

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE WALCHA COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, HAMILTON STREET, WALCHA ON
WEDNESDAY, 25 OCTOBER 2006 COMMENCING AT 2.32PM**

PRESENT: Councillor WJ Heazlett (Chairman) Mayor, together with Councillors JM Archdale, DJ Cross, KW Ferrier, L Levingston, 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).

APOLOGIES:

72 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Levingston and Ferrier that the apology received from Councillor Blomfield being business reasons be **ACCEPTED**.

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD
ON WEDNESDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER 2006**

73 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Woods and Thomson that the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Walcha Council held on Wednesday, 27 September 2006, copies of which have been distributed to all members, be taken as read and confirmed a **TRUE** record.

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER 2006**

74 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Levingston and Woods that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Walcha Council held on Wednesday, 27 September 2006, copies of which have been distributed to all members, be taken as read and confirmed a **TRUE** record.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY
MEETING HELD ON 27 SEPTEMBER 2006:**

Councillor Cross asked what progress had been made in the replacement of the Jacky Creek Bridge and the Director – Engineering Services replied that the materials had been ordered and would commence in approximately two weeks.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Councillor Cross declared an interest in the Heavy Vehicle Inspection Report, Committee of the Whole Report number 1, due to being a major heavy vehicle owner.

Councillor Archdale declared an interest in the sale of 213N Uralla Road due to her husband being a partner in the real estate firm.

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MAYORAL MINUTE

The Mayor advised the Meeting the NESAC Mayors met with the Minister and after a very searching question session regarding the savings of the strategic alliance appeared to be supportive of the alliance model and its potential for other areas in the state.

He also mentioned that the Department of Local Government's intention to conduct a review into the Blayney, Cabonne and Wellington Strategic Alliance Model and use this data to develop a template to carry out a review into the NESAC Model.

Councillor Heazlett also informed that the Mayor and the General Manager attended a Local Government & Shires Leadership Forum with the main focus of the forum being the drought and the policy platform for the next State election.

75 The Mayoral Minute was adopted on the Motion of Councillor Heazlett.

SENIOR OFFICERS' REPORTS

76 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Levingston and Ferrier that the Senior Officers' Reports be received for further consideration.

1. REFER FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO AUDIT **W06/1725**

77 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Woods that the 2005/2006 Financial Reports be referred for Audit **FURTHER THAT** a Statement in accordance with Section 413 of the Local Government Act 1993 be completed and signed by the appropriate signatories.

2. DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION 36-05/06 **W06/1795**

78 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Archdale and Ferrier that Council prepare an Expression of Interest to undertake a Feasibility Study into a proposal to develop a sports Complex as detailed in the report.

3. REGIONAL ROADS REPAIR PROGRAM 2007/08 – 2010/11 **W06/1810**

79 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Levingston and Thomson that Council endorse the above list of projects and priorities for the 2007/08 – 2010/11 Regional Road Repair Program.

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4. PESTICIDE USE NOTIFICATION PLAN

W06/1792

80 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Cross and Levingston that Council adopt the Draft Pesticide Notification Plan, advertise the Plan and seek community input into as detailed in the Regulations.

5. CONDITION OF MCDONALD RIVER BRIDGE, ENGLEFIELD ROAD

W06/1815

The Report was **NOTED** by Council.

6. CLIMATE CHANGE

W06/1793

The Report was **NOTED** by Council.

AFTERNOON TEA

Council adjourned for afternoon tea at 3.30pm and resumed Council at 4.05pm.

**7. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REFERRAL – PROPOSED HVIS &
SALE OF 213N URALLA ROAD**

W06/1814

81 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Woods and Ferrier that, in accordance with the provisions of Section 10 of the Local Government Act, 1993, the matter of the proposed HVIS and the sale of property at 213n Uralla Road, be referred to be discussed in Committee of the Whole for the reason that it relates to information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

8. ST JOHNS WORT SPRAYING

W06/1794

82 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Cross and Thomson that Council arrange an additional spray with the cost to be met from within existing votes.

LATE ITEMS

1. TABLELANDS COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

The Director – Environmental Services gave the meeting an update on the Tablelands Community Transport decision to reduce the Walcha to Armidale bus service from weekly to fortnightly.

83 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Levingston that the Council endorse the actions of the General Manager, Director – Environmental Services and Councillor Woods in this matter.

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MANAGEMENT REVIEW REPORTS

W06/1787

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) Minutes of the Walcha HACC Advisory Committee Meeting held at the Community Health Building on Monday, 25 September 2006. **W06/1791**

DELEGATE REPORTS

- a) Minutes of the Armidale Local Area Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting held on 9 August 2006. **W06/1667**
- b) Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting of the New England Weeds Authority held at the Armidale Office on Friday, 29 September 2006. **WA06/2**
- c) Minutes of the New England Strategic Alliance of Councils Meeting held at Guyra Shire Council on Thursday, 5 October 2006. **W06/1800**

10. Rural Fire Service

85 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Thomson and Ferrier that the following points represent the NESAC view:

- ❖ The Rural Fire Service should take ownership of all RFS sheds, vehicles and other associated equipment, which are currently vested in the care and control of Council for the Rural Fire Service.
- ❖ The Rural Fire Service takes responsibility for the payment of all invoices, rather than relying on Council's creditor systems and Council providing the State Government interim finance until reimbursed by the Rural Fire Service, in a similar manner to that used by the NSW Fire Brigade.
- ❖ The Rural Fire Service be held responsible for the cost of stationery and other facilities currently provided by Council to the Rural Fire Service, in a similar basis to all other Rural Fire Service expenditure, rather than the current situation in which they are one hundred percent funded by Councils.
- ❖ The requirement that increases in Council's contribution to the cost of Rural Fire Services be tied to the rage pegging limit.
- ❖ That this view be forwarded to the Local Government Shires Associations.

13. Charter

86 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Archdale and Ferrier that the Alliance Charter be amended by including, in Clause 17 of the Charter, in Subclause 17.2, the following additional provision:

- ❖ The official spokesperson for the Advisory Committee is its current Chairperson. The Chairperson must represent the majority view of the Alliance members. Majority decisions of the member Councils concerning NESAC

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matters become the official position of NESAC. The Chairperson is to represent that official position to the media and relevant Ministers. Individual opinions of Councillors will not be facilitated by any official activity of the Advisory Committee.

17. Consideration of Recommendations from Closed Sessions

87 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Woods and Ferrier: That Council decline to commit to funding \$2,000 towards this project or another similar project, to bring a large scale wireless broadband provider to the whole of the NESAC region, with the project to be run by Uralla Shire Council's Economic Development Officer, reporting through the Armidale Economic Development Committee.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

88 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Levingston that Council resolve into Committee of the Whole and that the press and public be excluded from the entire proceedings of the Meeting of the Committee of the Whole for the reason that it relates to information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

89 The Meeting resumed in **OPEN** Council on the Motion of Councillors Woods and Levingston.

The Mayor reported whilst in Committee of the Whole the following matters were discussed.

PRESENT: Present and In Attendance were the same as listed in the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting with the exception of the press and the public.

1. PROPOSED HEAVY VEHICLE INSPECTION STATION **W06/1812**

Councillor Cross declared an interest and left the Council Chambers whilst this report was being discussed.

It was recommended by Councillors Ferrier and Woods that Council make the Roads and Traffic Authority a formal offer of \$150 per day for the use of the inspection facility (adjusted annually in line with the appropriate ABS Index) and that the agreement be negotiated for a period of not less than five years, and if accepted by the Roads and Traffic Authority, provide \$100,000 from the Building Reserve to construct the heavy vehicle inspection facility with the reserve to be repaid over five years from the Plant Replacement Program.

Councillor Archdale declared an interest and left the Council Chambers whilst this report was being discussed.

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2. SALE OF 213N URALLA ROAD

It was recommended by Councillor Woods and Ferrier that Council reject the offer of \$180,000 with the minimum price to be accepted being \$185,000.

ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

90 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Levingston and Woods that the Report and Recommendations of the Meeting of the Walcha Council Committee of the Whole held on Wednesday, 25 October 2006.

The Chairman publicly conveyed the recommendations passed by the Committee whilst in Committee of the Whole.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 4.50PM.