbolts Way.
2. Reduction in logging quotas in the Walcha Shire and our concern the effect this may have on local businesses.
3. The future of the Old Hospital

Mr McDonald followed up these issues immediately and I expect we will receive responses shortly.

A meeting of local Mayors with Warren Truss MP, Leader of the Nationals was also held in Armidale on 10 April. I made representation to Mr Truss regarding the importance of continuing R2R funding and the difficulty for small communities to secure Regional Development Funding. Other issues discussed included equity of grant funding in relation to the ability of councils in raise revenue and Constitutional recognition of Local Government.

Thank you to Council for allowing me to attend Day 2 of the Building Regional Australia Summit held in Armidale Thursday 11 April. Delegates came from as far away as Kalgoorlie in the west and Cooktown to the north.

I found some of the presentations used as an opportunity for political point scoring, which was disappointing, as when statistical information was delivered it was productive and interesting. A brief overview of some of the speakers include –



David Crisafulli MP – QLD Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience - Discussed the forced Queensland amalgamations. QLD Local Government had acknowledged there was a need for reform, back office procedures, plant sharing etc. Local Government were told they were doing a good job, then without consultation, overnight 176 local government areas became 73. With a new government, opportunity to “undo” these amalgamations has been given. Conditions included, viability, proven community support, LG area ratepayers prepared to pay the cost of de-amalgamating. 19 submissions have been received to de-amalgamate, 5 claimed viability and community support, 4 have been able to show proof. The cost to these communities ranges from \$241 - \$872 per ratepayer. There is strong support in QLD for popularly elected Mayors as this gives stability for 4 years and corporate salaries for councillors.

Mark Veitch MLC - Communities under 3000 missing out on Regional Development of Australia funding as they are just too small to compete. Regional Relocation Grant – Budgeted to achieve 12,250 relocations by 31 March 2013, only 1,853 have taken up the scheme. Strict criteria could be to blame, applicants must own and sell their home to be eligible for scheme. Also advertising campaign seemed to be narrowly targeted.

Challenges in developing Policy –

- o How can smaller communities access government funds?
- o How heavily should government be involved in regional development
- o What is the best way to put money into communities to help generate jobs

Peter McKeown –Head of School of Rural Medicine UNE - Medical Practitioners per 100,000 per head of population –

- o Major Cities - 400
- o Inner Regional - 253
- o Outer Regional - 185
- o Remote/Very Remote - 259

Specialists per 100,000 per head of population –

- o Major Cities - 147
- o Inner Regional - 75
- o Outer Regional - 29
- o Remote/Very Remote - 39

Clinical placement is a strategic imperative, Armidale is not configured to be a teaching hospital. Medical graduates - 50% go into speciality and have to move to the city for post graduate study. Once they move to the city, most stay. From the first intake of medical students at UNE in 2008, 46 graduated this year. Proposed a UNE hospital and medical centre to be built on campus, cost \$300m would be used as a teaching/registrars hospital to help alleviate this flow.

Critical Factors for attracting and retaining rural doctors –

1. They grew up in the country
2. They trained in the country
3. GREATER PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITY



There is opportunity to share professionals once a critical mass is identified. Eg Gunnedah and Armidale need a heart specialist 1 day pw, Tamworth 2 days pw. Critical Mass identified and can be serviced by 1 doctor.

There are 190,000 more overnight admissions in rural/remote areas compared to metropolitan areas. Reasons include: distance back home, availability of support within the home, transport etc. The average cost of an overnight admission is \$8,043.

Prof Jim Barber UNE – Regional Universities in Cyberspace - Traditional Campus will be replaced by node campuses where the physical lecture rooms will be replaced by cyberspace classrooms. There will eventually, be no difference between virtual and reality. Education will be taken off the desktop, out of the classroom and into virtual rooms. Nodes will be right across the country where students meet and lecturers will be seen via floor to ceiling screens. Currently 4,000 students on UNE campus from a total of 22,000 enrolled. Campuses will not disappear completely due to the “experience” that will still appeal to some students, however their importance will reduce significantly.

There is an enormous movement for Australian universities to form partnerships with overseas universities and for students to become enrolled through our system but to do courses offered by the overseas “partner” university that may not be offered here.

I found the Summit worthwhile. It is planned to become an annual event and I believe our attendance would solely rely on the presentation topics and if they are relevant to our Council.

Mayor Janelle Archdale

6. SENIOR OFFICERS REPORT

171 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Schmutter and Levingston that the Senior Officers’ Reports be **RECEIVED** for further consideration.

6.1 Review of Solid Waste Services – Part 2 **WO/2013/00519**

172 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Schmutter and Woods that Council continue to provide the road side green waste collection service in its current form and provide additional monitoring if possible.

173 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Schmutter that Council provide an additional recycling collection and general waste collection immediately after Christmas with a reduction in the greenwaste service in September and December to once only per month.

174 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Woods that Council:
1. Agree to provide an additional red bin service on request subject to the condition that



- a. An audit/educational visit by a Council officer is carried out to confirm and ensure that recycling is being maximised and
 - b. The payment of an annual fee as set by Council each year as part of Council's Fees & Charges.
2. Set the fee for an additional 140L general waste bin to be \$200 in 2013/2014.
 3. Adopt the following policy for after hours access to the Walcha Waste Transfer Station.
 4. Set the Waste Transfer Station Access Fee for 2013/2014 to be \$500 (GST incl) and the fee for the key to be \$200 (GST incl) which includes a refundable deposit of \$100 (GST incl).

HOUSING & COMMUNITY AMENITIES POLICIES

AFTER HOURS ACCESS TO
WALCHA WASTE TRANSFER STATION

Objective: To provide an efficient waste management system and encourage the community to participate in maintaining a clean and hygienic environment.

Aims: To ensure that the operation of the Walcha Waste Transfer Station does not adversely affect businesses that need to access the Transfer Station at times when it is closed to the public

Policy:

Council shall provide after hours access to the Walcha Waste Transfer Station for businesses that can demonstrate that they have a need for access to the Station when it is normally closed to the public. When considering an application for after hours access the following matters shall be considered:

- Does the business generate waste that can be accepted by Council at the Station?
- Can the waste generated by the business be economically stored until the normal opening hours of the Station
- Will the waste generated or its short term storage adversely affect the businesses ability to continue trading or the cost of the services provided?

An application, if approved, shall be the subject of an agreement between Council and the User. The agreement shall deal with the following matters:

1. An annual access fee, set by Council each year as part of Council's Fees and Charges
2. Appropriate insurance shall be held and kept current.
3. A single, uniquely coded key will be issued. A fee set by Council each year as part of Council's Fees and Charges will be charged for the key part of which shall be a deposit that will be refunded when the key is returned. No refund will be paid where conditions of the agreement are breached.
4. The User shall provide full details of all persons who will use the key together with all vehicles that will access the Station after hours. Council will keep a register of this



information and it will be the responsibility of the User to keep Council informed of any changes to this information.

5. The User and all those nominated to use their key shall undergo a site induction of the Station. The site induction shall be signed by both the User, persons nominated by the User and a Council staff member.
6. If a person is found to be accessing the Station after hours who is not on the register or is driving a vehicle that is not on the register, then the agreement will be terminated and the User who has been issued with that key shall forfeit the key and a further application for a key to be reissued shall not be considered for at least 3 months from the date of forfeit.
7. The User shall as far as practicable ensure that all waste delivered to the Station is sorted to maximize the amount of waste that can be recycled.
8. The User shall after each use of the Station record the date and time of the visit along with the type and volume of waste delivered. Failure to report usage may result in the termination of the agreement.
9. The User shall while using the Station make sure that all gates are kept closed and that no other persons, invited or otherwise, enter the site.
10. The User shall not alter any fencing through any part of the Station through which access is required nor will they interfere or damage any other components of the Station.
11. Council may with one month written notice terminate this agreement for any reason

Councillor Lyons **RECORDED** his **VOTE AGAINST** this resolution.

6.2 March 2013 Quarterly Review of the Budget WINT/2013/00466

175 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Woods and Lyon that Council adopt the March 2013 Quarterly Budget Review Statements **FURTHER THAT** Council approve the variations in Income and Expenditure votes as detailed in the March 2013 Income and Expenses and Capital Expenditure Statements.

AFTERNOON TEA

Council adjourned for afternoon tea at 2:55pm and resumed at 3:30pm.

6.3 Draft Budget 2013/2014 WO/2013/00206

Motion:

It was **MOVED** Councillor Schmutter Seconded Councillor Heazlett that Council alter the Budget by reducing the Streetscape vote by \$45,000, deleting the Dust Suppression and including the Abbottsley Road realignment 6km from Emu Creek Road and Tia Diggings Road realignment of \$25,000.

Amendment:

An Amendment was **MOVED** Councillor Woods Seconded Councillor Thomson that Council alter the Budget by reducing the Streetscape vote by \$45,000; deleting the Dust Suppression; including the Abbottsley Road realignment 6km from Emu Creek Road and Tia Diggings Road realignment of \$25,000 and removing the road extension program.



The Amendment on being put to the vote was **CARRIED**.

176 It then became the Substantive Motion was put to the **VOTE** and **CARRIED**.

177 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Woods and Lyon that the Draft Budget for the year 2013/2014 be **ADOPTED** by Council and be included in the annual Operational Plan to be presented to the May 2013 Meeting of Council.

6.4 Local Government Acts Taskforce – Release of Discussion Paper
WO/2013/00485

The Report was **NOTED** by Council. It was **AGREED** that Council should hold a Workshop on Monday, 29 April commencing at 5:00pm on the Discussion Paper.

6.5 Request from Armidale Sports Council for Assistance in establishing a Sporting Hall of Fame
WO/2013/00494

178 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Woods and Heazlett that Council not participate in the initiative.

6.6 Ohio North Road – Request for Sealing **WO/2013/00513**

179 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Woods and Lyon that Council advise the owner of “Tingaloor” that it will not be able to assist with the sealing of Ohio North Road.

6.7 A New Planning System for NSW – White Paper **WO/2013/00526**

The Report was **NOTED** by Council.

6.8 Woolbrook Bridge – Replacement Update **WO/2013/00507**

The Report was **NOTED** by Council.

6.9 Proposed Changes to the Liquor Act 2007 **WO/2013/00518**

The Report was **NOTED** by Council

6.10 Annual Review of Investment Policy **WINT/2013/00829**

180 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors that Council note that a review of the Investment Policy has been carried out and adopt the Investment Policy as presented.

7. MATTERS OF URGENCY

181 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Woods and Schmutter that the Local Government Review Panel’s Discussion Paper – Future Directions for NSW Local Government – Twenty Essential Steps be considered as a matter of urgency.



It was **AGREED** by Council that Council should hold a Workshop sometime in the near future to review the Discussion Paper.

8. MANAGEMENT REVIEW REPORTS WO/2013/00477

182 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Woods and Lyon that items included in the Management Review Report, numbered 1 to 8 inclusive, be **NOTED** by Council.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1 Minutes of the Walcha Preschool Advisory Committee Meeting held on Monday, 25 March 2013. WO/2013/00511

183 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Lyon that Council increase the daily fees for the Walcha Preschool for Term 1 and Term 2 of 2014 to \$19. Note: Fees for Term 3 and Term 4 of 2013 and all other fees to remain the same.

LATE REPORT: Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting of the Walcha Preschool Advisory Committee held on Monday, 22 April 2013. WO/2013/00579

184 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Schmutter and Lyon that the \$39,336 received under the NSW Government's Preschool Fee Reduction Initiative be allocated as follows:

- ❖ All transition year children be offered three days per week at the Preschool. (If this offer is accepted it will mean that there will be an increase of 16 children day sessions per week for Terms 2, 3 and 4 of 2013).
- ❖ Fees for Aboriginal children be reduced to \$0 (current fees are \$5 per day).
- ❖ Fees for low income families be reduced to \$0 (currently fees are \$8:50 per day).
- ❖ Fees for full paying families be reduced to \$2 per day (currently fees are \$17 per day).

9.2 Minutes of the Walcha Town & District Beautification & Tidy Towns Committee Meeting held at Walcha Council Chambers on Thursday, 4 April 2013. WO/2013/00461

Rosemary Hedge – Hill and South Street

185 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Thomson that Council remove this project from their 2012/2013 Budget.

Street Tree Pruning by Country Energy

186 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Levingston that Council reach agreement with Country Energy on the best ways to prune street trees that address both the needs of Country Energy and the long term health and preservation of the trees **FURTHER THAT** Council formally write expressing our complete dissatisfaction with the recent pruning of the Street trees.



10. DELEGATE REPORTS

10.1 Minutes of the Uralla Shire Council Tablelands Community Transport Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes held on Tuesday, 27 November 2012.

WI/2013/01757

10.2 Minutes of the New England Food Services Forum held in Armidale on Thursday, 28 February 2013.

WI/2013/02052

10.3 Notes from the New England Centre Based Day Care & Social Support Forum Meeting held in Guyra on Tuesday, 5 March 2013.

WI/2013/02049

10.4 Minutes of the Namoi Councils Ordinary Meeting held at Uralla Shire Council Chambers on Friday, 12 April 2013.

WI/2013/02031

11. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Nil.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 5:25PM.